

MINUTES
LAS CRUCES DISTRICT RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 20, 2011
LAS CRUCES NM

RAC Members Present:

Tony Popp
Jim Hyatt
Mike Walsh
Howard Bartoo
Ed Boykin
Rod Hille
Billy Garrett
Tim Eastep
Greg Magee
Michael Quintana

BLM Staff:

Rusty Stovall
Dwayne Sykes
Ed Guerrero
Michael Downs
Tom Phillips
Kathryn Lloyd
Eric Ernst
McKinney Briske
Leticia Lister
Ray Lister
Jim McCormick
Tom McKibben
Lori Allen
Rena Gutierrez

RAC Members Absent:

Paul Turner
Ray Trejo

Designated Federal Official:

Bill Childress

AGENDA

9:00 a.m.	Meet and Greet
9:30 a.m.	Welcome (Bill Childress)
9:45 a.m.	Introductions of RAC Members
10:00 a.m.	Review of Agenda (Bill Childress)
10:10 a.m.	Discussion on Charter & Operating Procedures (Bill Childress)
10:50 a.m.	Break
11:00 a.m.	History of BLM (Jim McCormick)
11:30 a.m.	Lunch
12:30 p.m.	Las Cruces District Office Presentations Edward Seum—Lands and Minerals Program Leticia Lister—Rangeland Management Program Tom Phillips—Recreation/Cultural/NLCS/Volunteer Programs Rusty Stovall—Operations Program Ray Lister—Biological & Watershed Program Tom McKibbin—Fire Management Program Dwayne Sykes—Land Use Planning/TriCounty Planning Effort Lori Allen—Prehistoric Trackways National Monument RMP Eddie Guerrero—International Border/Military Coordination

- 2:00 pm** **Election of Chairperson** (Bill Childress)
- 2:30 pm** **Public Comment Period**
- 3:00 pm** **Break**
- 3:15 pm** **Future meeting topics** (Suggestions to Chairperson)
- Fire (Wildfire & Rx Fire)
 - Off Highway Vehicle use
 - Restore NM
 - Access to Public Lands
 - RMP updates
 - Recreation Fees (Required)
 - Illegal Trash dumps
 - AML
 - Budget
- 3:30 pm** **Field Trip Options** (Bill Childress)
- How long (full day or ½ day)
 - How often (once a year)
 - Topics to see?
- 3:45 pm** **Next Meeting(s):** (Rena Gutierrez)
- Date:** January 25, 2012
- Time:** Start time: 9:00 a.m. End time: 4:00 p.m.
- Place:** Las Cruces District Main Conference Room
- Public Comment Time:** 2:30 p.m.
- Potential Agenda Topics:**
Recreation Fees, Access, Illegal Dumping, Restore New Mexico, RMP Updates, Land Tenure Adjustments.
- 4:00 pm** **Adjourn**

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Resource Advisory Council Meeting**

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Resource Advisory Council Meeting

October 20, 2011

Las Cruces, New Mexico

9:26 a.m. to 3:40 p.m.

COPY

REPORTED BY: RONALD H. JONES, RMR

CCR No. 31

Jones Reporting Services, LLC

506 South Main Street, Suite 630

Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001-1237

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1	INDEX	PAGE	1	Uvas. We just have what we would view as a very	
2	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF RAC MEMBERS		2	diverse resource. We have some riparian areas as	
3	BY BILL CHILDRESS	3	3	well, like the Gila River and, of course, parts of	
4			4	the Rio Grande, and we have a lot of springs and	
5	PRESENTATIONS		5	smaller tributaries that we're responsible for	
6	1 Jim McCormick	30	6	managing.	
7	2 Edward Seum	59	7	What we're going to do today, we set the agenda	
8	3 Leticia Lister	68	8	today because this is our first meeting, and I think	
9	4 Tom Phillips	80	9	it's important for us to give you folks an overview	
10	5 Rusty Stovall	93	10	of some of the things that we're doing within our	
11	6 Ray Lister	109	11	district, and that might help decide what things you	
12	7 Tom McKibbin	123	12	want to sink your teeth into and work on with us to	
13	8 Dwayne Sykes	127	13	give us opinions and advice on where we need to	
14	9 Lori Allen	140	14	head.	
15	10 Eddy Guerrero	147	15	Before we get too much further down the road, I	
16			16	would like to, first of all -- once again, my name	
17	PUBLIC COMMENTS		17	is Bill Childress, I'm the district manager, and I'm	
18	Bud Starnes	139	18	getting a little long in the tooth. I have 37 years	
19	ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON	161	19	of Bureau of Land Management service. I've worked	
20	FUTURE MEETING TOPICS/FIELD TRIP OPTIONS	166	20	previously in New Mexico with Jim McCormick, as it	
21	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE	183	21	works out, in the now-Carlsbad field office -- used	
22			22	to be resource area. But I've also worked in Nevada	
23			23	and various places in Arizona. When I had an	
24			24	opportunity to compete for a position back in	
25			25	New Mexico, I didn't hesitate. I've always had a	
Page 3			Page 5		
1	PROCEEDINGS		1	good feel for Las Cruces. I was always a little	
2	MR. CHILDRESS: Welcome, all of you, to		2	jealous being on the other side of the escarpment of	
3	our first official Las Cruces Resource Advisory		3	the community of Las Cruces and the resources here,	
4	Council meeting. This has been a long time coming.		4	so I was very pleased to move back into New Mexico	
5	We've been working on trying to organize district		5	to make it my home.	
6	RAC for almost two years. The State director		6	Also, I'd like to introduce the staff here. We	
7	thought it would be best to split the statewide RAC		7	have Jim McCormick. He's an assistant district	
8	into four resource advisory councils for each of the		8	manager. He's one of the two assistant district	
9	districts in New Mexico. So we have a RAC in		9	managers -- the other one is vacant -- for renewable	
10	Farmington, one in Albuquerque, one in the Pecos		10	resources. Jim is also been with the agency for	
11	District out of Roswell, and, of course, our		11	35-plus years and a very good hand.	
12	Las Cruces RAC. I think what we're hoping to do is		12	Eddie Guerrero, he has two main jobs here in	
13	that we can concentrate and focus in on issues, and		13	our office. He's a special assistant of sorts. He	
14	hopefully get your good advice on giving us		14	helps us manage our border issues. He works with	
15	direction on where we need to go, concentrated on		15	the various entities along the border, and he's also	
16	our 5.4 million acres.		16	focusing on bringing the military organizations	
17	Our district is made up of six counties. We		17	together to communicate with us on a variety of	
18	have Otero, Sierra, Doña Ana, Luna, Grant and		18	issues.	
19	Hidalgo Counties. 5.4 million surface acres, and we		19	We have Rusty Stovall. He's our chief of	
20	have little bit more of that in times of subsurface.		20	operations. He also manages our GIS staff. This is	
21	We have, of course, resources, Chihuahuan Desert,		21	one of the districts that has one of the most	
22	but we have some really nice mountain ranges, peaks		22	comprehensive GIS staffs in the state, trying to	
23	of 8,000 feet and greater. We have really special		23	bring us forward and progressing in new technology.	
24	resources like, of course, the Organs, the Hatchets,		24	Leticia Lister is our supervisory rangeland	
25	the Cooks Peak. We have the Robledo Mountains, Las		25	management specialist. She manages the range staff.	

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1 She'll get into details about what her job is all
2 about. Each one of these folks will be giving a
3 presentation a little later on.
4 Ray Lister is our supervisory manager for
5 wildlife, soil, water and air, and he also has
6 responsibility of oversight of the McGregor Range,
7 which is the joint-use area with the military.
8 Tom Phillips. Tom Phillips is a supervisor for
9 cultural resources, wilderness, our national
10 monument, our historic trails, our scenic trails,
11 and recreation in general. So his staff is working
12 on providing recreational and resource objectives to
13 manage some of our special areas.
14 Edward Seum is our supervisor for lands and
15 minerals. We have a lot of work in the lands and
16 minerals realm, and his staff concentrates on
17 providing permits, authorizing use of mineral uses
18 on our landscape.
19 This is Dwayne Sykes. He's technically a State
20 Office employee, but he's down here helping us focus
21 in one of our land-use plans, a big one, TriCounty,
22 which includes the Doña Ana, Otero and Sierra
23 Counties, and he's working on getting that draft
24 perfected so we can move forward.
25 And then we have Rena Gutiérrez, who is our

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1 editorial assistant, but she's also -- she's a
2 specialist, actually -- and she's also helping us
3 organize our RAC. And it's a thanks to her, Rena
4 and others to pull off the organization of this.
5 She's also the person that coordinated getting the
6 books pulled together for everybody's use to try to
7 keep us as organized as possible. She arranged for
8 the refreshments as well. We do appreciate that.
9 Good job.
10 Also, we have some guests. I'll ask the guests
11 to stand up and introduce themselves.
12 MR. STARNES: Bud Starnes with NMDA. I'M
13 kind of the adjunct policy advisor here.
14 MR. OWEN: Les Owen with the New Mexico
15 Department of Ag as well. We just here to kind of
16 see what issues that you folks have, and to see if
17 we can lend any assistance or get involved in some
18 way.
19 MR. CHILDRESS: I'd like to introduce our
20 court reporter. If you'd like to introduce
21 yourself.
22 THE REPORTER: Ron Jones.
23 MR. CHILDRESS: A little bit of
24 housekeeping. The rest rooms are just around the
25 corner, and also the water fountain. Whenever you

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1 need to go get a drink of water, or whatever, feel
2 free to do that. We do have some organized breaks
3 that we'll talk about here in a few minutes. Rena,
4 would you kind of explain to them a little bit about
5 the book?
6 MS. GUTIÉRREZ: What we did is, the first
7 part, Part 1, is the meeting for today, and it has
8 the agenda. It has all the presentations that are
9 going to occur today, and a place for you to take
10 notes.
11 2, 3 and 4 are blank right now. Those are for
12 future meetings, so you'll take these books with
13 you.
14 Section 5 is the Charter.
15 Section 6 is the Bylaws and Standard Operating
16 Procedures.
17 Section 7 are contacts. And what we did is, we
18 have the District Resource Advisory Council. So if
19 I can have you check that sometime today, and if
20 there are any changes, go ahead and let me know.
21 Section 8 is general information about BLM.
22 It's a fact sheet on the district. It has a map of
23 our district. It has the BLM edition. And there's
24 also a page in there about a book called Opportunity
25 and Challenge, the Story of BLM. We tried to get

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1 you copies, but they're out of print right now, so
2 they'll come up. But there's a Web site there that
3 you can go to if you'd like to look at that.
4 In the context, also, there's an extra sheet
5 in there, and what we did was, we put in the
6 information for our management staff here in the
7 district, so if you need to contact them. I think
8 that's it.
9 MR. CHILDRESS: Thank you very much. As I
10 mentioned, this is really a handy book. You folks
11 are welcome to take it home with you, but you can
12 also leave it here if you'd like and we'll keep it
13 stored. The whole idea is to bring this to every
14 meeting so we can update the information, put new
15 information in the booklet as we go through our
16 meetings through the years. So this is really
17 important.
18 What I'd like to do now is have the RAC members
19 introduce themselves. We had a meet-and-greet, and
20 most of you probably have already met each other,
21 but some of the staff may not have picked up who you
22 are. You could talk about where you're from, maybe
23 what city or county, and what you represent, that
24 would be good. I'll start with you.
25 MR. QUINTANA: Michael Quintana,

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<p>1 representing the New Mexico State Land Office. 2 Additionally, I'm a small rancher -- well, I'm 3 small, but I also have a small ranch in northern 4 New Mexico. 5 MR. WALSH: I'm Norman Walsh. If you call 6 me by Norman, I won't know who you're talking to. 7 Everybody calls me Mike. I'm from Deming. I'm on 8 the Luna County Soil and Water Conservation District 9 Board. 10 MR. GARRETT: I'm Billy Garrett. I'm 11 currently a county commissioner for Doña Ana County. 12 I actually applied for this before I was elected, 13 simply because I was interested in what was going 14 on. I'm a retired National Park Service architect 15 and manager. I grew up here and came home. I 16 appreciate the opportunity to be here and get to 17 know you all. 18 MR. HYATT: My name is Jim Hyatt. I'm 19 from Luna County. I ranch a little bit in Luna and 20 Doña Ana County. My family has been in New Mexico 21 for, I don't know, six generations or something. I 22 was interested in this entire procedure we've got 23 going on here, and I'm pleased to be here and hope 24 to learn a lot from you guys. 25 MR. BARTOO: I'm Howard Bartoo from Sierra</p>	<p>1 extension service as a 4-H leader and associate 2 director of New Mexico Extension Service. I've got 3 two sons I've already found out that a lot you know. 4 First is Doug, who is Southwest District forester up 5 there in Socorro, part of the Forestry Division in 6 New Mexico. And then Ken, who is a research 7 biologist here at New Mexico State. My 30 years 8 were spent in education at Cruces High and 9 Farmington and Mesilla Valley Christian School. If 10 I remember right, my sister, Betty, who graduated 11 from Deming, knows somebody named Hyatt, who she 12 graduated with over at Deming High School. Billy 13 Garrett one of my students at Las Cruces High -- 14 little Billy Garrett. 15 MR. EASTEP: My name is Tim Eastep. I've 16 been in New Mexico -- Silver City -- for about five 17 and a half years. I manage the Environment Land and 18 Water Group for the Chino and Tyrone operation. 19 MR. POPP: My name is Tony Popp. I don't 20 recognize "Anthony" too often. I'm a retired 21 professor at NMSU, beginning in 1981. I belong to 22 some of the conservations clubs here in town. I've 23 been working with BLM since the early '90s, when 24 Linda Rundell was here, doing some things back and 25 forth. So I'm pleased to be here.</p>
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<p>1 County. I went to high school there, raised there. 2 My parents started a concrete company. I've taken 3 it over since the '70s. We deal with minerals. 4 Also, I have a lease on a ranch, a small ranch, only 5 20 head, but it's a small ranch that we deal with 6 the BLM on lease. Just trying to get the way 7 through the world. That's about it. 8 MR. HILLE: I'm Rod Hille, and I'm from 9 Sierra County. We've got the ranches there on the 10 east side of the Caballo Mountains. I've been 11 associated with permitting with BLM since 1967. 12 Other than that, I was raised here in Doña Ana 13 County, I went to school here, high school, and 14 college at New Mexico State University, which I have 15 a degree in range management. 16 MR. MAGEE: I'm Greg MaGee. I moved to 17 Las Cruces in 1987, and a couple of years ago I 18 moved out to Hidalgo County, south of Rodeo, 19 New Mexico, since I moved here, I've been out hiking 20 and camping all over the BLM lands and the 21 Las Cruces District, and just hope to make a good 22 contribution here. There are special places in 23 southern New Mexico. 24 MR. BOYKIN: My name is Ed Boykin. We 25 moved here in 1937 when my dad was part of the</p>	<p>1 MR. CHILDRESS: Absolutely terrific to 2 have each and every one of you as part of our RAC. 3 We Appreciate it. If you could turn to Tab No. 1, 4 let's go to the agenda. I think it's the first 5 page. I want to make sure everybody is comfortable 6 with the agenda as it's laid out. We wanted to 7 really kind of get into a little bit of the charter 8 and operating procedures, make sure that we review 9 it together, and I want to make sure we have an 10 opportunity to answer any questions that you may 11 have about the charter and the operating procedures. 12 And then we're going to give you a little brief 13 history of the Bureau of Land Management. Jim 14 McCormick will make that presentation, PowerPoint. 15 And then, as Rena pointed out, she's got a Web site 16 where you can access the book that he'll refer to in 17 his presentation. 18 We'll break for lunch at 11:30. We thought 19 originally maybe we could try to have lunch in, but 20 if I may suggest that we get through lunch in an 21 hour. Hopefully, that's doable. There's plenty of 22 little restaurants along Valley Drive. There's 23 Subways, there's Chilito's, there's Dick's. There's 24 all kinds of little places, and hopefully we can get 25 you in and out in an hour. And then when everybody</p>

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1 gets back from lunch, we're going to go into
2 presentations. I would ask that each of the branch
3 chiefs to give a presentation on their programs,
4 bringing you up-to-date on what's going on in their
5 various programs, kind of give you a feel for the
6 various activities that we're responsible for
7 managing within our district. So that will take up
8 around an hour and a half to go through that.
9 Then we're hoping that you folks can elect a
10 chair and a vice chair, with the expectation that
11 the chair or, in the absence of the chair, the vice
12 chair can run the agenda and the meetings. That may
13 be a little hard, you might not know each other real
14 well. But hopefully, through the course of the
15 morning, you'll feel comfortable in making some
16 nominations in electing a chair.
17 What we want to do is, in the afternoon after
18 that, we want to talk a little bit about some future
19 meeting topics, just to kind of brainstorm some
20 ideas we had, but it's all open for you folks to
21 think about some things that you want to tackle as
22 well. Once you get exposed to the various
23 activities and things that we're doing within our
24 district, it may stimulate some thoughts as to what
25 other things you would like to chat about.

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1 Then I want to talk about a little bit about
2 options on field trips in the afternoon, figure out
3 if folks can make themselves available from time to
4 time to do a field trip, figure out the frequency
5 and such, and what things we might want to see down
6 the road.
7 Then at the very end, we want to see if we can
8 set some dates for future RAC meetings. I'm in hope
9 that we can have at least four RAC meetings a year;
10 so, for instance, every three months have another
11 RAC meeting. We'll lay it out, the months, and then
12 we can figure out if there's a day that's best for
13 all. That way, we can sort of organize ourselves,
14 we'll be in a better position. We have to post this
15 in our Federal Register Notice when we're having
16 meetings, and we'll be able to organize news
17 releases to see if the public would like to
18 participate or be here when we have our RAC
19 meetings. So we'll talk a little bit about that,
20 and then, of course, we'll adjourn at that point.
21 Any questions about the agenda? Does everybody
22 feel pretty comfortable with the agenda? All right.
23 Moving right along, why don't we get into the
24 discussion of the charter and the operating
25 procedures. Do we have that? What I thought we'd

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1 do is, we'd pull this up on the screen, that way our
2 visiting public can see what we're looking at as
3 well as the staff that may not have it in their
4 hand.
5 I'm not going to read the charter word for
6 word. It's in front of you. It's up there. I'm
7 going to highlight the main topics and insert a
8 little bit of philosophy on what is meant by the
9 charter, or aspects of the charter and the operating
10 procedures.
11 As I mentioned, this is pretty exciting for us.
12 We've worked with one single charter and RAC
13 organization within our state for many, many years.
14 The state director, who is now retired, Linda
15 Rundell, she visited with the districts, and she
16 wanted to create Resource Advisory Councils for each
17 district, as I mentioned. The first thing
18 designates it as the Las Cruces District Resource
19 Advisory Council. That's our official name, so keep
20 that in mind. Then here's the authorities that
21 establish and give the authority for establishing
22 the RAC.
23 The objective and scope of the activities, this
24 is really important. The council will serve in an
25 advisory capacity concerning the planning and

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1 management of public land resources located within a
2 geographic area of the Bureau of Land Management,
3 Las Cruces District Office, in the State of
4 New Mexico.
5 Then further, the objectives are laid out in
6 terms of duties. These are key terms. 4a: Develop
7 recommendations for BLM regarding preparation,
8 amendment, and implementation of land-use plans.
9 Right now, we have two plans that are in
10 preliminary draft stage, and we have two employees
11 that will give you a briefing on that later on this
12 afternoon. So as we move closer to getting those
13 plans out on the street, we're hoping that you
14 become familiar with the plans, the range of
15 alternatives, and participate in some of the public
16 meetings that we have after we roll it out to the
17 public, and that would give you an opportunity to
18 engage with some of your constituents out there in
19 terms of their perspectives and views. I want you
20 to be real familiar with some of the components of
21 it, not word for word, but some of the major topics
22 of your interests so you can articulate that to the
23 public when we have our public meetings. That would
24 be very helpful.
25 Of course, Advise -- that's an advisory

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<p>1 council -- advise the BLM. For purposes of our 2 discussion, the secretary has designated what is 3 called a DFO, Designated Federal officer. I'm, for 4 all purposes, the DFO for the council, so any 5 issues, you can bring them forward to me and we'll 6 work together to resolve them, whether they're 7 operational or issues on the ground, and then from 8 there, probably direct you to the very competent 9 staff we have here to kind of work through resolving 10 some of the issues that we may have as we go through 11 our council sessions. 12 Advise BLM in developing recommendations for 13 implementation of ecosystem management concepts. We 14 have some folks around this table that I think that 15 can provide us some good opinions and advices on 16 where we're headed, and helping us formulate some of 17 our directions and policies on how we operate within 18 our district. 19 Advise the BLM regarding working with local 20 groups. Each of you have constituents, people that 21 you work with in industry or in organizations. If 22 there's groups that you feel we need to engage more 23 with as we go through managing our public lands, we 24 would like to have advice on that and get your 25 opinions and maybe even participate.</p>	<p>1 to provide and give presentations. 2 Here again, the estimated costs. I wouldn't 3 worry about that. We're running on about a budget, 4 in-kind services for our staff, but we also have a 5 commitment for around \$10,000 to help run this RAC. 6 We have overnight travel. Expenses are paid for by 7 the BLM. Some of you are far enough away where we 8 can provide mileage for your vehicles. If you live 9 within 50 miles, you have to travel on your own 10 expense. 11 Here again, it says, Estimated Number of 12 Frequency of Meetings. It says, at least one, but 13 I'm hoping for four. That way, we meet often enough 14 where we can have good discussions and decide where 15 we're headed to kind of fine tune and give us advice 16 on recommendations of where we need to go. 17 The charter. If you notice, on page 3, the 18 charter was signed by Secretary Salazar in 19 June 2010, and then after that is when we began 20 recruiting the RAC. So we're already a year into 21 it. It says it expires in two years. Don't worry 22 about that, it will get renewed. We just need to 23 renew it every two years as a formality. 24 This kind of gives you an idea of the various 25 groups. We have representatives in each group.</p>
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<p>1 Make recommendations on how a future RAC might 2 be organized. My thought here is that we stay the 3 course with the way we're organized right now. 4 We're a ten-member RAC. We have two alternates on 5 the RAC, and we're down one alternate that as we 6 speak. One of the members that accepted the RAC 7 position had to resign for personal reasons; plus, 8 they lost their post in one of the categories that 9 they were selected for. So we're down to 12. The 10 hopes are is that all the alternates can show up at 11 the meetings and listen and be engaged in the 12 discussion. I also expect the alternates, if one of 13 the official members can't make it, would slip right 14 into that category, sit at the table, and 15 participate in the discussion and any voting that 16 needs to take place as holding the position of an 17 official RAC member. 18 Long-range planning, establish resource 19 management priorities. Kind of going down a little 20 bit here. 21 Support. The support that you'll get is pretty 22 much everybody from the BLM that's in this office. 23 It says, By the BLM District Manager's Office. And 24 the staff is key to that. Rena and the branch 25 chiefs will be here when they can and as they need</p>	<p>1 Group 1, we have four representatives, and in Groups 2 2 and 3, we have three representatives. Right now, 3 as I mentioned, we're missing one alternate. Rena, 4 what category was that alternate in? 5 MS. GUTIÉRREZ: Ray Trejo, Category 3. 6 And Paul Turner is our regular council member. 7 MR. CHILDRESS: Okay. So we're going to 8 at have to fill another alternate in one of the 9 categories before too long. I'll leave it to you to 10 sort of read the ethical responsibilities of the 11 members. 12 Subcommittees. As we get into issues, there 13 may be a need to look at forming smaller groups, at 14 least three people from the RAC to form a 15 subcommittee to concentrate on helping us work 16 through an issue or problem, help us figure out 17 where we need to head in resolving an issue on the 18 ground. 19 So here again, I expect some recommendations 20 from the RAC via the chair, vice chair, and then 21 we'll talk about it and most likely make it happen 22 if we need to pull together a subcommittee. 23 Recordkeeping. We will keep good records. We 24 have a professional note taker, and I think that's 25 going to be the way to go, because we want to make</p>

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1 sure our notes are extremely accurate. And Rena has
2 provided a good way to kind of keep our records in
3 order, not only for you but for us.
4 On the Bylaws and Standard Operating
5 Procedures, that's the next document, right here.
6 I'm going to skip down to term length. Some of
7 you have three-year terms, some two and some one.
8 Correct, Rena?
9 MS. GUTIÉRREZ: Yes.
10 MR. CHILDRESS: So what they wanted to do
11 is stagger the terms, so we always had at least some
12 component of the Resource Advisory Council that
13 isn't new to assist in the new RAC members in
14 getting more into the organization.
15 This talks about elected officials. We do have
16 elected officials on our RAC as well.
17 Termination of service. I'll let you read
18 that. I don't expect that to happen. I think we're
19 in good shape and I'm very optimistic that we'll
20 have a very good-functioning RAC organization.
21 Filling vacancies. As I mentioned, we've got
22 an alternate that's already vacant, so I plan on
23 recruiting for that vacant alternate so we can have
24 a quorum every meeting. It's important to have a
25 full complement of our alternates on the RAC.

