



Twin Falls District Resource Advisory Council



MEETING MINUTES
4/23/2014

Resource Advisory Council (RAC) members present:

Category One – Commodity Interest

- Gerald Orthel
- Mike Henslee
- Daniel Butler
- Jeffrey Williams
- James Wills

Category Two – Non-Commodity Interest

- Dayna Gross
- Shauna Robinson
- Denise Alexander
- Peggy Stanley
- LaMar Orton

Category Three – Public Interest

- Tom Courtney
- Todd Wadsworth
- Charles Howell
- Katie Shewmaker
- Hunter Osborne

Quorum Present: Yes No

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) representatives present:

Codie Martin, Acting Jarbidge Field Manager
Christine Vance, Contact Representative TFD
Beth Maclean, Shoshone Field Office Manager
Holly Crawford, Acting DM and ADM Twin Falls District
Heather Tiel-Nelson, Public Affairs Twin Falls District
Michael Courtney, Burley Field Office Manager

Public Attendees:

No public Attendees

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 Twin Falls District. Persons desiring to

view handouts should contact Christine Vance at (208)736-2350, or by email at cvance@blm.gov.

Copies of certified minutes are posted on the Idaho BLM website at: http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/res/resource_advisory/twin_falls_district/meeting_minutes.html

Meeting called to order at 9:40.

Item I: Welcome and Introductions

Public comment period opened at 9:45. No members of the public present. Public comment period closed at 10:15 without comment.

Holly Crawford, Acting DM and ADM Twin Falls District announced that June Shoemaker would be detailing as the Acting District Manager for the Twin Falls District starting April 28th for up to 120 days.

Item II: Salmon Falls Land and Livestock

RAC Chairman Mike Henslee is the owner and operator of Salmon Falls Land and Livestock/Plateau Farms LLC whose facility and operations were the focus of the day's tour.

Trailing-

Plateau Farms currently runs three bands of sheep. Each band is comprised of 750-950 ewe and lamb pairs. When grazing/trailing they move every 2-3 days/

The herders are normally from Peru and some from Chile. They enter into a three year contract that allows for them to go home for about four months during their period of employment. They work all year moving, lambing, or shipping the animals.

There is one foreman. The foreman's job is to visit the camp once a week and attend to the needs of the herders and the animals in their care. In August, the lambs are shipped. In late September/early October the sheep are sheared and trailed or shipped to the winter holding/breeding areas. The average price for raw uncleaned and untreated wool is \$1.30 a pound which can be shipped and used worldwide. The average shearer can process 120 sheep in a day. After they are done shearing, the animals are inoculated, wormed, and inspected for the upcoming year to see if they are healthy enough to trail another year. If they are not fit to trail they are either sold or culled from the band. The average lifespan for a trailing ewe is 8-9 years. The rams work 45 days out of the year and do not trail.

Plateau Farms raise sheep primarily for meat and wool.

Throughout the organization there are 35 working dogs and 18 horses or mules that travel with the bands.

Border collies are the working/herding dogs while Great Pyrenees are there to guard the sheep from predators.

On average 30-40 lambs are lost per year due to predators.

A lot of planning and coordinating goes into trailing. Every year Plateau Farms has to work with private, Federal, and state agencies to move bands. They have to work around fire closures and drought conditions to plan their yearly routes.

Water-

There are 900 miles of pipeline within the Jarbidge Field Office. All of the water for cattle and grazing needs to be piped in.

All stock tanks are required to have a bird ladder installed. These metal sloped ladders enable birds to climb out if they fall into the tank

Wind Energy-

X-ergy, a wind energy company based in New York placed 14 wind turbines on Salmon Falls Land and Livestock property. Each turbine has is under contract for 30 years. There is also a stipulation that if the company is decommissioned, X-ergy will fully rehabilitate the turbine locations.

The outside tip of the blade can travel over 200 miles per hour. There are regulators to limit the speed that the blades spin and to rotate the head to capitalize on the best wind current.

Item III: Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument

Carl Hamming National Park Service Park Ranger met RAC members and BLM staff at the Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument's newly updated overlook site, and gave an overview of the special characteristics of the area.

3.1-3.9 million years ago the Hagerman Fossil beds area was a marshy ecosystem. This made it a prime location for preserving fossils.

To date, over two million fossils have been found in this area, including Idaho's official State Fossil the Hagerman Horse.

Fossils can be both plant and animal and will vary by depth and species.

You can view the area but it is closed to the public to prevent illegal activity and further preserve unearthed fossils.

Item VI: Tuana Road

From 2002-2005 the Tuana Road was researched and mapped.

There are actually 6-7 different ways of spelling and pronouncing Tuana.

Mining became big in Idaho around 1860. At that time the Kelton Trail was primarily used for shipping supplies to the mining camps.

In 1869, Tuana starting running supplies. The road ran from 30 miles east of modern day Wells, NV (near the Tuana Cemetery) to Boise, ID. Tuana bragged to be 30 miles shorter than the Kelton Trail and able to ship freight faster to Boise than the Kelton Line. The average time for supplies on Tuana was 6-8 days compared to 10-15 days on Kelton for the same fare. The freight roads were considered the lifeline to the world for mining camps. Miners received their letters from home, clothes, mining supplies, and even fine china this way. These roads were very popular until 1882 when the railroads came in and "killed the freight roads."

Tuana Road was recently added to the National Register as a historical site.

Item V: Burley Field Office update

Deferred until the June 24th meeting

Item VI: Jarbidge Field Office Update

Deferred until the June 24th meeting

Jarbidge Draft RMP Record of Decision (ROD) should be signed by January of next year.

Item VII: Shoshone Field Office Update

Deferred until the June 24th meeting

Item VIII: Poster Presentation

Daniel Butler- Commercial Recreation

Christine Vance, Contact Representative TFD

Next Presenters:

LaMar Orton at September 18th meeting

Item XI: Future Business

June 24, 2014: Field tour to the Bruneau Overlook and the Saylor Creek Wild Horse Herd Management Area

September 18, 2014: location to be announced.

Jeff Williams asked that a BLM law enforcement ranger speak to the RAC about their main duties to have a better understanding of BLM's law enforcement program

Daniel Butler offered to host the RAC on a field tour of sage-grouse and sand hill cranes that are very active near the Bliss/Hill City Road. At the end of February or early March, the birds are very active and impressive to see.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Handouts Provided:

None

Minutes certified by:

Mike Henslee Chairman
Mike Henslee, TFD RAC Chairman

7/18/14
Date

Holly Crawford
Holly Crawford, District Manager (Acting)

7/21/14
Date

Minutes recorded by:

Christine Vance, TFD Contact Representative