

**Bureau of Land Management  
Albuquerque District Resource Advisory Council  
January 16, 2015**

**RAC Members Present**

Michael Coleman  
Ethan Giedraitis  
Robert Moquino  
Bob Nordstrum  
Kristin Salisbury  
Juan Vigil

**RAC Members Absent**

Keith Banks  
Jim Clary  
Mary Helen Clary  
Don Tripp

**Federal Representative**

Danita Burns, BLM Albuquerque District Office

**BLM Staff Present**

John Brenna, Jr., Rio Puerco Field Office  
Danita Burns, Albuquerque District Office  
Dawn Chavez, Rio Puerco Field Office  
Joshua Freeman, Rio Puerco Field Office  
JJ Gallegos, Albuquerque District Office  
Theresa Herrera, NM State Office  
Angel Martinez, Rio Puerco Field Office  
Mark Matthews, Socorro Field Office  
Martin Visarraga, Albuquerque District Office  
Jeremy Zimmerman, Socorro Field Office

**Welcome & Introductions**

John Brenna called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m. He welcomed all attending, and asked staff, RAC members and visitors to introduce themselves. He announced that of 10 RAC members, six were present. A majority in each category was needed to constitute a quorum. There was not a quorum, so those present could not pass motions. John spoke briefly about the value of the RAC.

Visitors included Joe Baca, representing the office of Congressman Stevan Pearce; Sarah Cobb and David Williams representing the office of Senator Tom Udall; and Katie Krutharpt from the NM Department of Agriculture.

**Review/Discussion of July 2014 Meeting Minutes**

**Review Charter & Bylaws**

The July 2014 minutes were reviewed. No comments or changes were made. John Brenna asked RAC members to review the Albuquerque District Resource Advisory Council Charter, Bylaws and Standard Operating Procedures.

**Election of Chair/Vice Chair**

Postponed due to lack of forum.

**RMP Update**

Angel Martinez reported that the proposed RMP was at the BLM Washington office, and he expected comments the following week. BLM had received comments but no changes from forestry; and recreation had some designation comments, for example, how areas were classified.

Ultimately areas would remain the same. Once comments were received, Angel would prepare the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and ask for an audience with Washington staff. The RMP would then be submitted for the New Mexico governor's review; followed by a 30-day protest period. Protestors at that point would have to have been involved in the process. No new comments would be accepted. There had been a lot of interest in this RMP, resulting in 35,000 comments received. All protests at this stage would go to the Washington office, which has up to eight months to answer. Typically they don't take that long, he said. BLMNM will answer the protests. Angel hopes that by mid-March the RMP will be out, and the protest period will be complete by end of April/May.

Juan asked whether there were any signs of change at the state level. Angel said only clarification—there had been some confusion about how resources would affect game and fish. Basically, people couldn't drive in those areas but could still hunt and fish.

Angel will now work on implementation plans, including management plans for about 220,000 acres of recreation area; and the transportation-planning document. Traditionally, BLM plans didn't tie with others. But when they looked at roads for this RMP, they realized how some roads were being used, for example, as tribal school bus routes. So they need to look at how their roads connect, serve and comply with other planners. Angel has been working with the Washington office to help BLM become part of the national transportation network.

John Brenna congratulated Angel, and said he had really benefited the people of the U.S. and helped BLM manage the land effectively. John said the plan has been in preparation for years. By 2035, the lifespan of this RMP, the metropolitan population base will have doubled. BLM manages ~13% of the land but serves 48% of the people. And that number will expand to 65% through the span of this plan.

## **Resource Update**

### **Socorro**

John said infrastructure issues affect everything the office does, so they are very important. Mark Matthews reported.

### **SunZia Southwest Transmission Project**

SunZia information and maps were circulated. Mark said BLM started working with SunZia in 2008, and the final EIS was filed in 2013, but there are still issues. He listed mitigation measures proposed by the Department of Defense:

- 1) Burial of a portion of the power lines;
- 2) Hold harmless clause for the right-of-way agreement;
- 3) Procedures to allow for unimpeded testing to occur during construction and maintenance of the power lines;
- 4) Procedures for micro-siting the power lines to minimize WSMR operational impact.