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1 Subcommittees. We already spoke to that. This
2 talks a little bit about the provisions for forming
3 a subcommittee.
4 Technical review teams. I'm familiar with the
5 technical review teams, and those were generated and
6 formed when we were developing our standards and
7 guidelines for rangeland help, which was one of the
8 main reasons the original Resource Advisory Councils
9 were formed. I'm not sure if we'll need to go
10 there, but we can sure have conversations about
11 whether we want to form a technical review team that
12 is made up of council members and resource
13 specialists that are dealing with landscape-related
14 issues.
15 Our meetings are open, going to the next page.
16 A quorum is required, at least a majority, in each
17 category. So that means for two of our categories,
18 to have a quorum, we have to have at least two,
19 because there's three. We need two of the
20 categories, B and C. Category 1, we're going to
21 need to have at least three. So you at least have
22 to have seven to function and have a quorum for our
23 purposes.
24 The agendas. We did the initial agenda, but
25 I'm hoping that we can develop agenda items for

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1 future meetings.
2 That kind of goes through that. We did it
3 fairly quickly, so if you do have any questions,
4 when you have time to read it and digest it on your
5 own, please feel free to, unless you have some now.
6 There's no questions.
7 I wanted to philosophy with you just a little
8 bit more on what I'm hoping that the RAC can sink
9 their teeth into, at least this first year. As I
10 mentioned, we've got two major resource management
11 plans that we're preparing right now. One is
12 TriCounty, for three counties, a little over half of
13 the acres that we're responsible for managing, 2.5
14 or -7 million acres.
15 And then we have Prehistoric Trackways National
16 Monument, which is a very small unit. That's a
17 national monument established by Congress over on
18 the west side of the river corridor along the
19 Robledo Mountains. We're in the process of
20 perfecting that resource management plan. That's
21 about 5,280-acre unit, and we'll want you to support
22 us and give us advice on the plan and hopefully
23 participate in those meetings down the road.
24 We also have a lot of other major actions that
25 we're undertaking right now, major environmental

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1 impact statements on transmission lines, we've got
2 Sunzia, we've got Southline. We have some major
3 operations, mine operations, that we're in the
4 process of reviewing, and I'm hoping that we can
5 give you information, let you be aware of those, and
6 at least have an understanding and knowledge of
7 those activities as we go kind of through those
8 processes as well.
9 EISs, we will have public meetings for every
10 one of those for major transmission lines. So if
11 you can make those, that would be greatly
12 appreciated. We will have some official scoping
13 meetings on Southline, which is a transmission line
14 that runs from south of Phoenix to just south of
15 here in the Afton area, and those public meetings
16 will probably be in Lordsburg, Deming and
17 Las Cruces. So if you're able to make those, it
18 would be good to go to them and get a feel for those
19 major transmission lines to deliver energy here and
20 there in the United States.
21 We have a lot of proactive things that we're
22 doing, so we're laying out our land-use plan and
23 laying the foundation for future management of at
24 least the three counties in TriCounty. We do have
25 an older Mimbres plan that is still a functional

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8 (Pages 26 to 29)

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<p>1 document. We feel comfortable with that, and that 2 addresses land-use planning decisions in Luna, Grant 3 and Hidalgo County. You can access those in our 4 external Web site. You can get copies of those 5 documents if you would like to get reacquainted with 6 those land-use plan decisions. 7 In there, we have some proactive things that 8 we're involved in, whether it's trying to restore 9 our landscapes and resources through the QUIP 10 program, or what we call Restore New Mexico, where 11 we're trying to treat acres, use of herbicides, 12 prescribe fire and medical treatment. We want to 13 have you exposed to that and familiar with that, so 14 if there are things that you want to address, we 15 sure can in this forum. 16 We've got projects where we're enhancing uses 17 on the landscape, recreational opportunities. We 18 have some really nice recreational sites that you'll 19 be exposed to through the presentation. We have 20 wilderness study areas. We have areas of critical 21 environment concern. We have important habitat for 22 resources like the Aplomado Falcon. We're managing 23 for recovery of threatened and endangered species in 24 various places and various species. 25 We have rich, diverse biological and vegetative</p>	<p>1 parts of what the office is doing, but probably not 2 all of it. 3 MR. CHILDRESS: We have a good diverse 4 group of various industries or interests around the 5 table, so I'm hoping that each of you get familiar 6 with each other. You've got contact information. 7 Talk to each other and keep each other informed of 8 things and concerns that you have. 9 Any other thoughts? I know this is a 10 first-time experience for most of you. Tony was on 11 our statewide RAC several years ago -- I won't say 12 many years ago, I'll try not to age you -- but he 13 was on the statewide RAC in the early stages, so 14 he's sort of familiar with how it works. 15 Under that scenario, they were looking at 16 things statewide, so if you can imagine, looking at 17 that map, dealing with issues up in Farmington and 18 over in Pecos, it was spread out quite a bit. We 19 had an opportunity to really focus in on this 5.4 20 million acres of public land, and that's what we're 21 really hoping for. Any thoughts? 22 MR. QUINTANA: Just a little bit of 23 history. The RAC, the whole concept, I don't know 24 how many of you know this, but the whole concept 25 grew in New Mexico, when the Clinton Administration,</p>
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<p>1 resources, and we want to have an opportunity to 2 explore some of the things we're doing in each of 3 those regions, to get advice on fine tuning how we 4 conduct our management prescriptions for those 5 various resources. Any questions on that? Would 6 any of you like to express any opinions of how you 7 would view we operate as a Resource Advisory Council 8 within the district? 9 MR. POPP: I guess having some experience 10 on the State RAC, I just appreciate the district 11 office probably handing a list of things that we can 12 kind of touch on in the very beginning. Because I 13 think as time goes on and we get familiar with each 14 other, and if we talk about some things, there will 15 be some issues that probably we won't really want to 16 deal with as time goes on. But it's really nice to 17 have kind a list already that we can start sinking 18 our teeth into, and then we can go on from there. 19 We can learn a little bit more about each other and 20 see what those concerns may be. So I'm looking 21 forward to it. You've got a good list and you've 22 got some things here, and I assume the first meeting 23 or two, we'll be kind of getting us all familiar 24 with all the things that BLM does that we're not 25 aware of. I'm sure we all have experiences with</p>	<p>1 Secretary Bruce Babbitt, they began wanting to make 2 some significant changes and sort of centralize 3 control. Bruce Babbitt made a speech -- I believe 4 it was in Missouri -- in which he said he would 5 defer to any state to have an alternative plan. I 6 was then working with a group, and I was on the 7 Navajo reservation and I was working with Analisis del 8 Valle. It was an agricultural organization. When 9 we heard that, we began going around the state, and 10 what came of that little effort of some answers and 11 folks was the RAC. That's how it came to be. 12 MR. CHILDRESS: I didn't realize that. 13 MR. QUINTANA: Yeah. It was Maria Varela, 14 Antonio Mansanares, myself -- he was county 15 commissioner over from Winston -- what was his 16 name? -- who was involved. His name escapes me. 17 MR. BARTOO: Carter. Sterling Carter. 18 MR. QUINTANA: Yeah, Sterling Carter was 19 involved with that, too. That was interesting. I 20 just thought you want to know how it came to be. 21 MR. CHILDRESS: That's good. Here again, 22 as a statewide RAC, they were able to tackle some 23 issues. But the problem was that we had certain RAC 24 members from certain regions that really weren't 25 familiar, didn't understand the user groups or the</p>

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1 politics within that geographic area. It made a
2 huge learning curve. I think here we have an
3 opportunity to know what the representation from all
4 the counties, unfortunately except for Otero County.
5 I'm hoping to do that. I'd like to get at least one
6 rep from every county on this RAC, so they're
7 familiar with their county organization, the
8 community, and some of the user interests in those
9 counties to bring those forward to this meeting.
10 That's our goal. And we weren't able to make that
11 happen this first go-round, but we'll continue to
12 work on that and make sure we have that good
13 representation across the board and really sink our
14 teeth on some things of interest to each and every
15 one of you.
16 Anything else? We are a little bit ahead of
17 schedule. It's now 10:15. I guess I'll ask Jim,
18 are you ready to go?
19 MR. McCORMICK: You bet.
20 MR. CHILDRESS: All right. We'll just
21 start Jim's session a little early and then we'll
22 take a break.
23 MR. McCORMICK: This presentation was put
24 together -- I'm not sure originally by who -- but Ed
25 Roberson, one of our district managers, presented it

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1 to the statewide RAC. Tony, you may remember seeing
2 some of this.
3 MR. POPP: I do.
4 MR. McCORMICK: Bill and I talked about
5 putting a condensed version together. We did a
6 little dry run the other day and we took out a lot
7 of information from the colonies up through where
8 there was the formation of the General Land Office.
9 So that's where I'm going to skip to and start my
10 presentation a little bit.
11 The talk was in several different parts. The
12 Birth of a Nation and the Settlement of a Nation,
13 I'll skip over and I'll concentrate on a new mission
14 for the General Land Office, reorganization of the
15 General Land Office and the Grazing Service to
16 eventually become the Bureau of Land Management, and
17 the development of an agency up to the Federal Land
18 Management and Policy Act of 1976. A lot of us --
19 Bill and I consider ourselves third-generation
20 BLMers. We knew a few people that worked for the
21 Grazing Service, Uling Ussery, and his nephew was
22 Joe Stell. And Uling was one that worked with the
23 General Land Office and the old Grazing Service. So
24 we had that group that started in the '40s, '50s and
25 '60s, a 25- to 30-year career, the folks that came

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1 in after World War II, in the '60s, '70s and '80s.
2 And then a lot of us came on, a big surge of
3 employees and all, in the early '70s after the
4 passage of the Federal Land Management Policy Act.
5 Here in New Mexico, just to point out that part
6 of New Mexico came from the ceding by Mexico, some
7 through the acquiring of the lands of the Texas
8 Territory, and then, through the Treaty of Guadalupe
9 Hidalgo, the Gadsden Purchase. So for our district,
10 we have all three of the different history with
11 regard to the formation of not only our state but
12 our district.
13 The Land Ordinance Act of 1785 established a
14 policy of orderly settlement of the United States.
15 It contained provisions for lands to be surveyed and
16 numbered by our geographer of the United States. So
17 it set up the rectangular survey system of township,
18 range and sections as we know it today. And into
19 this act, Section 16, right in the middle there, was
20 for our schools. That was the law that established
21 our first section devoted to support of our schools.
22 Numerous laws were passed between 1796 and 1804
23 in an attempt to sell off as much of the land as
24 possible to garner funds for our new nation. They
25 found that if they made the lots smaller, lowered

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1 the price and extended credit, that the land sold
2 better.
3 The law of 1800 was the first to set up our
4 General Land Offices. Now, we did have a General
5 Land Office here in Las Cruces. In 1812, the
6 General Land Office was established. With the end
7 of the war of 1812, there was a boom of public land
8 sales. However, the sales slowed in 1820 when the
9 land stopped with credit sales.
10 The preemption law of 1841 was passed to allow
11 an individual to claim land at the minimum price if
12 they lived on and the land and they cultivated it.
13 So that was in 1841. This was done because
14 speculators and capitalists heretofore been able to
15 outbid the average farmer or rancher.
16 In 1849, the General Land Office was moved out
17 of the Department of Treasury and over into the
18 newly established Department of Interior. And the
19 General Land Office that was established here in
20 Las Cruces was during the time that it was under the
21 Department of Interior.
22 In 1854, Congress passed the Graduation Law,
23 which set up graduated pricing systems for land,
24 drastically reducing the price for less desirable
25 tracts. So feedback from our communities on how

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<p>1 things were going out on settlement of the land 2 eventually was taken forward to Congress, laws were 3 written to help better settle the west. 4 The Homestead Act was passed in 1862 to allow 5 for the patent to be issued on lands on which 6 someone had a residence and cultivated for five 7 years. Homesteading continued to be the ebb and 8 flow through World War I, and then the rush for 9 homesteads pretty much ended. 10 There were grants given to both the states and 11 the railroads to encourage support development. I 12 took a slide out here that showed the grants for the 13 railroads across the West, and it was pretty 14 substantial. The states were given Section 16 for 15 education in the act of 1802. They were given two 16 sections in each township under the act of 1848. As 17 you all know, in a regular township, Sections 2, 16, 18 32 and 36 are our State trust lands. 19 By the time New Mexico became a state, it was 20 up to four sections. I believe that was around 21 1848. So additionally, each state got 30,000 acres 22 for each senator and representative, land for 23 schools for the deaf, for the blind, land for 24 prisons, and in 1841, each state got an additional 25 500,000 acres for internal improvements, such as</p>	<p>1 mineral deposits. A little change there. Had to 2 have some, if you will, prove-up that there were 3 minerals involved. These lands transformed miners 4 who were previously considered trespassers into 5 legitimate occupants of public land, and gave 6 development of minerals priority over other land 7 uses. A very significant law there. 8 In 1891, Congress passed the Public Lands 9 Reform Act, which allowed the president to withdraw 10 and reserve public lands. President Benjamin 11 Harrison quickly established 17 reserves. The 12 General Land Office managed these reserves with the 13 help of U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Department 14 of Agriculture. 15 President Teddy Roosevelt pushed conservation 16 of certain lands with his support of the passage of 17 the Antiquities Act of 1906. This provided for the 18 designation of national monuments to be managed 19 under the General Land Office. Congress never 20 appropriated the funding for the General Land Office 21 to manage the monuments. Quite a bit of politics 22 back in D.C. at this time, a lot of discussion of 23 who is going to manage what. 24 In 1916, when the National Park Service was 25 established, they were given the responsibility for</p>
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<p>1 roads. If you look at our maps today, you will see 2 substantial holdings of land that have converted 3 from federal to private, substantial lands that are 4 blocked for State, as well as some of the lands that 5 were retained under federal ownership. The map over 6 here on the wall is a good one. And each of those 7 areas tells a pretty incredible story, whether it's 8 a geographic region, whether it was a large land 9 transaction. Sometimes presidents got involved, but 10 a very, very interesting set. In the Opportunities 11 book that you all received, everything I'm talking 12 about today will be available to you for some 13 breakouts on some of the different settlements and 14 some of the land transactions. 15 Between 1862 and 1871, Congress granted nearly 16 128 million acres to encourage development of 17 transportation network across the country. So a 18 pretty sizeable amount of land going to the 19 railroads. 20 In 1866, Congress passed the Mining Law that 21 made public-domain lands free and open to 22 exploration and occupation, free and open. In 1972, 23 the General Mining Law modified the provisions of 24 the earlier bill, indicating that the only lands 25 that were free and open were those with valuable</p>	<p>1 managing the national monuments as well as the 2 national parks. Got a funding stream going on 3 there, starting to put folks out. There were some 4 very dynamic personalities back in D.C. As you read 5 the book and look at it, coming in, making 6 presentations on how things ought to be done, 7 especially out West. 8 President Roosevelt also pushed for 9 reservations of mineral values of public domain. He 10 advocated a mineral leasing policy which culminated 11 in the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 that changed the 12 disposal of oil and gas, coal, and other minerals to 13 leasing. Significant revenue, if you will, to the 14 United States. 15 Around the 1900s, there was a problem growing 16 relative to grazing under the Homestead Act because 17 of livestock raisers needing more than 160 acres to 18 allow the act to be successful. Some ranchers and 19 President Teddy Roosevelt wanted to establish a 20 leasing system. Others wanted bigger homesteads. 21 Congress decided bigger homesteads was the answer 22 and passed the Stock Raising Homestead Act of 1916, 23 allowing individuals 640 acres for grazing and 24 cultivation. 25 There were so many applications for so much</p>

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1 land after the passage of the bill that President
2 Roosevelt had to suspend entries until lands could
3 be classified as to their character of grazing.
4 During the period from 1916 to 1934, debate
5 still raged over whether there should be leasing
6 system for grazing on public lands. The debate also
7 included who should administer the grazing lease
8 system; the U.S. Department of Agriculture or the
9 Department of Interior, Forest Service. There was
10 still an open debate there on how that ought to be.
11 Around 1930, President Hoover brought more
12 controversy to the debate by suggesting that the
13 remaining public lands be given to the states for
14 management. Overwhelming opposition to the
15 proposition, both in the East and the West, killed
16 the recommendation. But this controversy brought
17 new life to the leasing idea.
18 In 1934 the Taylor Grazing Act was passed to
19 establish a leasing system. After the passage of
20 the bill, President Franklin D. Roosevelt withdrew
21 from mineral entry all vacant, unreserved and
22 unappropriated public-domain lands in the West so
23 lands could be classified as to their best use.
24 Now, for New Mexico, this -- let me read the
25 rest of this and then talk a little bit. The

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1 Secretary of Interior established a Division of
2 Grazing, which began work on establishing grazing
3 districts and grazing advisory boards. With new
4 responsibilities for managing lands, the General
5 Land Office was reorganized. In 1941, the Grazing
6 Division was renamed the Grazing Service.
7 Now, our grazing offices for our district were
8 in Alamogordo and Deming, and those were our grazing
9 offices. The General Land Office was here in
10 Las Cruces. We had a district grazier, a grazier's
11 aide in those offices, and occasionally people from
12 other offices would come over. In 1937, '38 and
13 '39, those groups did the ocular reconnaissance
14 survey, which was essentially looking at the land
15 for its very first inventory. And we have copies of
16 that information in our office here. It's very
17 interesting history. Rusty and our GIS staff has
18 automated many of those original surveys, both
19 plats. And on the front of it is all the survey
20 information for the vegetation, and on the back of
21 it, the developments and facilities and springs.
22 And we still have those not only archived, but the
23 originals here.
24 With the passage of the Taylor Grazing Act of
25 1934, we didn't get grazing regulations until 1938,

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1 but we had our Grazing Advisory Boards well in place
2 from '34 to '38. We have all the minutes of the
3 Grazing Advisory Board meeting here.
4 I'll try not to tell too many stories or I'll
5 run over on my time. But in the last section of the
6 first grazing regulations in 1938, it was special
7 rules. And under special rules, those Grazing
8 Advisory Boards could come in and make
9 recommendations to the Secretary of Interior about
10 how to manage grazing in their particular districts.
11 And that's where some of the things for our area we
12 have water base primarily rather than land base.
13 Pretty much if you controlled and owned the water,
14 you should control the privileges to graze. But it
15 also set up our four-mile service areas as well as
16 other special rules that we still follow today in
17 our grazing program.
18 In 1946, after several years of Congress
19 complaining about the Grazing Service, the Secretary
20 of Interior decided to merge it with the General
21 Land Office. Both agencies were responsible for
22 grazing issues, but who did what was very confusing.
23 The secretary sent a reorganization plan to
24 President Truman, who forwarded it to Congress, and
25 on July 16, 1946, the Bureau of Land Management was

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1 established. Its original emblem was a surveyor, a
2 logger, an oil driller, a cowboy and a miner, with a
3 backdrop of developed and undeveloped lands.
4 From 1946 to 1960, the BLM worked to become a
5 multiple-resource agency. Under the Bureau's first
6 director, there was a move towards multiple-use
7 management. BLM began overseeing the leasing of
8 mineral estate on acquired lands in 1947, with the
9 passage of the Mineral Leasing Act of Acquired
10 Lands. Programs that were growing or changing in
11 that time included the forestry program, especially
12 the O&C lands in the Northwest, fire suppression and
13 prevention, wildlife program and our recreation
14 program. There was also a need, after World War II
15 to address a renewed demand for land, as the public
16 looked to the Homestead Act and the BLM as a source
17 of land.
18 A lot of our communities were growing, Deming
19 is a good example. Farming in certain areas,
20 converting from grazing to farming. So a lot of
21 classifications of land and demands for land with
22 our growing communities out West.
23 In 1954, BLM was reorganized into area
24 headquarters, state offices and land offices and
25 district offices. This was an attempt to

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<p>1 decentralize the agency to bring public land 2 management and decision making closer to user 3 levels. 4 A couple of different stories. I'll only tell 5 one of them. But Bill and I mutually attended -- 6 when we started in the early '70s, there was 7 training that they sent all BLM employees to. 8 Dwayne and I attended it. But they really 9 emphasized a lot of what was going on in how they 10 developed the districts, the resource areas and all 11 that went with it. We took it for granted. Coming 12 on in '75, '74, it was already in place. But a lot 13 of our last 30 years of history was some pretty 14 significant change on who was going to be making 15 decisions, how those decisions would be made, and 16 how the public would be involved in those decisions. 17 When I came on board, our land-use plan was a 18 URA and an MFP, a unit-resource analysis and a 19 management framework plan, and we were looking at 20 these documents, trying to figure them out, and they 21 had been developed in the '60s. And they were 22 telling us, There's a new planning system coming. 23 I'll end right there, because some of our other 24 specialists will talk about that. 25 It was interesting. At this time, the office</p>	<p>1 Forest Service had Smokey Bear, and since then, 2 we've had some others to symbolize some of our 3 programs. 4 In 1976, after several incarnations and a few 5 hundred years -- of course, about 30 years as 6 actually being BLM -- BLM finally got its mission 7 defined with the passage of the Federal Land Policy 8 and Management Act. FLPMA endorsed the concepts of 9 multiple use and sustained yield, long a part of 10 BLM's management philosophy, but also gave new 11 mandates that we're operating under today. It has 12 also established a new planning system consistent 13 with the National Environmental Policy Act passed in 14 1971. Some of BLM's traditional constituents 15 expressed their unhappiness with the new mandate 16 through a Sagebrush Rebellion. 17 Now, there was a little more of dialogue and 18 content in the original presentation. I pretty much 19 took all of that out. But those users of public 20 land represented in this slide had to deal with as 21 many of those changes as the agency personnel and 22 the citizens. So it's not without controversy any 23 time you make any changes with anything that we do. 24 Our nation as a whole right now is struggling with 25 some very big decisions and some huge changes that</p>
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<p>1 in Deming and Alamogordo were closed. General Land 2 Office had already started closing down, and it was 3 the formation of the Las Cruces district here in 4 Las Cruces in 1953. I was born I 1953, so that puts 5 a lot of perspective for me on just how recent some 6 of this was. It happened in my lifetime rather than 7 this being something back in the 1800s, that sort of 8 thing. 9 Reorganization from the General Land Office to 10 the Grazing Service. On this particular slide, the 11 points that the presenters were making, in 1964, 12 Congress passed the Classification and Multiple Use 13 Act, which resulted in BLM being reorganized to 14 reflect new programs and authorities. Specifically, 15 there was a new mandate where concerns for wildlife, 16 recreation, soil, water resources, were integrated 17 into the traditional BLM programs of range, 18 forestry, lands and minerals. A lot of struggling 19 to get from there to here through a land-use 20 planning process. The new mandate resulted in a 21 reorganization in 1965 and a new emblem, the one we 22 still have today, this symbol right here. In 1968, 23 Johnny Horizon was created as part of a BLM national 24 antilitter campaign. He came to symbolize the new 25 public land ethic in the West. Of course, the</p>	<p>1 we'll all be dealing with. 2 To wrap up my presentation. The 35 years since 3 FLPMA passed, I've seen BLM go through many changes. 4 One change occurred in 1994 with the range help 5 initiative that led to the formation of Resource 6 Advisory Council. Another change came with the 7 addition of the new National Land Conservation 8 System, established using the authority that 9 President Teddy Roosevelt wanted to have in 1906 10 under the Antiquities Act. As the country continues 11 to grow, they are increasing pressures on the land 12 and the resources we manage. We are now known as 13 the agency that manages what, in August 2001, 14 National Geographic calls The Big Open. It is a big 15 challenge and an exciting future. 16 Our program specialist will be talking with 17 you, not only in this meeting, but meetings to come, 18 about all the various resource programs we have and 19 bringing you up-to-date on what's going on. We 20 thought we would end with this slide. Bill has 21 already presented to you a little bit about our 22 geographic jurisdiction, and also that New Mexico 23 has Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas as minerals. That's 24 primarily out of the other districts, and we'll talk 25 a little more about some details on that.</p>

