



Twin Falls District  
Resource Advisory Council



**MEETING MINUTES**

01/24/2018

**Resource Advisory Council (RAC) members present:**

***Category One – Commodity Interest***

- Richard Austin
- Mike Henslee
- Greg Moore
- Brett Meyer
- James Wills

***Category Two – Non-Commodity Interest***

- Shell Howard
- Shauna Robinson
- Brad Ford
- LaMar Orton

***Category Three – Public Interest***

- Joseph Hawkins
- Tom Courtney
- Charles Howell
- Michelle Richman
- Hunter Osborne

***Quorum Present:***  Yes  No

***Bureau of Land Management (BLM) representatives present:***

Michael Courtney - District Manager  
Kelsey Brizendine – District Fire Information Officer  
Ken Crane - Burley Field Manager  
Jeff Ross - Jarbidge Assistant Field Manager  
Codie Martin - Shoshone Field Manager  
Curtis Jensen - Supervisory Fire Management Specialist (Dispatch)  
John Kurtz – Shoshone Outdoor Recreation Planner  
Eric Kriwox – Shoshone Rangeland Management Specialist  
Rosemary Crawford - Burley Administrative Assistant Trainee

**Public Attendees: None**

*Note to readers: A copy of each handout listed in the text of, or at the end of these minutes, is on file with the official copy of the minutes in the BLM Burley Field Office. Persons desiring to view handouts should contact Rosemary Crawford at (208) 677-6600, or by email at [rcrawford@blm.gov](mailto:rcrawford@blm.gov).*

*Copies of certified minutes are posted on the Idaho BLM website at: <https://www.blm.gov/get-involved/resource-advisory-council/near-you/Idaho/twin-falls-district-RAC>*

**Item I: Welcome and Introductions**

Mike Courtney welcomed all in attendance to the meeting, and introduced Kelsey Brizendine and Eric Kriwox. Kelsey is the District Fire Information Officer, and will be filling in for Heather Tiel-Nelson who is on a detail assignment at the State office. Eric is a Rangeland Management Specialist who is working on a detail assignment at the Shoshone Field Office.

**Item II: Cedar Fields Environmental Impact Statement**

This item was removed from the agenda by Mike Courtney, and will be revisited at the next meeting when there is new information to provide.

**Item III: Outcome Based Grazing overview – Mike Courtney**

District Manager Mike Courtney gave a PowerPoint presentation on the BLM's shift from highly structured grazing permits to outcome based grazing, and how this approach focuses on maintaining access to healthy public lands. He used the example of the Burley Landscape Sagebrush Restoration project, in which machine mastication has been used to treat 26,000 acres of encroaching juniper since 2011. Mastication has been more effective in the re-growth of native grasses than prescribed burns.

Mike explained that permit renewal can be a lengthy process, and outcome-based grazing alternatives can help expedite the permit renewal process. As an example, he used the Burley Field Office Berger area allotments. These permits were recently renewed as yearlong instead of seasonal. Grazing will not be allowed all year, but BLM staff will have the ability to make scheduling adjustments in case of fire. In the Jim Sage area, four allotments were combined to create one large allotment. In doing this, the permittees will have more grazing options if fire were to affect a portion of the area. Another approach in outcome based grazing includes adding linear fuel breaks to the landscape to help stop the spread of wildfires. A video was shown that demonstrated the successful use of a fuel break that helped to contain the 2017 Centennial fire west of Twin Falls. RAC member Tom Courtney commented that the public would be impressed to know the extent of work performed by the BLM to protect public lands.

Kelsey Brizendine informed the committee that the BLM videos viewed during the presentation are available on all BLM's social media websites, including Facebook and YouTube. She stated that public awareness is a high priority, but that it is challenging to find the right avenue to reach the most people.

#### **Item IV: Jarbidge Field Office Update – Jeff Ross**

Jeff gave an overview of the renewal process of 93 allotments underway in the Jarbidge Field Office. Office staff have been working on these renewals for several years. The allotments have been divided into 4 sub-groups. The fieldwork for all sub-groups have been completed, and the office is currently in the NEPA process for Group 1 and writing Rangeland Health Assessments for Group 2.

He gave a litigation update on the 2015 Jarbidge RMP's prescribed wild horse management for the Saylor Creek Herd Management Area. The plan's proposal to create a non-reproducing Saylor Creek herd was challenged in court, and the case has been remanded to the BLM for further analysis. In the interim, the wild horse provisions from the old RMP (1987) still stand. Mike Courtney added that the BLM spends close to 50 million dollars per year maintaining wild horses.

The Bruneau canyon overlook improvement project completed phase one in November 2016, and held a grand opening in June 2017. The second phase of the project is not yet fully funded and includes the installation of a railing, developed trails, and additional interpretation. Phase two is set to begin in 2020.

Jeff gave an overview of the Jarbidge office's most recent FOIA requests. Strict deadlines interrupt the flow of work, but he feels his office is improving on this process with the increased use of electronic records.

#### **Item V: Wood River Travel Management Plan – John Kurtz**

John gave a refresher of the area that comprises the Wood River Valley. The City of Hailey and the Blaine County Recreation District will be cooperating agencies with the BLM through the travel planning process. John explained that these partners will have a key role in providing insight into the community. The field office staff is working on an adaptive management approach, and want to be sure that the final implementation makes sense to the public. A staff meeting was held two weeks ago to acknowledge all the public comments received concerning the Wood River Travel Management Plan.

