

**BLM Utah Resource Advisory Council**  
**Conference Call Meeting Minutes**  
**Nov. 9-10, 2020**

**Meeting attendees**

Utah Resource Advisory Council (RAC) members: Chad Baker, Joan Hayes, Callee Butcher, Clif Koontz, Jay Tanner, Rick Draney, Michael Small, Troy Forrest, Tom Adams, Ralph Bohn, Tyler Thompson, Bill Cox, Frank White, and Mike Worthen.

BLM employees: Greg Sheehan, Lola Bird, Rachel Wootton, Gloria Tibbets, Lance Porter, Gary Torres, Harry Barber, Abbie Jossie, Josh Tibbetts, Gloria Tibbetts, Mike Gates, Hannah Lenkowski, Jessica Wade, JuLee Palette, Todd Marks, and Christina Price.

Forest Service employees: Christopher Nichols, Zachary Lowe, Brian Murdock, Bill Broadbear, and Lorie Price.

Members of the public: Lionel Trepanier, Rachel Mitchell, Neal Clark, Andrew Orlemann, Carolyn Phippen, Dr. Andrew Eatchel, Carolyn Dennis, and Michelle Markel.

**BLM Utah Updates and Priorities for Fiscal Year 2021**

Presenter: Greg Sheehan, State Director

- Your service on the RAC helps me in my role as State Director. I value the input of the RAC.
- I served as Division Director of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources where I worked with regional advisory councils.
- I also worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington DC and am now back in Utah with the BLM.
- Use of BLM lands has increased this year. High volumes of visitors bring issues with trash and other impacts to public lands.
- We need to be strategic about accommodating recreating visitors and identify and address areas for people to recreate.
- Some areas need a fee to help cover costs of maintenance.
- The BLM is a multiple use agency. One of our mandates is energy which includes oil, gas, coal, solar, wind, and geothermal. Energy will continue to be a topic of discussion
- Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) are in progress for the following projects: Northern Corridor, Lake Powell Pipeline, and Pine Valley Water Pipeline.
- Additional projects underway include the Utah Test and Training Range land exchange and Dingell Act land transfers and exchanges.
- The Great American Outdoors Act brought some Land and Water Conservation Fund funding that will be used to update facilities where needed.

- Wild horses and burros – BLM Utah gathered approximately 2,000 animals this year and have worked to get animals adopted. An additional gather is coming up.
- We want people who make a living from public lands to continue to prosper.
- I look forward to working with the Utah RAC.
- The BLM is doing good work. The BLM lands in this state are a treasure.

## **Overview of BLM Advisory Committees in Utah**

### **San Rafael Swell Recreation Area Advisory Council**

Presenter: Lance Porter

- The San Rafael Swell Recreation Area was Congressionally designated as part of the Dingell Act. It is approximately 217,000 in size.
- The charter for the San Rafael Swell Recreation Area Advisory Council (Council) was signed on Dec. 19, 2019, by Secretary of the Interior, David Bernhardt.
- The Council will advise the agency in future land use planning decisions.
- The Council will provide recommendations regarding outdoor recreation opportunities, projects in the recreation area, and collaboration with local government, communities, Tribes, and the public.
- The council has a total of seven seats; five of the seats are currently filled.
- A Notice of Intent to start plan amendments will be published in 2021. We hope to complete the plan amendments within one year.
- The plan for the Jurassic National Monument will likely be the first plan amendment to be completed.
- The San Rafael Swell management plan needs to be completed by 2024.
- The Green River District saw a dramatic increase in recreation use in 2020.

### RAC member discussion:

- Challenges as a result of increased use - do fees match what is needed? Maintenance is expensive. As fees increase, it will help cover some of those costs. Fee increases can be implemented six months after publication of a notice in the *Federal Register*.
- BLM Utah is encouraging visitors to recreate responsibly with signage, social media, and personal contact. Fees will help provide needed services. We provide dispersed as well as developed opportunities.
- The BLM could take advantage of volunteer-based programs to help increase presence and awareness on public lands. Vernal has many people volunteer on public lands to help with various types of projects.
- Utah State Parks has an off-highway vehicle (OHV) trail host program and an OHV grant program which can include trail work and education.

