

Sierra Front Northwestern Great Basin

Resource Advisory Council meeting

January 26, 2017

Minutes taken by Terah Malsam

Welcome: Mark Freese – Chair

Introductions:

- RAC members – Ron Cerri, Ron Keil, John Ugalde, David Von Seggern, Ray Hendrix, Kyle Snyder, Matt Gingerich, Willie Molini, Greg Hendricks, Debbie Lassiter, Pat Haynal.
- BLM: Ralph Thomas (CCD DM), Lisa Ross (CCD PAO), Justin Drew (WD DM), Terah Malsam (WD PAO).

Logistics of meeting – Mark Freese

Agenda – Mark Freese

- Add to or adjust agenda?
- No quorum today, three vacancies, May or June for filling vacancies. Tri-RAC mid-March, first part of April.
- Minutes from meeting in Fallon? – Mark F. – no additions
- Lisa – Doug Hogan resigned
- Vacancies: elected official, environmental, educational

1<sup>st</sup> Public comment period (until 0830):

- Mark Freese explains comment period process/Lisa Ross times comments at 3 minutes each.
1. Arlyn Pacheco
  2. Margie Quirk
  3. Lauren Sachet
  4. Karen Winters
  5. Jeannie Miller
  6. Terri Rodefer
  7. Judy Jacobs
  8. Dorothy Nylen
  9. Peggy Deal

Goals and objectives from this year

- Business administration – improve coordination between RACs: Sierra Front RAC Chair/DFO call, 2 statewide RAC/DFO calls, 3 statewide subgroups.
- Improve public awareness, communication: 6 radio interviews, Sun articles, FB post, Public meetings (Greg and Willie) – WHB and SG Workshops. Peaceful forms of protest letter.
- Advising piece – subgroups, coordination meetings and finalizing checklists.
- Engage with Black Rock NCA subgroup.
- Verbal comments to BLM – Unionville tour and Riparian area tour.
- Spring and riparian area recommendations – Mark F.
- Letter sent out in Dec., 3 comments received, sent letter back out this week.
  - Willie- send letter to DMs, bring it up at the Tri-RAC, and then pass on to other RACs.
  - Mark – Without a quorum, we can't vote on the letter to pass on to the BLM. We have some time to make changes/comments.
  - David – the spring areas hold so much of the life of the Great Basin, we want the BLM to turn that around.
  - Willie M. – Recommending fencing of livestock areas where riparian areas are.
  - There was a suggestion for Statewide Riparian Team.
  - Mark F. - – Site specific assessment, water trough etc.
  - Debbie L. - Bring mining back in letter.
  - Mark F. – By March 1<sup>st</sup> comments are due.
  - Ron C. – Keep it general and open.
  - Pat – cultural resources in these spring areas, but not getting too detailed about mitigation. Keeping it simple, but well-crafted is best course of action.
  - Ralph -Give us what you have and we can dev. An action plan off of that.
  - Ron k - Programmatic assessment for fencing rip areas. So it doesn't have to be addressed over and over.
  - Deb - CX?
  - Ralph - Probably not.
  - Mark – intention was to keep this high-level, general, meant for statewide use. Don't want to get too specific with too many options. Want to let the resource experts make those specific decisions. Get me your comments by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Will share draft with other RACs, but leave as draft until receives our RAC comments. Bring this up at Tri-RAC.

#### Peaceful forms of protest letter – Mark

- Sent letter to BLM in Oct (?), asked BLM to share letter with media, WO said no to sharing with media, but to post on webpage.
- Willie – Any updates from other RACs?
- Mark – both other RACs are pretty much hands off.
- Mark – letter is not posted on website.
- Lisa – it will be, working out issues with Drupal.