Since the fall, Mark has been working with ranchers, the Army and others, meeting on the ground to work out a solution with White Sands landowners. The Environmental Assessment was released in December, public comments were received, and BLM is now reviewing those.

#### Kinder Morgan CO<sub>2</sub> Company

Mark distributed information and maps, and reported on Kinder Morgan CO<sub>2</sub> Company developments. He pointed out the applicant's preferred route. He said they started scoping a year ago December, and are currently working on a draft EIS. They do not have a preferred alternative, but hope to get the EIS out in March.

Sarah Cobb of Senator Udall's office said she saw that Kinder Morgan had opened an office in Belen. Mark said he received many calls from private landowners and Kinder Morgan had started some construction on private property. He sent them a letter saying BLM would be held harmless for any agreements made, since there was no plan yet. Mark explained that Kinder Morgan had wells in Arizona where they were developing CO<sub>2</sub>, and had applied for right of way across New Mexico public lands to construct, operate and maintain a CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline.

Kristin asked about the effect on recreation and wildlife. Once in the ground the pipeline should not have an impact, Mark said. Reclamation plans are associated with the project. Kristin asked what the public thinks. They don't like it, Mark said. Sarah Cobb agreed, and said constituents have contacted Senator Udall. The right of way is 100' wide. Wells are still being put in. Robert said the path was marked 300' wide across Acoma Pueblo land so they could maneuver around sacred sites.

#### El Paso Electric Access Road Amendment

Mark distributed information and maps. He said this amendment affects one of the power lines serving the city of El Paso. The line was built in the mid-1980s, and some access roads were decommissioned. Building new roads to access power lines has been an issue in recent years. The roads have aesthetic, visual, wildlife, and elk hunting impacts. BLM has done a lot of work on elk habitat in the area, and plans to limit roads. So BLM staffers are working with El Paso Electric to make a plan—they have been talking since 2002. Problems arose, as maintenance was required in recent years. BLM wants the company to reduce roads and rehabilitate areas used.

About 10 years ago, fire and snow near Datil interrupted power and made repair difficult. Fire burned wood poles and power lines, and only one power line into El Paso remained. Maintenance and fire suppression take coordination. The original grant was to set lines by helicopter. So there isn't a road to every pole.

Information presented here will go to Acoma Pueblo with a few more details, Robert said.

Juan remembered that at one public meeting they discussed a recreation area in Datil. Mark said that was on the back burner. He said a number of positions in the Socorro Field Office have been in flux. John added that most staff was involved in energy issues.

Juan asked whether acting staff had been made permanent. Mark said Danita's position was finalized. He said timing was an issue because the national BLM office reviews all positions.

That does affect the way office work is done. BLM State Director Jesse Juen retired at the first of the year. Aden Seidlitz is acting state director. Budget also has an effect. Juan asked congressional staff members attending the meeting to report to their congressman and senator how important it is to support the BLM. Sarah Cobb asked whether the RAC could articulate concerns and send a letter. She said there were clearly national problems with these kinds of issues. She thought it would be helpful if the RAC sent a letter to Senator Udall and followed up with him. Bob said as current chair of RAC he could send a letter. Sarah said since Udall is lead democrat on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior & Environment, it's possible he could review this with some of his colleagues.

Kristin said her company, Cottonwood Gulch Foundation, takes children into the backcountry, and rangers are great educators, but often don't have time. She asked what that's looking like. John asked her to hold questions for the roundtable discussion.

### **Force Account Crew**

JJ Gallegos reported on the Albuquerque District Office Operations Force Account Program. He said it was a unique program established specifically for the Albuquerque District Office but has worked throughout New Mexico, and in Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma and Oregon when needed. He showed a series of slides of the force working on erosion control structures, trailheads, fencing, cattle guards, pipelines, storage tanks, etc. They do construction, maintenance and building, and are well known for having a lot of heavy equipment. They don't pave.

The force is a small construction group within the BLM that costs the agency a great deal less than ordinary construction would. JJ said most of their projects save the government roughly 25%, mainly because they don't charge for work orders, but pay as they go. They can change direction on a dime. Currently there is a crew of 11, five heavy equipment operators and six laborers, plus engineers, students and project coordinators. They don't use volunteers but have provided some of their crewmembers to oversee volunteer projects.