## Bears Ears National Monument Advisory Committee (MAC)

Presenter: Gary Torres

- Established by Presidential Proclamation 9558, as modified by Presidential Proclamation 9681, to provide for development of a Monument Management Plan and as appropriate, management of the Monument.
- Fifteen-member committee with balanced representation.
- A call for nominations to serve on the committee is currently open.
- The Monument Management Plans were signed on Feb. 6, 2020.
- We work with the state, counties, and user groups to get work done on the ground. The restriction in Indian Creek benefitted raptors in the area.
- Canyon Country has a site steward program where people volunteer to provide information and encourage people to visit with respect.
- We want to provide both dispersed and developed recreation opportunities for the public.

Examples of MAC recommendations on Monument Management Plans:

- Emphasize cultural landscape and develop Cultural Resource Management Plan quickly.
- Work with Tribes to develop interpretation, signage.
- Carefully consider which cultural sites are appropriate for public visitation.
- Clarify language for target shooting.
- Currently working on implementation level plans including travel management and cultural resources.

Examples of MAC recommendations on implementation plans:

- Improve trailhead at House on Fire with developed parking, toilet facilities, picnic tables, etc.
- Develop signage and interpretation to sites with increasing visitation like the Doll House site.

RAC member discussion:

- What has been done to get the word out about shooting restrictions? Shooting restrictions are in place at cultural sites and campgrounds. We are working to get signage installed. The safety of recreating visitors is our priority.
- The BLM and counties work together to patrol public lands.
- Do you think monument boundaries will change with the new administration? If that were to happen, I feel like all the information that we've gathered is going to be relevant. I don't feel like we would be at square one. I think that we are so much better informed about the landscape. I'm optimistic our time and work will have been spent in a good manner.

## Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) Advisory Committee

Presenter: Harry Barber

- When the Monument was reduced, 861,000 acres were taken out of the National Monument and those lands are now managed by the Kanab Field Office.
- The Monument consists of three pieces: Escalante Canyons, Kaiparowitz, and Grand Staircase.
- The Monument Advisory Committee currently has six members. A call for nominations is open and we are hoping to get new members appointed.
- Upcoming projects include travel management and cultural resource plans.
- Visitation increased across the Monument and Kanab Field Office this year.
- Work is taking place on trailheads.
- Multiple groups that volunteer with GSENM on various projects include OHV groups, Back Country Horsemen, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, and Glen Canyon Conservation Association.
- There are currently 14 volunteers participating in the site steward program.
- We are in progress with implementing the Resource Management Plans (RMP).
- Wave lottery for permits – the lottery was shut down for a time during the pandemic but is now back open. The BLM is looking at potential changes in the future.

## Special Recreation Permit Program overview

Presenter: Abbie Jossie

Why we issue Special Recreation Permits (SRP):

- Support recreation planning goals.
- Provide quality recreational experiences and outcomes.
- Manage visitor use and reduce user conflicts.
- Protect natural and cultural resources.
- Provide for public health and safety.
- Get a return for the commercial use of public land.

General Recreation Permit Policy:

- Permits are discretionary actions.
- Must serve the public interest.
- Support recreation planning objectives.
- Are used to manage visitor use, protect resources, and provide for health and safety.

Commercial Use: Recreational use of public land and related waters for business or financial gain. When a person or group makes or attempts to make a profit, the use is considered commercial.

Competitive Use: Any organized event in which two or more contestants compete and where the participants register and/or a predetermined course is designated.

#### Current SRP fees:

- The minimum annual SRP fee is \$115.
- The minimum assigned site fee associated with exclusive commercial use is \$230.
- The “per person per day” fee for competitive events and organized groups is \$6.