#### NCA subgroup – Willie

- Had meeting scheduled for Jan 14<sup>th</sup> but was told they couldn't hold meeting due to lack of public notice – 30 days' notice.
- Dave Cooper is trying to find an alternative date.
- Proposed agenda items: Lithium claims on the south part of the BR Playa, water development/transfer out of basin, cultural work in soldier meadows, Trego, Rec. fee program (NCA benefits) and BMAN fee use in the NCA, Management plans.
- Ralph – sunset period for NCA RAC subcommittee. They need to readdress goals of group if they want to continue. SOPs need to be followed. Re-charter group.
- Willie – Very engaged group of people.
- Ralph – subgroup was created through the recommendation in the RMP with a sunset period.
- Debbie – The subgroup doesn't know what they're purpose is. Recommend the WD look at the NCA RMP and see what needs to be addressed and share with sub-group.
- David – FBR. How do they interact with sub-group?
- Mark – BLM share how they can help us meet goals.
- Justin – rotation of many DMs, new front office for visitors, availability. Mark Hall is Acting FM for Black Rock and is very engaged with all NCA aspect. Will sit down with Mark and group to engage with the subgroup.
- Mark – organize how the subgroup will function and who is involved.
- Willie – there are some sore spots between subgroup chair and BLM. Meetings.
- David – Suggest a longer public comment period at the next subgroup meeting. Put all the issues on the table.
- Mark – We could start drafting the agenda. RAC, subgroup, and BLM all providing input. Start immediately? Willie, volunteer?
- Mark – let's start drafting an agenda to engage with the subgroup. Mark and Willie to draft agenda. Willie will serve as the primary link. Matt G and Debbie will help.

~Break~

#### Grazing subgroup – Ron K

- Finished charter, first meeting on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>, good involvement from other RACs, John Ruhs, Pat, and Doug were all in attendance.
- It's important to have that academia rep on the subgroup.
- Jake V. gave presentation on permit issuance process. Katheryn Dyer gave info on NEPA process.
- There are opportunities for subgroup to look at the monitoring process and make suggestions on that process.
- Next meeting scheduled for Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>. Will move forward with meeting despite the vacancies.
- Would the RAC group like to see the subgroup meeting minutes? Yes.
- Mark – send to our group and CC the other Chairs so they can determine whether to disperse.
- Ron K – been trying to get a hold of a NEPA document and permit to see how they are being tracked and managed by the BLM. Mike Herder is working on getting those for him. Need examples. Does the BLM create an annual operating plan based on their permit with the

permittee? The Statewide Grazing team has not issued a decision yet and they have been in place for a year. Compliance monitoring – permittees, volunteers can do this. Looking at this as far as where it's been accomplished. Membership in group is open.

- Pat Haynal – In the group and called into last meeting.
- Ron C – Thinks SG Amendment plan will have a focus on monitoring.
- Ron K – Laid it out in an Annual Operating Plan. Permittees need to know exactly where/how monitoring is done. Show results as well. Offers consistency.
- Ron K – Effectiveness monitoring – permittees have a part to play in this.
- Ron C – New app on phone – Dept. of Ag. – Still in the works through the UNR.
- Ralph – Cattlemen's Assoc. meeting. Key point was integration with ranchers/permittees in this process. Additional meetings in spring coming up and will share with subgroup.

#### Sage Grouse Sub-group – Willie

- Subgroup members – get from Willie
- DFO – Doug Furtado, PAO – Lisa or Chris
- Last meeting Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> (?)
- Matt Magelleti – SG Lead for NV BLM
- Talked about workshop – solving conflict, building consensus.
- Spent time on process of conflict solving.
- There was a good representation from all entities involved in SG and at the end a willingness to use the process involved in working together. Key will be local area working groups. Governor's office was engaged in working groups.
- Matt Mag. – IM for implementing SG plans.
- SG implementation meetings.
- Inconsistency between FS and BLM on how to implement plan. Various members attended.
- Ron – 60-70 people in Winnemucca, over a 100 in Elko, also a meeting in Fallon.
- Willie – it's good for the BLM to be doing this.
- Last meeting topic – how we might have input into land treatment projects. May be opportunities for us to bring forward project proposals. Fuels management projects, road maintenance (for fire access).
- Had a public comment period, but no public comments. Rep from Congressman Amodei's office was there.
- Next meeting: tie in with Tri-RAC meeting.

#### Wild Horse and Burro subgroup – Greg H

- State subgroup finalizing checklist
- May need to represent SO rep (Alan Shepherd)
- Next meeting sometime in March.
- Attended last WHB Advisory Group meeting in Elko.
- Summarized last meeting and issues discussed.

