

RAC Members:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Residence</u>	<u>Interest Represented</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>	<u>Present</u>
Bill Brake*	Scottsdale	Grazing	11/2016	Y
Emmett Sturgill	Kingman	Grazing	11/2016	Y
Krishna Parameswaran	Scottsdale	Energy/Minerals	09/2017	Y
John (JC) Sanders	Bouse	Commercial Recreation	01/2019	Y
Maggie Sacher	Marble Canyon	Commercial Recreation	01/2019	Y
Michael Quigley	Tucson	Non-Commodity/Environmental	11/2016	Y
H. Maaik Schotborgh	Tucson	Non-Commodity/Environmental	11/2016	Y
David Tenney	Show Low	Non-Commodity/Dispersed Recreation	09/2017	Y
Dawn Hubbs	Hackberry	Non-Commodity/Historical/ Archaeology	09/2017	Resigned
Thomas Hulen	Tempe	Non-Commodity/Dispersed Recreation	01/2019	Y
H. Drew John	Safford	Local Area/Public-At-Large	11/2016	Y
Mandy Metzger	Flagstaff	Local Area/Elected Official	09/2017	N
Gary Watson	Kingman	Local Area/Elected Official	09/2017	Y
Stuart Marsh, Ph.D.	Tucson	Local Area/Academia	01/2019	Y
Stephen Trussell	Gilbert	Local Area/Public-At-Large	01/2019	Y
Marianne Cox FOR Jim deVos (non-voting)	Phoenix	Arizona Game and Fish Department	n/a	N

*RAC Chair

BLM Staff:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Present</u>
Raymond Suazo	Arizona State Director	Arizona State Office	Y
Amber Cargile	Deputy State Director, Communications	Arizona State Office	Y
Kelly Castillo	Acting Deputy State Director, Resources & Planning	Arizona State Office	Y
Rebecca Heick	Deputy State Director, Lands, Minerals & Energy	Arizona State Office	Y
Tim Burke	District Manager	Arizona Strip District	Y
Jason West	Field Manager	Colorado River District	Y
Leon Thomas	District Manager	Phoenix District	Y
Roxie Trost	District Manager	Colorado River District	Y
Scott Cooke	Acting District Manager	Gila District	Y
Adam Eggers	Public Affairs Specialist	Arizona State Office	Y
Susan Williams	Recording Secretary	Arizona State Office	Y

Public in Attendance: See the attached sign-in sheet.

Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item: Welcome

Presenter: Bill Brake, Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Chair

- Welcome and introductions were made around the room.

Agenda Item: State Director's Introduction and Update on BLM Programs and Issues**Presenter:** Raymond Suazo, BLM Arizona State Director/Designated Federal Official

- Thank you for taking the time to attend the RAC meetings.
- RAC Nominations (5) have been forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior for approval.
- Dawn Hubbs has resigned from the RAC. Dawn has provided valuable input during her participation on the RAC. Her appointment expires in 2017 so the vacancy will be filled next year.

Personnel Updates:

- June Shoemaker, Deputy State Director (DSD) of Resources and Planning, accepted a position with BLM Idaho in July. Roxie Trost will be the new DSD for Resources and Planning. Kelly Castillo is currently the Acting DSD until Roxie reports to the State Office in October.
- Tim Shannon, Gila District Manager (GDM) has transferred to the BLM Washington Office. Scott Feldhausen will be the new GDM and reports at the end of October. Scott Cooke is currently the Acting GDM for September, followed by Pamela Mathis in October.
- Installation Ceremony for Leon Thomas, Phoenix District Manager, was this week.

Roles and Responsibilities of the RAC:

- The BLM appreciates the advice and input of the RAC. As the designated Federal Official in charge, I value your input that will be considered when making recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior.
- Thanks to the RAC for your input on a number of high-profile issues.
- Per regulations, any meetings and votes of the RAC must to be announced to the public by issuing a Federal Register Notice 30-days in advance of a vote.
- Any recommendations must have a quorum of 12 members total participating, and requires a majority of the vote from all three categories.
- Official recommendations from the RAC should be addressed to the Secretary through the State Director, who is the Designated Federal Official.
- None of this precludes your rights as a private citizen or as a representative of your organization or as an elected official, to send a letter to the BLM Director, Secretary, or members of Congress.
- Please take the time to read the RAC Charter and Regulations.

Anniversaries:

- Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) 40th Anniversary.
- Bureau of Land Management's 70th Anniversary.
- Please pay attention to social media for upcoming events.

Hill Visit:

- Amber Cargile and I traveled to Washington, DC for our annual visit with Arizona's Congressional delegation to discuss public land issues. The visit was very positive.