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1 But I'm very pleased to present this to you.
2 Please forgive me for so much reading. But any of
3 this information that you would like to have, if
4 you'd like to have my presentation as is, we can
5 also provide you with that literature in addition to
6 the book. So I guess at this time, are there any
7 questions for Bill and I with regard to this brief
8 presentation of the history of BLM? With that,
9 Bill, I'll turn it over.
10 MR. CHILDRESS: Very good presentation. A
11 good overview. We'll try to make the hard copy of
12 the history of the BLM available to you. When it's
13 revised, we have folks right now working to revise
14 that and bringing it up-to-date. That was a good
15 book up to about 1995, '96, and we're trying to
16 update it to bring us up to current times.
17 Organizationally, we've really moved from
18 having huge geographic areas. Most states have a
19 state director. We happen to be one of several
20 states that have more than one state under our state
21 director, as Jim pointed out, Oklahoma, Texas and
22 Kansas. Some of the other states, like Oregon, has
23 a state director for Oregon and Washington. Montana
24 also is responsible for managing some of the
25 resources in South and North Dakota. So the way

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1 we're set up is our state director. In each state,
2 we have district managers throughout the BLM
3 organization, and some of our districts have field
4 office managers. We're one district that does not
5 have that organization. We're made up of two
6 assistant district managers and our branch chiefs
7 within our organization to manage our resources.
8 MR. McCORMICK: We think we're better.
9 We're leaner and meaner.
10 MR. CHILDRESS: That's where we are today.
11 I think we'll have this organization in place for
12 some time. We did there for a period of time move
13 to -- I think we eliminated districts that had just
14 field offices. We just felt that that didn't work
15 very well, so we went back to a district
16 organization, which I think we're a lot more
17 comfortable with as an organization. Any questions
18 of Jim on his presentation?
19 MR. HYATT: The only thing I was
20 wondering, how closely does the BLM and the Forest
21 Service work together as far as their setup?
22 MR. QUINTANA: Jurisdiction?
23 MR. HYATT: Not jurisdiction, but as far
24 as managing the land out.
25 MR. CHILDRESS: Well, we're the agency

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1 probably that has the largest multiple-use mandate.
2 And then there's the Forest Service, and then
3 there's the Park Service. But as far as a
4 land-management agency, we're the most diversified
5 in terms of multiple-use mission and management. In
6 a lot of ways, we're closer to the Forest Service
7 than the Park Service, with the Park Service having
8 their monuments and national parks. Multiple use,
9 but not as much. Forest Service has a lot of the
10 same uses we have, but not quite as much.
11 MR. HYATT: I guess what was I getting at
12 is, when the BLM was set up, and the charters, or
13 whatever, that they were designated to administer
14 the use on a public land, how did it come to be that
15 the Forest Service and the BLM -- not that I want
16 them to -- thrown together under the same agency?
17 MR. CHILDRESS: There's been discussions
18 on that over the years. Especially in the '80s,
19 there was discussion about creating a natural
20 resource agency, where Park Service, Forest Service,
21 BLM and all would be under one umbrella. It just
22 never happened. The politics made it a little
23 difficult.
24 We're also different from the Forest Service
25 and the Park Service in that they have regional

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1 offices, whereas we have State offices. True with
2 multiple states in some cases, but their regions are
3 a lot larger in scope. Some of the multiple-use
4 mission that we have is a little different than the
5 Park Service and the Forest Service. We still have
6 a disposal component to us. We can make lands
7 available for disposal. That's not so much the case
8 with the Forest Service. A lot of the times, when
9 the Forest Service and Park Service want to expand,
10 they rely on the BLM to assist in that effort
11 through exchanges or acquisitions.
12 We have more intense mining and grazing
13 component to our most multiple-use mission. But
14 what FLPMA did -- Jim and I were pre-FLPMA, what we
15 call pre-FLMPA babies. We came into the agency
16 before FLPMA was passed. And then when FLPMA was
17 passed, all of a sudden we had more
18 "resoureologists" coming on board to help us manage
19 our multiple uses: Archeologists, hydrologists,
20 soil scientists, outdoor rec planners, more wildlife
21 biologists. We had those specific skills to help
22 managers make decisions on the landscape to meet the
23 mandate of FLPMA.
24 MR. McCORMICK: One of the things that I
25 wanted to comment a little bit on, I think it's the

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<p>1 story of two different agencies; a funded and an 2 unfunded agency. And I would attest to you that the 3 Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Forest 4 Service, if you look at their budgets over my 5 30-year career, it's been millions to hundreds of 6 thousands, any program. It tells the story. 7 It also tells the story of a superstructure. 8 U.S. Forest Service was able to put structure in and 9 work on detailed rule making and all that goes with 10 their major programs. The forestry thing drove it 11 so much in certain ones, as well as in certain areas 12 that had the grazing lands and all. 13 But from the outside looking in, it was looked 14 over and said, Well, you know, that's the way they 15 do business, we do business a little differently 16 over here. Our rules came down a little bit 17 different, and our process of authorizing uses on 18 public lands came down a little bit. So that's one 19 of my thoughts. Probably the one that we're the 20 most similar on now, due to an Urgency of a Nation, 21 has to do with our firefighting process. We're all 22 pretty much under the same roof there. We're still 23 not funded quite as much as them, but not too far 24 behind them, because we do have some trees, and if 25 you have trees, you get money. And, of course, down</p>	<p>1 MR. POPP: FLPMA applies to both, the 2 Forest Service and BLM, and it's interesting about 3 how the rules differ, and I think that sometimes 4 makes it difficult for the two agencies when they 5 apply to get something done inconsistent with 6 something, unless they've got some real good 7 contacts locally to get it done. I think the rules 8 cause some problems. You're probably aware of that 9 more than anybody else. 10 MR. CHILDRESS: Part of that is because 11 the Forest Service units, a lot of those were 12 congressionally designated, so they have some 13 enabling legislation that establish those units. 14 We're in the same boat. If you look at our 15 national monument, the trackway, we have enabling 16 legislation, so everything that we propose to do, or 17 how we manage those lands, has to fit within the 18 framework of that congressional legislation. So I 19 think that's why it's a little different for the 20 Forest Service and BLM in some regards. I think I 21 stopped somebody short on a question. 22 MR. GARRETT: How important is national 23 policy in terms of BLM? 24 MR. CHILDRESS: Very important. There is 25 a tremendous amount of flexibility within our</p>
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<p>1 here, we have grass, and so our fire program is a 2 little less. But right now, if you took the 3 uniforms off and put us out there fighting fire, you 4 probably couldn't tell the difference. 5 But in all of the programs -- and I look back 6 here at Bud -- I think you would find significant 7 changes between us in terms of rules and process and 8 things of that nature. We all try to get to the 9 same end, healthy landscapes, but it's certainly 10 different. And that's my only comment. 11 MR. CHILDRESS: Thank you. I appreciate 12 that. The other thing that makes us a little 13 different is that with FLPMA, we're still a 14 multiple-use agency, but not all uses on all lands. 15 So if you look at some of the special areas that we 16 manage, whether they be areas of critical 17 environmental concern, national monuments that we're 18 now managing within the system, national 19 conservation areas, or our wilderness-study areas, 20 or wilderness areas that have been designated to 21 other states and other places within this state, 22 they're not all uses on all lands in all cases. But 23 most of the acres that we do manage, it is true-blue 24 multiple-use lands. Any other questions? Good 25 questions.</p>	<p>1 regulations, and also, policy gives us focus point 2 and direction of where we need to go. And it does 3 change from administration to administration. So 4 policy is very important to us, so we have to read 5 the tea leaves. We get directions directly through 6 instruction memorandums and policies on how we need 7 to go about managing our lands within that 8 flexibility, and also sometimes it focuses in on one 9 area versus another. 10 MR. McCORMICK: I might comment that due 11 to our relationship with you all, that's a very good 12 point. When we get into a debate on something, ask 13 us to pull out either the policy or regulation, or 14 some of the manuals and handbooks we've built off of 15 our regulations. That's what steers us. And I 16 think once a group understands -- as you're very 17 familiar with County and State governments -- then 18 we would be able to produce that for you and set the 19 stage. It also helps us in sort of where we go, 20 because we find that we get more support through 21 some of the current policies, and we'll try to seize 22 the moment to take advantage of that to move forward 23 on some of the things we want to get done on the 24 ground strictly through a policy. I'll interrupt 25 there. But that's really good. We can bring in</p>

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1 policy to the group, we will be bringing it to you
2 all, have time to look at it see where that's going.
3 MR. GARRETT: Is the policy codified and
4 available online? Policy means different things to
5 different agencies. Since you were talking about
6 the Park Service and Forest Service and BLM, I know
7 that the Park Service, everything is very much
8 driven by the enabling legislation for different
9 parks, and it's all very much topped out. So
10 there's a very tight policy that doesn't change very
11 much at all. If you go out, it's going to be fairly
12 consistent. It doesn't change very much from one
13 administration to the other. It sounds as though in
14 the BLM situation, it's more directional, and there
15 seems to be a lot more emphasis on process in terms
16 of how to make decisions. Is that true?
17 MR. CHILDRESS: Yes, and emphasis and
18 focus from administration to administration. Of
19 course, the way we work, we're in the Executive
20 Branch, of course, so the President is our ultimate
21 boss, and we have our Secretary of Interior, and
22 then we have our BLM director back in Washington.
23 That organization does provide different direction
24 from time to time. It's contrary or different from
25 the previous administration --

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1 We're part of the Executive Branch. We take
2 our P and Q's from the organization headquarters,
3 and do our best to follow the direction of the
4 changing policy, but also stay within the framework
5 of the existing regulations. A lot of that is
6 available.
7 MR. McCORMICK: I'll comment that one of
8 the drivers of our policy, of course, has to do with
9 major lawsuits and our case law. And we can also
10 visit with you all about, How did we get from here
11 to there, and what happened in terms of Ninth
12 Circuit Court, or whatever, and why we're doing some
13 of the things that we've been doing with process?
14 We take additional steps, especially in our
15 grazing program, because of challenges we've had
16 along the way, settlement agreements, and we say,
17 You bet, we'll stop right here, we'll open that out,
18 get all the comments, address those comments, and
19 then go to the next step.
20 MR. SYKES: One thing I wanted to make an
21 example of this change in policy is, under the past
22 administration, the Bush Administration, there was
23 great emphasis on developing oil and gas resources;
24 whereas, under the present administration, there
25 probably is still some of that emphasis on

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1 nonrenewable sources. We do have a tremendous
2 emphasis on initiative dealing with renewal energy
3 resource development. And that's been a significant
4 impact to the BLM, especially in the southwest
5 states regarding solar energy, and that kind of
6 thing.
7 MR. CHILDRESS: And wind.
8 MR. SYKES: Yes.
9 MR. POPP: I guess a question in terms of
10 a problem at the state level. When we have a
11 unanimous decision by the RAC on how to do things,
12 maybe, and at the state level, that had to be
13 forwarded to the national office at Washington.
14 That was part of the charter. So when Linda Rundell
15 and I was on that, we didn't have a choice. If it
16 unanimous, it went forward. Now, I think,
17 obviously, we were advisory, so it could be stopped
18 at the national level. We had to go on. I really
19 can't think of anything that would occur like that
20 here, but is there something, authority, that this
21 RAC will have that if we decide from a unanimous
22 point of view, will that go to the State level, or
23 are we just talking about the district?
24 MR. CHILDRESS: That's a good question. I
25 don't have the answer to that, but I will find out

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1 the answer. I know that it will have to be vetted
2 through our State office before it would be moved
3 forward to our national office. But I will ask a
4 question about the protocol on that particular
5 thing, because I don't think that's addressed in the
6 operating procedures and/or the charter. But we'll
7 ask that question.
8 MR. POPP: I don't know that it will make
9 a difference at this level. And we had that. I
10 think one time it did go through. Of course, it was
11 supported by Director Rundell at the time.
12 MR. CHILDRESS: We'll make a point, as we
13 have our discussions and we provide advice, we'll
14 make it very clear whether or not we have, within
15 the framework of our laws, regulations and policies,
16 the flexibility to do that. We'll be very honest
17 and frank and up-front with you on that as we go
18 through that process. If we think we're veering
19 from what we legitimately can do, we'll bring that
20 forward. The good thing about the council, though,
21 is that you can work to help influence policies,
22 policies within our district, and maybe policies
23 that have ramifications and should be given due
24 consideration within our state and our regional
25 office. So that's the reason we have a council, is

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<p>1 to help us with our policy and try to stay within 2 that framework of the laws and regulations at the 3 same time. 4 Any other questions? We are a little bit ahead 5 of schedule, which is not a problem. We were going 6 to take a 15-minute break. My suggestion is, since 7 we are going to all go out and have our lunch, I 8 don't have a problem in taking a break for lunch 9 right now. We can do a little business, have a 10 little longer, more comfortable time in finding a 11 place for lunch, give you ample time to get back 12 here promptly, if you can, by 12:25 so we can be at 13 our seats for the afternoon session. 14 This has been really good. Bring up additional 15 things that you know about, think about elections as 16 well. We have a little bit more time. We won't get 17 into the elections until probably around 2:00. 18 We'll jump right in with the staff giving 19 presentations this afternoon that I think will 20 stimulate some additional ideas of what kind of 21 things you might be very interested in participating 22 in. 23 (Lunch recess was taken.) 24 MR. CHILDRESS: Our first presentation is 25 by Edward Seum, who, once again, is our Lands and</p>	<p>1 inspections that we do. In fiscal year 2011, we 2 completed 176 inspections and processed eight 3 trespass cases to completion. 4 With the increase in inspections, we found that 5 we do have a bit more trespass problem than had been 6 previously known. Also, beginning in 2012, we're 7 going to have approximately 122 cases pending that 8 need to be processed. And that doesn't include new 9 cases that will be coming in through the year. We 10 probably average around 25 to 30 new cases. 11 Major lands projects that the district 12 supports, Bill has previously mentioned the 13 interstate power line projects, specifically 14 Sunzia and Southline. We have a staff that's 15 involved in both of those projects. We've been 16 involved with the National Solar Enterprise Zone 17 EIS. That EIS has been delayed so they can do a 18 supplement to it, and the supplement is due out this 19 fall for review. We have three zones that were 20 originally proposed and which are being evaluated in 21 the EIS. 22 We have the Alamogordo Well Field EIS. The 23 City of Alamogordo put in a right-of-way request for 24 ten wells, and here's snake field -- or snake tank 25 in Otero County. They intend to pump water,</p>
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<p>1 Minerals supervisor. 2 MR. SEUM: I just prepared a really short 3 presentation. I didn't want to bore y'all with too 4 many facts. Let's start with the lands program. 5 The first bullet, we have probably one of the top 6 two or three communication site programs in the 7 Bureau. We have approximately 35 communication 8 sites throughout the district. Each year, least 9 ways since I've been here in 2007, we've been trying 10 to update at least one or two communication site 11 plans every year. So that's a moderate workload for 12 us. We've been actually getting funding, extra 13 funding, to do those communication site programs in 14 the last two years. 15 In fiscal year 2011, we completed 62 actions 16 for rights-of-way, and that included the addition of 17 49 grants. Besides issuing new grants, we had 18 several relinquishments where we had to go out and 19 inspections to see that the sites had been reclaimed 20 and all that. We had a number of assignments that 21 we processed, and we actually had, and I believe it 22 was, four rights-of-way that we had to reject for 23 various reasons. 24 One of the things that I've tried to do since I 25 got here in 2007 was increase the amount of</p>	<p>1 desalinate it on private lands -- actually, 2 City-owned lands -- in the City of Alamogordo. We 3 are hoping to come out with the final EIS towards 4 the end of this year, the beginning of next year. 5 We've been working with DHS and border patrol 6 to upgrade existing, and also to add, communication 7 sites for them. That's been quite an effort, and 8 probably will be continuing for the next year or 9 two. 10 We currently have one solar application that 11 has an active testing program, and it's located 12 north of Lordsburg, New Mexico. We have two solar 13 applications that are currently inactive. I believe 14 that the reason none of those have gone really 15 forward yet is that they're waiting for the Sunzia 16 and Southline projects to see how they might be able 17 to tie in with those once they're constructed. 18 We have one wind application that also has an 19 active testing program that's located in the Nutt 20 Mountains. We are processing two small land sales. 21 One of the land sales is for a little bit more than 22 one acre. It's a Union Pacific down in Santa Teresa 23 for lands that were left out of the original 24 exchange and patenting process in the Santa Teresa 25 exchange.</p>

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1 The Minerals Program. The Mineral Material
2 Program is mainly sand and gravel, with a cost to
3 flagstone and building stone.
4 In 2011, we issued 19 permits to remove mineral
5 materials, the majority being free-use permits
6 issued to County road departments. When we issue a
7 free-use permit to the County, of course, the
8 meaning is, there is no charge for the materials.
9 So that's one of the major ways that we support the
10 counties. We held the first competitive sale of
11 mineral materials in the state of New Mexico this
12 past fiscal year. We completed 113 inspections on
13 mineral material authorizations. We tried to ramp
14 up our inspections in the Mineral Material Program,
15 as well as the Lands Program, to ensure that we
16 don't incur trespass.
17 We currently have 25 active cases that we're
18 managing, and we expect to process and issue another
19 ten permits in fiscal year 2012, and probably at
20 least four of those will be free-use permits. We're
21 hoping to hold anywhere from one to two competitive
22 sales in fiscal year 2012.
23 Mining Law Program. That's the 1872 mining
24 law, mining claims. It's under 3809 regulations.
25 We processed eight mining notices and two claims of

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1 operations in fiscal year 2011. We're currently
2 managing 27 cases at the start of fiscal year 2012.
3 We expect to process eight mining notices and two
4 plans of operations at the end of this year, and we
5 have pretty much been in that mode ever since I got
6 here, so that's a pretty good average of notices and
7 plans that we're going to get.
8 We're going to be working on an EIS for Copper
9 Flats mine plan of operations that was submitted to
10 us by New Mexico Copper Corporation. It's located
11 near Hillsboro, New Mexico. It's a mine that's
12 proposed for both private and public lands.
13 We're also going to be working on an
14 environmental assessment for free port project.
15 Fluids Minerals Program. We have a fairly
16 small program. We do have two geothermal leases
17 that are active currently; so therefore, we've
18 processed two sundry notices and two geothermal
19 permits to drill in this past fiscal year. The
20 Lightning Dock/Raser Tech/Sirk Energy, they are
21 activity trying to drill enough wells to possibly go
22 into production in Hidalgo County. And that's
23 something you might be familiar with. Dale
24 Burgett's old greenhouses, where he was using
25 geothermal, that's where that particular project is

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1 located. We also have an active geothermal lease at
2 Radium Springs. The gentleman there is using it for
3 greenhouse heating.
4 We plan to hold one competitive geothermal
5 lease sale in fiscal year 2012, and that lease will
6 be in the Rincón, New Mexico, area. We have a very
7 small oil and gas program. We received one
8 application for permit to drill near the end of
9 fiscal year 2011. We expect to start processing
10 that very soon.
11 And then we're also processing the EA for
12 proposed sales to be held in April of 2012, and
13 those leases are in the Hidalgo County area. That's
14 everything I have. Does anybody have any questions?
15 MR. QUINTANA: Can you go back up to
16 the -- you were talking about Alamogordo, and you
17 said it was private property. Do you have the
18 subsurface rights and they have the surface?
19 MR. SEUM: What's going to happen is,
20 where the well are going to be located, that is
21 BLM-managed lands. They will pipe the saline water
22 to the city of Alamogordo and process it there.
23 MR. QUINTANA: And then the solar. Is
24 that solar at Nutt, is that element powered?
25 MR. SEUM: No. You mean wind?

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1 MR. QUINTANA: Yes. I'm sorry.
2 MR. SEUM: The wind is not element, it is
3 uriel.
4 MR. QUINTANA: That's going to be right
5 there at 26, 27 and then down on 27, Highway 27
6 there?
7 MR. CHILDRESS: Potentially.
8 MR. SEUM: Yeah. They have a large
9 acreage covered currently by their application.
10 They have one testing site currently.
11 MR. POPP: When you say "communication
12 sites," what are we talking about, just towers?
13 MR. SEUM: For the most part, there's
14 towers, yeah. But we also have cell phone, and it's
15 there as well.
16 MR. POPP: So basically, there's just a
17 tower that transmits stuff?
18 MR. SEUM: Yes.
19 MR. POPP: The transmission lines are
20 something completely different that's not included
21 in that.
22 MR. SEUM: No.
23 MR. POPP: One other question. The
24 trespass cases, generally, what are those, people
25 coming on and doing something?

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<p>1 MR. SEUM: There's a large range of 2 trespasses. Some of them are associated with people 3 occupying federal lands without any authorization. 4 Occasionally, what you have is somebody who's been 5 authorized to do one thing, and they go out and they 6 do something that was outside of the authorization, 7 so that's a trespass. 8 MR. BOYKIN: Ed, the well fields it 9 mentions triggers a question. I've been hearing for 10 years that there was a desalination plant that was 11 going to be built over there in the Tularosa Basin. 12 Is that on BLM land? 13 MR. SEUM: No, if it's the same one that's 14 involved with this project, that's by the city of 15 Alamogordo. 16 MR. BOYKIN: What state of progress are 17 they in on it? 18 MR. SEUM: They would not actually 19 construct that until such time as they have the 20 right-of-way for the wells, and then start building 21 the pipeline, and then they would probably start 22 building the facility at the same time. 23 MR. BOYKIN: I see. Thank you. 24 MR. SEUM: There is actually a pilot 25 facility there in Alamogordo. It's the Bureau of</p>	<p>1 not Otero Mesa, the proposal? 2 MR. CHILDRESS: One is in the location of 3 Otero County. 4 MR. SEUM: One would be towards Tularosa. 5 MR. POPP: Is there oil and gas up there? 6 It kind of surprises me. 7 MR. SEUM: That's what they say. 8 MR. CHILDRESS: With that, if we can, 9 let's move to the next one. Write some notes, and 10 then hopefully we'll build a little time at the end. 11 Thank you, Edward. I appreciate that. 12 Leticia Lister is our supervisory range 13 specialist, and she'll give you a really good 14 overview of the range program. 15 MS. LISTER: I guess Bill is going to keep 16 us to our time, so I'll hurry up. A little bit 17 about me. I'm Leticia Lister, and I'm a supervisory 18 rangeland management specialist here in Las Cruces. 19 I have about 24 years with BLM. The last six and a 20 half years have been here in Las Cruces. I'll get 21 started. 22 I'm just going to give you a little overview of 23 the program, what we do, what we're working on, and 24 all the wonderful and exciting things that we do. 25 This is the staff. There's me at the top. I have</p>
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<p>1 Reclamation that owns it. 2 MR. BOYKIN: One other question. Where is 3 Copper Flats? 4 MR. SEUM: Copper Flats? If you take the 5 road from T or C going towards Hillsboro, it would 6 be on the right-hand side. I don't know exactly how 7 far from Hillsboro it is. 8 MR. POPP: You make the turn off of I-25, 9 go about ten miles, and there's a big curve that 10 goes kind of to the south, and just to the northwest 11 of that is the mine. 12 MR. BOYKIN: I think I've seen that. 13 MR. POPP: You've seen it. 14 MR. SEUM: It's an old mine that they're 15 trying to reopen. 16 MR. BARTOO: How long will it take to 17 permit that Copper Flats mine? Is there a length of 18 time? 19 MR. SEUM: It will just depend on the EIS 20 process and how that goes. 21 MR. BARTOO: Average? 22 MR. SEUM: Could be two years. 23 MR. BARTOO: Really? 24 MR. SEUM: Yes. 25 MR. POPP: The oil-and-gas thing, that's</p>	<p>1 nine professional RMSs, two range technicians, a 2 range assistant, then I have two STEP students 3 currently on board. We are the largest grazing 4 program in the state, so I'm really proud of that. 5 We do have a range improvement coordinator, but 6 he doesn't work directly under me, even though I 7 kind of track the 8100 budget, but he really works 8 under the wildlife group. 9 As RMSs, we look at the world in allotment 10 boundaries. We can't see a map without allotment 11 boundaries. So all the little red lines on this 12 map, those are grazing allotments. We have 605 13 grazing allotments. We authorize over 643,000 AUMs. 14 There are 473 grazing permittees that we deal with, 15 and we probably talk to about a third of them every 16 day. 17 Our allotments, of course, there's a lot of 18 workload and we have to prioritize where we go, what 19 we do. So just a little bit about our allotment 20 categorization. Through our land-use plan, we 21 categorized our allotment into I, M and C. 22 Basically, what that is is priority and issues. So 23 I allotments were allotments that have really high 24 resource values. There was perhaps management 25 concerns of how we were managing those allotments,</p>

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1 perhaps we needed to do a little more infrastructure
2 to improve the management. So those allotments were
3 put in the I category. So we have 203 allotments
4 that are in that category.

