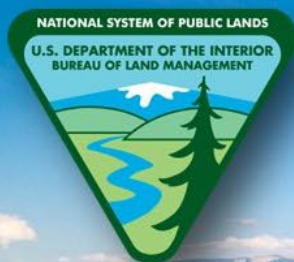


U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Northwest Resource Advisory Council

Reimagine Your Public Lands – 245 Million Acres of Possibilities





Agenda for Thursday, May 26

- 10:00 a.m. **Meeting Begins - Housekeeping and Introductions**
- 10:10 a.m. **Opening Remarks**
- RAC Overview of Charter, Roles, and Resolutions (Carrie Richardson)
 - RAC Chair Discussion/Nominations
- 10:30 a.m. **Grazing Update**
- Update on Gather Operations
 - o Review Last 2 Resolutions / Discuss New Resolution (NWD)
 - Management of Sub-Leasing and Drought Discussion (UCRD)
- 11:00 a.m. **Review and Discuss the North Sand Hills Field Trip**
- 11:30 a.m. **Field Manager Updates**
- 12:30 p.m. **Lunch**
- 1:25 p.m. **Reconvene**
- 1:30 p.m. **Presentation/Discussion Management of Public lands BLM Colorado**
- Special Recreation Permit Management – Upper Colorado River (KFO)
- 2:00 p.m. **Public Comment**
- 2:30 p.m. **Closing Remarks and Open Discussion**
- RAC Chair Vote
- 3:00 p.m. **Adjourn**



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Resource Advisory Councils



Resource Advisory Councils: A voice for citizens

- The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) – Gives the public a voice in shaping how the BLM manages public lands through multiple provisions for public involvement.
- Section 309 of FLPMA directs the Secretary of the Interior to establish resource advisory councils - citizen-based committees provide an opportunity for individuals from all backgrounds and interests to have a voice in the management of the public lands.
- The BLM is subject to standards and procedures for the creation, operation, and termination of BLM resource advisory councils contained in 43 CFR 1784 for specific regulations regarding composition; avoidance of conflicts of interest; calls for nominations; notice of meetings; open meetings; records; course of instruction for members; and quorum requirements.
- The councils are also regulated by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).
- This includes 21 statewide and regional resource advisory councils (RACs); 3 monument advisory councils (MACs) created by Presidential Proclamation; and 4 councils created by law.



How RACs Operate

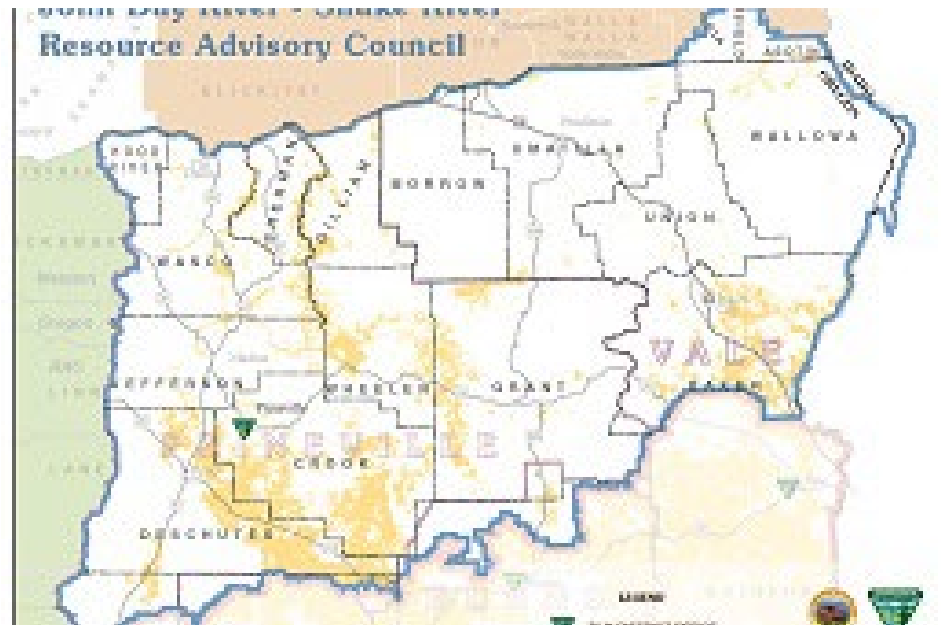
- **Meet approximately two to four times annually** or on an “as needed” basis to accomplish advisory council business
- **Ensure compliance with FACA-** requires recommendations and advice to be objective and accessible to the public.
- **Develop consensus-driven recommendations** related to public land management and provide them to the BLM through designated BLM liaisons
- **Provide a forum to address contentious issues and resolve land-use conflicts**
- **Recommendations often lead to sustainable outcomes** that benefit natural resources and enjoy a high level of public support



What do RACs Cover?