#### Appropriate uses of recreation fees:

- Repair, maintenance, and facility enhancement.
- Interpretation, visitor information, visitor service, visitor needs assessments, and signs.
- Habitat restoration and wildlife-dependent recreation.
- Law enforcement related to public use and recreation.
- Direct operating or capital costs associated with the recreation fee program.
- Fee management agreement.

#### Fee waivers:

- Fees may be waived for BLM co-sponsored events only when there is a clear, direct benefit to the public lands.
- The BLM is not able to substitute volunteer work in lieu of SRPs or fees.
- No waivers for Special Areas with Individual SRPs/allocated use.
- No waivers for educational, therapeutic, or fundraising events.

#### Cost recovery:

- Cost recovery is not charged for 50 hours or less of BLM staff time.
- For commercial permits exceeding 50 hours of time, cost recovery fees are charged in addition to the commercial use fees.
- For competitive or organized group permits exceeding 50 hours of time, cost recovery fees are charged unless the use fees are expected to exceed the cost recovery fee.

In 2020, BLM Utah had 1,185 active SRPs (1,044 of which are commercial permits) and 8.3 million visitors which is down approximately 664,000 from 2019. Utah has the most active SRP program in the Bureau.

#### RAC member discussion:

- Why is there an insurance requirement? Need to be covered for potential damage to the land or others who may be affected. This requirement is solid. What are the insurance requirements?
- The BLM is seeing increases in mountain bike races, OHV events, and gatherings. Some don't know that they need a permit. Some don't know they need to charge enough for the event to cover the cost of the insurance policy.
- Suggestion for a website with basic information about SRPs that people can read to help them determine whether they will need a permit.
- In the planning process if a certain number of permits is established for either commercial or personal use, it may require a competitive process for allocation of the limited number of permits.

- SRP holders cannot determine how the fees they pay for permits are spent. District managers and field managers determine how the fees collected in their District will be spent.

Liability insurance requirements for SRPs:

Low Risk: general non-competitive and non-commercial activities, such as group camping, group activities, mounted orienteering, backpacking, or dog trials.

Per occurrence: \$300k; Per annual aggregate: \$600k

Moderate Risk: whitewater boating, horse endurance rides, mountain bike races, rock climbing (with ropes), rodeos, or commercial hunting.

Per occurrence: \$500k; Per annual aggregate: \$1 mil

High Risk: bungee jumping, speed record events, competitive OHV events, unaided rock climbing, heli-skiing, or aerial or aviation-assisted activities.

Per Occurrence: \$1 mil; Per annual aggregate \$2-10 mil

## **2020 Fire Year**

Presenter: Josh Tibbetts

- In response to the pandemic, mitigation plans were developed by each agency and on an interagency basis with agency partners.
- Incident management teams implemented protocols to limit exposure.
- Resource availability was an issue.
- Fire restrictions were put in place during times of high fire danger.
- In fiscal year 2020, 306,613 acres burned statewide. 101,963 acres burned on BLM lands in Utah. A total of 1,477 fires burned across Utah, with 1,091 being human caused. A total of 301 fires burned on BLM lands, with 161 being human caused.
- Fuels management: in fiscal year 2020, a total of 111,327 acres were treated. Cumulative acres treated since 2001 is 1,269,808 acres statewide. A total of 31 wildfires intersected with BLM fuels treatments this year. We work closely with Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative to get fuels treatments completed.
- Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation: \$4,513,850 was obligated during 2020.

RAC member discussion:

- Soon after a fire, the burned area is assessed to see if it is a candidate for emergency stabilization and rehabilitation. A plan is developed, and an environmental assessment is conducted.
- Following a fire, it is important for grazers to have fences repaired. Fencing is typically not included in emergency stabilization and rehabilitation funding. The funding may need to come from grazing funds.

## **Public Comment Period**

- No public comments were made during the public comment period that was offered.
- The public comments received via email from Jean Public and Andrew Eatchel were emailed to RAC members for review prior to the meeting and are attached.
- Chad Baker - Thank you to the BLM for being accommodating with offering the Zoom meeting during this current situation.
- Rick Draney – Question regarding Andrew Eatchel's comments expressing some difficulties accessing either the website or certain links to find information or to share comments. We will follow up with Mike Gates so he can be prepared to address that in his presentation.