5 Our M allotment basically meant that management
6 was okay, we had pretty good infrastructure in
7 place, and we just wanted to maintain things the way
8 they were.

9 And then our custodial allotments, those are
10 the pretty small BLM associated with very low
11 resource value. They're still important, but we
12 weren't going to put a lot of money into managing
13 those. We have 81 AMPs, or functional equivalents,
14 and those are basically tied to our I and M
15 allotments.

16 Preference Code. Jim was talking about Taylor
17 Grazing Act. If you go back to Taylor Grazing Act,
18 there's a Section 3 and a Section 15. And the
19 difference between the two is, Section 3 allotments,
20 we issue grazing permits. Our Section 15
21 allotments, we issue grazing leases. They're both
22 issued for ten years. What's the difference between
23 both of them?

24 A couple of years ago -- and I know this is
25 kind of hard to see from here, I'm not sure about

1 authorizations, so these are the annual bills that
2 we send out. And then we process over 30 grazing
3 transfers, fully process, although we had about
4 100 -- over 100 grazing transfers on the books. The
5 reason we have them on the books and that they're
6 not complete is that we're still waiting to get some
7 information, we're just kind of working through
8 them. It's a big workload for us.

9 Our Grazing Permit Renewal Process. This is a
10 huge workload for us, and it's a very important
11 workload for us. Since about 1999, we were required
12 to write an environmental assessment every time that
13 we renewed one of our grazing permits. You can
14 categorize our NEPA basically in two categories:
15 The First Generation NEPA and the Second Generation
16 NEPA.

17 The First Generation NEPA is where we have to
18 do the first round of NEPA documents for permit
19 renewals. So right now, we've completed 351 of our
20 605 allotments. We still have 254 to go. That's a
21 huge workload, because there's a lot that goes into
22 the process. The problem that we're running into
23 now is that the Second Generation NEPA is, we've
24 gotten the first round of NEPA done. Ten years have
25 gone by, and so now we're coming up on the next

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1 back there -- but a couple of years ago, I had the
2 students go through our old files, and I was trying
3 to figure out where the grazing district boundaries
4 were. We didn't have that as a GIS later. So we're
5 still working on it, it's not finalized. We still
6 have some little holes where we have areas where our
7 lines don't connect, so we're still doing a little
8 research trying to close those lines up.

9 Really, where you have these huge areas of
10 public land, those are Section 3. Where we have
11 these areas of isolated public land, intermingled
12 with a lot of private and State, go through the
13 Section 15's. It's really the big difference
14 between those.

15 I took our workload, and you can really put it
16 into five different categories: Grazing
17 Administration; Permit Renewals; we Support Restore
18 New Mexico Initiative; and then we support all the
19 other programs in the office, plus our customers.
20 If we had to categorize our workloads, that's how we
21 would do it. So I'll go through each them a little
22 bit.

23 Grazing Administration. We issue over 130
24 grazing permits or leases a year, and that's
25 renewing our permits. We generate over 1,000 annual

1 round of renewals for those permits for another ten
2 years. So now we're in the situation where we've
3 got Second Generation NEPA that needs to be done in
4 addition to the First Generation NEPA that we still
5 have to do. So it's a huge workload for us.

6 Down here is a little summary for our office of
7 the 605 allotments, the 254 that we still have to
8 do. We're very fortunate that Congress has given us
9 the Appropriations Act rider, so we've been able to
10 renew this permit under the existing terms and
11 conditions until such time as we can get the NEPA
12 done. Again, a very high-priority workload. It's a
13 very complex process.

14 As part of the NEPA documents that we write,
15 our EAs, we have to do the health assessment and
16 determinations. We're also collecting long-term
17 monitoring data. These two right here are very
18 important. This is the difference between
19 qualitative and quantitative data. And where the
20 agency has gotten into a lot of litigation has been
21 into the lack of the quantitative data. So it's
22 really important for us to make sure that we have
23 good data when we're making our decisions.

24 The other thing that makes our process a little
25 complex is Section 7, Consultation Requirements.

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<p>1 Where we have T&E species, we have to do the 2 Section 7 consultation. 3 And then the final thing is that we have a 4 broad interested public mailing list, where there's 5 quite a few people that are interested in what we're 6 doing. We send out documents. We do a 30-day 7 public comment on all the documents. When we issue 8 our decisions, there's a 15-day protest period, a 9 30-day appeal period. 10 Some of the things we've done to kind of 11 streamline our process, which is very difficult to 12 streamline our permit-renewal process. But what we 13 have done to make it easier is, we've established ID 14 teams where we have at least two RMSs and one 15 biologist working together. We've batched our 16 allotments into groups. So when you are working in 17 the geographic area, of course, there's a lot more 18 work associated with it, so if you have a team 19 working on it, it seems to make it a lot easier. 20 Then, of course, we're working very closely with our 21 wildlife staff on gathering and helping them get 22 information for Section 7 consultation. 23 Support Restore New Mexico Initiative. That's 24 another huge workload for us. So what's our role in 25 Restore New Mexico? We're really the ones that are</p>	<p>1 And then the last thing right here is, we're 2 monitoring our brush control projects. And again, a 3 lot of really neat stuff that we're doing down in 4 this area. 5 I wanted to give you guys an overview of -- 6 just a quick overview from the standpoint of the 7 workload from the range program. So what I did is, 8 I went back and I said, Six years prior to starting 9 Restore New Mexico -- Restore New Mexico started in 10 2006 for our district. So prior to Restore New 11 Mexico, what was our workload? What were we working 12 on? We had about 147 projects that we had over that 13 six-year period, so we averaged about 20-some 14 projects a year that we were working on. This is 15 money coming from our 8100 program, which is our 16 range improvement program. So we had about 147 17 projects during that six-year period. We're doing 18 cattle guards, fences, pipelines, brush-control 19 projects. 20 If we go forward to when Restore New Mexico 21 started, you can see the increase in projects that 22 we were working on on an annual basis. So over the 23 next six-year period, we were at about 341 projects. 24 Still doing the same thing, we're just doing more of 25 it. So prior to Restore New Mexico, and you go</p>
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<p>1 leading the coordination with NRCS, our grazing 2 permittees, and even the resource staff specialist 3 to get out on the ground, look at these projects and 4 figure out what it is that we're going to do. We're 5 inputting and reviewing the coordinated resource 6 management plans that are being completed as part of 7 the process. We're also working in assisting the 8 survey and design of our structural projects, 9 because we're the ones that are -- we work 10 one-on-one with our grazing permittees. 11 And then the range and wildlife staff really 12 are the ones that are designing the brush treatments 13 that are being on the ground. So that's really 14 cool. There's a lot of neat things that we're doing 15 in this area and are defined, but I won't get into 16 any of that because Ray will cover that a little bit 17 later on. 18 We coordinate with our cultural staff, make 19 sure that our projects are flagged so the cultural 20 staff and get out there and do their survey work. 21 We are the lead authors in the NEPA documents. So 22 there's a lot of projects being generated, but we're 23 taking the lead on the environment assessment. 24 We're doing the PI work, which is the project 25 inspectors, on some of these projects as necessary.</p>	<p>1 after Restore New Mexico, Restore New Mexico, we had 2 over 130 percent increase in the projects that we're 3 doing on the ground. And it's not just a workload 4 thing. I think what the important point to make is 5 that our \$8,100 haven't really changed 6 significantly, but with the partnerships that we've 7 developed with Restore New Mexico, we're able to 8 take our little pot of money and stretch it that 9 much bigger to get more stuff on the ground. 10 Right now, we still have about 124 projects 11 that we're working on. These are three-year 12 contracts, so it takes a little time to go through 13 all the projects. For 2012, we've already initiated 14 50 new projects, so we figure we'll probably be in 15 about 60 or so before too long. 16 We support other programs. Edward was talking 17 about Sunzia, Southline, Alamogordo, all that stuff. 18 Range staff support this program, but we have to 19 provide input. We're involved in many of those 20 programs as part of the NEPA IDTs. 21 We have a very small veggie sales program, but 22 we're responsible for it, too. That's people coming 23 in the door, they want to go buy a -- they want to 24 go dig up an ocotillo, they want to go dig up a 25 barrel cactus. We have areas where we can send</p>

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1 them. Those areas are kind of getting depleted, so
2 sometimes they can get them, but where we can help
3 them out, we do.
4 We assist the fire and the fuels program. We
5 do so by helping them in suppression efforts, their
6 fuels program. Our staff goes out as resource
7 advisors on the fires. And then we also have taken
8 the lead on doing emergency stabilization and
9 rehabilitation plan. So what that is is, you have a
10 fire, we burn infrastructure, we're burning
11 pipelines, we're burning fences. So through our ESR
12 plans, we're able to get money to help us pay for
13 the reconstruction of those fences and those
14 pipelines. Last year, we did four plans, bringing
15 in a little over \$464,000.
16 Customer Support. This is another very
17 important aspect of our job. We're talking to our
18 grazing permittees all the time. The general public
19 is always coming in asking us questions, agencies,
20 organizations.
21 And I do want to say academia. We do a lot of
22 talks at the university, and we talk to the kids, we
23 talk to the classrooms, and we've learned that
24 that's our best recruiting right there. The last
25 five hires that I've had have been NMSU graduates,

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1 and I've gotten some really good kids. And I call
2 them "kids" because they're really young to me.
3 That's it in a nutshell what we do.
4 MR. CHILDRESS: With all that workload,
5 Leticia is still standing.
6 MS. LISTER: But I own stock in Sally
7 Salon.
8 MR. CHILDRESS: Any questions? Take two
9 or three.
10 MR. MAGEE: Does brush control involve
11 anything besides herbicide spraying?
12 MS. LISTER: Most of stuff that we've done
13 in brush control has been herbicide, from mesquite
14 and creosote. Tom can probably allude to a little
15 bit of the stuff that we're doing in the fields
16 program that is not chemical.
17 MR. CHILDRESS: In other words, it's
18 herbicides, mechanical, or prescribed fire.
19 MR. GARRETT: What kind of pipelines?
20 MS. LISTER: Livestock water pipelines.
21 MR. CHILDRESS: Any other questions?
22 Thank you very much, Leticia. Next is Tom Phillips.
23 Just to note, in the books, we have PowerPoint
24 presentations in there. You can take notes, or you
25 can make notes on the side if you'd like.

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1 Tom Phillips, as I mentioned earlier, is our
2 supervisor for recreation, wilderness, national
3 conservation areas systems for trails, national
4 monuments and general outdoor recreation.
5 MR. PHILLIPS: I appreciate a chance to
6 give you guys a little bit of a rundown as well.
7 And listening to these, I'm sure there's going to be
8 some overwhelming information coming. What I'm
9 going to try and do is just give you a sense of the
10 programs and how they're broken down under the
11 branch that I'm responsible for.
12 A little bit about myself. I started my career
13 here as a range technician some 28 years ago. And I
14 moved a lot. I moved from the Valley Drive office
15 to this office at one point, then I moved from that
16 end of the building to this end of the building in
17 my career. So my knowledge base is pretty close to
18 Las Cruces, but I've had a chance to move around a
19 little bit and work with some of you over the years,
20 so it's kind of fun to have that longevity. I will
21 say it worked for me. Whether it's worked for the
22 agency or others, I don't know, but it certainly has
23 worked for me, and I appreciate it.
24 A couple of things I want to point out for you
25 to cover some of the different programs is, there is

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1 a lot of overlap in these programs. The recreation
2 programs overlap with the National Landscape
3 Conservation System, which is the NLCS. The
4 Cultural Resource Program overlaps both of those, as
5 well as -- overall, the volunteer program is a major
6 supporter for how we get these done.
7 First off, we've got a number of hosted
8 recreation sites. And premier ones are the Aguirre
9 Springs and Dripping Springs recreation sites.
10 They're in the Organ Mountains here. In addition,
11 we have the Three Rivers petroglyph site in
12 Alamogordo, north of Tularosa -- or Otero County,
13 north of Tularosa, and then the Lake Valley Townsite
14 in Sierra County. The first three are sites that
15 were set up for fee collection, so we do collect a
16 fee for the use at those sites, and Lake Valley
17 currently is a free site and it's open for public
18 visitation with no fee. It also has, really, no
19 amenities as well. We're going to talk a little
20 more about rec fees. Hopefully, I'll have plenty of
21 time, because that's what I need you guys to help
22 with.
23 In addition to the rec sites that we have as
24 hosted sites, we've got a number of other
25 developments, and they're pretty well spread through

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<p>1 the district. Some of them that are outside of Doña 2 Ana County that we're trying to spend more time or 3 are things like the Red Sands OHV area, which south 4 of Alamogordo. It's a high intense opportunity area 5 for motorcycles and ATVs. 6 The Gila Lower Box is another area that's been 7 one of our rec sites. It's a little less developed. 8 It has a road into it and a sign, and we're trying 9 to see what we can do to add to that to help 10 accommodate some of the uses that will take place 11 there. 12 In addition to developed rec sites, there's a 13 lot of other activities that occur. Some of them 14 are what we refer to as the dispersed recreation, 15 things like the Lake Valley Back Country Byway, 16 which is more of a route that we've had designated 17 years ago that runs from near or just west of Hatch, 18 and starts at Nutt and goes north to Hillsboro and 19 then east from there to I-25. 20 Maybe another key thing to note is, the special 21 recreation permits. That's one of the permitting 22 authorities that -- or actions that the recreation 23 program manages, and that's to accommodate things 24 like guide outfitter operations. Those are 25 commercial entities, and they're performing their</p>	<p>1 facilities. In Otero County, there is an Enchanted 2 Trail system that's primarily focused on the Forest 3 Service, the Rim Trail that runs along the 4 escarpment of the forest, and we're trying to 5 incorporate a BLM component that would essentially 6 make a full loop that I think is almost 70 miles 7 long. But the key part there is, we'll be 8 connecting to the community, and so from Alamogordo, 9 you'll be able to access several parts of the trail. 10 Cultural/Heritage Resources. Maybe two things 11 to note. From Cultural Resources, we've got two 12 types of resources. We kind of segregate. We've 13 got a Mimbres culture that is primarily, if you 14 will, from the Rio Grande west, and then the Jornada 15 Mogollon is more focused from essentially the Rio 16 Grande east. Those resources are a little bit 17 different and they're encountered a little different 18 on the ground. 19 We also try to develop some Heritage Resource 20 opportunities, and so some of our historic sites, 21 like the Lake Valley Townsite, Dripping Springs, has 22 a long history, and we've been working for a lot of 23 years on keeping that as a site that people can 24 visit and learn more about the history of the local 25 area.</p>
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<p>1 activities on public land, and BLM collects a 2 portion -- a small portion, but a portion -- of 3 their proceeds. It's appropriate, because they're 4 using public land. It is also how we authorize 5 motorcycle races, mountain-bike races, things like 6 that, organized events. And then, like in this 7 picture, that's during the Chile Challenge. That's 8 a pretty well-known off-highway vehicle event. It's 9 more of a rock-crawling event here in the Robledo 10 Mountains. 11 The priorities for our recreation program, 12 primarily what we're trying to do is focus on some 13 of these key items, and you'll see some of these 14 over time. 15 The Sierra Vista Trail Extension is a project 16 we've been working on. That is a long-distance 17 trail we've got that's currently about 23 miles, 18 starts at the Texas line, follows the Organ 19 Mountains to Soledad Canyon Road. We're trying to 20 extend that last little bit from Soledad to Dripping 21 Springs Road, and we'll probably have a dedication 22 and kind of a first hiking of it November 5. So 23 anybody that's interested, do contact me. 24 In addition, the North-South Trail is a new 25 trail we're trying to add to our -- I guess our</p>	<p>1 Our priorities in that program are primarily 2 site stabilization, site monitoring. Section 106 3 Compliance is where we're required, from the 4 National Historic Preservation Act, to ensure that 5 there are no impacts, or to understand what the 6 impacts are, if there are any, for any projects, 7 such as Edward's staff developing rights-of-way, or 8 Leticia's staff working on permits and/or 9 authorizations for range improvements. We do a site 10 visit and evaluate the impacts and mitigate them. 11 Site stabilization, this is a challenging one. 12 It is not very well funded. This is a railroad 13 depot in Lake Valley as it looked about three years 14 ago. It is much flatter right now, it didn't 15 withstand a windstorm. Those are the things that 16 are lost, and we can't really tackle them. So we 17 are trying to cobble together plans and cobble 18 together some money to help with that. We're 19 looking at doing some things in Lake Valley at the 20 Conoco station to make sure that same thing doesn't 21 happen to it that happened to this railroad depot. 22 The National Landscape Conservation System is 23 kind of the focus organization for a number of 24 things. And Lori is going to be handing out 25 something that everybody -- please take it if you're</p>

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1 interested in it, share it with whoever. This is
2 tied to a recent national monument that we're now
3 managing, which is the Prehistoric Trackways in the
4 Robledo Mountains. Through a partnership with
5 New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science, we
6 were able to get this developed. And it's key.
7 It's a part of the natural resources, and then
8 helping the public understand, So what about it? So
9 we're pretty proud of this book, and it helps us
10 showcase the monument.
11 The other, probably, keys, and they're pretty
12 significant units, is the Continental Divide
13 National Scenic Trail. It connects between the
14 border in Hidalgo County and the border with Canada.
15 Our segment is pretty well defined. We've got a few
16 holes to fill, but we're finalizing that.
17 Someday, we'll probably cover more about Camino
18 Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail that
19 runs right east of us here and goes north.
20 We've got 24 Wilderness Study Areas that we
21 manage, and we manage those to protect their ability
22 to be designated if Congress decides to designate
23 them. We have requirements to manage that, and
24 then, as I mentioned the Prehistoric Trackways.
25 Lori will talk a little more about something that

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1 you'll be weighing in on regarding our land-use plan
2 for that.
3 So our priorities are the Resource Management
4 Plan for Prehistoric Trackways, Wilderness Study
5 Area monitoring, because that's a requirement that
6 we really can't avoid.
7 Then a new thing that we won't cover yet -- but
8 someday if you want to visit with me, I'll be glad
9 to -- Lands with Wilderness Character. Our agency
10 has reaffirmed that we are required to maintain an
11 inventory of what lands have wilderness character,
12 and so we are updating that and maintaining that,
13 and it's just not really any different than
14 maintaining an inventory of habitat resources,
15 sensitive soil resources. It's maintaining that
16 inventory and keeping our records current.
17 Finally, Volunteers. They tie in to a lot of
18 this. Volunteerism is a huge component of our work
19 force. This year, we had, I believe, 70 or more
20 volunteers that were signed up. This includes site
21 hosts that stay on site and interact with the
22 public. Day volunteers, or project volunteers,
23 these are some guys helping us with a covered shade
24 shelter at the southern point of the Continental
25 Divide Trail, and that would be Mexico on the other

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1 side there. So far, the shelter is still there. We
2 had a nice picnic table that's not there right now.
3 I'm sure it's being used. In addition, we do have
4 some volunteers in the office that help us with some
5 of our work. So our priorities for the volunteer
6 program, we want to maintain our site hosts. These
7 are the guys that are primarily our first interface
8 at all of our sites with the public, and so we need
9 to support that. They are actually BLM employees,
10 they just happen to work for free. And then we're
11 working on trying to develop some training and
12 performance evaluations so we can add to their
13 capabilities and evaluate how they're doing, help
14 them out in learning more in how they interact with
15 the public. So those are that program.
16 This is all in your handout. This is just
17 generally what we're doing all that with. Some of
18 the staff -- one of the things we did add to this
19 office and we didn't have when I started in this
20 position was park rangers. This office had -- I
21 don't know if they ever had them, but never while I
22 was here have we had park rangers. They're a huge
23 asset to us. We've got some of the park rangers
24 here, so at a break, if any of you guys want to
25 visit more about wilderness, or any of our

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1 recreation sites, corner one of them as well.
2 That is it. I would be glad to answer any
3 questions, but if you want to catch me at a break or
4 later. One other thing I want to mention, because I
5 have the thing here, in your handout at the end of
6 that presentation is a one-page synopsis of a task
7 that we need to ask your help in. At our rec sites,
8 we established fees in 1996, and we've never
9 increased them. We've been collecting, for
10 instance, at Three Rivers, \$2 a day per vehicle for
11 the last 15 years, and we are in desperate need of
12 building up some of our funds to help support the
13 host at the sites, and support maintenance of the
14 sites, and added amenities at the site.
15 One of the requirements, and one of the reasons
16 you guys actually exist, if you look in your
17 charter, Item G is, you are asked to provide
18 recommendations to BLM on fee increases. So in
19 order to accommodate that, I'm finalizing a business
20 plan for the three sites that we need fees -- that
21 we currently collect fees and need to increase.
22 I'll be sending those to you. I'll probably have
23 Rena send those to you so you can have time to
24 digest them. Then, hopefully, at the next meeting,
25 we can convince you to have it as an agenda item to