The Cebolla Canyon Wilderness Area project, for example, couldn't have been put out to contract. The crew hauled by hand for that project, the biggest he's overseen.

Los Alamos National Laboratories, the Army Corps of Engineers and others have been figuring out what to do to raise the dam at Santa Cruz Lake—north of Santa Fe near Chimayo—to increase reservoir capacity. The lake has silted up and it would cost about \$30 million to dredge the lake, or \$8 million to raise the dam 8'. BLM is raising the dam. Everything around the lake is BLM-managed land. They need to rebuild the campground and move the recreation site up to get it out of way of the newly dammed lake. The Force Account Crew started work on that project October 1, 2014, and have accomplished a lot. JJ said they have great relations with the Bureau of Reclamation, county and other offices, so they can tap into those resources. It is an efficient process.

Another major project was re-channeling the Rio Puerco. JJ showed a map from roughly 60 years ago when the Rio Puerco was channelized. The Army Corps of Engineers wanted to save money on bridges, put a dike in the original channel, and make it go straight. But water wants to

meander, JJ said, so it did. Michael said it was a combined project with state and federal agencies, the Rio Puerco Management Group, and input from the USGS, Bureau of Reclamation, etc., because the channel was widening so much it was threatening Highway 550. So they decided to put it back into its natural channel. Michael said the Force Group was highly valuable in accomplishing that. He said they were changing their orders day by day, and a contractor wouldn't have put up with that. It was a national project and brought good attention and feedback. This was done for the first time in Florida, and Rio Puerco was the second one accomplished in the United States. It was based on good science, he said.

BLM replaced a channel length of slightly less than two miles that dropped as much as 70' (south of Cuba on the east side of the road), with three miles of natural meandering. The Rio Puerco is the number one channel into the Rio Grande. JJ indicated where this was done on a map, showed a series of photos and outlined the process. They began in the winter of 2003 and completed it officially in 2007, although construction was finished in 2005. He and Michael described further aspects of the project. It would have cost an outrageous amount, JJ said. One contractor's bid was for \$1.2 million and it actually cost ~\$750,000.

In the area they built a one-mile loop trail that needs staff, so is not yet officially opened. The Richard Becker Nature Area and Ted Mace Trail are named after local supporters. The town, county and Zia Pueblo made donations, e.g., gravel. And those donations were made possible because there was no private contractor involved.

JJ commented on dam projects. He said many dams have outlived their lives; and funds for new ones have dwindled. With less money, fewer dams are even being maintained.

Robert asked how closely the force works with tribes, for example, removing Russian olives. JJ said they work with tribes as much as they can. They have worked with Cochiti and Zia pueblos.

### **Public Comment Period**

John Brenna opened the Public Comment Period at 11 a.m.

William Cicola of Mountainair is a member of the steering committee for Resistiendo, Inc., a nonprofit organization comprised of ordinary New Mexicans from all walks of life to keep the Kinder Morgan CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline from being constructed. He said they represent ranching, farming, irrigation, business, conservation, historical, cultural, and community interests.

We are very concerned for a variety of reasons, William said. One is that Kinder Morgan is aggressively threatening landowners—threatening to take them to court for easements. The company has been buying easements even though they don't know where the pipeline will go. It is a massive corporation, he said, Enron is now Kinder Morgan. They're buying pieces of property and attempting to get special lease permits for pipe storage, and have built on some private property a large area for pipeline storage. Kinder Morgan is working with Mountainair Chamber of Commerce to find out what they can give the community before the pipeline is approved. They have a terrible safety record, he said, not warm and comforting. His organization has 60 plus members and is growing. Their work and research is unpaid, detail oriented,

meticulous and serious. He invited all present to come to one of their open meetings. He said some Resistiendo committee members paid out of their own pockets for the large full-color postcard he distributed.

Bob asked where else he might put the pipeline. William said, where it would create the least amount of environmental impact. He said they asked for 100' easement for construction. Their construction has had huge impact on the watershed. One area they're talking about putting pipeline is through a massive arroyo that flash floods carry boulders through. He's worried about the pipeline affecting the water they drink and the magnificent views.

