

**Carrizo Plain National Monument Advisory Committee (MAC)**  
**December 1, 2012**  
**Carissa Plains School**

**ATTENDEES**

**BLM:** Tim Smith, Johna Hurl, Kathy Sharum, John Kelley, David Christy

**MAC:** Ellen Cypher, Ray Hatch, Carl Twisselman, Craig Deutsche, Dale Kuhnle, Jim Patterson

**Public:** Phil Compton, Fred Collins, Cal French, Roger Gambs, Steph Wald, Pat Vessart, Terry Frewin, Lodema Hatch

Field Manager's Report

Tim Smith, Bakersfield Field Office Manager, gave a summary of national and state issues:

- Interior Secretary Salazar will remain in office for now.
- Mike Pool, BLM director, will remain through the transition to a new director.
- Jim Kenna will remain as California state director.
- BLM is operating under a continuing resolution for the first six months of the fiscal year.
- BLM is in the process of resolving protests on the Bakersfield Resource Management Plan and is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on a Biological Opinion. He hopes to have the Record of Decision signed in late winter or early spring.
- The Carrizo RMP ROD was signed April 10, 2010. Bakersfield is finishing its second RMP in 5 ½ years. RMPs can take up to 10 years to finalize.

Jim Patterson asked how the continuing resolution affects project implementation. Tim Smith said BLM is continuing work on existing projects, but is not starting new projects. He has asked staff to be conservative in spending in case there are budget cuts.

Election of Officers

Ray Hatch was elected MAC chair and Carl Twisselman was elected vice chair.

Monument Manager's Report

Johna Hurl reported on accomplishments (see slide show).

Craig Deutsche asked if there had been surveys of native plants recently. Johna Hurl said there is ongoing vegetation monitoring.

Tim Smith said the Carrizo Supplemental Rules are being reviewed by the Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals, but he doesn't have an approval date.

Travel Management Plan

(Included in slide show)

Craig Deutsche said the Travel Management Plan should include an educational component beyond train signs.

Johna Hurl said BLM will freeze the map layer on January 8. BLM needs to be told before then if there are missing routes. The proposed plan follows the RMP and just provides greater detail. Actual work will go through the usual budget priority process. BLM expects to start the official public process in late spring and may hold another informal public meeting before then.

#### Next meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled when the alternatives in the Travel Management Plan are ready for review.

#### Public Comment

Cal French said the Travel Management Plan should consider hiking routes across the monument. It's difficult to tell in some areas which land is public and which is private. He isn't proposing a trail, but a route with GPS points.

Phil Compton said he is concerned about areas vulnerable to damage. Saucito Rocks has unique geology, rock art and raptor nests. He is seeing some human-caused damage there.

Craig Deutsche said he is concerned there is no BLM staff on some days. BLM should stagger work schedules so someone is available on weekends.