Some common themes of the public comments were the desire for more non-motorized trails, and strong desire to not have motorized trails in the Indian Creek area. There is concern over access to Colorado Gulch road since the damaged bridge has yet to be replaced. Another point of concern came from two hunters who do not want to see road closures restrict hunting activities. Codie Martin said he would like the RAC to consider the idea of implementing seasonal motorized restrictions as needed, depending on weather, animal conditions and road conditions.

John then spoke of the Quigley annexation, east of the City of Hailey. The Blaine County Recreation District was given some property in this, and will build mountain bike trails and winter nordic trails that they wish to tie into BLM trails.

John ended by explaining the future plans to work with RAC subcommittee on the travel management plan. The BLM will provide the subcommittee with the differences in alternatives in order to make a good, thorough recommendation. He directed the committee to use the map page under the Wood River Valley Travel Management Plan on the BLM eplanning website to become familiar with the area and options. He suggested a subcommittee meeting date of April 5<sup>th</sup> to review the alternative plans, and a full RAC meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Item VI: Shoshone Field Office Update - Codie Martin**

Codie explained that the Idaho Department of Water Resources uses three sites within the Shoshone Field Office for aquifer recharge, and is now looking at five additional sites. The BLM has formed a MOU with the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) that will hire a contractor in February to perform NEPA analysis for these sites.

There has been a change in the plan to transfer ownership of the Lincoln County Waste Transfer Station back to Lincoln County. The BLM's Washington Office Solicitors have informed the field office that land potentially containing hazardous materials cannot be transferred with an R&PP. To follow this guidance, a three acre piece of the property will have to be disposed of through a direct sale to Lincoln County. The remaining 17 acres will be included in the R&PP and patented to Lincoln County.

Codie then spoke on the Jerome county R&PP which will provide convenient access points across State lands to the Snake River Canyon Park. Three easements from Idaho Department of Lands to the BLM have been proposed. The third easement is currently under reconsideration by the BLM due to cultural resource issues. BLM will let Jerome County manage the right of ways once selected. The Snake River Canyon board is interested in building a shooting range, however, designated shooting ranges are not permitted on BLM land. The board will have to look into other options and address safety concerns.

Four commercial fly fishing outfitters have requested authorization to conduct guided fishing tours on the Magic Reservoir and parts of Big Wood, and Little Wood Rivers. The discovery of a Yellow-billed cuckoo in the area below Magic Reservoir has prompted BLM to initiate an informal section 7 ESA consultation with the US fish and Wildlife Service. The fly fishing outfitters will most likely still be allowed, but must receive training and education on conservation efforts in the area.

The Sun Valley Company, a joint permit holder on the Bald Mountain Ski Area has proposed a replacement of the Cold Springs chairlift, along with the creation of additional ski terrain, and re-routing of the Cold Springs Mountain biking trail. Scoping for this project was initiated in May of 2017.

The Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve Management Plan Amendment was published in the Federal Register on January 4, 2018.

### **Item VII: Burley Field Office Update – Ken Crane**

Ken has been meeting with a Power County subcommittee for the last three weeks to discuss the Cedar Fields Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Staff changes have led the county to ask for more time and information on the EIS in order to make a well-informed decision. The county is interested in creating an ordinance that would allow sheriffs to enforce BLM travel plan restrictions on public lands. Locals have a strong interest in the maintaining motorized recreation in order to limit impacts to neighboring private lands that would occur with additional closures. Commissioners are also concerned the growth of OHV activity will soon result in motorized vehicle accidents in the area due to crowding and lack of controls. The county anticipates having a written response to BLM early February.

The Goose Creek Flood Control District submitted their final proposal in late October 2017 to construct three trenches to improve management of flood waters. The EA is close to completion and Ken anticipates issuing a new ROW for all trenches in the next month.

In December the renewed Berger RCA grazing permits were appealed with a petition to stay the decisions. The BLM submitted a timely motion of opposition to the stay. The Office of Hearings and Appeals has until February to respond to the appellants request for stay which may affect the ability to implement the decision prior to March 1, the start of the new gazing year.

### **Item VIII: Poster Presentation –**

The members scheduled to give poster presentations were not in attendance.

### **Item IX: Run Card Training Exercise – Curtis Jensen**

The committee toured the South Central Idaho Interagency Dispatch Center with Curtis Jensen, Dispatch Center Manager, as their guide. He demonstrated different fire scenarios, and how the agency might respond depending on the location and resources available. A run card is a term used to describe resources that are selected for initial response to a fire depending on location, weather and conditions. The dispatch center is open 15 hours a day during fire season, switching to 24 when fires are actively burning. Curtis explained how the relationship between dispatch and the Great Basin Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC), cooperators, and neighboring dispatch centers plays an important role in providing firefighting support to our district when needed.

### **Item X: Other Business**

The next subcommittee meeting has been tentatively set for April 5, 2018  
The next full RAC meeting has been tentatively set for April 6, 2018, however this date may change due to new members and requirements.



**Handouts Provided:**

- 1- Burley Field Office Update for TF District BLM RAC (1p)
- 2- Shoshone Field Office Update for TF District BLM RAC (3pp)
- 3- Jarbidge Field Office Update for TF District BLM RAC (2pp)
- 4- Wood River Travel Mgt Plan Subcommittee Workshop Tentative Agenda (2pp)

Minutes certified by:

Michelle Richman (member)  
James Wills, TFD RAC Chairman

3/8/18  
Date

Michael Courtney  
Michael Courtney, TFD Manager

3/12/2018  
Date

Minutes recorded by:

Rosemary Crawford, Burley Field Office Administrative Assistant Trainee