Juan asked what the group was doing to alert the public about environmental issues and threats. William said in informal dialogue they encourage people to get in touch with their own attorneys if an easement or any other request was presented. His organization has a website, and holds weekly meetings where attendance is growing. They educate as much as possible.

Mark said the proposed pipeline veers north of Mountainair. Bob asked whether that was mostly private land. Mark said it was primarily private property once east of the interstate.

Ricardo Ortiz of San Felipe Pueblo said he had spoken at the July RAC meeting, where he distributed copies of a letter San Felipe Pueblo officials wrote to Sandoval County in the 1980s. He said the tribe has been working with BLM to reclaim the original title to the Buffalo Strip. In the late 1990s, San Felipe moved again to attain ownership. We moved forward but obstacles arose, he said. Title to the area north of the Sandia foothills came to a halt. He said Ed Singleton and Tom Gow met with them, and the state, landowners and other tribes decided to move forward with phase 1, and move forward later with the second stage. Land exchange came into play. The pueblo waited for BLM to move forward with the second stage and the Buffalo Strip. The pueblo had an EIS done at BLM's request. Now they haven't heard anything and the RMP is done.

Ricardo said the Pueblo of San Felipe has come forward since the 1980s to get this Buffalo Strip back under its title. Their main concern is that the Pueblo of San Felipe still wants to move forward with phase 2, with the EIS, and that cultural studies and everything was already done when the land exchange was going to be pursued. Of all the findings within the Buffalo Strip, the mining issue is their most important concern because so many cultural sites have been identified within that area. If it is chosen to do the mining, he said, it would harm cultural sites. The tribe wants to know how to protect those sites. Aboriginal title goes to San Felipe Pueblo, and they would preserve the land as it is—with no mining. The pueblo claimed its aboriginal title to the Buffalo Strip in the 1980s because of what's within that area, wants to protect it. We need to come back to the table and move the phase 2 process on again. The Buffalo Strip with all of the area along the Sandia foothills and the Crest of Montezuma were included in phase 2. Ricardo repeated that San Felipe Pueblo wants to move forward and he hopes that is possible. He's worked with archaeologists to identify sites. He has been involved with this issue 100%. BLM promised San Felipe Pueblo they would move on after phase 1, and nothing's being done. When will BLM come back to the table to move forward with the second phase?

RAC proceeded as no comments could be made until RMP is approved.

Ricardo presented a letter to the RAC from San Felipe Pueblo Governor Ronald Tenorio.

Mary G. Wilson of Mountainair said she is living on land that's been in her husband's family for over 100 years. There are reasonable alternatives to the proposed route for placement of the Kinder Morgan CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline. Why put it through an important watershed? She sees the Abo-Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument from her kitchen window. That's how close the proposed pipeline is to significant Native American resources. Early Pueblo Indians populated the whole area, and significant cultural resources have been found throughout the area. Even Puebloan human remains have been exhumed.

Don't put this CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline in a significant watershed or an area where there's a population and cultural resources, she said. Besides long time residents, people come to the area for its beauty and significance. Landscape and viewscape are important. The area attracts tourism. She doesn't want the landscape marred by a 50' easement in perpetuity that will not have significant vegetation on it—Kinder Morgan has told them that. They can't put the trees back as they are. We do not believe the pipeline should come through our watershed area, she said.

She has been talking with BLM about alternatives. Kinder Morgan has a natural gas transmission pipeline south of the watershed. We're looking to BLM to look at, analyze and draft an EIS, she said. CO<sub>2</sub> is a dangerous substance, and it will not directly benefit the residents, but is for a profit motive. Kinder Morgan is taking something out of the ground that has been safely stored for thousands of years and piping it across our state. Significant questions need to be looked at—not just how it will affect the environment, but whether it's needed and is cost effective. Pressure on the community has been a significant problem. Rather than dividing residents, Kinder Morgan is bringing them closer together because all know this pipeline should not be allowed to do damage to their community.

Since it comes across federal land as well as private, there is a legislative gap—in that no regulatory agency is there to help tell private companies how to site their pipelines. That's why the BLM NEPA process is so important, because it is private citizens' only opportunity to affect the proposed route of this pipeline. When the draft EIS comes out she asked the RAC members as individuals, if not the RAC as a council, to download it, read it and provide comments. She asked RAC members to come to comment meetings, hear what people are saying and provide input.