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<p>1 give us some feedback. Along those lines, we're 2 going to be doing some outreach at our sites to get 3 more updated input from the public, you know, What 4 do you think of the fees? Do you think they're 5 adequate? Are there things we could do with 6 increased fees that you would support? So I can 7 give you guys that, you know, what are we hearing 8 from the public? We'll probably do some media 9 outreach as well. But kind of put it in the back of 10 your mind that if you're connected to any of these 11 three sites, or know people that are using them, or 12 want to visit with them, maybe do a little research 13 on your own as well and be prepared to help us 14 determine. This is an estimate, this is a proposal, 15 these are not the fees that we're intending to 16 implement unless we get a recommendation from you 17 that they're appropriate. They're a little scary 18 going from \$2 to \$5, it's more than double. If you 19 put it as "more than double," that's scary, but if 20 you recognize \$2 to \$5, this is maybe a little more 21 capable. 22 MR. POPP: Are there State passes or 23 federal BLM passes that override all these? 24 MR. PHILLIPS: They don't override them, 25 but they do cover the fees. So there's a national</p>	<p>1 years, it's been pretty steady. There was a dip in 2 2008. I think there were some economic issues that 3 kept some people a little closer to home. Things 4 that happened when the forest closes in Lincoln, we 5 usually get a lot more camping locally. There's 6 trees there, and people that are looking for a 7 camping experience go there. 8 MR. GARRETT: Is all your data based on 9 the current visitors? 10 MR. PHILLIPS: I'm sorry? 11 MR. GARRETT: Is it based on the people 12 who are currently going to those places, as opposed 13 to all of the other people that are within the 14 district who might be using it? 15 MR. PHILLIPS: As far as the numbers? We 16 collect numbers at the sites, so we know who's 17 coming. We don't always know where they're coming 18 from. Are they local or from long distance? That's 19 not what they're asking. 20 MR. GARRETT: You don't know demographics, 21 you don't know what the values are? 22 MR. PHILLIPS: We have some of that. What 23 we do, as a part of the Federal Lands Recreation 24 Enhancement Act, we have to do visitor surveys for 25 customer satisfaction, and we do those, and I've got</p>
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<p>1 pass, America the Beautiful pass. It's an annual 2 pass, \$80, and that covers your visits to any of the 3 three sites. There's also a Las Cruces district 4 pass we developed, and it's currently a \$20 pass, 5 and for a year, you can probably visit these sites 6 as often as you want. You can't stay more than 14 7 days at a time, but you can stay there 320 days a 8 year. 9 So that's one thing we've done to try and make 10 it a little more usable. And Doña Ana County is 11 key, because Aguirre Springs and Dripping Springs 12 area are heavily used by the locals, and they have a 13 lot of locals. That's the way they can get to the 14 mountains, or get a little time out in a campground, 15 and it's darn cheap, either fee, the \$2, \$3, or the 16 \$20 a year. 17 MR. GARRETT: What kind of information do 18 you have about your users? 19 MR. PHILLIPS: That's what I'm finalizing 20 in the business plans. At the Dripping Springs, 21 Aguirre Springs and Three Rivers sites, we are 22 probably averaging about 60,000 people a year, 23 combined. I've got some figures that will break it 24 down by the sites, and over the last -- I believe 25 I've got it compiled for five years, the last five</p>	<p>1 copies of those as well. We've done one for each of 2 the three sites in the last three years. So that 3 gives us a little more demographic information, 4 certainly. 5 MR. CHILDRESS: We can share that. 6 MR. PHILLIPS: Yes. I'll include that in 7 the package as well. 8 MR. CHILDRESS: One other quick thing on 9 the volunteers. We have an annual volunteer banquet 10 to acknowledge their support over the years. This 11 last year, they had close to 28,000 hours, which is 12 equivalent to 13 additional full-time employees 13 supporting our activities for this district. 14 This is Rusty Stovall. He's our chief of 15 operations. He supervises the engineers, the forest 16 account crew. He does work on the ground and our 17 GIS staff. 18 MR. STOVALL: That's me. 19 MR. CHILDRESS: And safety, safety and 20 HAZMAT. 21 MR. STOVALL: I'll be going over the 22 programs and operations that are responsible for 23 what kind of roles and missions of those programs, 24 what we've done just fairly recently, what we're 25 doing now, and what we plan to do here, hopefully,</p>

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<p>1 this fiscal year.</p> <p>2 Operations made up of engineering, forest</p> <p>3 account, GIS, and a new thing called IT4 Resource</p> <p>4 Management. We'll get into that a little bit later,</p> <p>5 but it's basically focusing on technology and how we</p> <p>6 use the system to map business applications and</p> <p>7 processes. Safety HAZMAT is under it, and abandoned</p> <p>8 mine lands is under operations, too.</p> <p>9 Programs that are under engineering is</p> <p>10 basically annual maintenance and deferred</p> <p>11 maintenance. The goals of annual maintenance and</p> <p>12 operations transportation facility maintenance are</p> <p>13 to provide visitor safety, resource values and</p> <p>14 public investment, as well as to provide facility</p> <p>15 management and public land stewardship.</p> <p>16 We basically kind of try to maintain everything</p> <p>17 that we can that Tom's staff has, basically. Our</p> <p>18 budgets are not as big, and that's why you need to</p> <p>19 kind of look at some of the things that he just</p> <p>20 talked about dealing with raising fees and stuff,</p> <p>21 and rely on those very heavily.</p> <p>22 The deferred maintenance program is responsible</p> <p>23 for correcting environmental and structural risks of</p> <p>24 facilities, correcting dam and bridge safety</p> <p>25 deficiencies, providing professional engineering</p>	<p>1 Some of the things that were done, Aguirre</p> <p>2 Springs road chip seal. Basically, we were able to</p> <p>3 re-chip seal the road from U.S. 70 all the way into</p> <p>4 the rec site, expand some of the rec site's parking</p> <p>5 lots out and the parking areas, upgrade that. That</p> <p>6 was the first time in about 24 or 25 years that we</p> <p>7 were able to do that.</p> <p>8 We upgraded all 55 shelters that were up there.</p> <p>9 A lot of them were put in in the early 1970s. They</p> <p>10 were delapidated, breaking down, and it was costing</p> <p>11 us quite a bit just to maintain them. We also</p> <p>12 upgraded the host site there, gave them a new canopy</p> <p>13 cover, concreted the place they can park their</p> <p>14 trailers on, gave them a private wall, updated their</p> <p>15 electrical infrastructure, along with new septic</p> <p>16 tanks, and stuff like that. So quite of lot of good</p> <p>17 things went into there.</p> <p>18 We installed three new vault toilets, all ADA</p> <p>19 compliance up there, too. On the Dripping Springs</p> <p>20 side, coming over the mountain at La Cueva and</p> <p>21 stuff, basically we did kind of the same thing. We</p> <p>22 chip sealed all the BLM roads up there and all the</p> <p>23 parking lots. The biggest one there was the La</p> <p>24 Cueva parking lot. It's where our group-site</p> <p>25 shelters are. It was just a big old dirt parking</p>
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<p>1 services, and improve the overall physical and</p> <p>2 functional condition of BLM-owned facilities for</p> <p>3 public safety. We have to compete for those</p> <p>4 projects. Basically, things that may fall through</p> <p>5 the cracks that our normal maintenance can't do,</p> <p>6 that we have to go out and try to compete with these</p> <p>7 on a national level. It's pretty hard to get the</p> <p>8 moneys. They go through quite an extensive search.</p> <p>9 Congress line-items these things, and they have to</p> <p>10 be put in for those projects only whenever we go in</p> <p>11 for them.</p> <p>12 The project we installed probably about seven</p> <p>13 or eight years ago. When we got in there, we were</p> <p>14 really behind in a lot of our deferred maintenance</p> <p>15 and our maintenance program. We went through a big</p> <p>16 planning process, working mostly with Tom's staff,</p> <p>17 to try to get some plans on the shelves. We were,</p> <p>18 like I said, in dire need of that.</p> <p>19 ARRA came by -- we finished those plans, got</p> <p>20 them on the shelves. ARRA came up, and we threw</p> <p>21 them all in, put in seven projects and got them all</p> <p>22 to the tune of about \$2.5 million, and we just put a</p> <p>23 lot of those in. It was a blessing in disguise. It</p> <p>24 hit at the right time for us and really helped the</p> <p>25 rec sites out.</p>	<p>1 lot. So we were able to chip seal that, pave it,</p> <p>2 get it ADA compliant, Americans with Disabilities</p> <p>3 Act. Basically, a lot of the disabled individuals</p> <p>4 were having a hard time getting to the rest rooms,</p> <p>5 and stuff like that, so we planned and got that chip</p> <p>6 sealed and we got it fixed for now.</p> <p>7 Also at Dripping Springs rec site, we renovated</p> <p>8 many of the living quarters. We renovated the</p> <p>9 student apartments, and renovated a lot of the shops</p> <p>10 and the sheds that are up there. They were</p> <p>11 definitely old. We worked closely with the cultural</p> <p>12 folks to make sure we could stay in compliance with</p> <p>13 the cultural features that were there, and did</p> <p>14 probably about two living quarters and about four</p> <p>15 shops up there.</p> <p>16 Lastly, McGregor Range Solar and Wind Powered</p> <p>17 Water Treatment System. This is a CASHE finding.</p> <p>18 I'll visit with you a little bit more on the CASHE</p> <p>19 in just a bit from about four years ago. We</p> <p>20 installed a UV and filter water purification system</p> <p>21 up there on the McGregor range.</p> <p>22 We went green on it. We installed solar and</p> <p>23 wind power, and that is working really good. The</p> <p>24 shop had no electricity. They are able to use</p> <p>25 lights, and they have electrical outlets and stuff</p>

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<p>1 for some of their power tools and stuff with the 2 solar power and wind power. If you haven't seen 3 where McGregor Range is, it's quite a ways out 4 there. 5 On the Dam Program, that falls under 6 operations. About six years ago, we had a good 7 monsoon season. A rancher called in and said one of 8 our dams broke. At the time, we didn't really 9 realize that we had any dams. We went out there and 10 looked at it, did some investigation, and sure 11 enough, the dam was ours. 12 A lot of individuals have left, you know, 13 resource people have left, retired, moved, or 14 whatever, taking a lot of that data with them. So 15 we really didn't know what kind of scale we had with 16 dams, so it threw us into an inventory. We had to 17 reinventory all the dams that we thought would be in 18 the district. It comes out, when we did that, we 19 have 32 dams in the district. 20 The definition of a dam with BLM is anything 21 that's 25 feet high and/or holds 50 acre-feet. 22 That's quite a bit of water. And do condition 23 assessments of all of those dams to see, you know, 24 safety factors, what condition they're in, et 25 cetera. We had to update that stuff into FAMS,</p>	<p>1 hydrologist, soils, range, wildlife, whatever, to 2 see what we really need to do for these dams. In 3 the analysis, it may tell us to keep it the way it 4 is. It may tell us, Take them down to a drop 5 structure, take them out, something like that. 6 So that's what we're going to start focusing on 7 this year. And there's about five of these little 8 districts known as a complex dams area. My 9 definition of a complex dam area is three, four, 10 five or six dams within a watershed. 11 Alameda Dam is just right outside on the East 12 Mesa of Las Cruces here. This is one that we got 13 deferred maintenance for last year. The dam was in 14 pretty bad condition. It is an old CCC project from 15 1938, has never been cleaned out. We almost lost 16 the dam about five or six years ago. We got some 17 moneys, we're rearmoring that, filling up the holes, 18 patched up everything, redoing the spillways and 19 everything on that. We're pretty much finished with 20 that. We've still got a few minor things to do out 21 there. 22 When I said earlier we almost lost it, it was 23 due to this area right here, the culvert. The apron 24 broke, water would come, and it was starting to 25 deteriorate underneath there. The culvert was</p>
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<p>1 which is a national database, and that's what gives 2 us our third maintenance force. So we had to go out 3 there and get all these dams into deferred 4 maintenance so that we can get some moneys to do 5 some maintenance work on them. 6 A quick little map of the dams within the 7 district. There's more than 32 on here. I'll point 8 to the Rio Grande corridor. Those are dams also. 9 They're known as renegade dams, we don't know who 10 owns them. They were put in a long time ago. 11 Communities probably put them in, farmers probably 12 put them in. They are definitions of dams. We need 13 to start working with them to mitigate some of these 14 hazards and stuff. Some of them are in really poor 15 conditions. Like I said, when we get time and can 16 do that, we do those inventories and do those 17 assessments on those renegade dams. 18 I'll bring you the condition concerning those 19 dams. We're looking at areas called complex dams 20 areas. Starvation Draw is an example of a complex 21 dam area. What we're trying to do here is, when we 22 get the moneys from deferred maintenance in there, 23 we want to have a good plan on the shelf of what we 24 want to do. So we're doing an interdisciplinary 25 team approach on this, a hydrologist, an engineer</p>	<p>1 starting to collapse, cracking was happening inside 2 there, and it broke and fell, it would not have been 3 that good in the end. This dam holds a tremendous 4 amount of water. Like I said, through the deferred 5 maintenance programs, we were able to get the 6 dollars for it. 7 This is Palomas Dam No. 8. This is what 8 started the dam problem for us in the district. 9 This is one that breached. It backed up before it 10 breached and almost went into the rancher's house. 11 It was quite a ways back there. It took about three 12 miles to dissipate out when it broke. Fortunately, 13 there was nothing below the dam. It did do a lot of 14 significant damage on below. It trapped the rancher 15 back there for about four or five days, the 16 rainstorm that hit. He rode his horse out to the 17 nearest neighbor to find out what was going on and 18 why nobody was there, because it wiped out his whole 19 roads going into there. 20 We got the deferred maintenance dollars to 21 repair it. We did a drop structure. It is still a 22 problem for me. This summer, it may not have rained 23 around your house, but it rained here again. We had 24 a three-and-a-half to four-inch rain period. This 25 has a 65-foot spillway. The analysis that my</p>

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<p>1 engineer did showed that if we had the original dam 2 there, it would have breached it again. It did do 3 some damage to it, and right now we're currently 4 working with the contractor again to get it repaired 5 and stuff. But the spillway did really well, but 6 there was some damage to it. 7 Our Safety HAZMAT Program is basically to 8 respond to, mitigate, or remediate hazardous 9 materials and hazards that are a threat to public 10 safety, health and the environment. It also 11 supports performance of the compliance assessment, 12 safety, health and the environment, better known as 13 the CASHE audit. 14 The important thing on this slide is, 15 November 14 through 18, we are due for a national 16 CASHE audit. It's required for every district every 17 four years. They come down and they close out with 18 the management team here and the State director on a 19 Friday, and also the national lead takes all audits 20 and reports directly to the director of the BLM. 21 It's taken very seriously at a very high level on 22 this. 23 When the team comes down, all district safety 24 and health plans are reviewed and make sure they're 25 up-to-date and that we're running in compliance.</p>	<p>1 District is partnering with Doña Ana County, 2 the South Central Solid Waste Authority, Codes 3 Enforcement and the border patrol, and there are 4 probably going to be about two or three other 5 agencies joining this in the very near future. 6 We work very close also with the New Mexico 7 State University WERC program. We hired about six 8 to eight students this past summer. A lot of them 9 were from the college up there. There are some 10 classes that they take that, upon successful 11 completion, make them HAZMAT certified to do our 12 HAZMAT compliance checks on these dump sites. We 13 have to do that. One individual that I have can't 14 do them all. So they're able to look at those dump 15 sites, clear them so that we can go right in and get 16 them cleaned up. That has worked really well for 17 us. 18 We've got a plan that's coming out that -- the 19 group that's coming is called Untrash Our Deserts. 20 You guys are more than welcome to have these if you 21 want. That's coming out very soon on it. It also 22 has our plan in it on how the group tries to fix 23 things up. Pull together the funding and resources 24 to lower the costs. It starts with the mapping of 25 these sites. What I like, the county is going to</p>
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<p>1 They interview also the resource specialists, see 2 the safety and how they are, how they're doing. 3 They also interview people at the rec sites, 4 visitors, and stuff like that, to see if they like 5 and are enjoying their environment, basically on the 6 subject of safety. They inspect all wareyards, 7 vehicles, storage units, the recreation facilities 8 and McGregor Range facilities. So that's coming up 9 the 14th through the 18th in Cruces. It's looking 10 really good right now for the audit. We have some 11 housekeeping things that we need to finish up on, 12 but that's coming here real soon. 13 On the HAZMAT side, really, we don't have these 14 big spills that much. We have to be trained and 15 ready for them and stuff. But what we do have is an 16 illegal dumping problem. I personally believe that 17 this is one of the biggest challenges, at least for 18 us, in Doña Ana County and in Otero. It is very 19 much getting to be rampant out here with illegal 20 dump sites. We have been working very closely. And 21 I put holistic approach up here, because it truly is 22 a holistic approach. We're not going solve this 23 thing on BLM lands that are happening by ourselves, 24 and there's no way we have the money or the manpower 25 to do this.</p>	<p>1 start mapping these with us. They're giving their 2 road crews, GPS data and GPS units to map these to 3 go into the GIS database. 4 What I also like -- it's going to get very 5 technical, but I like it -- they're going to create 6 an app for the iPhones, and we're going to 7 distribute that stuff to, like, the Back Country 8 Horsemen's Group, the Hiker Group, the Bikers' 9 Groups and stuff. They can download it free onto 10 their iPhone, turn it on, and if they've got GPS, 11 they'd be able to map that, take a picture of it, 12 answer three questions for us, and it gets sent real 13 time to the GIS server, and we can look at that 14 instantly, and start getting a better handle on 15 what's going on and having the public help us. I 16 think this is one of the best things coming out, 17 they're using this stuff right here. 18 We're creating enforcement zones, where there's 19 better patrolling with law enforcements, and stuff 20 like that, for these. There are about three or four 21 enforcement zones that are being looked at. We're 22 also engaging with the courts, judges and the 23 prosecutors. This is where we really need to get 24 it, start getting these people heavily fined and 25 make an example, basically.</p>

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<p>1 Outreach is one of the biggest things on this 2 that I truly like. It's extremely good. We're 3 going to work here pretty soon with the elementary 4 schools, the middle schools, et cetera, and stuff. 5 That's coming out real soon. 6 An example of illegal dump sites, the 7 Butterfield Trail site has had quite a lot. This is 8 what we cleaned up, too, this past summer, La Union. 9 Between these two sites, there's over 150 sites 10 right here. We cleaned up, probably, about the size 11 of this room, averaging. It's quite a bit. This is 12 the Untrash logo again. These guys cleaned up over 13 108 tons in two months. 14 MR. POPP: Is this mostly just trash, or 15 is it building material? 16 MR. STOVALL: Yes, it's -- the group is 17 also trying to do outreach to the builders' 18 association. There's a lot of that, also junk, et 19 cetera. 20 Going to IT4. This project is to automate the 21 entire NEPA process. It automates all the business 22 applications. It streamlines our NEPA, EA's 23 process. It's going really good. Santa Fe likes 24 it. Washington is really looking at this. It lets 25 managers know where every project is at, who's</p>	<p>1 have over 3,000 mining features that have been 2 collected since 2010. Data is collected off of each 3 of those features, photos, mine depth, distance from 4 road and the danger level. In the system right 5 now -- and there's a blow-up version of how -- each 6 one of those points in that little area are mines. 7 Some of the statistics real quick. If you look 8 at Cookes Peak area, 332 are mapped mines. We have 9 an extreme danger of 67 of those 332 and a high 10 danger of 84, with 45 percent dangers of those 11 features from danger to extreme. We're going after 12 funding to do some -- to close them up, and 13 hopefully those will start getting closed here 14 fairly soon. 15 Just to round out, here's a couple of mining 16 features that we look at. These are known as ant 17 traps. If you get too close, you just go straight 18 on down. We fence everything from an extreme and a 19 high-level mine shaft. Just the lower level right 20 here, this is where some -- out of Deming, we came 21 over the hill. There's a student class out here, I 22 guess an earth science class out here from the high 23 schools out here, with a teacher. The kids were 24 jumping over these mine shafts. We couldn't believe 25 it. So we go up there and we fence these things in,</p>
<p>1 holding it up, what they need to do, and push it 2 along quicker. 3 GIS is going to be linked in with this. It's 4 very close to being good with that. As Bill said 5 earlier, that GIS has one of the biggest lease data 6 sets in the state, and that is true. We have well 7 over 50 users on it. We moved it to a corporate 8 data set, where their resource specialists are more 9 responsible for their data. It's working out really 10 good. 11 The last program here is the AML program. The 12 priorities and goals for the Abandoned Mine Lands 13 Programs are to protect and improve water quality 14 and to protect human health and safety from 15 environmental and physical safety hazards. 16 A few years ago, the inspector general did an 17 audit nationally on BLM, and BLM overall did not do 18 good. Fortunately, we were at that time doing some 19 AML inventoring at that time, which really helped. 20 What our plans are for us is to identify mining 21 sites, build and maintain an accurate inventory, 22 prioritize sites for remediation, secure the 23 funding, develop partnerships, et cetera. 24 We have by far the most mining districts in the 25 state. We have 77 mining districts. Currently, we</p>	<p>1 do our measurements, and then we just talk to them a 2 little bit, you know, Guys, these are not there for 3 your fun. They are very dangerous. So just for you 4 get a sense of how they do this. That's it. I 5 apologize for taking so long. 6 MR. CHILDRESS: Let's take ten minutes. 7 (Recess was taken.) 8 MR. CHILDRESS: This is Ray Lister. He's 9 the branch supervisor for wildlife, soil, water and 10 air and also has responsibility of oversight at 11 McGregor Range. 12 MR. LISTER: Thank you. A little bit 13 about myself. I started my career as a range 14 technician for BLM in Lander, Wyoming, about 32 15 years ago. I worked in Wyoming for a couple of 16 years, then went to work in Elko, Nevada, as a range 17 management specialist, and transferred to a 18 biologist in Elko, went back into the range program 19 as the district range program lead in the mid-'90s, 20 during the range reform period, the new grazing 21 regulations, and all the changes that went along 22 with that. And then after about five or six years 23 of that, I had enough, and went back into the 24 wildlife program before coming here in 2005. 25 I supervise, as Bill said, the biological</p>

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1 staff. The staff is made up of myself, as the
2 supervisor and national resource specialist, I am
3 fortunate to have four wildlife biologists on staff:
4 One fisheries biologist, which is zoned between
5 Las Cruces, Carlsbad and Roswell; one wildlife
6 technician; soil scientist; hydrologist; and as
7 Leticia mentioned earlier, a range improvement
8 specialist on my staff that oversees the Range
9 Improvement Program, including Restore New Mexico.
10 And then McGregor Range, there's a supervisory
11 rangeland management specialist by the name of James
12 Christianson that administers McGregor Range, and he
13 has an equipment operator and a range technician
14 working for him. Those three individuals are
15 stationed out of Alamogordo at the remote field
16 station. Then I also have one STEP student on board
17 right now. And then each year, the State office
18 funds two wildlife interns that we're fortunate to
19 have from New Mexico State University each year to
20 help us with a lot of our seasonal workload.
21 To hit the high spots on the workload for our
22 division, it's been mentioned already, support of
23 the other divisions. Basically, any land-use
24 authorization in the district involves input from
25 the Biological Resources Division. So we're

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1 involved basically in every environmental
2 assessment, every EIS that's prepared. Special
3 Status Species Conservation is another one of the
4 major workloads. Restore New Mexico, you've heard
5 that already. I'll get into that a little bit.
6 The Habitat Stamp Program, McGregor Range, and
7 then I'll touch a little bit on water rights.
8 Program Support. As I mentioned, every single
9 resource authorization on public lands in the
10 district involves input from our staff, whether it
11 be the soil scientist hydrologist, wildlife
12 biologist. At last count, we've got eight
13 environment impact statements in progress, two
14 resource management plan amendments, which you'll be
15 hearing about later. We've got two mine plant EISs
16 in play. We've got renewable energy, you've heard
17 that talked about already, which includes the two
18 transmission lines. We've got the national solar
19 EIS, which includes three solar development zones
20 within our district. We have one wind and four
21 solar applications in the district at this point.
22 Nothing has been perfected as far as a plan
23 development, and it hasn't gone forward into an
24 actual environmental analysis. All of those wind
25 and solar applications are currently in the data

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1 collection phase, but it's on the horizon.
2 Grazing permit renewals and rangeland health
3 assessments, Leticia talked about that. With our
4 interdisciplinary team approach, we're an integral
5 player in that whole process.
6 Restore New Mexico. Border patrol,
7 infrastructure, everything that's going on on the
8 border, with the border fence, border roads,
9 communication towers, border operating bases, you
10 name it, it's in the Bootheel. It's along the
11 border. As you'll see in a little bit, that's the
12 focal point of all our special status species areas,
13 and that's -- we're integrally involved in that
14 process as well.
15 All the various rights-of-way and land-use
16 permits that Edward mentioned, with the material
17 pits and realty action, so on and so forth. That,
18 in a nutshell, is our workload to support the other
19 programs.
20 Special Status Species Conservation. In our
21 district, we support -- or we manage habitat that
22 supports 23 federally listed species, and 49 BLM
23 sensitive species. In addition, there's 45
24 additional species that are either listed by the
25 State of New Mexico or categorized as species of

