

**Eastern Washington Resource Advisory Council Meeting
Moses Lake, WA
September 17, 2012**

<p>Members Present (interest/term expiration):</p> <p><u>Designated Federal Official (DFO):</u> Daniel C. Picard, BLM Spokane District Manager</p> <p><u>Sub-Group 1:</u> Norris Boyd (Commercial Recreation/OHV/2014) Thomas Busker (Transportation/Rights-of-way/2014) Jodie Lamb (Energy/Mineral/2014)</p> <p><u>Sub-Group 2:</u> Richard O'Dell (Conservation/2014)</p> <p><u>Sub-Group 3:</u> Dennis Bly (Elected Official/2012) Donald Larsen (State Employee/2012) B. J. Kieffer (Indian Tribe/2012)</p> <p>Members Not Present (interest/term expiration):</p> <p><u>Sub-Group 1 :</u> David Hubbard (Grazing/2014)</p> <p><u>Sub-Group 2:</u> Charles Warner (Environmental/2014)(Chair) Ivan Lines (Environmental/2014) Dale Warriner (Dispersed Recreation/2012)</p> <p><u>Sub-Group 3:</u> Dr. Ross Black (Academician/2014) Sharon Vore (Public at Large/2012)</p>	<p>Others in Attendance</p> <p><u>BLM</u> Allison C. Clough, Associate District Manager Linda Clark, Border Field Manager Scott Pavey, RAC Coordinator Robert St. Clair, Meeting Recorder</p> <p><u>Forest Service</u> Margaret Hartzell, Planner, Okanogan-Wenatchee NF</p> <p><u>Public</u> N/A</p>
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Agenda

<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Responsible Party</u>
10:00 – 10:05	Call to Order and welcome	Daniel Picard
10:05 – 10:20	Introductions	Daniel Picard
10:20 – 10:30	Public Comments	Daniel Picard
10:30 – 10:40	Review and approval of May 23, 2012 meeting minutes	Robert St. Clair
10:40 – 12:00	BLM RMP - Preferred Alternative Criteria	Scott Pavey
12:00 – 12:30	Lunch	
12:30 – 3:30	Colville NF Forest Plan Revision	Margaret Hartzel
3:30 – 3:45	RAC Application Status	Robert St. Clair
3:45 – 4:00	Meeting wrap up	Scott Pavey
4:00	Adjourn	

Welcome/Introduction (10:10am)

The meeting was called to order by Daniel C. Picard (Designated Federal Officer) at 10:10 a.m. at the Washington State Potato Commission, 108 Interlake Rd, Moses Lake, Washington. A quorum was not present.

All in attendance introduced themselves.

Public Comment Period (10:15am)

No members of the public were present.

Review of May 23, 2012 Minutes (10:15am)

Jodie Lamb inquired about the letter of endorsement that was discussed during the March 7th meeting. Scott Pavey replied that the letter had not been completed, however the BLM Washington Office has granted approval for the RMP extension.

BLM RMP – Preferred Alternative Criteria (10:20am)

Scott Pavey gave an overview of the criteria for selecting the preferred alternative in the Resource Management Plan. This included the requirements described in the Land Use Planning Handbook, a description of RMP allocations and actions, and planning issues being addressed by the RMP.

Dennis Bly asked when the draft RMP would be available to the public. Mr. Pavey replied that the draft is expected to be released in the spring of 2013 and that the RAC would have the opportunity to review the document.

Norris Boyd asked about the science used in the BLM's decision making process and how the science integrates with planning issues. Mr. Pavey replied that the BLM is legally required to use the best available peer reviewed research that applies to the identified issues when analyzing the impacts of proposed actions.

Mr. Pavey continued by describing the process by which the BLM identified the issues to be addressed by the RMP revision. It was explained that Spokane District employees initially identified planning issues prior to the scoping period in 2010 and then made revisions based on received input. The primary issues identified included the balancing of land uses and mixed ownership patterns, changes to the Spokane District since the previous RMP, and energy development potential on BLM lands.

The RAC then began a brainstorming session in order to identify criteria which the BLM should consider when selecting the preferred alternative for the Resource Management Plan. RAC members made the following suggestions:

1. Providing opportunities for grazing on Federal public land with an emphasis on grazing in areas that are lower quality habitats for sensitive species.
2. That the BLM will ensure that proposed uses are truly sustainable through providing sufficient resources for monitoring activities. Also that land tenure should adjust to reflect this in regard to small isolated tracts that may be difficult to manage.
3. Reflection of best available science.
4. That energy development is sustainable and economically viable.
5. Provide for the enhancement of aquifers.
6. Provide opportunities for dispersed recreation.
7. Allow for adaptive and flexible restoration based on sound criteria and analysis.

Lunch (12:00pm)

Colville National Forest Plan Update (12:40pm)

Margaret Hartzel of the U.S. Forest Service presented an update of the Forest Plan revision currently underway on the Colville National Forest. The presentation focused on significant planning issues that have been identified through the scoping process. These issues include the following:

1. Old forest management.
 - a. Wildlife concerns.
 - b. Commodity outputs and local economies.
 - c. Risk of wildfire.
2. Motorized recreation
 - a. Location and available of opportunities.
 - b. Recovery and viability of wildlife species which are sensitive to motorized recreation.
 - c. Contribution of motorized recreation to local economies.
3. Road density.
 - a. Desired level of access.
 - b. Resource impacts.
4. Preliminary administratively recommended wilderness.
 - a. More or less area designated as wilderness.
 - b. Management of recommended wilderness.
5. Livestock grazing.
 - a. Social and economic values.
6. Wildlife.
 - a. Habitat connectivity for wildlife.
 - b. Supply of harvestable firewood.
7. Riparian and aquatic resource management.
 - a. Effectiveness of RMA widths.
 - b. Motorized trails and road impacts.
 - c. Livestock grazing.

Ms. Hartzel then invited members of the RAC to select which of the issues presented should be discussed in more detail at the next RAC meeting. The issues selected were old forest management, motorized recreation, and riparian and aquatic resource management. Ms. Hartzel then discussed the upcoming steps and anticipated timeline for the Forest Plan revision process. She also stated that Laura Jo West, Colville National Forest Supervisor, is interested in engaging the RAC on issues beyond the Forest Plan.

Meeting Wrap Up (2:25pm)

Scott Pavey asked for members of the RAC vote on the previously discussed items for the BLM to take into consideration when developing criteria for selecting the preferred alternative. After some discussion several RAC members expressed concern that they did not support all of the suggestions, and also that the suggestions did not constitute an all-inclusive list. Since a quorum was not present, even with a vote, there could be no formal recommendation to the BLM.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50pm. The date and time of the next meeting is to be determined.