Recommendations address a wide variety of public land issues, including:

- Recreation access/ opportunities
- Land use planning
- Oil and gas exploration
- Weed management
- Fire management
- Grazing issues
- Off-highway vehicle use
- Wild horses and burros
- BLM and U.S. Forest Service recreation amenity fees



RAC Members

Members are appointed by the Secretary of the Interior

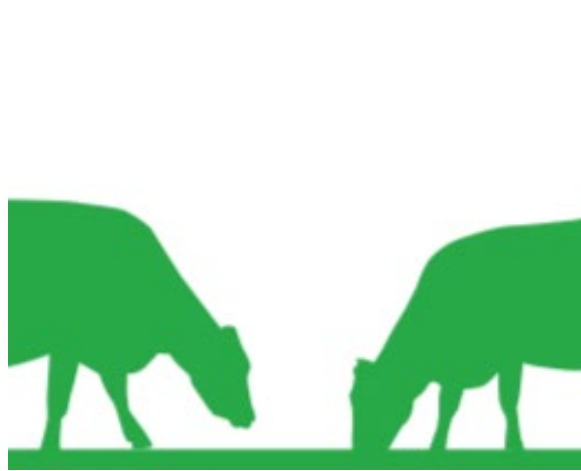
- BLM publishes a National Call for Nominations annually for RACs to solicit nominations for vacant positions and positions that will become vacant within the following 6 months
- BLM's National Advisory Council Coordinator evaluates all nominations to ensure vacancies are filled appropriately, that all represented interests are balanced, and that candidates reside within appropriate RAC boundaries
- Nominations are reviewed and selections made by the Secretary's Office in consultation with the DOI White House Liaison
- Usual term of appointment is three years
- Secretary may choose to reappoint members to serve additional terms



RAC Members Representation

- RAC members are appointed to represent three categories of stakeholders:
 - **Commodity interests** - (i.e. holders of Federal grazing permits; Transportation/Rights-of-Way; Developed Outdoor Recreation, OHV Use, or commercial recreation; commercial timber industry; or energy and mineral development),
 - **Non-commodity interests** - (i.e. National/Regional Environmental Interests; Dispersed Recreation Activities; Archaeological/Historical Interests; or National/Regional Wild Horse and Burro Groups), and
 - **Public interests** - (i.e. State, County, Local Elected Officials; State Natural Resource Agency; Native American Tribal Interests; Academicians in Natural Resources; or the Public-at-Large).

NOTE: Members of advisory councils created by Presidential Proclamation and law are appointed to represent interests unique to the establishing legislation.





RAC Member Responsibilities

- Members are expected to:
 - **Abide by ethical rules** – no member can participate in any specific matter, including a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, agreement or related litigation with the Department in which the member has a direct financial interest.
 - **Disclose their interests** – members are required to disclose their direct or indirect financial interest in leases, licenses, permits, contracts, or claims that involve lands or resources administered by BLM, or in any litigation related thereto, and will recuse themselves from any related Council deliberations.
 - **Be qualified** through education, training, knowledge, or experience.
 - **Articulate the interests** of the constituency they represent.



RAC Charters

Each advisory council is established and governed by charter.

- Charters outline the purpose, scope, and description of duties for each council.
- Transparency and clarity are the primary objective of charters.
- Charters must be renewed by the Secretary and filed with the House Committee on Natural Resources, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and the Library of Congress every 2 years. The current Northwest RAC Charter was filed September 28, 2021.





STATE OFFICE	BLM ADVISORY COUNCILS	SEATS
Alaska	(1) Alaska RAC	15
Arizona	(1) Arizona RAC	15
California	(3) California Desert District Advisory Council (DAC); Northern California District RAC; Central California District RAC	42
Colorado	(3) Northwest RAC; Rocky Mountain RAC; Southwest RAC	45
Idaho	(1) Idaho RAC	15
Montana/Dakotas	(2) Missouri Basin RAC; Western Montana RAC	30
Nevada	(2) Mojave-Southern Great Basin RAC; Sierra Front-Northern Great Basin RAC	30
New Mexico	(3) Northern New Mexico RAC; Southern New Mexico RAC; **Rio Puerco Management Committee	39
Oregon/Washington	(6) Eastern Washington RAC; Southeast Oregon RAC; John Day-Snake RAC; **Steens Mountain Advisory Council; *San Juan Islands National Monument Advisory Committee; Western Oregon RAC	85
Utah	(4) Utah RAC; *Bears Ears National Monument Advisory Council; *Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Advisory Committee; **San Rafael Swell Recreation Area Advisory Council	52
Wyoming	(1) Wyoming RAC	10
National Committee	(1) **Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board	9
TOTALS	28	387

* Councils created by Presidential Proclamation

**Councils created by law

RAC Resolutions

*A quorum of council members must be present to constitute an official meeting of the council (3 council members from each of the 3 categories).