## **Color Country District Planning Updates**

Presenter: Gloria Tibbets, Planning and Environmental Coordinator

### **Northern Corridor Project**

This is a joint EIS with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

Summary of decisions to be made:

- BLM: Right-of-Way (ROW) application.
- BLM: Red Cliffs National Conservation Area (NCA) RMP amendments allowing for consideration of the ROW.
- FWS: Incidental Take Permit (ITP) application supported by a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).
- BLM: St. George Field Office (SGFO) RMP amendments modifying management of proposed additional Red Cliffs Desert Reserve Zone 6 mitigation area.

For this project, the preferred alternatives would consist of the following:

Red Cliffs NCA amendments: One-time exception to allow for the issuance of a Title V ROW, amend visual resource management along the proposed ROW to Class IV, and amend recreation management zone to rural along the proposed ROW to match other roads in the NCA.

ITP: Issue the ITP based on Washington County's proposed HCP; contains Northern Corridor changed circumstances with conservation measures, including the establishment of Zone 6.

SGFO RMP amendments: Most restrictive for future development/uses (full closures for ROWs, fluid minerals, grazing, etc.) and includes several recreation management actions from the Red Cliffs NCA.

A 90-day public comment period was held from June 12-Sept. 10, 2020.  
A total of 15,466 comments were received, 983 of which were unique.

The Final EIS is scheduled to be released on Nov. 13. This begins a 30-day protest period and 60-day Governor's consistency review. We are working to issue a Record of Decision this winter.

### Pine Valley Water Supply Project

Proposed action alternative: 15 groundwater production wells, eight groundwater monitoring wells, 12 miles of powerline, nine miles of access roads, a 200-acre solar field, an underground storage tank, and 66 miles of water pipeline.

Public scoping took place from July 15-Aug. 19, 2020. A total of 93 comment letters were received with 435 substantive comments.

Resources potentially affected: groundwater and surface water resources, Utah prairie dogs, Greater Sage-Grouse, the Old Spanish Trail, and socioeconomic impacts related to future growth in Iron County, impacts to Beaver County, and impacts to livestock grazing permittees.

We are preparing a draft EIS for release early next year.

RAC member discussion:

- Pine Valley is located in Beaver County.
- Sage-Grouse have not been observed since the 2015 surveys. No potential impacts to grazing. Some water sources could be impacted. The water conservancy district is working with the BLM to identify alternative sources of water.
- The Cedar City Field Office RMP has been on hold for the last few months. We are working through questions received from the Department briefing. There is no specific date for release of the Draft EIS, but we are still actively working on it.

### Fivemile Pass Recreation Area Business Plan

Presenter: Mike Gates, West Desert District Manager

Proposal: Ask the RAC to pass a two-part motion: (1) recognize that the Fivemile Pass fee proposal has general public support and (2) provide a recommendation to the State Director that the BLM adopt the fee proposal, modify the fee proposal, or withdraw the fee proposal.

The Fivemile Pass Recreation Area is proposed to be a Special Area. It is 17,927 acres in size and receives 65,000-70,000 visitors annually. Visitation in 2020 increased dramatically due to people recreating close to home.

Activities that take place in the area: OHV riding, camping, rock crawling, horseback riding, mountain biking, hunting, and group camping.

The current annual operating cost is \$120,000. The total projected annual operating cost moving forward is \$140,000. There are currently no fees being charged in the Fivemile Pass area.



Purpose and need for a recreation fee: manage and protect resources, maintain and upgrade existing facilities, and provide new recreation improvements.

The proposed fee is \$10 per primary vehicle per day which includes overnight camping. The proposed cost for an annual pass is \$80. The annual pass would be good for the Fivemile Pass Recreation Area and Knolls Recreation Area.

The projected annual fee revenue would be \$156,800 with 60 percent fee compliance. Projected annual fee revenue would be \$260,000 with 100 percent fee compliance. There are challenges with fee compliance due to multiple entry points.

