

BLM Resource Advisory Council

Final Minutes

August 27-28, 2013

Pocatello, ID

In attendance: Aaron Swift, Ross Goddard, Kevin Poor, Gary Vecellio, Todd Kuck, Joe Kraayenbrink, Linda Price, Dave Pacioretty, Blaine Newman, Jim Mende (IDFG), Scott Johnson, Matt Woodard, Shannon Bassista, Ken Estep, Karen Rice, Sarah Wheeler, Jeremy Casterson, Dana Olson, Marianne Little, John Jakovac, Chad Colter, Dave Pennock.

Round Robin Discussion

Gary Vecellio welcomed everyone to the RAC meeting and thanked everyone for travelling to Pocatello, ID. Roundtable introductions were made by all in attendance. Gary requested that any RAC members willing to help Monica Zimmerman with the Upper Snake travel management plan (TMP) and route designations are encouraged to do so and should contact the Upper Snake field office. Gary reviewed a request from Boise RAC chairman Gene Gray regarding the potential utility for review of Standards and Guidelines for grazing. Gary also read his response to chairman Gray and the assembled RAC agreed that the response was well-reasoned and adequate. Joe Kraayenbrink mentioned that no seasonal hires had been made due to budget cuts.

Public Comments

None

Shannon Bassista – BLM Upper Snake Field Office – Recreation Planner – Birch Creek Campground Fee

- The fee increase has been advertised in the federal register of approximately 1 year. The BLM is asking the RAC for approval to charge for 4 identified group sites to be reserved at the Birch Creek campground. Currently no reservation process is in place. The BLM's proposal is asking for \$35 per night in order to reserve one of the group sites. This fee increase has been brought about due to the large number of calls BLM receives about not being able to reserve the BLM campsites. Birch Creek is a heavily used recreation site used by many recreationists. The reservation administration will be coordinated through the Idaho Falls visitor's center. Scott Johnson asked who manages the site. Shannon Bassista responded that there is a volunteer campground host. Chad Colter asked if cultural resources had been examined. Jeremy Casterson said he would look into the matter with the FO's archeologist. Dave Pennock made a motion that the RAC accepts the proposal of a \$35 per night reservation fee for the Birch Creek campground group sites and that the BLM will close the loop with status of cultural resources and interpretive signs at the recreation site. Ken Estep seconded the motion. The motion was

passed with 1 no vote. Note: The following day Jeremy Casterson briefed the group that an archeological survey was completed for the area and that 5 lithic scatters were identified.

Two of these sites were tested and found to not be eligible. Jeremy committed to placing a sign on the Birch Cr. Campground kiosk regarding laws protecting cultural resources.

Field Office Updates

Dave Pacioretty, Pocatello

- It has been an active fire season for the FO.
- GATEWAY ROD is under review with several alternatives being looked at.
- Curlew/Deep Creek TMP – RAC has formed a Sub-committee for the TMP.

Todd Kuck, Challis

- Several small fires on the Challis BLM, Lodgepole fire on the Forest didn't have much impact on BLM land.
- Draft EIS for Thompson Creek Mine will be release in the Fall/Winter of 2013.
- Monitoring the 85 horses that were adopted by Wild Love. BLM must monitor the health of horses a year after adoption.

Bill Stout – BLM Geologist – Phosphate Mining update

- Bill Stout gave a power point presentation of the ongoing mining practices and facilities in the phosphate patch.
- Largest non-energy leasable program in the BLM
- 83 phosphate leases with 43 thousand acres, approximately 15 thousand acres disturbed.
- 3 active mines including: Simplot – Smokey Canyon, Monsanto – Blackfoot Bridge and South Rasmussen and Agrium – North Rasmussen and Dry Valley Ridge
- 3 new mines site have been proposed.
- Habitat Equivalency Assessment – has been added to the EIS process to help with mitigation factors.

Gateway West Power line Tour

Group toured the proposed site of the new GATEWAY power line corridor. RAC and BLM staffed discussed BLM's preferred alternative as well as phased decisions for the ROD. The group also looked at the some areas on the Curlew/Deep Creeks TMP.s

August 28th, 2013

[Morgan's Bride Land Acquisition and float trip](#)

The group convened at Morgan's Bridge for a float trip down the Blackfoot River. BLM staff discussed with the RAC about the acquisition of 400 acres of private of land in conjunction with The Conservation Fund, BPA, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and IDFG.

The group then enjoyed a float down the Blackfoot river observing the land acquisition and scenery of the Blackfoot River. A big thanks goes out to all who attended and helped coordinate the float! The RAC would also like to thank the outgoing members for their dedication and time.

[Future Meetings](#)

January 21 and 22nd, Idaho Falls, ID – The 21st new member orientation and 22nd all members.