Timothy Menchezo of Santa Ana Pueblo began speaking in his own language to Robert Moquino. In English he said he brought a compilation of photographs to present to the RAC, of the proposed wildlife corridor in regards to the Buffalo Tract. He said pictures gave evidence of efforts and progressions made by his pueblo. They hold themselves accountable with no contingences placed upon acquiring the Buffalo Tract. The photographs showed what they would like to implement once a decision is made. BLM came to Santa Ana Pueblo but interest became stagnant, so the pueblo decided to proceed. He said the photos were for the reading pleasure of the RAC, and gave evidence of the Pueblo of Santa Ana's Department of Natural Resources' 15 years of work on wild lands and wildlife preservation with differentiation between grazing and

wildlife—which are two different concepts. BLM members had come to view the rangeland, and Santa Ana Pueblo provided tours with information on their land management concepts, he said.

He gave the binder of photographs to Danita, who passed it to RAC members. He said there was a small narrative, and notations on archaeological findings associated with Santa Ana's migration—identified by archaeologists as well as the pueblo's oral history. There was a book available that he would also provide. Based on merit achievement, the proof is in the pudding, he said. He hoped BLM and the United States government would make decisions based on that.

No other members of the public asked to speak. The Public Comment Period was closed.

## **Resource Update (continued)**

### **Rio Puerco**

John Brenna reported.

#### Stray Horses

BLM had been taken to court twice. They will have to find another way to approach this. John and Danita called in 50 people to impound about 70 horses. They put up an impound notice, which they do annually. But within a few weeks those horses were gone. Only a handful are left. So the problem has dwindled. They have a continual monitoring program; and law enforcement officers check several times a month to see that horses are not moving back onto public land. Horses destroy the land, he said. They are not afraid of people, so not really wild. BLM has some help from partners. The majority of people are not upset. BLM lent equipment to Al Baca who had 10 horses on his property, to pen the horses and take them to the sale barn. Monitoring on a weekly basis and impound notices are solving the problem.

#### Law Enforcement Officers Update

John said when he arrived in New Mexico there were no enforcement officers. He hired two. They have handled a plethora of problems and are doing a good job, in coordination with the local sheriff's office. There is also a district-wide effort with Mark and his officer in the Socorro district. They cover each other's absences, and exchange personnel.

#### Rio Puerco Management Committee

John and Danita reviewed the committee and its activities. The committee had decided to change its financial purchasing agent and facility. BLM had to provide a place for them. They are regrouping and hopefully will come back stronger. They have a good relationship with BLM, and bring a lot to the table.

#### Office Move/Mobile Workforce

Supervisors were informed that they need to have a mobile workforce. BLM used fire crews as a basis for doing the work. Management has come up with some great plans, discarded no-longer-useful materials, and six or seven staff members will be working out of vehicles like police officers do. Another few will manage an office. They negotiated with the U.S. Forest Service to use the third floor of their building at 101 Sun Avenue NE, off Jefferson. They plan to move in

April or May. The new building is modern, and mostly green. Infrastructure in the current office building had been an issue.

John said the Buffalo Tract remains an issue. All the Albuquerque District Office major issues are situated there. The RMP rolls out with several alternatives, and district managers will make decisions on particular areas. Even if that tract is set for disposal, BLM may not dispose of it if they think they can manage it better. Many people want the Buffalo Tract. The RMP situates 860 of the 3,600+ acres as a site for sand and gravel mining. Sand and gravel are necessary for infrastructure building and repair, and transporting from distant sources doubles or triples cost. No decisions have been made, but sand and gravel mining is a possibility. BLM's team will determine what is the highest and best use for that land after the record of decision is finalized.

There are misconceptions about it, but by regulation the BLM is not permitted to give or sell mineral rights. Even if the land were disposed of, the mineral rights would not go with that disposal. A land exchange is not done acre for acre, but value for value. There is concern about BLM giving the land away, but the state office has no authority to do that. Only Congress has that right.