*Formal recommendations require agreement of at least 3 council members from each of the 3 categories to refer recommendations to the BLM.

*All recommendations are documented in the meeting minutes for official record and forwarded to the BLM for appropriate action.





Resolutions





Past Resolutions

Northwest and Southwest RAC Resolutions

Northwest RAC

- May 2021 – Sarvis Cabin Fee Implementation
- April 2019 – Support of WH&B Management
- June 2019 – Campground Fee Increase
- December 2018 – Support Fire Mitigation & Education
- August 2015 – Support to Remove West Douglas Wild Horses

Southwest RAC

- December 2019 – Canyon of the Ancients Fee Increase (TRFO)
- September 2019 – North Fruita Desert Camping Fee Increase (GJFO)
- June 2019 – Resolution to move forward with Rabbit Valley Development (GJFO)
- March 2018 – Oh Be Joyful Campground Fee Proposal (GFO)
- June 2016 – Support of Master Leasing Plan (TRFO)



Sample Resolution

Provided courtesy of National
RA Coordinator, Carrie
Richardson



BLM Resource Advisory Councils

Partners Across The West

**COLORADO NORTHWEST RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION 2014-001a**

Resolution in Support of a Pilot Population Control Program at the Sand Wash Herd Management Area

Whereas: The Colorado Northwest Resource Advisory Council has a history of advocating the Bureau of Land Management use additional methods to keep wild horses and public rangelands healthy (see Resolutions 2009-03 and 2012-002), and

Whereas: The current methods the BLM uses to control wild horse numbers have proven not only inadequate, with currently 14,000 excess horses causing significant rangeland degradation on BLM lands in 11 western states, but also unsustainable with more than 48,000 head of wild horses in holding facilities nationwide, costing taxpayers \$46 million (64% of BLM's annual horse & burro budget), and

Whereas: The BLM is actively seeking additional thoughts and ideas for effective methods for managing the nation's wild horses and burros, and

Whereas: A chemical vasectomy technique developed by Dr. Kirk Shiner in which stallions are tranquilized by dart shows much promise as a cost-effective means for helping control wild horse numbers without affecting the social structure and behavior of wild horses, and

Whereas: The Sand Wash Herd Management Area in northwestern Colorado offers an excellent location to field test a chemical vasectomy pilot program due to its accessible terrain and its individually identifiable horses.

Therefore Be It Resolved: The Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council supports and encourages the BLM to use the Sand Wash Herd Management Area for a pilot program to treat stallions using the chemical vasectomy technique developed by Dr. Kirk Shiner.

Passed, approved, and adopted Sept. 12, 2014.

Received by Designated Federal Officer
Wendy Reynolds

Dean Riggs, Chair
Northwest Resource Advisory Council



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management



BLM Resource Advisory Councils

Partners Across The West

COLORADO NORTHWEST RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION 2019-001

Resolution in Support of Practical, Cost-effective Wild Horse Management

Whereas: As of March 2018, the Bureau of Land Management estimated there to be 82,000 horses and burros on BLM managed rangelands in 11 western states where it has been determined those specified lands will sustainably support only 27,000. Therefore, in March of 2018 there were 55,000 excess horses and burros on the rangeland causing irreparable damage to many ecosystems, and

Whereas: The on-range population continues to grow at ~20% per year, doubling the population every four years without significant pro-active management, and

Whereas: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) currently has over 50,000 head of wild horses and burros in holding facilities nationwide, costing taxpayers \$50 million (61% of BLM's annual horse & burro budget), and

Whereas: BLM can, on an average annual basis, adopt out less than 3,000 head per year with the existing adoption criteria, and

Whereas: The currently available fertility control methods are not adequate at controlling population growth, and

Whereas: The Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act currently requires BLM to remove excess horses from the range, offer them for adoption, those that are offered unsuccessfully for adoption three times or are over ten years of age, "shall be made available for sale without limitation including through auction to the highest bidder, at local sale yards or other convenient livestock selling facilities", and