Priority future expenditures: annual operations and maintenance, seasonal park ranger, and new recreation developments such as beginner OHV ride areas, group camping areas, equestrian trailhead, access trails, public easements, and road improvements.

A 30-day public comment period was held July-August 2020. A virtual public meeting was held with nine people in attendance. Ten public comments were received on the business plan. Seven were opposed to the fee and wanted to keep the area primitive. Three were supportive of the fee.

RAC member discussion:

- Knolls fee compliance is 90-95 percent. There is only one major access point to the Knolls area. Fivemile Pass has between 12 and 20 access points.
- For those opposed, what were the specific reasons? The majority of those opposed were opposed to fees in general and want to continue with free, dispersed camping. They are frustrated that they already pay money to register recreation vehicles. For this area, funds would come back to the site where collected.
- What options are there for non-fee areas nearby? There are many options for free camping opportunities in the West Desert District.
- Shooting is limited in areas where there are safety concerns.
- The projected timeframe to go from 20 percent compliance to 60 percent compliance is approximately two years. Compliance increases as we show how the funds are being used.
- OHV grants are eligible for maintenance, some require a match. Some are eligible for law enforcement. It is difficult to compete for grants.
- What do you anticipate for the future? Ten years ago, there was less use and less resource damage. There is proliferation of routes in the Fivemile Pass area. We want to provide a designated trail network and provide for visitor safety. Use in this area is not going to diminish.
- There are no motorized race proposals for the Fivemile Pass area.
- Approximately 80 percent of the Fivemile Pass users camp overnight. All overnight campers are OHV users.
- Could there be an annual pass that would include Little Sahara? Little Sahara is on a different trajectory at this time. That could be looked at in the future.

## **Manti-La Sal National Forest Recreation Fee Proposals**

Presenters: Christopher Nichols Ferron/Price and Zachary Lowe - Moab

### **Ferron/Price and Sanpete Ranger Districts**

- Change per vehicle fee to per site fee. The goal is to establish consistency with fees.
- Increase fees at 22 campgrounds.
- Proposed fees: single use site: \$10, double site: \$15, group site: \$20

Operating costs are \$247,484.95, with \$289,032.09 collected.

A total of five comments were received: one requested further information but did not formally comment, two were not opposed or supportive, and two were completely opposed.

### **Moab and Monticello Ranger Districts**

- Increase fees for individual sites at all campgrounds.
- Establish uniform fees. Increase fees in eight campgrounds for individual sites.
- Increase fees from \$5-\$10 per night to \$10-\$20 per night.

Operating costs are \$111,805.00, with \$72,114.55 collected.

Public outreach: signs were posted in campgrounds, information was posted online, and a news release was distributed.

A total of 11 comments were received: two were supportive, seven supported phasing increases or a smaller increase overall, and two were completely opposed.

### **RAC member discussion:**

- When were the last fee changes? For the south zone, it was between seven and 12 years ago. For the north zone, it was approximately four years ago.
- Employees are focusing on interpretation and education fire prevention messages. Fire pits are maintained by staff. The focus is making these areas safe for fires.
- We are hoping to break even with the updated fee structure. Fees have to be spent on the campground itself.
- We want to use some of the fees to hire additional staff. Some campgrounds have hosts and some do not.
- Removing the per vehicle fee will help with compliance.

## **Lands and Realty Project Updates**

- Land tenure actions include acquisitions, disposals, exchanges, Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act, withdrawals, mineral interests, easements, Recordable Disclaimers of Interest, and administrative jurisdiction changes.
- Ongoing projects: Utah Test and Training Range land exchange and Dingell Act conveyances and land exchange.

- Ongoing proposed right-of-way projects: Northern Transportation Corridor, Lake Powell Pipeline, Uinta Railway project, Pine Valley Pipeline, and Bookcliffs Road.

RAC member discussion:

- Garfield County currently has nine or 10 R&PP applications pending.