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1 concern by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
2 We also have critical habitat designations for
3 southwest willow flycatcher, primarily on the Gila
4 River drainage. There's a new proposal for critical
5 habitat for flycatcher that involves a few pieces of
6 BLM on the Rio Grande from Caballo Dam to Leasburg
7 Dam. That's a new area that's being proposed as
8 critical habitat for flycatchers.
9 We have spikedace and loach minnow in the Gila
10 River drainage, two federally listed species. That
11 proposed critical habitat is out for comment. Right
12 now, it involves pretty much the middle box and the
13 lower box on the Gila River for us. Some small
14 parcels of Blue Creek and Bear Creek are also
15 included.
16 Chiricahua leopard frog. Critical habitat is
17 being proposed and out for comment as well. That
18 would involve pretty much the Grant County, Hidalgo
19 County portions of our district. A lot of
20 historical sites for Chiricahua leopard frog.
21 Conservation and Recovery Teams. With all
22 these listed species, sensitive species, we are
23 critical players in several recovery teams. The
24 most active ones are the Chiricahua Leopard Frog
25 Stakeholders Group, the Jaguar Conservation Team,

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<p>1 which really hasn't met in the last couple of years, 2 I don't think. New Mexico Bat Working Group, 3 Southwest Partners in Amphibians and Reptile 4 Conservation, New Mexico Prairie Dog Working Group, 5 and Rio Grande Fishes Recovery Team. 6 So if the species is federally listed, then it 7 is a recovery plan and a recovery team. If it is a 8 proposed or a candidate species, sometimes maybe a 9 sensitive species that hasn't been proposed yet, 10 then there will sometimes be a conservation plan and 11 we'll be on the conservation team. 12 Leticia talked about the grazing permit renewal 13 process and the Section 7 Consultation. That's 14 under the Endangered Species Act; whereas if we 15 authorize something on public land, or fund 16 something on public land, that may affect a 17 federally listed species, and we have to consult 18 with the Fish and Wildlife Service under the 19 Endangered Species Act. It's an added process that 20 complicates the permit renewal process. 21 This map here, I know it's real small legends, 22 whatever, but the main thing to show here is that of 23 all the allotments that we've identified that have 24 potential impacts as far as grazing to federally 25 listed species, we've completed 55 percent of the</p>	<p>1 watersheds: The El Paso, Elephant Butte and Caballo 2 watersheds, ECE. And then the fourth area is what 3 we're calling the Bootheel. It's a joint landscape 4 restoration area with Arizona. All four of these 5 areas are priorities with the Natural Resource 6 Conservation Service under their cooperative 7 conservation planning initiative, CCPI. It's that 8 partnership between BLM and NRCS that has basically 9 doubled our money for getting things done on the 10 ground for watershed and wildlife habitat 11 restoration under Restore New Mexico. For every 12 dollar that we spent, NRCS is matching it. 13 This map also shows some of the other priority 14 area and working groups we have within the district. 15 We have the Tularosa Watershed Working Group, Clean 16 Water Act 319 Grant area. We have the Paso del 17 Norte Watershed Working Group, also a 319 Clean 18 Water Act Restoration Group. We've got the Black 19 Range Resource Conservation Development Working 20 Group. Down on the border area, we have the Nation 21 Conservancy Sky Island Conservation area, as well as 22 the Malpais Borderland Group. So you can kind of 23 see how, for the most part, these other watershed 24 groups kind of match up with our priorities. 25 This table here kind of gives you a flavor of</p>
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<p>1 required Section 7 Consultations. 2 This map here kind of gives you an idea in 3 relation to the district. Most of these polygons 4 represent listed species areas and allotments with 5 listed species habitat that still needs to be 6 consulted on, and most of it is in the western half 7 of the district. 8 Restore New Mexico. In 2006, State Director 9 Linda Rundell began the Restore New Mexico 10 initiative, a very aggressive partnership to restore 11 and enhance watersheds and wildlife habitat on 12 public lands and other lands within our priority 13 watersheds across the state. 14 Within our district, we prioritized four 15 landscape areas: Otero County; basically, the 16 Tularosa Basin; and the salt basin of Otero Mesa. 17 In one of our priority areas, we've got the Jornada 18 del Muerto area. It's north of the Jornada 19 Experimental Range and south of the Armendáez 20 Ranch, and east of the Rio Grande. It includes the 21 Caballos on one side and the San Andres on the 22 other. 23 We've got what's called the ECE. It's an 24 acronym that we used for the name of this area, 25 which is basically the confluence of three</p>	<p>1 how many acres of grassland restoration treatments 2 have been accomplished since 2006, when Restore 3 New Mexico began. 4 From 1981 to 2005, we did a little over 220,000 5 acres of treatments. From 2006 to 2011, we've done 6 340,000-plus. This year alone, we're over 65,000 7 acres completed, with herbicide treatments. That's 8 a combination for creosote, mesquite, salt cedar, 9 selective thinning and scrag burning for juniper 10 habitat. All that is included. 11 So that kind of gives you an idea of what 12 Restore New Mexico initiative has done for this 13 district, as far as available funding, matching 14 funding with partners such as NRCS, the Soil 15 Conservation Districts, New Mexico Association of 16 Conservation Districts, nongovernmental 17 organizations such as Quail Unlimited and other 18 sportsmen groups as well, in addition to the Habitat 19 Stamp Program funds. 20 Within those four priority areas, we have a 21 little over two million acres that we've identified 22 that have restoration potential. So if the 23 initiative and the funding continues, we've got a 24 lot of opportunity for more restoration work to 25 restore our degraded historic Chihuahuan Desert</p>

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1 grasslands.
2 Just backing up on this, I'll just make a note
3 that -- I didn't want to get it into it too much,
4 but I handed out a science edition of the Restore
5 New Mexico newsletter. A lot of the articles in
6 there talk about our monitoring for our restore
7 projects that kind of goes hand in hand with these
8 projects and these restoration projects to try to
9 document the benefits and the successes. And we
10 have a lot of partnerships that we have in place
11 with the university, with the Ag Research Center for
12 accomplishing this monitoring. Everything from the
13 vegetation to grassland, birds, to small mammals, to
14 upland game, and also big game in some areas of
15 our -- are partners with Game and Fish.
16 Speaking of the Game and Fish, we're partners
17 with the Game and Fish on the New Mexico Habitat
18 Stamp Program. What that is is, every hunter or
19 fisherman that recreates on public land has to buy a
20 \$5 stamp. And this has been in place since the
21 early '90s. This stamp goes into a fund that's
22 administered by the Game and Fish, and these funds
23 are allocated to the BLM and the Forest Service to
24 do wildlife habitat improvements on public land.
25 Our district is in the Southwest region. There's

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1 five regions in the state: Southwest, Southeast,
2 Northeast, Northwest and Central. We are a
3 co-public-land BLM manager in the Southwest region
4 with the Socorro field office. We get about 40- to
5 \$100,000 a year in project funds for this kind of
6 work. This picture here is a wildlife catchment
7 being installed in the Peloncillos for bighorn
8 sheep. Primarily, that's what these funds are for,
9 that we've used them for in this district, water
10 development. We've also used them to help partner
11 and leverage with other dollars for brush control,
12 habitat restoration projects, such as that.
13 We have 120 project on the books that we are
14 maintaining every year. Our wildlife technician
15 that I mentioned as far as our staff, that's his
16 primary job, is to maintain the projects.
17 This shows our priority areas for our Habitat
18 Stamp Program funding. As you can see, a lot of
19 these match up, the Otero, Tularosa, the Jornada and
20 the Bootheel match up pretty well to what we have as
21 far as Restore New Mexico priority areas.
22 Border Issues. I mentioned it earlier, the
23 border road, the border fence, communication towers,
24 border operating bases. This has taken up a lot of
25 our time, developing mitigations, reviewing

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1 environmental documents, working with Fish and
2 Wildlife Service. In fact, most recently, we
3 received funding from the Fish and Wildlife Service,
4 which they received from the Department of Homeland
5 Security to do grassland restoration work along the
6 border to mitigate the impacts to habitat as a
7 result of the fence and the road to Aplomado Falcon.
8 So we're starting to see some return as far as
9 mitigation for some of these projects, but it's a
10 workload nonetheless.
11 McGregor Range. Currently operating under the
12 1999 Military Withdrawal Act, 608,385 acres was
13 withdrawn for military training purposes. But
14 what's unique about it is that BLM was also
15 designated to manage the renewal resources in
16 conjunction with the military training priorities.
17 We have a resource management plan in place
18 that was signed in 2005. Basically, we are
19 managing -- I call it comanaging, because not all
20 600,000 acres do we have comanagement
21 responsibilities because of restricted training
22 areas, unexploited areas, and that kind of thing. A
23 little under 300,000 acres is comanaged. Under the
24 Withdrawal Act, it required that cattle grazing
25 continue. This areas is not part of the Taylor

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1 Grazing Act or any of the grazing districts. So
2 what we do is, we use the Vegetative Sale Authority,
3 and we put out the grazing to the highest bidder
4 each year.
5 We have 14 grazing units. Total capacity on
6 average for these 14 grazing units is about 3,000
7 head. The bids go, depending on the year, anywhere
8 from \$6 an AUM to \$25 an AUM. This year, because of
9 the drought, we had about six units that were up for
10 rebid, and we determined not to authorize them
11 because of the drought. There's just no forage
12 production.
13 So the grazing fees that generated from these
14 contracts are used to pay all the management costs
15 on McGregor Range. That involves almost 200 miles
16 of pipeline and 130 water troughs and storage tanks,
17 and 2- to 300 miles of fence. That's all under the
18 jurisdiction of our three employees, the range
19 management specialist and his two technicians.
20 I threw this one in. These are the water
21 rights issues that we have going on on the Gila
22 River. We sit on a technical committee to discuss
23 the 2004 Arizona Water Settlement Act, wherein the
24 Supreme Court awarded New Mexico 140,000 acre-feet
25 additional water out of the Gila River drainage

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<p>1 before it goes into Arizona. So with critical 2 habitat for listed species on this portion of the 3 river in New Mexico, of course, we have some 4 concerns how that might affect our management of 5 those species, and so we're playing a key role in 6 the technical committee in that process. 7 Cuchillo Creek is a listed species habitat for 8 the Chiricahua leopard frog, so there's potential 9 conflicts there with the controlled use of existing 10 water rights and how that might affect the 11 Chiricahua leopard frog. 12 McGregor Range. I mentioned the pipelines in 13 the water. There's two water sources for all of 14 McGregor Range and the Sacramento Mountains. There 15 are about eight water users -- adjudicated water 16 users on those pipelines from those two sources. 17 Fort Bliss is the owner of water, and the water 18 is -- the beneficial use is for wildlife, and BLM is 19 using and maintaining that water on McGregor for 20 wildlife and livestock. So it's kind of a unique 21 situation, whereas we are a day-to-day manager of 22 that water right for Fort Bliss. 23 I threw this one in at the last minute, 24 Abandoned Mine Lands Program. Rusty touched on it a 25 little bit. It's kind of a program that's on the</p>	<p>1 MR. McKIBBIN: I got some coaching 2 earlier, I got my presentation down to about ten 3 words or less. We start fires and/or put them out. 4 Any questions? Okay. Well, it goes a little bit 5 more than that. We do have a pretty comprehensive 6 fire program in our district. It's two sides of it. 7 First is the suppression side, second is the fuels 8 treatment side. Obviously, you understand what the 9 suppression is. We put fires out or manage them for 10 different types of usage. 11 The fuels program actually is designed to help 12 the environment habitat. Our fires that we have in 13 the district, there's essentially two different 14 kinds of fires. We have fuel-suppression fires, 15 which would be something like in the bottom there, 16 where you see it's right outside of town, 17 threatening some sort of infrastructure. Up on the 18 top is a good example of a fire out on some 19 rangeland. Sometimes there is debate on whether 20 it's good to burn that grass off or not. A lot of 21 it depends on the time of year and how close we are 22 to the rainy season, and so that will dictate a lot 23 of what we do there. We do actively manage some of 24 those fires. 25 Fields Treatment Programs, we've got a variety</p>
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<p>1 horizon for the wildlife for the biological staff, 2 and it has to do with the inventory of these mine 3 adits and shafts for bats. A lot of the sensitive 4 animals we have in our district are bats. So the 5 intent is to rectify these safety issues, but before 6 we do that, we have to inventory, determine the bat 7 use, what species of bat, determine whether or not 8 we just close it, or whether or not we put a gate on 9 it. Some of the issues associated with that are 10 whether or not our staff has the expertise and the 11 training to enter those mine adits and shafts to do 12 the appropriate inventory, so there's going to be a 13 need for a lot of coordination and probably a lot of 14 contracting with more experts than what we have on 15 staff. 16 This is just some photos of some of the bat 17 gates around the district, around the state, that 18 have been developed. Any questions? 19 MR. CHILDRESS: Available for two or three 20 questions. Very good job. Thank you very much, 21 Ray. Our next speaker is Tom McKibbin, who is our 22 acting fire management officer. He's been the 23 assistant here in our office for years. Our FMO 24 recently retired, and so he's covering the shop 25 while we recruit for that position.</p>	<p>1 of them. Bill touched on it earlier. We have 2 essentially chemical, mechanical, and then using 3 fire. A lot of times, those are used in conjunction 4 with each other and overlap a lot of the other 5 programs in the district. 6 There's a project up around Bent, and we have 7 used it both to improve elk habitat, also to improve 8 the environmental restoration up there, a lot of 9 encroachment by species that wouldn't normally 10 really be there. We've gone in there and cleaned 11 off some ridge tops and really helped the 12 off-reservation elk population up there. 13 Up around Timberon, which is -- you know where 14 Timberon is. There's a couple of things going on up 15 there. We are trying to improve the range. We're 16 also trying to improve wildlife habitat. But 17 there's also the community of Timberon up there that 18 needs protected, because they're very vulnerable to 19 certain kinds of wildland fire coming off of 20 McGregor Range and Centennial Bombing Range, et 21 cetera, and the military has a nice habit of 22 starting those fires. So what we've done is, we've 23 gone in there, we've got a large fuels treatment 24 program in there, and put in a band of reduced fuel 25 load, and that actually, last year, stopped a</p>

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1 rather -- the fire had a lot of potential to do a
2 lot of damage to Timberon. It hit our fuel break up
3 there, sat down on the ground, and our firefighters
4 were able to get to it pretty dadgum quick and get
5 it taken care of.
6 So that's it. Like I said, we start them and
7 we put them out. Any questions for the fire
8 program?
9 MR. POPP: Are you coordinating with the
10 Forest Service at all with some of their stuff
11 around those communities?
12 MR. McKIBBIN: Yes, we do. There are some
13 conflicting priorities at times, and so some --
14 MR. POPP: Not with the Forest Service.
15 MR. McKIBBIN: I know. That sounds pretty
16 strange, and I apologize for that being confusing.
17 But sometimes it's close coordination. Sometimes
18 the coordination takes place later somehow. But we
19 do work pretty closely with the Forest Service on a
20 lot of that, and also the BIA as well in Mescalero.
21 We do that all with about 14 people.
22 MR. CHILDRESS: Dwayne, before I send you
23 up there, do you think you can do this within 15
24 minutes?
25 MR. SYKES: Yes.

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1 MR. CHILDRESS: Just to let everybody
2 know, we'll probably do a little break and have our
3 public comment period at 2:30, and then we'll go
4 back into this and wrap it up. This is Dwayne
5 Sykes. He's our planning lead for TriCounty
6 Resource Management Planning.
7 MR. SYKES: I've been on the Las Cruces
8 district a total of about 20 years, 1984 to the
9 present, with an eight-year break between 1999 and
10 2007, and I've been the RMP team leader since that
11 time, 2007.
12 What I want to do in this presentation is kind
13 of give you a quick rundown of the BLM Land Use
14 Planning process and a summary of the TriCounty RMP
15 effort, and I want to do that all in 15 minutes. So
16 when I get to 15, ring a bell or something and I'll
17 stop.
18 MR. CHILDRESS: I'll go like this.
19 MR. SYKES: That's good. The BLM Land Use
20 Planning Process is required by the Federal Land
21 Policy and Management Act, which other folks have
22 referred to, which was passed in 1976. That act
23 requires, among other things, that public lands and
24 resources be periodically and systematically
25 inventoried. Present and future uses are to be

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1 protected through a land-use planning process, and
2 the management must be a multiple use and sustained
3 yield, as has been referred to earlier.
4 Multiple use, as we've explained, doesn't mean
5 all uses on every piece of land, but it involves
6 trade-offs. And that's where land-use planning
7 comes into play, is, what are those trade-offs?
8 Basically, what we try to do is describe what areas
9 of public land should be used for what uses and
10 management, and how should land be managed for the
11 benefit of both present and future generations.
12 The land-use planning process that we use is a
13 resource management planning, and this prescribes
14 what a resource management plan is. It's a
15 broad-base plan. It covers anywhere from several
16 thousand acres up to several million acres, and it's
17 long range, covering 15 to 20 years. The RMPs
18 provide the basis for all the actions and management
19 that we take for the lands, and the RMPs are both
20 internal use; that is, they guide our directions,
21 our management. For example, when Bill moves on to
22 a bigger and better position in BLM, and someone
23 comes in to take his place, that RMP is still here
24 probably to determine how that management should be
25 continued. And there is some public use as well.

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1 It's a public document, and the public can follow
2 our management prescriptions and, Are we doing what
3 we say we were going to do?, and so forth.
4 There's an environmental impact statement
5 required as part of the land-use planning process,
6 and I'm sure a lot of you know that an EIS is
7 required for any federal action that has a
8 significant -- or has the potential to significantly
9 affect the human environment. And an RMP is one of
10 those that we said, Yes, that requires an EIS.
11 That's required by NEPA, which is the National
12 Environment Policy Act from 1978.
13 The TriCounty RMP/EIS covers two existing RMPs.
14 One was 1986, which covers Sierra and Otero County.
15 It's the White Sands RMP. The other is the Mimbres
16 RMP that was completed in 1993. However, in the
17 case of the Mimbres RMP, the decisions in the
18 TriCounty are only for Doña Ana County. So those
19 decisions are being redone, relooked at. But the
20 Mimbres RMP is still good for Luna, Grant and
21 Hidalgo Counties, the three to the west. So we'll
22 end up with two RMPs, one new one and one existing.
23 The TriCounty Planning Area is the three
24 counties, Sierra, Otero and Doña Ana County, that
25 includes about a total of 8 million acres -- 8.7

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<p>1 within this black outline, 2.8 million acres of the 2 yellow, which is what the decisions actually apply 3 to. They do not apply to state land, to private 4 land, to forest land, to BIA, or even to the 5 McGregor Range, because that's outside of our 6 planning area, even though that is BLM co-use. So 7 much of that, as Ray said, there's a plan that was 8 completed in 2006 that covers McGregor Range. So 9 this plan does not include McGregor. So we have 10 about 2.8 million acres of BLM surface and 4.3 11 million acres of BLM mineral estate. 12 Now, the mineral estate includes split estate 13 land, where it's a different agency or administrator 14 of the surface. For example, it could be estate 15 surface with federal minerals, private surface with 16 federal minerals, and so forth. But this 4.3 also 17 includes all of the BLM surface with federal 18 subsurface, which is generally the case. Split 19 estate usually involves another agency or owner of 20 the surface. 21 This thing has been going on since 2005, and 22 normally, we should have a completed plan by now, 23 but we've had a lot of delays and problems. And one 24 of the biggest was this 2005 RMP amendment for fluid 25 minerals leasing in Otero and Sierra County. Our</p>	<p>1 information that we have on the physical and natural 2 environment, as well as present management, and then 3 we also look for opportunities for change in 4 management or the need for change. 5 We go through an internal scoping process, 6 which usually is in-house and involves our 7 specialists and managers. We go through public 8 scoping, and then we determine what the issues need 9 to be -- or what issues need to be addressed based 10 on that scoping. 11 RMPs are issued to everybody. If you don't 12 have an issue dealing with something, or don't have 13 a decision that needs to be made -- for example, 14 whether it's recreation or livestock grazing, or 15 anything else -- you don't address it in your RMP 16 unless you feel like, Okay, we need to make that 17 available to the public. But in general, if there's 18 no issue, you don't address it. 19 One thing we do is a lot of public 20 participation and public outreach. Part of that is 21 involving what we call cooperating agencies. A 22 cooperating agency has to be a government agency, 23 either federal or state or local government, who has 24 either a jurisdiction by law, or special expertise 25 that they can be involved with us in the planning</p>
<p>1 intent, when we started the TriCounty plan, was to 2 bring those decisions from that document into it. 3 However, that plan was litigated, and in 2009, the 4 Tenth Circuit Court issued a decision which 5 basically invalidated that RMP amendment for 6 oil-and-gas leasing. So we're going to have to go 7 back at some point and address oil and gas. We took 8 a long time to determine how -- if and how we would 9 do it in the TriCounty plan, and the decision was 10 that we're going to defer addressing oil and gas 11 until after we complete the current plan. We lost 12 our contract for preparation of the plan at the end 13 of 2009, did not have funding to continue that, so 14 we had to bring that back and do it in-house with 15 our BLM team. 16 As I mentioned earlier this morning, renewal 17 energy initiatives under the current administration 18 needed to be addressed, and then also this recent 19 initiative of the Secretary of Interior dealing with 20 lands with wilderness characteristics. So all of 21 that had to be folded in as we were going through 22 the process, which has caused us some delay in it. 23 The steps in preparing an RMP are basically, we 24 prepare analysis of a management situation, which is 25 predocument, which combines all of the existing</p>	<p>1 process. When we started, we sent out invitations 2 to various groups, asking if they wanted to 3 participate as cooperating agencies. We presently 4 have eight different governmental entities that are 5 working with us on that, and those are listed here. 6 We also are required to do travel consultation. 7 We are required by law to work with the tribes 8 as government-to-government entities. They are a 9 separate government, and so we work with them on 10 whatever might affect them. These are the tribes 11 that have expressed some interest in what we do here 12 in the Las Cruces district. So we go to those 13 tribes and say, Hey, here's what we're planning to 14 do, do you have any interest? 15 The Summary of the Positions and the 16 Cooperating Agencies, Tribes, et cetera, to this 17 point, is from public feedback that we have gotten. 18 And I must say that in 2009, we sent out what we 19 call a preliminary draft of this document to our 20 cooperating agencies and to -- well, basically, that 21 was it. We reviewed the draft. And based on that, 22 and in our working with these groups, this is 23 essentially the positions of those, the City and 24 County, Department of Ag, and New Mexico Game and 25 Fish. The military, their biggest concern is that</p>

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1 we retain land, bordering installations and federal
2 ownership, because if we allow development, that
3 conflicts with what they want to do there.
4 Tribal Consultation. Really, the White
5 Mountain Tribe is the only one that really got back
6 to us on anything specific. The Piro-Manso-Tiwa
7 Group is a local group situated here in Tortugas.
8 They're not a recognized Indian tribe, but they do
9 want to have an interest in what we do particularly
10 in Doña Ana County, in terms of managing public
11 lands. And then there are a number of environmental
12 groups that are kind of monitoring our planning
13 efforts and things that they want to see in terms of
14 the outcome of the plan.
15 Public Scoping were done in March of 2005,
16 public meetings in four different communities. And
17 in addition, we've got some 340 written comments in
18 form letters that we had to consider as part of the
19 issue of development, and so forth. As a result of
20 that, we came out with four of these broad-planning
21 issues, basically on managing cultural and natural
22 resources, how can we promote social and economic
23 well-being while protecting those resources, and
24 what type of facilities or services do we need to
25 provide? And then this last one kind of came out

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1 later in the process partly because of the
2 litigation decision and the nonrenewable energy
3 initiatives, how do we manage those on public land.
4 Four Alternatives. These are pretty standard
5 for an RMP. You have to have one alternative that
6 looks at the existing management situation and the
7 continuation of that; one alternative looking at
8 emphasis on resource conservation; one looking at
9 more of a resource production alternative; and then
10 the balanced approach, which we've identified as our
11 preferred alternative, not surprising, but to try to
12 make a combination of those two to get the best
13 effect and the best long-term management.
14 In December of 2006, we went out to the public
15 with our preliminary alternatives, and had some
16 public meetings and got quite a bit of feedback.
17 Generally, the folks agreed with what we had
18 developed to that point, and so there are no great
19 changes that we came back with. And that's where
20 also we -- that slide I showed you on concerns, and
21 so forth, about the issues, we got a lot of feedback
22 in that regard.
23 This just shows the content of an RMP in
24 general, different sections. The main ones that
25 take the most time and effort is this development