Whereas: Congress places a rider in Appropriations restricting the destruction or sale of healthy horses nearly every year, and

Whereas: Selling the excess horses currently in holding facilities would allow BLM to better manage a sustainable number of horses on the range within the current budget to prevent continued and accelerated degradation of the rangelands by excess horses, and

Whereas: At a local level, Rio Blanco County, Colorado has one Herd Management Area (HMA) with an Appropriate Management Level (AML) of 135 – 235 and there is a current estimated population of 1,160 horses including 2019 foals (5X AML) within the County with no indications of possible gathers in the near future, and

Whereas: Currently "wild" horses and burros are often found outside of the Herd Management Areas to the detriment of public and private land, and

Whereas: BLM WH&B Management Handbook (H-4700-1, Chapter 3) states:

- "Habitat for WH&B is composed of four essential components: forage, water, cover, and space. These components must be present within the HMA in sufficient amounts to sustain healthy WH&B populations and healthy rangelands over the long term. If they are not present in sufficient amounts, the authorized officer should consider amending or revising the LUP to remove the area's designation as an HMA."
- "A recurring pattern of WH&B movement out of the HMA to access forage, water, or thermal or hiding cover is an indication that year-long WH&B use cannot be sustained. If one or more of the key habitat components is missing, the HMA should be considered as unsuitable for yearlong use. In these situations, the authorized officer should consider removing the area's designation as an HMA through LUP (Land Use Plan)."

Whereas: When there has been forage degradation, the amount of available forage is not capable of supporting numbers in excess of AML. Hauling water and feed to maintain numbers in excess of AML would further exacerbate ongoing damages to rangeland resources in the area.

Therefore Be It Resolved: the Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council encourages and supports Congress, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Department of the Interior to follow the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act and sell the excess horses without limitation;

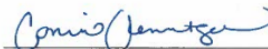
Be It Further Resolved: the Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council encourages and supports the removal of any Appropriations Rider which prevents the unrestricted sale of horses and burros;

Be It Further Resolved: the Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council supports the BLM re-evaluating its existing adoption requirements, including facility requirements, in order to increase average annual adoptions;

Be It Further Resolved: the Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council supports fertility control, including sterilization that is efficient and cost effective;

Be It Further Resolved: the Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council opposes supplemental feeding or watering of horses other than for baiting and trapping for removal from the range to prevent further ecosystem degradation when the numbers exceed the AML.

Passed, approved, and adopted April 25, 2019.



Received by Designated Federal Officer
Connie Clementson



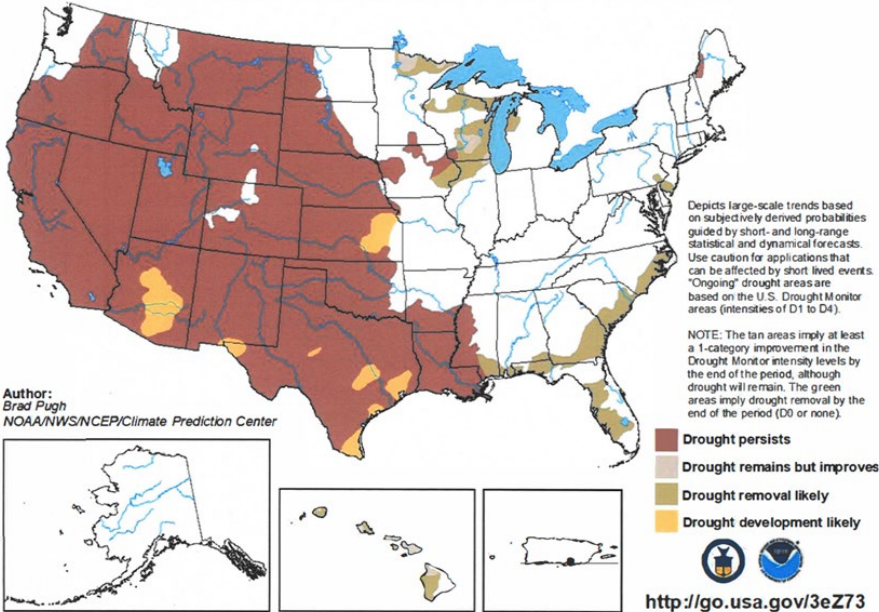
Mike Pritchard, Chair
Northwest Resource Advisory Council