### **Public Comment Period**

- No public comments were made during the public comment period that was offered.

### **RAC Member Wrap-up Discussions**

Clif Koontz will serve as the recreation fee coordinator for the RAC.

The target date for the next RAC meeting is March 2, 2021, via Zoom. Potential agenda items include Northern Corridor, Lake Powell Pipeline, Cedar City Field Office RMP, recreation business plans, Dingell act implementation, travel management planning, fuels management, Recreation and Public Purposes Act overview and success stories, Great American Outdoors Act, renewable energy projects, wild horse and burro program, and how climate change is being incorporated into planning efforts and project planning.

The next in-person meeting may be held in Richfield and could include a tour of Axtell wild horse facility.

### **Fivemile Pass Recreation Area Business Plan**

The Salt Lake Field Office proposes to implement a daily fee of \$10 per primary vehicle that includes day use and overnight camping and an \$80 annual pass.

RAC member discussion:

- Would like to see a smaller fee. Could start out with a \$5 fee and increase it later if needed.
- Would like to have a multiple-day pass.
- Funds are necessary to maintain sites.
- Compliance increases over time as the public perceives value.
- The BLM wants to provide quality recreation experiences.
- Use in the Knolls area has increased 100 percent this year.
- Increased use will help cover costs.
- May want to reduce the annual fee cost.
- Would like to see consistency with fees at Knolls.
- The BLM sells approximately 20-30 passes per year at Knolls.
- Would like to see an annual pass that includes Fivemile Pass, Knolls, and Little Sahara.

Clif Koontz made a motion to charge a fee of \$5 per day with no overnight camping and \$80 for an annual pass. Joan Hayes seconded the motion. The motion did not pass.

Category 1 - 1 yes, 4 no

Category 2 - 0 yes, 3 no

Category 3 - 1 yes, 4 no

Tyler Thompson made a motion to charge \$10 for a three-day pass and \$80 for an annual pass. Bill Cox seconded the motion. The motion did not pass.

Category 1 - 1 yes, 4 no

Category 2 - 1 yes, 2 no

Category 3 - 3 yes, 2 no

Jay Tanner made a motion to approve the \$10 fee including overnight camping and \$50 for an annual pass. Tom Adams seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Category 1 - 4 yes, 1 no

Category 2 - 3 yes, 0 no

Category 3 - 4 yes, 1 no

#### Manti-La Sal National Forest Recreation Fee Proposals

The Ferron/Price and Sanpete Ranger Districts propose to increase fees at 22 campgrounds and change the per vehicle fee to a per site fee.

Proposed fees: single use site: \$10, double site: \$15, and group site: \$20

The Moab and Monticello Ranger Districts propose to increase fees at all eight campgrounds for individual sites.

Proposed fees: increase fees from \$5-\$10 per night to \$10-\$20 per night.

RAC member discussion:

- In moving from a per vehicle to a per site fee, is there a limit to the number of vehicles? Vehicles must stay in the footprint of the campsite. Single sites accommodate up to 6 people, double sites 6-12 people, and above 12 is a group site.

Tyler Thompson made a motion to approve the proposals as presented. Bill Cox seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Category 1 - 4 yes, 0 no

Category 2 - 3 yes, 0 no

Category 3 - 5 yes, 0 no



Troy Forrest (Jan 21, 2021 13:10 MST)

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Troy Forrest, Chairperson

**[EXTERNAL] Re: wat is utah state land and what is national land owned by 330,000,000 americans - dont cheat usa**

jean public <jeanpublic1@gmail.com>

Tue 10/6/2020 12:59 PM

To: BLM\_UT\_ExternalAffairs@blm.gov <BLM\_UT\_ExternalAffairs@blm.gov>; Bird, Lola <lbird@blm.gov>; information@sierraclub.org <information@sierraclub.org>; The Pew Charitable Trusts <info@pewtrusts.org>; scoops@huffpost.com <scoops@huffpost.com>; contact@thedodo.com <contact@thedodo.com>; PETA Info <info@peta.org>; madraven@gmail.com <madraven@gmail.com>; kathleen.schatzmann@aldf.org <kathleen.schatzmann@aldf.org>

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public comment on federal register

i would like to know if teleconference is being held or not. you need to make a decision and not keep the public in suspense about meeting facilities. give them time to make plans please and stop making it hard for the public to plan to attend. please decide and send information on call in.

secondly this is national land owned by 333,000,000 americans not local state utah land and there appears to be little appreciationj by this council to understand this is natioinal land, not local state land or prive land or county land or utah land. it is nationalland, and should helkp and benefit everyperson in this nation.