The highest and best use might be mining. There is no area for grazing. BLM's plan is to advise people that the RMP is signed and they will take applications for projects, within a time limit. Applications will be reviewed and the projects selected would have to coexist. BLM will have to figure out what to allow. The RAC may be involved.

Robert asked about management of the Buffalo Tract by a group of tribes. John said BLMNM tried that and apparently no one wants to share. They want it exclusively. Robert said they hadn't tried sitting down together. He sees it as a possibility that they could sit down and figure out what to do. He said Laguna and Acoma pueblos are working together and are figuring out who came first. John said that had to be settled first by the tribes. First refusal is the tribes', Robert said. John disagreed. We have to try to be fair to everyone, he said.

Kristin asked about land trades. John said in the RMP they look at tracts of land and consider trades. The RMP will be the guidebook on how to proceed.

Kristin said she would like to know more about education and how it was affected by current budgeting. What's happening? Sequestration? Danita said Congress made cuts that BLM had no control over. They are now seeing arbitrary cuts in personnel. Congressional staffers at one time earmarked monies for New Mexico. Senator Bingaman held purse strings and got money for New Mexico. That money is no longer coming in. BLM is struggling to keep the funds it has. Another difficulty is new staff coming in, especially in Washington, that does not have experience. BLM was sequestered in some areas and not others. Funding they expected is no longer available. They struggled at first and now have come into their own as an organization, discovering who's missing, and filling those gaps, making sure they don't lose momentum. They are finding ways that BMLNM can work through this, but with no great plan.

Kristin said, if your office is absorbed by big projects and less staff, little projects get lost. Her students had access to rangers for education. Look at the next generation that might become

rangers themselves. Danita said there is opportunity for partners to work with BLM to keep projects alive. And this is cyclic. These times are like the depression that our grandparents went through. We are sitting down with our partners to figure things out; and holding on till it comes around the corner.

Bob thought volunteers might be helpful. He brought up the RAC writing letters to congressmen and women about funding. Discussion. Joe Baca said Congressman Pearce is very supportive of ranchers and farmers. BLM is very important, he said, so get a letter to Joe and he will get it to Congressman Pearce.

Bob asked how he would get hold of BLM staff out in the field. Danita told him that someone would be in the office at all times, so he could call the office and they would connect him. Danita asked whether it would be difficult to get to staff in the field. Joshua said that would not be a problem. Staff is aware of how important it is to return calls. Bob asked where their equipment would be housed. Danita said that has to be carefully thought out and individualized for sites. For example, NEPA cannot be done out of a truck. If this will help us be better at our jobs and better with constituents, she said, that's what we want. Discussion.

Danita said the RAC would be immensely important to help ground proof this mobility plan. For example, there was some concern about the lack of opportunity for communicating around the office. We will find a way to do that, she told her staff. The issue is how to do it right. It will take years before we do it right, but we're working on it and portions of the new plan will be great. We're pretty good about deciding what works or doesn't. Bob thought it would be good to have a place to bring people in when needed, maybe temporary office space. John said they were also concerned with getting better at monitoring. Discussion. Mark agreed with Bob that logistics is an issue. We have to work smarter he said, but this will actually help us work together. Danita said they needed more cross-pollination. Ethan asked how much they would save with a mobile workforce. Danita said not a dime, because they would need more vehicles and upkeep.

Bob said he had a safety issue. With people taking potshots at police, public employees are the next targets. Danita said they have SPOT Trackers that can be turned on or off, personal devices they can use to push a button and get help if they're in trouble. Kristin recommended a newer product by Delorme. Discussion. Joe Baca reminded listeners that the satellite devices don't work everywhere. Jeremy said they've tested them and they're pretty robust. Mark said radio is always used. Joe said in Sierra County there were places you wouldn't get out with anything. Danita said they would need to know where staffers are, and where they're going. Discussion.

### **Roundtable**

Kristin asked for protocol as far as medical training for staff going into backcountry. Danita thought more training was needed. All receive first aid training but not emergency medical training. Kristin offered to provide information on how to get people trained.

Juan said he would like to have known what happened to Chip Kimball and that Danita's position had been made permanent. Bob said he hadn't been sure where the RAC was meeting.

Better communication would be helpful. Danita said she would clear that up. Juan asked whether email he sent would go directly to her. Danita asked John to find out how that worked.