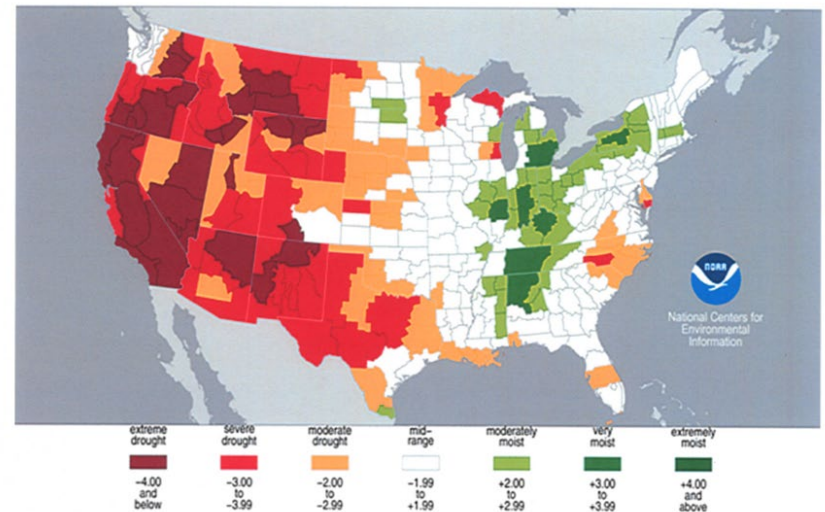
Management of Sub-Leasing/Drought

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for March 17 - June 30, 2022
Released March 17



Palmer Drought Severity Index March, 2022





Some of our current strategies:

- **Adjust grazing use to minimize impacts, including reducing numbers**
- **Utilize the 14-day period of flexibility term and condition found on grazing permits to adjust season of use.**
- **Consider vegetation recovery needs and long-term productivity.**
- **Haul water.**
- **Utilize supplemental feed**
- **Rotating Livestock.**
- **Encouraging rest and recovery.**
- **Explore drought subsidies (Farm services, NRCS, Colorado Department of Agriculture)**
- **Ensuring that subleasing is authorized and done responsibly.**



Question for the RAC:

What are some other considerations for working with permittees or sub-leasees that are reluctant to make changes that will ensure long-term rangeland health during the drought?



North Sand Hills Field Tour Review



Field Manager Updates





Special Recreation Permit Management

Kremmling Field Office, Upper Colorado River Challenges





Kremmling Field Office, Upper Colorado River Challenges

2005:

- Commercial boater use: 29,500
- Private boater use: 7,300

2021:

- Commercial boater use: 55,000
- Private boater use: 60,000





Kremmling Field Office, Upper Colorado River Challenges

Use Challenges:

What impacts are there on fish and fishing?
What are the social impacts of this many people?

More use on the river also means more use on the land. How does that affect everything else, from wildlife to cultural resources to trees, plants, grasses, etc?





Kremmling Field Office, Upper Colorado River Challenges

Discussion:

- 2015 Resource Management Plan
- Supplemental Rules
- Recreation Management Plan
- User surveys
- Capacity Studies
- Future Questions for the RAC:
 - What types of user fees
 - What partners should we engage with in long-term planning