3, it is time to preserve and protect our national land, preserve its trees its nature and its wildlife. our national land is not there to provide free or low cost grazing for local profitters. that is not a benefit for this nation. it brings on climate change, overuse of water, and has many deletrious effects onland. get the damn cattle and grazers off our national land and do it now. keep the land for environmental health. also i am against trapping andhunting on this land. animals should be able to live in peace and tranquility on this land and be protected from perverse, sadistic, killingj murderers with guns and arrows. shut down all logging, grazing, new roads, chemical applications to make the place a chemical hazard site, burning of the nature and trapping. this wholesale killing of the land that all americans own to continue is completely unacceptable.t his commetn is for the public record. please receipt. jean puobliee [jeanpublic1@gmail.com](mailto:jeanpublic1@gmail.com)

On Tue, Oct 6, 2020 at 9:59 AM jean public <[jeanpublic1@gmail.com](mailto:jeanpublic1@gmail.com)> wrote:

[Federal Register Volume 85, Number 194 (Tuesday, October 6, 2020)]  
 [Notices]  
 [Page 63137]  
 From the Federal Register Online via the Government Publishing Office  
[\[www.gpo.gov\]](http://www.gpo.gov)  
 [FR Doc No: 2020-21999]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[20X LLUT912000 L13140000.PP0000]

Notice of Public Meeting, Utah Resource Advisory Council, Utah

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

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SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the Federal Advisory Committee Act, and the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Utah Resource Advisory Council (RAC) will meet as indicated below.

DATES: The Utah RAC is scheduled to meet on Nov. 9-10, 2020. The meeting will take place from 1 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. on Nov. 9, and from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Nov. 10. A virtual meeting platform and/or teleconference may substitute an in-person meeting.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Carbon County Event Center, 450 South Fairgrounds Way, Price, Utah 84501. Written comments to address the Utah RAC may be sent to the BLM Utah State Office, 440 West 200 South, Suite 500, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101, or via email to [BLM\\_UT\\_External\\_Affairs@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_UT_External_Affairs@blm.gov) with the subject line ``Utah RAC Meeting.''

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lola Bird, Public Affairs Specialist, BLM Utah State Office, 440 West 200 South, Suite 500, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101; phone (801) 539-4033; or email [lbird@blm.gov](mailto:lbird@blm.gov). Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at (800) 877-8339 to leave a message or question for the above individual. The FRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Replies are provided during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Utah RAC provides recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, on a variety of public lands issues. Agenda topics will include: BLM Utah updates and priorities for Fiscal Year 2021; overview of BLM advisory committees in Utah and discussion of the Utah Resource Advisory Council's role regarding other advisory committees; Special Recreation Permit Program overview; 2020 fire season; Color Country District planning updates; Fivemile Pass Recreation Area Business Plan; Manti-La Sal National Forest Recreation Fee Proposals; Lands and Realty Program updates; and other issues as appropriate. The final agenda and meeting information

will be posted on the Utah RAC web page 30 days before the meeting at <https://www.blm.gov/get-involved/resource-advisory-council/near-you/utah/RAC>.

The meeting is open to the public; however, transportation, lodging, and meals are the responsibility of the participating individuals. The Utah RAC will offer two 30-minute public comment periods. Depending on the number of people wishing to comment and the time available, the amount of time for individual oral comments may be limited. Written comments may also be sent to the BLM Utah State Office at the address listed in the ADDRESSES section of this notice. All comments received will be provided to the Utah RAC.