Robert asked the outcome as far as the state wanting to purchase federal lands. Joe Baca said BLM land is not federal land; it's public land managed by the federal government. Robert said Acoma Pueblo bought land south of Grants off Highway 117, but ranch owners didn't want to sell one little portion. Could BLM help with that? They would like to swap. There's another piece of land of interest to Acoma Pueblo down by Highway 6. Danita mentioned Exit 100 and said she would meet to revive discussions. The Washington office was holding back on Exit 100 land. She will push for an answer from Washington. Discussion.

Robert said his pueblo is paying big time taxes on trust land. Juan recommended going to the protest board, and Robert said they approached them but haven't heard back. John said Baca Bill funds for the purchase of public land have disappeared. Joe spoke about PILT payments to counties, which complicate the issue. Discussion.

John said Don Tripp intends to continue his RAC membership, though he was not able to attend this meeting because he was preparing for the legislative session. The Clarys had planned to attend this meeting, but both had the flu.

Bob would like for RAC members to bring up issues for meeting agendas. Feel free to contact the BLM office or other RAC members to let them know what's going on, he said. He thought there might be opportunities to coordinate on issues. Danita asked for messages on what RAC members wanted to talk about. Joshua recommended that BLM put together agendas based on issues raised by RAC members.

Danita asked staff what was a good way to do that. Mark spoke about past meetings where field managers sat in the back of the room and responded to questions. Discussion. Danita said at least once during meetings they could have presentations by staff members, but the RAC would decide which one. Juan recommended field trips. Danita thought past RAC members felt they weren't getting enough from field trips. Discussion. Danita recommended the RAC tell her what they wanted and staff would arrange a field trip connected with that issue. They could also help her know how their constituents might respond to BLM actions on a particular issue. Michael said he'd like to hear more from Mary Wilson of Mountainair who spoke about alternatives. Mark said public meetings were upcoming in March and April.

Robert announced that February 7 and 8 were official feast days at Acoma Pueblo, and all were invited.

Kristin would like to see information on outreach to communities, their priorities, what they're identifying as important areas to educate the public about, and funding for those areas.

Joshua said they do a lot for migratory birds and have an outdoor classroom in the Grants area, with a brochure. Dollars have been cut. Staffers have particular specialties. Jamie Garcia is a recreation specialist with the Rio Puerco Field Office who is very interested in education. Joe

Baca said he knew of a company that would print at no cost, because businesses advertised and that paid for printing.

Kristin said she is more interested in people getting outdoors, and that the whole public has access to education. Where, what, and how much funding is available? Is it a priority? Mark said there are partnerships working together to help people enjoy the outdoors. BLMNM has conservation days, and used to have a big outdoor education program in Socorro but money shrank. Danita said education is not necessarily a priority, but they would work with whoever wanted it. Kristin said the question was how people get access to public lands. Danita said people, for example, the Boy Scouts, ask BLM for opportunities. She would like to have more staff available for that purpose. She would particularly like more recreationists because that's a priority in Albuquerque—which has half the population of the state. Discussion. Bob asked whether volunteers could help. Danita said yes, and the Albuquerque office does an exemplary job of arranging that. Volunteers are monitoring sites and finding new ones. They are in the front line. And BLM would like more volunteers.

Mark said there were about 17,000 people in Socorro and Catron County, with less public demand. Danita had thought they'd see a shift of people moving south, but that's stagnated.

The next RAC meeting was set for April 16, in Socorro. Danita asked the RAC to let her know if they'd like a field trip; and said she would send out some choices. Mark made suggestions including Fort Craig, and the Quebradas Back Country Byway.

Action items:

- Clarify communication by email.
- Send out information to let RAC members know what's going on between meetings.
- Reaffirm RAC appointments and what category they're in.
- Kristin will provide Danita with information on advanced medical training.
- Danita will send out proposed field trip ideas.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

Attachments

- Albuquerque District Resource Advisory Council Charter, Bylaws and Standard Operating Procedures
- Resistiendo, Inc. postcard
- Letter from the Governor of San Felipe Pueblo
- SunZia
- Lobos CO<sub>2</sub> Pipeline
- El Paso Electric Access Road Amendment