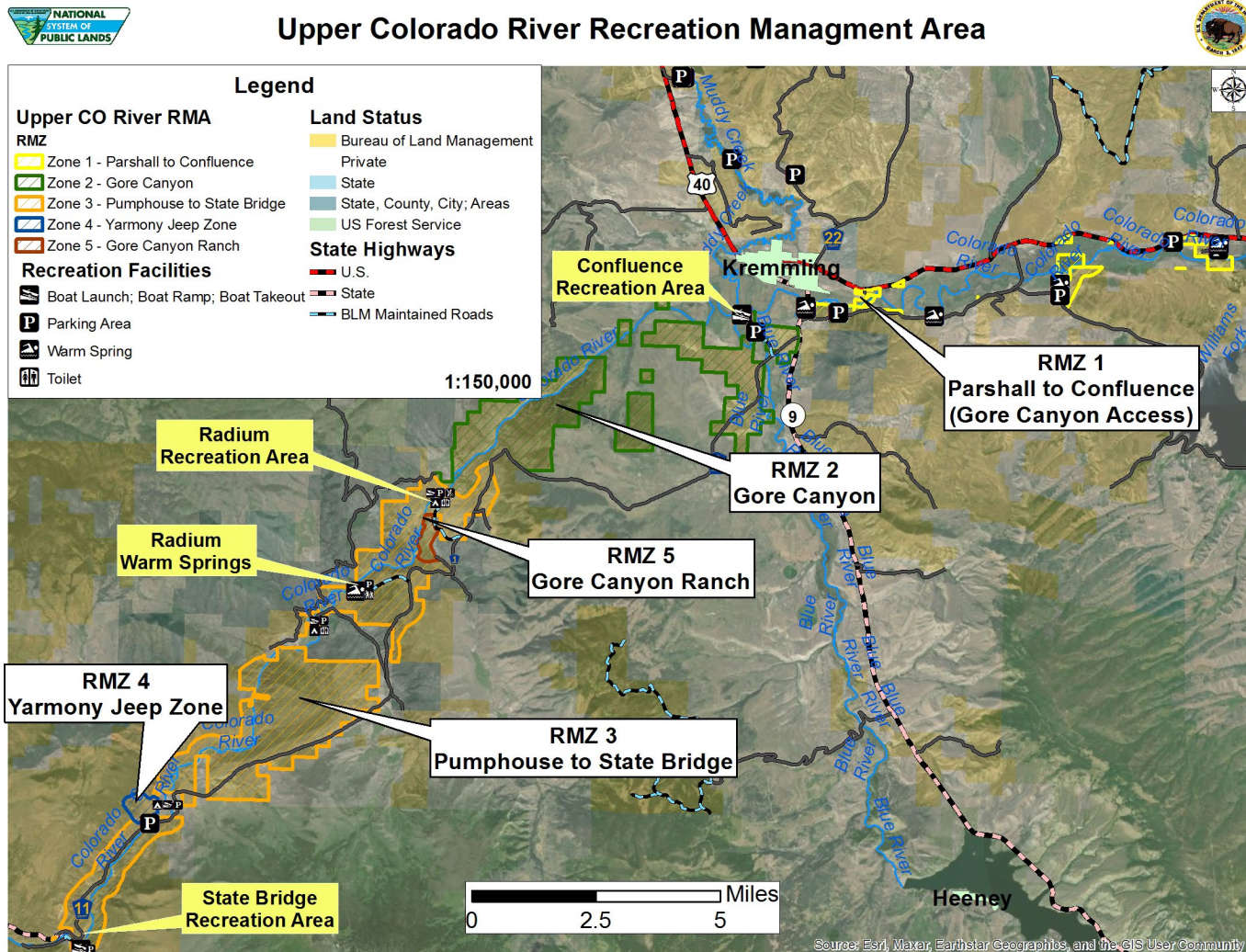


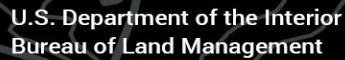
Can we invite you all on a weekend river trip in the Summer of 2023?

2015 Resource Management Plan Upper Colorado River SRMA

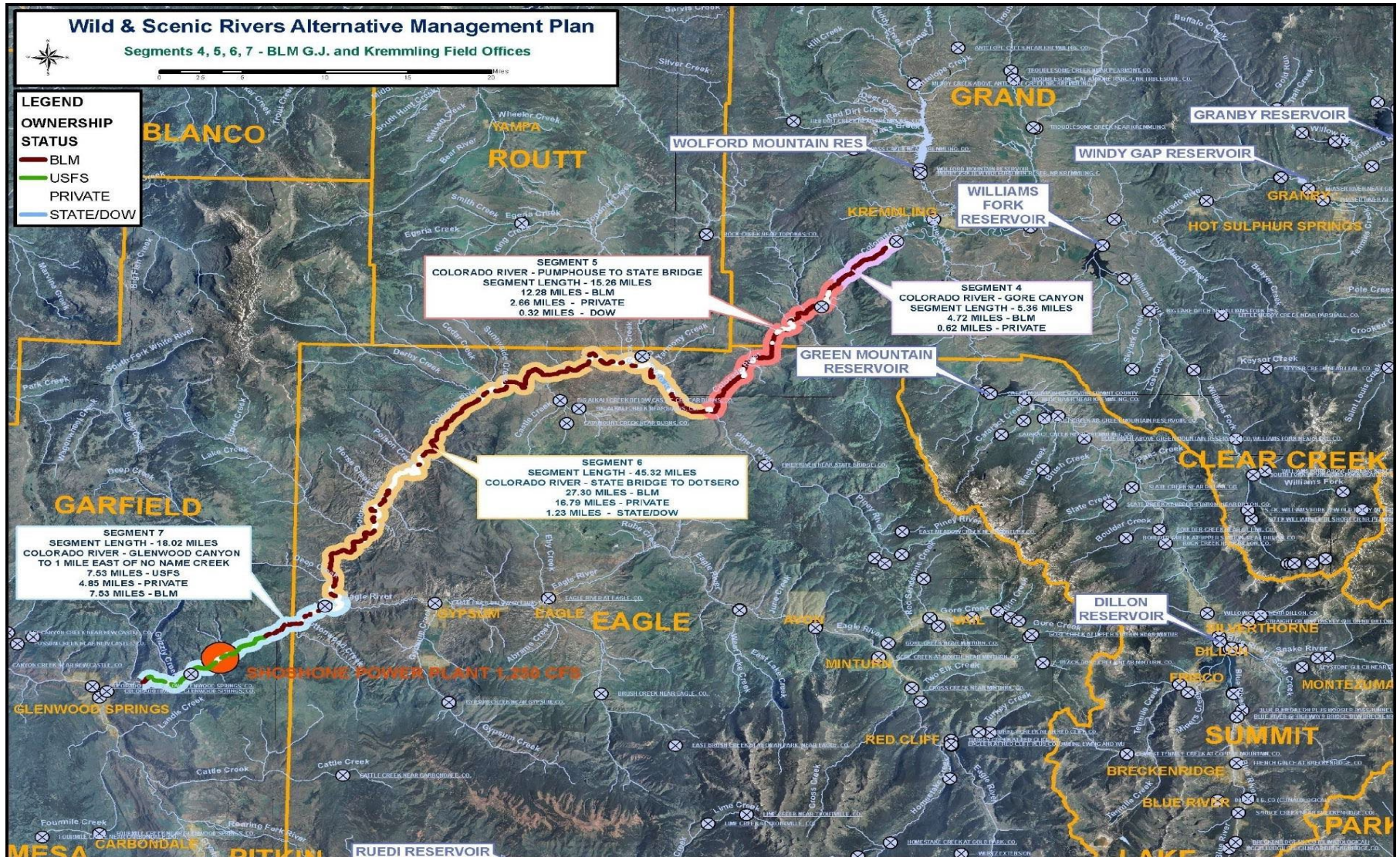
Identified and designated 5 Recreation Management Zones (RMZs)