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1 alternatives, and then assessing and analyzing
2 environmental consequences.
3 Chapter 1 is just an intro, showing the
4 acreages and what we're dealing with.
5 Chapter 2, as I said, is discussion and
6 presentation of the alternatives and all of the
7 different things that we need to consider in
8 developing those alternatives. And as I said, that
9 can be a pretty lengthy and difficult process for
10 us.
11 Chapter 3 is a presentation of the existing
12 physical and natural environment. It comes pretty
13 much directly from our analysis of management
14 situation, and sometimes factors such as geology and
15 a physical description of the area may not be
16 affected, but it's still part of the document, just
17 for information purposes.
18 Chapter 4 is environmental consequences.
19 That's another section. It takes a lot of time and
20 a lot of analysis on the impacts, which is
21 essentially a change in the existing environment as
22 a result of implementing the alternatives.
23 Down here, it shows that -- you know, you
24 wonder why these RMPs are so big, running 400 to 600
25 pages. That's because you've got that many

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1 proposals for 16 resources for four different
2 alternatives, and you do the math and it comes out
3 to a lot of text.
4 This is the summary comparison of the land-use
5 allocations for all the different issues that we're
6 addressing. I won't go through all these, but just
7 to point out a couple of things. We talk about
8 special designations, renewable energy. One of the
9 areas that we're looking at that's being addressed
10 also in the programmatic solar EIS is this Afton
11 solar energy zone, which would be about 77,000
12 acres. That would be our priority for siting areas,
13 and then areas that would be excluded or avoided are
14 listed here. So you can see they can be fairly
15 large, depending on the alternative we're looking
16 at.
17 This is Trails and Travel. Under our present
18 planning, we have 1.6 million acres opened to OHV
19 use. That means that's open to cross-country
20 travel. That kind of goes against our current
21 policies, so we had to determine how we were going
22 to change that, and most of this went down into this
23 limited to existing routes and some of these other
24 alternatives. The open areas are essentially the
25 Red Sands area over in Otero County, and the Afton

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<p>1 Hills out here in Doña Ana. 2 Here's the mineral stuff. Under action 3 alternatives, as I said, we would defer all 4 oil-and-gas leasing pending further management. 5 Summary of impacts of the alternative. 6 Benefits of the alternatives to meet the issues as 7 we've prescribed. And the current schedule, 8 probably the biggest thing is the -- we're looking 9 at having the draft out about June of next year, and 10 continue on, if the world doesn't come to an end, 11 having it done by February of 2014. 12 I know this is a real quick run-through. If 13 you have any questions about the process, what we're 14 doing, or the schedule, feel free to give me a call, 15 myself or Jennifer Montoya, who is going to be 16 taking over as team leader on the project in the 17 next couple of months, since I'm retiring at the end 18 of the year. Call me, or Jennifer would like to 19 discuss it with you. 20 MR. CHILDRESS: Thank you very much, 21 Dwayne. I'm sorry to put pressure on you to get it 22 done in 15, but you did an excellent job. You will 23 be back up here again, or at least whoever is taking 24 over your role, in a little bit more detail on the 25 situation.</p>	<p>1 these issues and give you a State agricultural 2 perspective. That's part of this process. We're 3 open to all four of the programs that are going on, 4 and all you have to do is call us and say, Look, 5 here's the issue we're looking at, please come in 6 and give us your perspective, and we will do that 7 for you. We do it all the time. So in that light, 8 thank you very much. We're going to take off now, 9 Bill, and leave you with it. 10 MR. CHILDRESS: Thank you very much, Bud. 11 I appreciate it. Any questions, comments at this 12 point? If not, Lori Allen is going to come up, and 13 we'll get back onto presentations. We have two 14 left. Lori Allen is our land-use planner and a team 15 lead for the Prehistoric Trackways National Monument 16 Resource Management Plan. 17 MS. ALLEN: I figure you guys have 18 probably had enough PowerPoint, so I'm not going to 19 do that today. I'm Lori Allen. I've been here, I 20 guess it's been, six and a half years now. I don't 21 know if I followed or they followed me, but Ray and 22 Leticia used to work up in Elko together. I worked 23 there for about five or six years, so I've been here 24 about six years, I guess, also. Now, as Bill said, 25 I'm the land-use planner for Prehistoric Trackways.</p>
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<p>1 I apologize that we're a little bit behind 2 schedule, but I think this is still very important 3 for us to go through. The rest of the staff will 4 come up and make a presentation, but first, we need 5 to go ahead and have our public comment period. And 6 everybody that is from the public, all two of you, I 7 think one of you has signed up. Bud Starnes would 8 like to come up and make a public comment. Come on 9 up, Bud. 10 MR. STARNES: Thank you, Bill, for 11 allowing us to be a part of the process. Bill has 12 been a good working partner within NDA and the whole 13 department. We work on a lot of issues together. 14 NDA's stance in the state is very straightforward. 15 You're against agriculture, we're against you. 16 That's pretty straightforward. So in that light, we 17 try to make things work as well as we can. The most 18 important thing you saw was this planning process. 19 That's going to affect everything BLM does for quite 20 a long time. We're part of that on a cooperative 21 process and we'd like to continue. 22 The main thing I want to say is, I want to 23 offer you guys our expertise to help you look at the 24 issues that BLM has from a little bit different 25 perspective. We have the ability to analyze any of</p>	<p>1 It's a national monument that was designated back in 2 2009 with the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act. 3 With that, the president designated 5,280 acres, 4 roughly, to be designated for not multiple use, 5 which is what BLM land is normally for, and the 6 significance of this area is for the paleo 7 resources. With that designation, we have to create 8 an RMP, so I was hired for that. We have been 9 working on that currently for two years, and I'm 10 hoping we're halfway through or so. I just wanted 11 to let you guys know where we've been, where we're 12 at now, and where we're going, and I'm hoping you 13 guys will be involved with that. 14 With that, we went out in January of 2010 for a 15 public scoping meeting, and it was just to introduce 16 the RMP to the public, get responses back from the 17 public, let them tell us what the issues were, and 18 then let us tell them what we thought our management 19 concerns were. With that, we got over 17,000 20 comments. The majority of them were all form 21 letters from, I believe it was, the Wilderness 22 Society. We did get some good comments, but like I 23 said, the majority were form letters. With that, we 24 came up with -- I think there were seven management 25 concerns and issues, but our top ones were</p>

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1 paleontological resources and the protection of
2 them, interpretation, education, travel and access,
3 and then recreation. So when you read our RMP, it
4 is organized with those four resources, uses first,
5 all the time, throughout the whole RMP, and then
6 everything after that is alphabetical. So we wanted
7 to bring those up to the front.
8 With that, then we went and did our
9 alternatives, like Dwayne had showed you guys, the
10 RMP process, and we created our A, B, C and D
11 alternatives, and we went out with a preliminary
12 alternative public workshop. That was in September
13 of 2010, and just to show the public what we've come
14 up with, ask if we missed anything. We didn't get
15 any substantial comments other than, yes, we had a
16 good range of alternatives. Some people were over
17 here and some people were over here, and so we
18 captured all of that. So it was a good step.
19 Backing up, we did ask for cooperating
20 agencies, and nobody took us up on it. The State
21 Parks at first said that they were, and then I think
22 due to finances, they couldn't offer us any help.
23 So we have just been plugging along.
24 Where we're at currently is, we're still in the
25 draft stage. We've submitted it to our State

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1 office, they have reviewed it, we have edited it,
2 and now I'm hoping it will go up to Washington on
3 November 1, and the Washington office will review
4 it. They say they take three weeks. I don't
5 believe it, so I'm guessing I'll probably get it
6 back February of next year. I'll take all of their
7 comments, all of their edits at this time, put them
8 back into the document, and then I'm hoping that we
9 can get it out for the public, which is where you
10 guys will step in. You will automatically be put on
11 the mailing list, and you will get -- you can either
12 have a CD or a hard copy of it, of the draft, and
13 you can review it and give us any comments that you
14 have on it or any edits.
15 You can see, from Dwayne's schedule, it's just
16 hit or miss, so I didn't even put one together for
17 you, because if Washington really gets it back in
18 three weeks, then I'm three months ahead of what I
19 thought I was, or if they don't get it back to me
20 until February, it's planned for three weeks. So
21 that's where we're at. And a finished product
22 hopefully is an RMP that does not get litigated. It
23 will be a stand-alone RMP for the monument.
24 MR. CHILDRESS: Any questions?
25 MR. POPP: The community pit is now

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1 closed, isn't it? Was that the gravel pit?
2 MR. CHILDRESS: Actually, that's the hill
3 that was behind, yes.
4 MS. ALLEN: It's outside the monument, so
5 we do not have any jurisdiction in this RMP.
6 MR. POPP: Wasn't that kind of infringing
7 on some of the trackways?
8 MS. ALLEN: Correct.
9 MR. POPP: Maybe you can kind of manage it
10 along with it, although you can't do it because it's
11 not in the --
12 MR. CHILDRESS: At this particular point
13 in time, we're not addressing it, as far as
14 directing management within this plan. The first
15 step is to do the remediation to make the area safe.
16 Once we've done that, there may be some
17 opportunities to use outside for either access or
18 interpretation if we determine that.
19 MR. POPP: Rehabilitation of the area, you
20 said they need to make it safe. But the users of
21 that are not required to do anything?
22 MR. CHILDRESS: No. It was a community
23 pit, and unfortunately, the terms of that particular
24 set of operations did not require the level of
25 funding necessary to do the remediation on their

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1 own, or reclamation on their own.
2 Once again, I think we'll have a meeting,
3 timingwise, that will be more conducive and having
4 more thorough discussion of trackways as we move
5 forward in that resource management process. I want
6 to at least make sure you're aware of the two major
7 land-use plans that are under way, and we will want
8 to have a lot of thorough discussion with you as we
9 move forward.
10 MR. GARRETT: You mentioned about
11 litigation. There was a comment earlier about
12 litigation. Do y'all get sued a lot?
13 MR. CHILDRESS: Do we get sued a lot? As
14 an agency, federal agency, we do get challenged from
15 time to time from different perspectives and views.
16 We don't know what the day will bring with this
17 particular effort, or TriCounty, or the various EISs
18 that we're doing for the other actions on public
19 lands. But that's just part of the due process that
20 we have to go through, and we have to address those
21 concerns, especially if we follow that challenge,
22 which is what we're proposing to do.
23 MR. GARRETT: In this particular case, do
24 you have reason to believe that you will be or do
25 you have -- are you able to say?

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<p>1 MR. CHILDRESS: No, it's really hard to 2 read the tea leaves on this one. As pointed out, 3 ironically, on this small 5,280-acre unit, we 4 received more comments in scoping than we did 5 TriCounty, which covers 2.8 million. So it really 6 is hard to say. It is a national monument. It has 7 enabling legislation, and people may view that we're 8 interpreting things, or the range of alternatives 9 are not appropriate within the framework of that 10 enabling legislation. That will be the challenge to 11 lay it out, get a good range of alternatives, and 12 give us an opportunity to make a selection of which 13 alternative to move forward with. So we can't 14 speculate or guess whether we will get litigated at 15 this point. It's just hard to say. 16 MR. GARRETT: Okay. Thank you. 17 MS. ALLEN: Bill asked me yesterday, how 18 long is the draft RMP? He said, 300 pages? I said, 19 No, I didn't think it's that big. I have it all 20 broken up by chapters to make it easier to work on. 21 I said, Maybe 100 pages. I went and got with Rena, 22 and it's almost 200 pages. That's with the 23 appendices and everything. And it's for, like, 24 5,000 acres. 25 MR. CHILDRESS: Right in between what you</p>	<p>1 my career has taken me, and it's been very 2 challenging and extremely rewarding. It's good to 3 be back home, and I'm enjoying my current position 4 as well. 5 If you consider all of the activity and all of 6 the work that has occurred along the border, 7 PowerPoint presentations and I don't get along. I 8 don't do PowerPoint. Every time I tried, it messes 9 me up and it frustrates me, so I just like to kind 10 of wing it. 11 The work and the construction of all the 12 infrastructure along the border happened, you 13 know -- what, four or five years ago now? -- and for 14 the most part, it has been completed. It really 15 came on us, I'm going to say the Southwest states, 16 by surprise unexpectedly, and we had to adjust our 17 workloads and try to accommodate supporting securing 18 the border, supporting DHS and the border patrol. 19 In 2006, you may have heard about the MOU, 20 memorandum of understanding, that was developed 21 signed by Department of Homeland Security secretary, 22 the Secretary of Interior and the Secretary of 23 Department of Agriculture. This MOU was really our 24 guidance, Here's how BLM will support the public 25 land management agencies, will support DHS, border</p>
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<p>1 guessed and what I guessed. Very good. Our last 2 presenter is Eddie Guerrero. Eddie, as I pointed 3 out, is our international border and military 4 special assistant coordinator year. With that, 5 Eddie. 6 MR. GUERRERO: Bill, thank you very much 7 leaving me until the extreme last. 8 MR. CHILDRESS: That's just the way it 9 worked out. 10 MR. GUERRERO: It's a pleasure to be here 11 this afternoon addressing all of you. Bill 12 introduced me. A little bit about myself. I was 13 born in Las Cruces. As a toddler, I grew up on the 14 corner of Almendra and Court Street. My mom still 15 lives there, as folks back then used to stay in one 16 house for their lives, not so much anymore. 17 I graduated from NMSU in 1979 with a degree in 18 wildlife biology. My first job was in a small town 19 to Caliente, Nevada, 900 folks. I don't think it's 20 grown any since then. 21 From there, I went to the Arizona strip 22 district, that area north of the Grand Canyon, 23 butting up with the Utah boundary. From there to 24 Kingman, Arizona, and finally went to Twin Falls, 25 Idaho. I've been back here now for eight years, as</p>	<p>1 patrol, and here's how the border patrol will 2 conduct themselves on public lands when they're 3 patrolling, when they're doing their jobs, 4 respecting the public lands, trying to make sure 5 that those lands remain for future generations. 6 This MOU really addressed a few things that 7 became really obvious, or was necessary to be 8 addressed, such as, How does the border patrol 9 conduct themselves on public lands? Can they run 10 around chasing the bad guys as they please? How are 11 we going to support DHS with this tremendous 12 workload that they had for us? DHS and the border 13 patrol received millions of dollars to hire 14 personnel, to hire contractors, to build 15 infrastructure. You've all seen photos of the 16 fences along the border. BLM and Las Cruces didn't 17 receive any money, so we could not increase our work 18 force to expedite. And that's what the MOU says, 19 BLM will expedite, as best as possible, in meeting 20 the needs of DHS/border patrol. 21 I'm happy to say that Lori Allen was the realty 22 specialist back then and did a fantastic job in 23 meeting that need, but we did it with current staff. 24 We did receive cost reimbursement, as we are 25 required to be reimbursed when we have efforts where</p>

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1 we support other federal agencies, but that's just
2 to pay for the hours that we put into the effort.
3 So what's been completed? The fencing has been
4 completed, the pedestrian fence, the vehicle fence.
5 There was a forward operating base called the Ramsey
6 Forward Operating Base built south of Deming.
7 That's been completed. There is still work to be
8 done. Consider the Bootheel area. It's kind of out
9 of the way, and still a lot of activity down there.
10 The eastern boundary, the north-south boundary, on
11 the east side of Bootheel still remains to be
12 fenced. Border patrol has had intentions to fence
13 that, but ran out of funds and hasn't been able to
14 do that.
15 Highway 84 going north and south on the
16 Bootheel, the access roads that go from Highway 84
17 to that eastern border of the Bootheel, we went
18 through the process of visiting all those access
19 roads, deciding how to improve those roads, and then
20 they ran out of money there. That's an important
21 project for them, and still remains unfunded. So
22 the Bootheel area is one area that still has work
23 that needs to be done.
24 We provided support for not only the
25 infrastructure along the international border, but

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1 also the access roads that come off of Highway 9
2 going to the border, to deliver all the steel, all
3 the massive steel that was necessary to build all
4 those fences. Those roads had to be improved, and
5 they were.
6 The environmental documents were written, they
7 were started, and the DHS was given the deadline of
8 completing all that construction by December of
9 2008. It became apparent they weren't going to meet
10 that deadline, so a number of those NEPA documents
11 didn't get completed, then the waiver came in. So
12 then the Department of Homeland Security secretary
13 said, We're going to waive all the environmental
14 laws, we don't have to comply with any of the laws,
15 we're just going to construct. So that applied to
16 certain areas, and those areas and those projects
17 were specifically noted in the waiver. So it was
18 all the fencing along the international border, the
19 access roads from Highway 9 to the border, to my
20 recollection.
21 And they did, they met their deadline. To say
22 a good thing about DHS, they did complete their
23 inventories for T&E species, cultural resources, and
24 we're not always able to avoid certain things, but
25 mitigate -- try to avoid and mitigate if situations

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1 were unavoidable.
2 Next week I'm going to El Paso to -- it's
3 something that I do regularly about every two or
4 three months. The new recruits coming from Artesia,
5 the border patrol recruits that are just coming out
6 of the academy -- I think it's Artesia -- I give
7 them what's called public lands ethics training. I
8 say, When you're out there on public lands, you need
9 to conduct yourself in this manner. A lot of these
10 folks are not from the Southwest. Some of these
11 folks, this is their introduction to public lands.
12 Some of them may be from east of Texas, and so it's
13 important that they understand what public lands are
14 all about. And when you're out there, you close the
15 gate behind you. We've got grazing going on here,
16 livestock moved from pasture to pasture. If you run
17 into anybody out there, it's probably going to be
18 the rancher. They're your friends. Stay on
19 existing roads and trails, that kind of thing. Just
20 commonsense things. Pick up after yourself. That's
21 a very important indoctrination, I think, to these
22 new recruits. And even though we do that, these
23 infractions sometimes still happen.
24 I mentioned the fences that still need to be
25 constructed. You may have heard that there's a

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1 forward operating base south of Lordsburg in the
2 Bootheel that is going to be -- the site is going to
3 be selected pretty soon. The preferred alternative
4 is on private hands. A lot of controversy with the
5 locals down there about where it should be located.
6 One of the alternatives is on 40 acres on BLM lands,
7 and my understanding is, the majority of the public
8 folks down there want the 40 acres on BLM. But the
9 border patrol has informed us, and a lot of it
10 relates to the security of their personnel, where
11 they want that forward operating base. So we'll
12 see. The EA has gone out for public review and
13 public comment, and I think what's pending now is
14 just the decision to be made for the selection.
15 Ray touched a little bit on workload and stuff,
16 and I touched a little bit on that, too. Another
17 initiative that's ongoing right now is radio
18 enhancements. It's a big effort by Department of
19 Homeland Security specifically for the border
20 patrol, and really applies to New Mexico as opposed
21 to Arizona and California. More so in New Mexico.
22 There's numerous communication sites to be either
23 constructed or existing ones to be enhanced. So
24 there's ten of them in the Las Cruces district, and
25 I think three are new sites and seven are

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<p>1 enhancements to existing sites. So we're being 2 until diligent, and it's a huge workload to 3 coordinate and to review the documents and to 4 provide input. Some of these are resource 5 sensitive. The Big Hatchet Peak, it's a wilderness 6 study area, it's an ACDC, you've got T&E species, 7 you know, resource concerns. So that's got to be 8 reviewed very closely, and we need to coordinate 9 with them on that and make sure that that goes 10 through the full process that's required by our laws 11 and our regulations. So we're a cooperating agency. 12 So not only is DHS going to sign that decision, but 13 Bill is going to sign that decision, too. So it's 14 got to be done.</p> <p>15 The National Guard is still deployed along the 16 border, has been there for many years now, and 17 They've been extended. They'll be there for -- 18 well, I don't know how much longer they'll be there, 19 but there's 30 individuals, give or take. Most of 20 them are along Highway 9 helping the border patrol.</p> <p>21 Safety. Safety is a big issue with us, as you 22 might imagine, along the border. We're not Arizona. 23 We all know that Arizona is just fraught with 24 situations, trash dumping, and probably even more 25 concerned about safety. Well, I shouldn't say that.</p>	<p>1 talking to each other and knows what each other has 2 planned so that we don't step on each other's feet, 3 so to speak. So they've been very productive 4 meetings. We have quarterly meetings with the 5 different entities, including the New Mexico State 6 Land Office. We talk about proposed actions, like 7 some of these transmission lines that Bill has 8 alluded to. Aviation issues. Ray and his staff 9 have been trying to spray herbicides in the 10 proximity of the military bases, not on the military 11 bases. But that air space responsibility goes 12 beyond for the military, and so it's very difficult 13 for us to pull these projects off, and we're not a 14 priority for the military. They've got to do their 15 job, and we're kind of secondary. They put us in 16 there when they can fit us in there. So productive 17 meetings that we have with the military.</p> <p>18 An issue that I can't imagine is specific to 19 the Las Cruces district, but it's something that I 20 haven't seen before, and that is with the funding 21 that Department of Defense has acquired, and with 22 the very many soldiers that they have, and the 23 increase of numbers at Fort Bliss and at White 24 Sands, the need to expand beyond the withdrawn 25 areas. You need to go onto public lands to conduct</p>
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<p>1 We're just as concerned about safety. Let me just 2 say that. Concerned about our personnel, concerned 3 about public safety. Consider the Continental 4 Divide trail starts at the international border, 5 goes north. We're concerned about folks hiking that 6 trail. We have put out a couple of brochures. Is 7 there one in their divider?</p> <p>8 MS. GUTIÉRREZ: There's one in their 9 packet.</p> <p>10 MR. GUERRERO: One is for the public that 11 they can pick up here at the front desk and take 12 with them. It gives them advice of how to conduct 13 themselves to be safe along the border. Phone 14 numbers to call in case they run into problems, and 15 then we've got one for our employees as well. So a 16 very important issue for us. When our folks are 17 going out along the border, we encourage them to go 18 in twos.</p> <p>19 So there's that part of my responsibilities. 20 My other responsibilities are, as a collateral duty, 21 I'm the liaison for military goings-on. Consider 22 Fort Bliss, White Sands, Holloman Air Force Base. 23 Some of you may know Hansen Scott. He is a retired 24 brigadier general that was hired to bring the 25 entities together to make sure that everybody is</p>	<p>1 maneuvers.</p> <p>2 Playas, New Mexico, southwest of Deming, that 3 is privately owned by New Mexico Tech out of 4 Socorro, but they are providing opportunities for 5 soldiers to go over there and conduct maneuvers. So 6 we are intimately involved with these folks to try 7 to make sure that things occur in a professional 8 manner, that things don't go haywire, and that the 9 recreation to the public isn't impacted when they're 10 out there quail hunting. So this is something that 11 is new to us. We're dealing with it, we're learning 12 from it.</p> <p>13 Another situation is the Jarillas just off of 14 Highway 54 south of Alamogordo, a mountain range 15 there where White Sands wants to use, and has used, 16 that mountain range there for maneuvers. There's 17 old adits, mines, caves that they want to use to 18 conduct the maneuvers. And so far we've been able 19 to say that we consider their use, because a lot of 20 it is just foot travel, as casual use, but we need 21 to keep an eye on these situations and make sure 22 that they remain casual use. So that's something 23 that we're dealing with and working with the 24 military on. Any questions?</p> <p>25 MR. POPP: Eddie, I don't know if this one</p>

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1 is for you or not. It kind of hit me, because we
2 finally got to this, and I noticed NM state land
3 here. So I don't know if this is directly for you,
4 because you're the liaison with the military. Maybe
5 it's a general question. How close does BLM work
6 with the New Mexico State Land Office when it starts
7 considering land exchanges, so forth, and what
8 impact that might have on the public? Do you guys
9 get involved in that a lot? Maybe you don't, but
10 maybe somebody else does. What's the extent of your
11 involvement?
12 MR. GUERRERO: Do you want to field that,
13 Bill?
14 MR. CHILDRESS: Sure. We do from time to
15 time engage in exchanges with the State in
16 partnership. Santa Teresa exchange, the one we did
17 most recently, where we acquired some State land in
18 and around the Organ Mountains for lands along the
19 railroad grade just outside of Santa Teresa estate
20 required that those lands in exchange, and they
21 turned around and sold those lands to Union Pacific
22 for expansion of the rail yards.
23 So we do a lot of cooperation with them. I
24 don't think we're done with where we want to go in
25 terms of trying to look at acquiring additional

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1 State lands. I know the State has some interest in
2 lands up there. As opportunities present
3 themselves, we will work with them. I don't know if
4 that's what you were alluding to.
5 MR. POPP: Well, I'm aware of all that.
6 But every once in a while, the State Land Office
7 does some things, exchanges for private land versus
8 State land, and so forth, not directly to BLM land,
9 and it has an effect on the ability for the public
10 to use BLM land. And that's happened quite a bit.
11 MR. QUINTANA: Are you talking about
12 cutting off access?
13 MR. POPP: Yes. So I'm just wondering if
14 there's any way that you guys review, does the State
15 Land Office have any cooperative agreements with
16 you? I'm sure that they don't have to talk to you
17 if they don't want to. But is there any cooperative
18 agreements where you kind of review those land
19 exchanges?
20 MR. GUERRERO: I don't know if they do or
21 not.
22 MR. POPP: I guess that answers my
23 question.
24 MR. CHILDRESS: First of all, I don't
25 think there's been a lot in the last couple of

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1 years, at least down in our neck of the woods.
2 MR. POPP: There's at least one.
3 MR. GUERRERO: Let me address that in a
4 different respect, and it still, I think, touches on
5 some of your concerns, maybe, and that is some of
6 the cooperative efforts that we've had with the
7 border patrol. I mentioned those roads, those
8 access roads, that the border patrol needs east of
9 Highway 84. Those roads are going to cost millions
10 of dollars to improve. We have been able to improve
11 a small segment of road with the border patrol and
12 the committee, where border patrol and BLM acquired
13 moneys to construct part of that road that regularly
14 gets washed out, and the committee reinstalled this
15 pipeline parallel with the road.
16 But the reason I bring this up is because I see
17 a big opportunity down there to get into those types
18 of cooperative efforts with the border patrol to
19 acquire moneys. Moneys are tough to come across
20 these days. So if we can do that, Washington loves
21 it when we have cooperative efforts. It makes us
22 more apt to receive funding.
23 But our requirement that we have, that is BLM,
24 is that if we improve and put any money into these
25 roads down there, we need to have public access.