Public Disclosure of Comments: Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment--including your personal identifying information--may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Detailed meeting minutes for the Utah RAC meeting will be maintained in the BLM Utah State Office and will be available for public inspection and reproduction during regular business hours within 90 days following the meeting. Minutes will also be posted to the Utah RAC web page.

Authority: 43 CFR 1784.4-2.

Gregory Sheehan,  
State Director.

[FR Doc. 2020-21999 Filed 10-5-20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-DQ-P



**[EXTERNAL] RAC meeting Nov. 9-10**

Andy Eatchel &lt;eatchel@mail.com&gt;

Mon 10/26/2020 12:32 PM

To: Bird, Lola &lt;lbird@blm.gov&gt;

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Attn: Lola Bird

I just learned that the RAC will be meeting on Nov. 9-10, 2020 and that two items on the agenda which are of concern to me will be discussed. I also understand that the meeting will be online. Would you be able to provide me a link or the call-in number (whichever applies) so that I may listen in on the proceedings?

Also, since I in the past, I have had difficulty hearing and being heard when I tried to make a public comment via telecom, I will instead make two brief comments here which I would like to have incorporated into the minutes of the meeting as part of the public record (if possible). I would also like to have these comments forwarded to all members of the RAC so they can consider them in advance of the meeting as I am aware that decisions are always made in advance for the most part.

Sincerely,

Dr. Andrew Eatchel

Salt Lake City, Utah

My comments are as follows:

**Fivemile Pass Recreation Area Business Plan -**

Three documents were made public and comments were solicited through an edocument system. This system was broken and unusable through most of the comment period. Notes appeared on some webpages providing access to the edoc portal stating the BLM was aware of the broken weblinks and that the problem would be fixed shortly. It never was. The documents were moved regularly across the website during the comment period. Following the links from the main page of the BLM Salt Lake Field Office and other field offices took me to a page that listed the documents but provided no working link where I could input a comment. Using extreme web crawling measures, I was able to find a page that did have working links to the edoc portal for the three documents a few days before the final comment period closed. I gave

this link to a couple of friends who also wished to make comments but they said the link I gave them did not work and therefore were not interested in "playing games" and therefore left no remarks. I checked it again and found that the documents had been moved once more to another webpage that was findable only through search techniques that would only be used by someone who knew in advance of the specific contents of the webpage. The new webpage portal seemingly had no connection to the main pages of any Utah BLM field office and were, therefore, basically invisible. I believe this posed an unreasonable hindrance to members of the public and prevented participation in the process.

Of the three documents, one of them was a summary of comments received during the initial scoping. There were problems with the website during the initial scoping as well that prevented me from leaving a comment of my own at that time. Of the many comments that were made, the bulk were not in favor of the proposed "Business Plan." Due to the nature of the comments, the Salt Lake Field Office of the BLM should never have proceeded and things should never have progressed to this point.

This all goes to show that the BLM is not interested in what the public thinks and will do as it wished regardless of public sentiment. I would hope that the RAC would not take the same approach and that the Committee would carefully review the comments made during the initial review before approving the new Plan.

Given the negative public sentiment and the failures (seemingly intentional) of the web-platform, I believe the whole Plan ought to be rejected out of hand and that management of Fivemile Pass ought to continue as it is at present and access to our public lands in the area should remain free.

### **Manti-La Sal National Forest Recreation Fee Proposals -**

The announcement on the Manti-La Sal National Forest website seeking public comments that I saw only gave a couple of phone numbers, as I recall, which the public could use to make verbal comments. I assume that most or nearly all comments would be made verbally over the phone. My question is, how do verbal comments made make it into the public record in a way that would be accessible through FOIA or other records requests? And how accurate would any transcriptions of the conversations be. FS interpretations of the comments cannot be relied upon.

I did eventually find email addresses for the two ranger districts to submit my comments, but here again, it took some work.

To the positive, no new sites were proposed to add new fees to; to the negative, the fees are already too high.



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