- Targeted Recreation Activities and Experiences





- 2015 RMP Adopted Stakeholder Management Plan for protection of flow related Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)





ORVs Found and Managed for within Segments 4 and 5 (SRMA RMZs 2 and 3)

Segment	Reach	ORVs	Preliminary Classification
Segment 4	Colorado River from top of Gore Canyon to the Pumphouse recreational site (5.36 miles)	Scenic (canyon, cliffs) Recreational (fishing - DOW Wild Trout waters; floatboating - Class V whitewater boating; scenic driving) Geological Wildlife (bald eagle nesting and winter habitat; river otter habitat) Historic (Moffat Rd.; early hydroelectric projects; WWII German POW camp)	Recreational
Segment 5	Colorado River from the Pumphouse Recreational Site down to State Bridge (15.26 miles)	Scenic (Little Gore Canyon & Red Gorge) Recreational (fishing - same as Segment 4; floatboating - Class II/III run; scenic driving) Geological Wildlife (same as above) Historic (early hydroelectric projects; early copper mining; Brass Balls Mine/Cable Rapids Cabin; State Bridge; historic Moffat Road) Paleontological (fossils).	Recreational



SRMA Recreation Management

Important Values of the SRMA Public lands along the Colorado River corridor offer visitors outstanding opportunities for float boating, trout fishing, and scenic driving. This corridor attracts visitors both within and beyond the region. Adjacent destination tourism markets in Grand, Summit, Eagle, and Routt Counties currently market the recreational opportunities.

Most Popular and Utilize RMZ – Pumphouse to State Bridge

Area of Concern of Capacity Issues related to Natural Resource impacts and Visitor Use

Activities	Experiences	Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Camping• Fishing• Floatboating• Kayaking• Hiking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enjoying frequent access to outdoor physical activity• Experiencing the natural surroundings• Enjoying the area's wildlife, scenery and views• Enjoying time with family/friends	<p>Personal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Living a more outdoor-oriented lifestyle• Closer relationship with the natural world• Developing stronger ties with family and friends <p>Community: Greater community involvement in recreation and other land use decisions</p> <p>Environmental:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased awareness and protection of natural landscapes• Increased stewardship and protection of river corridor <p>Economic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased local tourism revenue• Increased stability to local-regional economy



RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTICS MANAGED FOR:

Physical RSCs

Remoteness

- Remoteness (approx. distance from routes): Manage primarily as Front County to Rural. Make the area more remote by limiting motorized access.

Naturalness

- Natural landscape has few modifications in harmony with surroundings and not visually obvious.

Visitor Facilities

- Maintain improved facilities (campground, toilets, boat ramps, and parking areas), occasional interpretive displays at river access points.
- Develop and maintain additional facilities within the river corridor (e.g. fire rings and picnic tables).

