



## Twin Falls District Resource Advisory Council



MEETING MINUTES  
6/17/2016

### **Resource Advisory Council (RAC) members present:**

#### ***Category One – Commodity Interest***

- Richard Austin
- Mike Henslee
- Greg Moore
- Brett Meyer
- James Wills

#### ***Category Two – Non-Commodity Interest***

- Shauna Robinson
- Peggy Stanley
- LaMar Orton

#### ***Category Three – Public Interest***

- Jody Hawkins
- Tom Courtney
- Charles Howell
- Michelle Richman
- Hunter Osborne

***Quorum Present:***  Yes       No

### **Bureau of Land Management (BLM) representatives present:**

Elizabeth MacLean –District Manager (Acting)  
Heather Tiel-Nelson- Public Affairs Specialist  
Elliot Traher, Jarbidge Field Manager  
Holly Crawford – Shoshone Field Office; Craters of the Moon  
John Kurtz, Shoshone Recreation Planner  
Lisa Claxton – Jarbidge Field Office Realty Specialist  
Ken Crane, Burley Field Manager  
Sue Kennedy, Burley Field Office Administrative Assistant

**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 Office. Persons desiring to view handouts should contact Sue Kennedy at (208) 677-6627, or by email at [slkennedy@blm.gov](mailto:slkennedy@blm.gov).*

*Copies of certified minutes are posted on the Idaho BLM website at: [RAC Minutes June 2016](#)*

**Item I: Welcome and Introductions**

Elizabeth Maclean opened with a welcome and introductions.

**Item II: Wood River Valley Travel Management Planning – John Kurtz**

In 2005 Blaine County Commissioner requested a Travel Management Plan (TMP) and an agreement was made to establish a Cooperative Conservation Recreation and Travel Plan. The BLM partnered with Arizona State University to conduct a land benefits study, followed by a series of public meetings. In 2008 the Commissioners provided a plan/recommendation to the BLM. 2010, BLM initiated the N. Hwy 20 TMP and letters were sent to interested parties, newspaper articles placed and scoping meetings to receive public comments. In 2015, the Sage Grouse EIS decision was made to limit motorized vehicles to roads and trails. Currently in 2016, the travel plan was reinitiated, individual route designations were made and the planning area was modified to the Wood River Valley TMP (see attached map). Implementation decisions include, define transportation network and designate routes of roads, primitive roads and trails. Consider new routes for trail-based recreation and seasonal restrictions.

Timeline and Process: July 2016 – Establish contract and write EA. Fall 2016 – Public Scoping. Spring 2017 – Preliminary EA for public review. Fall 2017: Publish the Decision Record.  
Expectations of RAC Committee: Attend public meetings; conduct research to include on-site visits, interview individuals, user groups, elected officials, non-government organization and permittees; Provide recommendation to the BLM.

**Item III: Sagebrush Focal Area withdrawal proposal – Lisa Claxton**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. 4332 (NEPA), to analyze and disclose the potential effects of withdrawing approximately 10 million acres (3.8 million acres in Idaho) of public and National Forest System lands from location and entry under the United States mining laws, but not from leasing under the mineral or geothermal leasing laws, subject to valid existing rights. The areas proposed for withdrawal are located in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming.

The purpose of the proposed withdrawal is to protect the greater sage-grouse and its habitat from adverse effects of locatable mineral exploration and mining, subject to valid existing

rights. SFAs are landscape blocks of high quality sagebrush habitat with high breeding potential densities of greater sage-grouse.

### **Alternatives Being Considered**

The following preliminary alternatives are being considered to address the key issues identified during public scoping:

- Proposed Action: This alternative would withdraw approximately 10 million acres of federal locatable minerals in six western states from the location of new mining claims under the Mining Law of 1872, subject to valid existing rights.
- No Action: This alternative would continue existing management of mining proposals in the proposed withdrawal area.
- Alternative A: This alternative would withdraw fewer acres within the SFAs, for example excluding areas of high mineral potential.
- Alternative B: This alternative would refine the areas proposed for withdrawal, for example by removing areas of non-habitat (e.g., parking lots) from withdrawal.

The Draft EIS is scheduled to be released for public comment December 22, 2016.

The EIS Record of Decision is scheduled to be signed in September 2017.

### **Item V: Unbranded - Heather Tiel-Nelson**

Watched the movie which gave a pretty fair depiction of the horses, the BLM and the advocates.

### **Item IV: Tour of the Bruneau Wild Horse Facility – Krystal Wengreen**

Went to the Bruneau facility( land owned by Simplot but managed by BLM) to get a first-hand look at the 2,000 + horses and see the state-of-the-art facility. Krystle and other BLM representatives along with a Simplot representative provided an outstanding tour of the facility. The first part of the tour was of the horses and Krystle explained a little about how they were sorted and answered questions along the way. The tour then went back to the main part of the facility where the group learned about how the horses were brought in from their corral through an elaborate gate system and given shots, branding and hoof trimming. It was a very informational day for all.

### **Other Business:**

Next meeting will be September 14, 2016 at the new Twin Falls District Office at 0830.

### **Handouts Provided:**

- 1- Wood River Travel Management Plan Map (1p)**
- 2- Wild Horse and Burro Program Fact Sheet (1p)**

Minutes certified by:

//signed// \_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Henslee, TFD RAC Chairman

September 20, 2016 \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

//signed// \_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth Maclean, TFD Manager (Acting)

October 05, 2016 \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Minutes recorded by:  
Sue Kennedy, Burley Field Office Administrative Assistant