- Positive suggestions such as adoptions, research into drugs,
- Concerns: 67,000 horses on range right now. NV houses about half of those horses.
- 65 % of the budget goes to holding. PZP takes up less than 1% of budget.
- We are losing the numbers war.
- The group is taking on innovative ideas to help out with adoptions, horses on range, long term holding.
- Comments – Fish Springs. We need to work as a team to come up with the right ideas to get the problems solved.
- Cooperative agreements (tasked with) – what can we do to work together. We have volunteers, accessibility, agreeable permittees; we need to look at messaging. The horses are outside the HMA, so that's a challenge. Would really like to focus on this coop agreement as a flag ship for other coop agreements.
- A trust would be established from this coop.
- Work with public, get them involved, in return, get exposure and PR related to a positive program.
- John – What is the SG component in the Pine Nut HMA?
- Greg – Bi-state
- Ralph explains the process with not listing the bird and the commitment the BLM has to follow through with certain projects to protect bird habitat. Has been told to be ready for gathers.
- Ralph - We are not supposed to be hauling water out of the HMA. This is state law. This would best be handled by the Sub-group to see if there are exceptions.
- The EA comment period has closed – explained process.
- The SFA's are the primary places that will have horse gathers. CCD is not in that priority area.
- Greg - Room for horses issue – Would like the Fish springs horses to be under consideration by the BLM for exemption from being gathered.
  - Mark - can we, the RAC, still provide a letter/recommendation for the EA? It seems the RAC is in support of the cooperative effort. Vote held and majority supported.
  - Ralph - The comments that come in will not be a part of the administrative record, but will still be looked at.
  - Matt has concerns because he does not have the understanding of the cooperative. Worried that it might negatively affect the Bi State SG effort.
  - Greg explains the effort of the cooperative.
- Ralph explains the reason the project was stopped: explained the date of the PZP and a judge issued a restraining order. Didn't stop group from using PZP at Fish springs. The other group issued NOI (that didn't agree with PZP) and then the group had to stop.
- Where we are constrained is the horses are not in the HMA. This is in the RMP and it would take 3 years or so to change this. Want to move forward with project. Projection on decision, (Bryant) explains process.
- Water hauling is not in compliance with the State or BLM's policy, so had to shut that down. Water is on private land so we need to look at some agreements with the holder/state.

- More horses on land than that area can sustain. Our focus is on HMA, not on areas outside the area.
- There was a verbal vote among RAC members to support the PZP Darting Project in the Fish Springs area. All RAC members were in favor. None opposed.

#### DM Reports

- CCDO – Ralph
  - Personnel updates, Partner coordination, Fire agreements, meetings with local government/constituents, SRP, fire prevention, wildfires, volunteer projects.
- WDO – Justin
  - Personnel updates, introduction of himself, quick BMAN update.

#### Next year's goals – Mark

- Field trips: Riparian areas on WD, Jordan Meadows, Black Rock Desert, Pine Forest Range, Gathers on the Winnemucca District, Ruby Pipeline
- Meetings: May want to combine the NCA subgroup and recreation topic, Kathy Ataman cultural significance of NCA trails. WD – Sept 14-15, CCD – May 18-19, NCA subgroup – hold at Black Rock Station (WD will talk with BRFO FM and work on date).
- Topics: Workshop meeting on Lentic sites (Jordan meadows, grazing management efforts), Fuels areas (FIAT), Fire/Fuels (Secretarial Orders), Implementation of SG Plans.
- NCA subgroup- separate meeting from the RAC meetings.
- CCD field trips: Pine nut HMA, Fish springs, veg treatments (Bison Fire),

#### Wild Horse program update – John Axtell

- Next adoption, Prison horse training program. Working with other agencies to utilize trained horses.
- Explained the prison training program.

#### New Chairperson Election

- Willie: Elect Mark Freese as Chair, Debbie as Co-chair
- Matt: 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion
- All approved

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Public comment period:

1. Ginger Fedac
2. Sheila Schwadel
3. Therese Cline
4. Bonnie Matton
5. Nancy Florence
6. Marty Wright

7. Mary Cioffi
8. Barbara Smallwood
9. Maureen Daane
10. Terri Farley
11. Krestine Daphne