Social RSCs

Contacts (avg.)

- Manage for a season average of 11 - 20 encounters on the river.

Group Size (avg.)

- Manage for a season average of 11 - 20 people per group on the river.

Evidence of Use

- Sounds of other people occasionally heard. Small localized areas of vegetation alteration and compacted/bare soils are found along access trails, campsites and parking areas. Inappropriate recreation use is rehabilitated.

Operational RSCs

Access (types of travel)

- Reduce/limit motorized routes.

Visitor Services/Info:

- Information describing opportunities on-site and frequent staff contact and assistance.

Management Controls

- Rules, regulations and ethics clearly posted. Use restrictions, permits, limitations and/or closures may be implemented.



How is BLM Evaluating and working towards RMP Implementation, Monitoring and identifying Capacity Thresholds?

Recreation Area Management Plan completed 2019

Tiers to RMP decisions on RMZs and RSCs

Designated On-River Camps

Individual Special Recreation Permits (ISRPs) for stipulations – Public Permit system currently unlimited

Supplemental Rules – Still being reviewed, completed as part of RMP and in package with several offices

- Camping limited to Designated sites within ¼ mile
- Required Portable Toilet, Fire Pan, Pack Out Ash
 - Awaiting approval for implementation – several years in waiting

W&S Stakeholder Group Monitors flow related ORVs

- 2021 1st year of monitoring through Amended and Approved USFS and BLM Stakeholder Group Plan
- Also – Conducting Visitor Intercept Surveys that also captures visitor use data

Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) Surveys

- Conducted at Pumphouse and Radium Recreation Areas in 2021

Visitor Assessments – University of Alaska and Mesa State University

Conducted surveys between State Bridge and Dotsero in 2021

Conducting Surveys Between Confluence Recreation Area and Dotsero in 2022

Carrying Capacity Analysis

Funding from fee dollars (Upper CO and COSO American the Beautiful Pass Sales)

Will evaluate Natural Resource impacts and thresholds and Social Carrying Capacities

Stakeholder and Cooperating Agency Involvement

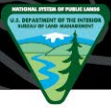
RAC Input and thoughts on Stakeholders, Needs



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Closing Comments / Open Discussion





Travel Reimbursement

- ☐ During the RAC meeting you will be given a Travel Information Sheet to complete and return to Stacy Gray (sgray@blm.gov) within 5 days of completed travel. **Be sure to attach the hotel receipt, not just the credit card receipt. An itemized hotel receipt is required.**
- ☐ After Stacy receives your Travel Information Sheet, a travel voucher will be created, and a hardcopy will be mailed to the traveler for their signature. **The signed voucher must be returned to Stacy in the self-addressed envelope (or emailed) within 5 days of receipt for payment to be reimbursed.** Reimbursements can not be made without travelers signed voucher.

NORTHWEST RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL

TRAVEL INFORMATION

DATE: _____ NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____
STATE AND ZIP: _____

DATE OF DEPARTURE FROM HOME _____

Left residence at: _____ a.m./p.m.

DATE OF ARRIVAL HOME _____

Arrived back at residence at: _____ a.m./p.m.*

*Need to be away from home for 12 hours to receive per diem.

MILEAGE (please give total miles driven for the meeting(s)) _____

Please remember to attach your hotel receipts (if you stayed overnight) to this form.

It is important you attach the hotel receipt and not just the credit card receipt. Our travel center requires an itemized hotel receipt.

District Manager or RAC Coordinator Signature: _____

For BLM use: Charge Code: _____



September 14-15 NW RAC Meeting Agenda

Field Trip – September 14, 2022

Virtual Fencing and Grazing Management

The Colorado River Valley Field Office, 2300 River Frontage Road, Silt, CO 81652.

8:00 a.m. **Meet at the Colorado River Valley Field Office**

4:00 p.m. **Return to the Colorado River Valley Field Office**

Meeting – September 15, 2022

10:00 a.m. **Meeting Begins – Housekeeping and Introductions**

10:10 a.m. **Opening Remarks**

10:30 a.m. **Review and Discuss the Field Trip and Applications of Virtual Fencing in Grazing Management**

11:30 a.m. **Field Manager Updates**

12:30 p.m. **Lunch**

1:25 p.m. **Reconvene**

1:30 p.m. **Resource Advisory Council Update on Emerging Issues**

2:00 p.m. **Public Comment Period**

2:30 p.m. **Closing Remarks and Open Discussion**

3:00 p.m. **Adjourn**