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1 And we've done a few here recently where we've
2 acquired access for the public to private lands on
3 one of these roads.
4 MR. CHILDRESS: We have acquired some
5 easements across state land to gain public access,
6 both for the Continental Divide trail and also
7 access, for instance, up in parts of the Cookes Peak
8 Mountain area. I think we'll continue to work in
9 those efforts. I put a note down, and maybe this is
10 one of the future things that we can talk about as a
11 topic, is, what things do we need to do from our
12 perspective to enhance public access, and what
13 things do we need to do cooperatively with other
14 entities to ensure that we maintain public access?
15 So I think that's a fair topic to note, and I did
16 so.
17 I think with that, if that's okay, we're
18 running up against the wall timewise. Thank you
19 very much, Eddie.
20 MR. GUERRERO: Thank you.
21 MR. CHILDRESS: I wanted to find out where
22 everybody is at in terms of being prepared to have
23 an election of officers. Here again, my thought is,
24 I think it would be real important to consider
25 electing a chair and a vice chair for this

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<p>1 committee. That way, if the chair is absent, can't 2 make a meeting, the vice chair can help run the 3 meeting during the chair's absence. 4 I think the major role that I see for the chair 5 is to help focus in on issues that the committee 6 would like to address, have BLM address with the 7 committee, work a little bit behind the scenes from 8 time to time in developing agenda items, and doing 9 communication directly with the committee from time 10 to time in between meetings and, again, just helping 11 run the meetings every time we have one. 12 MR. BARTOO: Are you considered the chair? 13 MR. CHILDRESS: No. Here again, I'm the 14 designated officer for the RAC. I will help 15 facilitate the meetings as need be. But really, we 16 do need to have a chair and a vice chair, I think, a 17 vice chair as well. 18 MR. BARTOO: The three of us has talked 19 about it, and since he was -- excuse me for 20 pointing, sir -- you were on a RAC committee years 21 back, so you had more public feeling where it needs 22 to go, directions. And I nominate him for being 23 president of it. 24 MR. CHILDRESS: You're talking about 25 Anthony/Tony Popp?</p>	<p>1 essentially had the concurrence. I doubt if there 2 is much that I would ever see us not talking about 3 on those rare occasions. Of course, I would explain 4 myself as to why. But anybody on this committee is 5 eligible to be the chair or vice chair. But as I 6 understand it, you have made a nomination. 7 MR. BARTOO: On the experience that he has 8 already. 9 MR. CHILDRESS: Do I hear any other 10 nominations? Do I hear a second? 11 MR. BOYKIN: I move that nominations 12 cease. 13 MR. CHILDRESS: Okay. All in favor of 14 electing Anthony/Tony Popp as our chair for the 15 2011-2012 RAC say aye. Any opposed? So elected. 16 With that, I'm going to turn it over to you to ask 17 for nominations for a vice chair. 18 MR. POPP: Would anybody like to make a 19 nomination for vice chair? Would anybody like to 20 self-nominate? 21 MR. GARRETT: I have a question or a 22 suggestion. You're from the environment side, 23 correct, according to this sheet we just got? 24 MR. POPP: Yes, conservation clubs, 25 outdoors clubs, semienvironmental.</p>
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<p>1 MR. BARTOO: Yes. 2 MR. POPP: One of the reasons for a 3 president of this group, and we did at the state 4 level, is that in the very beginning, there was a 5 federal official, but there was also a State 6 official with the State RAC. In the beginning 7 years, those two people chaired the committee and 8 set the agenda. I don't know how long that lasted, 9 for three or four or five years, or something like 10 that. So in a lot of ways, that system was very 11 political at the state level. 12 I think it changed before I went on the state 13 RAC, and then we started electing our own president 14 and stuff, and that worked out really well, because 15 that president, in fact, worked very closely with 16 the State Office. And I wasn't one of those 17 present. That was my last year on. I think there 18 were, like, three or four before me. So that system 19 worked pretty well. And that got some of the 20 politicalness out of it and allowed this committee 21 to say, I want to talk about this, and the committee 22 said so, and as a president or chairperson, then 23 he's kind of involved in it. 24 MR. CHILDRESS: The way it works right now 25 is, I get advised on the agenda items, and</p>	<p>1 MR. GARRETT: Since part of what the chair 2 and vice chair do has to do with shaping the agenda, 3 and also doing some background work with respect to 4 the agency, I was just wondering if it might be 5 worthwhile to consider having as the vice chair 6 someone who is more from the ranching and grazing or 7 mineral extraction. I think we're all going to work 8 well together, but I think it helps to have 9 different points of view and different communities 10 of interest represented in terms of pulling that 11 together. So I guess I was looking for somebody 12 maybe from Category 1. Jim? 13 MR. QUINTANA: While I do ranch, I'm not 14 in that category this year. But I do think either 15 one of you two. 16 MR. BARTOO: How about Mr. Timothy Eastep? 17 Timothy. 18 MR. BOYKIN: As far as seconding those 19 thoughts, too, I'm thinking since we have somebody 20 from Las Cruces who lives here, that the next chair 21 be from some other area than Las Cruces. 22 MR. BARTOO: I nominate Mr. Timothy 23 Eastep. 24 MR. CHILDRESS: Tim, can you do it? 25 MR. EASTEP: Yes. I don't really know</p>

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1 what I'm in for.
2 MR. BARTOO: I make a motion.
3 MR. POPP: There's a motion. We've
4 nominated Tim Eastep.
5 MR. QUINTANA: I second.
6 MR. POPP: There's a second to that
7 nomination. Are there any other nominations? No
8 other nominations?
9 MR. BOYKIN: I move that nominations
10 cease.
11 MR. POPP: Nominations have ceased. All
12 those in favor of Tim being the vice chair say aye.
13 Those opposed. I guess you're it. Congratulations.
14 MR. CHILDRESS: With that, we have a
15 little bit more time. If everybody could be
16 patient, we'll go ahead and run through the agenda
17 items before we adjourn.
18 MR. POPP: We have, I guess, two other --
19 well, the next meeting. I guess the next topic is
20 the future meeting topics. This will certainly help
21 the chair and the vice chair help put the agenda
22 together. There are a listing of -- how many have
23 we got here? -- nine things that have been suggested
24 by Bill. Are any of these of interest that we can
25 start putting together an agenda for next time?

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1 MR. BARTOO: How many can we put on your
2 agenda?
3 MR. POPP: We're going to have --
4 MR. CHILDRESS: Well, if this works for
5 everybody, we can still work with the 9:00 to 4:00,
6 do it one day, four times a year, if that works for
7 you. I think we can cover quite a few of these
8 agendas. There's a couple of things that aren't on
9 here. Timingwise, we may have one or more of these
10 plans that's ready to hit the street. You can talk
11 about that. We really would like to tackle the rec
12 fee topic. And that's one of the requirements that
13 we need to go through before we revise our fee
14 structure, and we'd like to have that on the agenda
15 at a minimum.
16 MR. POPP: My preference is, because of
17 some of the groups I represent, I would like to have
18 the access question discussed. That's a long and
19 drawn-out situation, so we'll probably visit that
20 quite a few times. I'm just expressing my interest.
21 Bill wants the fees done. I have an interest in
22 access to public lands. What we can do, we may have
23 interest in all of these things, and it's just kind
24 of a priority that -- you know, what priority we put
25 them in.

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1 MR. BARTOO: I think you have short-term
2 needs and long-term needs. I think short term, my
3 preference is that of illegal dumping. We have a
4 problem with that right now.
5 MR. MAGEE: Another comment I would have,
6 is there some action going to be taken by BLM that
7 needs our -- you mentioned the RMP as one. I'd hate
8 for someone's action to be taken and it wasn't on
9 our agenda before the next meeting.
10 MR. BARTOO: We've been working on it two
11 and a half years. I thought we had lots of time on
12 it. I apologize for that.
13 MR. CHILDRESS: That's okay. There's a
14 couple of choices here. You can make some
15 selections and, of course, we could E-mail you well
16 in advance of the next meeting and let you know of
17 other things that might pop up that we can't think
18 of right now, or that you guys haven't thought of
19 that you might want to talk about. We don't have to
20 absolutely settle on it. If you're comfortable with
21 that 9:00-to-4:00 time period, I think we can cover
22 some ground. I really do believe we can. So if you
23 want to pick a few, illegal dumping, RMP access, rec
24 fees, that's a good start.
25 MR. WALSH: I'd really like to talk about

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1 Restore New Mexico, too. It's a fascinating program
2 what you've done and the cooperation you've had with
3 other agencies. But I think we can expand on that,
4 and I'd like to have us learn more about that.
5 MR. POPP: We can have informational --
6 probably the next meeting will be mostly
7 informational, background information, and so forth.
8 MR. BARTOO: I think maybe some time needs
9 to be left open for any topic that advises at the
10 time.
11 MR. POPP: Sure. We can start talking
12 about how everybody feels about these things. I
13 think there are some background things we need to
14 know about these. But on the other hand, there's
15 probably proposals that have come up and we can get
16 the staff to tell us what those proposals are. We
17 can immediately kind of look at them and get some
18 reaction to them. Probably the best way this
19 committee is going to work, however, is that you get
20 this information, we have a charge for the next
21 meeting, and we go away and get something done maybe
22 with those three-member committees, or whatever, the
23 subcommittees to do work while they're not meeting,
24 and come back with a proposal, or maybe even send it
25 to the group in between.

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1 The reason the RAC -- historically from my
2 perspective and what I heard, RACs didn't get a lot
3 done, and people just came to the meeting, listened
4 to everything, had a little work session, tried to
5 put something together, went home, didn't think
6 about it until the next meeting, got here, Oh, what
7 did we do? What did we do? It was only when people
8 did some work in between these committees that it
9 ended up being worthwhile. So that's, I think, what
10 we're going to have.
11 I guess what I'd like to do is, if we talk
12 about these, maybe we can send some background
13 information out before the next meeting, have a
14 little homework, we have some presentations and talk
15 about.
16 We've got Restore New Mexico access, resource
17 plan updates, recreation fees, trash dumps. With
18 Restore New Mexico, we probably will talk about fire
19 and prescription fire somewhere along the line. I
20 don't know what status the off-highway-vehicle use
21 plan is in the district.
22 MR. CHILDRESS: We can roll that into some
23 RMP discussions, or we can have stand-alone on that
24 as well, give you an update of what the designations
25 are as they stand and where we're headed.

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1 Did I hear somebody right, but would you like
2 to have just a block of time set a side for open
3 discussion.
4 MR. HILLE: I think if you go back to your
5 communities and talk to people, that other things
6 are going to arise that we haven't talked about or
7 thought about, or even the BLM has thought about.
8 MR. CHILDRESS: How much time would you
9 like to have for open discussion?
10 MR. POPP: We might put some time together
11 on each of the topics, and then maybe just regular
12 time. We need a public-comment period, too.
13 MR. CHILDRESS: If you're okay with that,
14 we can do it at 2:30, we could do it in the morning.
15 I wouldn't do it right at the end of the meeting.
16 We can do it late in the morning or late --
17 MR. POPP: Maybe it could be either late
18 morning on early afternoon where we could have a
19 little open thing. That way, maybe some things that
20 came up in our discussions in the morning, we can
21 concentrate on that towards the end and then come up
22 with our topics by the end.
23 MR. BARTOO: Right after lunch or
24 something like that?
25 MR. POPP: Yes.

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1 MR. CHILDRESS: Are you okay with having
2 the public comment period at 2:30?
3 MR. McCORMICK: One of the things we
4 talked a little bit in our preplanning for these
5 would be tourists to go and see some of what you saw
6 in the slide shows, and I'd like to hear a little
7 discussion on that.
8 MR. POPP: That's the next topic. We
9 haven't gotten to that topic.
10 MR. McCORMICK: Sorry. I'm jumping ahead
11 of you.
12 MR. POPP: We've got enough, I think, for
13 a one-day meeting, except now we've got to talk
14 about field trips.
15 MR. GARRETT: You didn't ask if there were
16 other questions. I guess one of the things to me
17 that's really important is land disposal and
18 exchanges. I don't know if you want to just work
19 that in over a number, but certainly that was
20 something that ties into the TriCounty plan. I'd
21 like more background on that and how you're
22 approaching that, what you're doing currently, and
23 so forth.
24 MR. CHILDRESS: Can we categorize that as
25 land tenure adjustments?

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1 MR. GARRETT: Whatever you call it. But
2 basically, eventually transferring land to other
3 folks.
4 MR. POPP: Any other topic at this point?
5 You've got my E-mail in the list. If anything comes
6 up, E-mail me, call me, whatever. Obviously, Bill
7 will get anything that you need, too. But if you
8 want to send something to me, go ahead and send it.
9 I read my E-mail virtually every day, except when
10 I'm on a deer hunt, or something like that, then I'm
11 not going to look at it.
12 When we were on the State RAC, every time we
13 met, we had a field trip. Now, that meant that
14 basically, it was a three-day meeting, because we
15 went on a trip, like, on a Wednesday, met all day
16 Thursday, met Friday morning, and left by noon on
17 Friday. I don't think that's what we want to do
18 here. So the question is, do you want to just wait
19 in terms of talking about a field trip and not have
20 one next meeting, but maybe we get into some
21 discussions where it might be worthwhile to say,
22 This is the kind of field trip we want and we can do
23 that the next time? We haven't really gotten into
24 big issues right at this point.
25 MR. BARTOO: Just an opinion. I think

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1 you're right. I think this is the first meeting.
2 We'd like to have another meeting, get our feet on
3 the ground and learn a little more, then maybe we'll
4 know where we want to go. We'll have a direction.
5 MR. POPP: Okay. So we'll delay a field
6 trip, not the next meeting, but we'll plan one the
7 following meeting.
8 MR. QUINTANA: The field trip would be
9 combined with meetings and sort of have a two-day
10 meeting?
11 MR. BARTOO: That's to be discussed. It's
12 on the table.
13 MR. POPP: It depends on where we'll be
14 and what we want to look at.
15 MR. HYATT: One thing I'm going to find
16 out when I get back close to any community there is
17 the wind turbines on the Nutt Mountains, that string
18 of land, and then have a wind towers on the horizon
19 down the Gunsight Mountains, and then that's -- I
20 guess there's one test tower out there now. So that
21 could be someday possibly a field trip, because I
22 know I'm going to hear about it when I get it.
23 MR. CHILDRESS: If you wanted to, we do
24 have some good maps of where these proposals are.
25 We can show that to you in a very short time frame,

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1 in the next meeting if you want.
2 MR. QUINTANA: Could you include solar in
3 that, too?
4 MR. CHILDRESS: Yes. Solar, wind, and we
5 can give you an overview of Sunzia and Southline.
6 MR. POPP: There were some questions as we
7 went through here that I'll tell you right now, I've
8 done some work with Sunzia, and I do some Copper
9 Flats work, not in terms of any kind of policy
10 stuff, but I'm doing some things for them. So I'll
11 just say that right out.
12 There are some questions I had in terms of
13 these solar zones and everything that I'm not
14 perfectly familiar with, and maybe what I'll do is,
15 I'll kind of put a little list together, because
16 that was something -- and that goes right to what
17 you were talking about -- and maybe we can just put
18 a little packet together. If we don't talk about it
19 next time, we've got the information for the
20 following time.
21 MR. EASTEP: What's the timing on -- I
22 thought I heard Lori say on the Trackways National
23 Monument. Would that be the first quarter next
24 year?
25 MR. CHILDRESS: Maybe as early as

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1 February.
2 MR. EASTEP: I guess thinking about timing
3 on that.
4 MR. POPP: That's when it would come out?
5 MR. CHILDRESS: That's when it would come
6 out.
7 MR. EASTEP: And then there would be a
8 90-day comment period.
9 MR. CHILDRESS: Then we'll have public
10 meetings, which I'm hoping -- as we have public
11 meetings on the EISs, RMPs, major efforts, major
12 EAs, we're going to get it out to you to let you
13 know and see if you want to come to the meeting, and
14 then we'd go along the crowd that may have some
15 questions on what we're proposing to do. I think it
16 would be good, I really do. It's a party role. It
17 would be in a conduit with your constituents, the
18 people that you work with that have your interests,
19 similar interests, and making sure that gets
20 conveyed to us as well.
21 If I may, Mr. Chairman, I would like to
22 recommend that we have four meetings. We have our
23 next meeting in January, the meeting after that, in
24 April, and one meeting after that in July. So we
25 have a January, April, July, and we go back to

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1 October for the first meeting in the next fiscal
2 year, if that's acceptable to you folks.
3 MR. POPP: We have -- and I know nobody
4 knows what their calendar is like. We are on
5 October 20 right now. Is this Thursday a good day?
6 MR. GARRETT: Not for me.
7 MR. POPP: Is there any better day?
8 MR. GARRETT: Wednesday.
9 MR. POPP: Wednesday. Is Wednesday a
10 problem for anybody?
11 MR. WALSH: I have a problem with the
12 third Wednesday, but other than that, no.
13 MR. POPP: That's the 18th. You want to
14 do it early in January or later in January? We can
15 do Wednesdays if those are better days, except for
16 the 18th. We can go to 11th or the 25th.
17 MR. BARTOO: 25th on my side.
18 MR. CHILDRESS: Let's shoot for January
19 25.
20 MR. POPP: January 25. Let's shoot for
21 January 25. So as time goes on -- how soon do you
22 guys put out the public notice, by when?
23 MS. GUTIÉRREZ: 15 days' notice.
24 MR. POPP: In the first week in January,
25 you have to have it out.

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<p>1 MS. GUTIÉRREZ: Yes. I need it in 2 January, and all that. 3 MR. POPP: As December gets close, if 4 anybody has any problems, let's remember to send a 5 note out to everybody that we're going to do it on 6 the 25th. We'll send a note out early in December, 7 the first week in December. If people have problems 8 with the 25th, we'll know right then, and see if we 9 can change it before the public notice goes out, 10 because if we have to put it in the Public Register. 11 MR. CHILDRESS: Do you want to look at 12 April? Is that too far? 13 MR. POPP: That's probably too far. 14 MR. CHILDRESS: Keep in mind, we're 15 looking at April, July, and then back to September. 16 MR. POPP: Yeah. We may have to adjust if 17 we're going to have a field trip and they need a day 18 and a half. We can talk about that. We're probably 19 talking about 13th, 14th of April, somewhere in 20 there. Certainly, we don't want to do it on the 21 15th, because that will be the start of turkey 22 season, but that's okay. 23 MR. BARTOO: Right before tax day. 24 MR. POPP: Income tax day. So we're 25 looking somewhere in there. But we'll probably have</p>	<p>1 would like to thank the staff, Bill and everybody 2 else -- Rena has something. 3 MS. GUTIÉRREZ: Just a couple of 4 administrative-type things. I'm going to order name 5 plates, so I need the name you want to use. Okay? 6 I've got Tony, I've got Tim. So if you have any 7 changes, let me know. 8 The other thing that I wanted to mention was 9 that we had you fill out a GovTrip form, and you all 10 filled one out. I need to get a couple of more 11 people to get that input. And the rules are, you're 12 governed by our rules. And what it is, you have to 13 be in travel status 13 hours before you can get 14 reimbursed for your meals. You have to travel 15 50 miles one way to get reimbursed for mileage. But 16 the reason I'm wanting all of you to do this is, 17 there may be situations where you may travel 18 further, you may have the meeting someplace else. 19 So I think Mr. Boykin, Mr. Hille, I believe you two 20 are the only ones that I don't have it for. Tim, I 21 know -- it's up to you. You do have a choice. You 22 don't have to fill out the form. 23 MR. POPP: I think for most of us, we're 24 not going to be doing any of that except if we go on 25 field trips. And then if we take private cars and</p>
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<p>1 a field trip someplace. We'll all work with Bill to 2 put an agenda together, send out a tentative agenda 3 to you all, hopefully maybe get some information for 4 some other things. 5 MR. CHILDRESS: Any E-mails to me, if you 6 could cc Rena as well, I'd appreciate it. That way, 7 if I'm gone, and there's some kind of organizational 8 thing, have a question about this or that, she might 9 be able to run it down for you. 10 MR. WALSH: We're talking 9:00 to 4:00 11 right here? 12 MR. CHILDRESS: Yes, if this works for 13 everybody. 14 MR. HILLE: I'd like to direct a question 15 to a BLM employee, I don't know which one, and the 16 lands, probably. Has it been determined whether 17 it's going to be an EA or an EIS on the southern 18 road from the spaceport? 19 MR. CHILDRESS: For the spaceport. 20 MR. HILLE: The southern road and route. 21 MR. CHILDRESS: Yes, we're looking hard at 22 being able to do it at the environmental assessment 23 level. 24 MR. POPP: Any other comments, business, 25 by the committee? I guess, as the new chairman, I</p>	<p>1 go there, then that might apply. 2 MS. GUTIÉRREZ: So it's to your benefit 3 that we just have the information in our system. I 4 think that's all I have. 5 MR. POPP: Anything else? I will go on to 6 say again that I thank Bill for putting this 7 together. I thank him for the opportunity for being 8 on another RAC. And I want to think all the staff 9 people who have made presentations today. It's very 10 informative and started us out in the right 11 direction, and I think identified some areas where 12 we can be of some help. Bill, do you want to make 13 any other comments? 14 MR. CHILDRESS: No. I really do 15 appreciate all of your participation. I hope that 16 we can fill the other alternate role and the 17 alternates. I really would like the alternates to 18 be able to make the meetings as well to keep in the 19 flow of things and be there to step in when 20 necessary to make sure we have a quorum. I would 21 greatly appreciate it. I thank you guys very much 22 for your time, and thanks to all the staff for all 23 your hard work. 24 MR. POPP: Do I have a motion for 25 adjournment?</p>

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1 MR. BARTOO: Motion to adjourn.
2 MR. POPP: Do I hear a second?
3 MR. QUINTANA: Second.
4 MR. POPP: All those in favor? We're
5 done.
6 (The proceedings concluded at 3:40 p.m.)
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3
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