- The Congressional delegation was especially interested in fire, border, wild horse and burro, renewable energy and water issues.
- Provided them with BLM's new Southern Arizona Project Report (copies also provided to the RAC and posted online) focusing on restoration work conducted on public lands in the border area, including eight Operation Reclaim Our Arizona Monuments (ROAM) surges conducted in partnership with the U.S. Border Patrol.
- Kelly Castillo put together a landscape restoration proposal related to salt cedar, along with addressing water issues. We are talking with all agencies involved in the process. Congressional members have indicated they are interested in these strategies as we move forward. Recommendations and input from the RAC are also encouraged.

Ray Land Exchange:

- We continue to work with ASARCO in releasing a draft plan related to the proposed expansion of the Ray Mine, and the Washington Office has been briefed. This is an important project and there is more to come. When we have a better timeline, we will brief the RAC.

Wild Horse & Burro (WH&B):

- The RAC was updated yesterday on the partnership and considerable time has been spent meeting with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, and the Washington Office in building partnerships and working on solutions. Both Senator McCain and Director Kornze are in support of this partnership.
- The Colorado River District is working with the Humane Society on an Environmental Assessment (EA) related to a PZP fertility trial of WH&B near Kingman.
- In the process of gathering 25 wild horses and 35 wild burros in the area of Highway 95 and Aberdeen Road in the Yuma Field Office area.
- Using baited corrals, stocked with hay, supplements or water, to lure the animals into the corrals with spring-loaded gates that will close behind them.
- The animals will be made available for adoption.

Facility Security/Employee & Customer Safety:

- Safety and facility security is a top priority.
- The FBI arrested a man attempting to place and detonate an explosive device at our BLM facility in the Mount Trumbull area on the Arizona Strip. No one was hurt, and this remains under investigation.
- Security has been increased at all BLM Arizona facilities to keep the public and our employees safe.

Agenda Item: Commercial Recreation Leases Outreach Update (Concessions on the Colorado River)

Presenter: Jason West, Lake Havasu Field Manager (see handout)

- The Lake Havasu Field Office (LHFO) is moving forward with concessions issues and has good dialog with concessionaires.
- Met on a face-to-face basis with concessioners and have established a short list of

concerns specific to each concession and are moving forward.

- At the request of the BLM Director, the Office of Evaluation Services is expediting the appraisal process.

Agenda Item: Fire and Aviation Update (2016 Fire Season Report, Drones)

Presenter: Kelly Castillo, BLM Arizona Fire Management Officer

Fire Update (Yearly highlights): BLM Arizona now has a new fire crew located at Fort Huachuca in Sierra Vista. Called the Aravaipa Crew, the team is comprised mostly of veterans. The Fort has provided dorm rooms and we are currently creating an onsite Operations Facility (training rooms and offices). This year, the crew went on fires in southeast Arizona, New Mexico, and Montana. They have had a successful year with only one injury (broken hand), and had over 500 hours of overtime. Once fully trained, the crew will be considered a Type 1 Hotshot Crew.

Question: As a BLM lessee in the area is there a way to contact the BLM to report a fire in as individuals instead of reporting it to a local fire department?

- Yes, State Forestry Dispatch in southeast Arizona was combined with Tucson Dispatch so you will be connected with Tucson.

Question: There is a down time for hotshot crews and they can be productive in down times. How is down time work scheduled?

- A lot of fire prevention can be prevented on BLM land by keeping roads cleared of brush.
- This team has the skillsets for restoration and prevention work.
- The BLM has entered into a Fire agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for fire suppression Arizona.
- The BOR and BIA are providing funding for preparedness.
- Have been doing work on BLM land in the Buckeye, Arizona area for fuels suppression. Doing eradication of salt cedar then seeding with native seed.

Fire season 2016 was a tame year due to weather patterns. The BLM had approximately 200 fires in Arizona. The Tenderfoot Fire on the east side of Yarnell went to over 4,000 acres in size and was a success with prior work in the past 5 years due to the Yarnell Fire Department already creating fuel breaks via the Communities at Risk Grant Program. Creating fuel breaks saved several subdivisions.

The Bug Creek Fire on Interstate 17 was next to the Cordes Lakes area and the firefighters along with aviation and a thunderstorm in the vicinity moved the fire south and started threatened cars along the interstate. The Department of Public Service moved the parked cars to the southbound lanes of the interstate.

Drones:

- Testing small-scale use of drones on wildfires.
- As Federal and State agencies drones are reported.
- The BLM had drone 49 reports this fire season, which stopped all aircraft fighting fires for the safety of aircraft.
- Fines (up to \$2,500) and/or jail time are possible.
- The BLM is trying to keep up with drone technology and trying to figure out how to use drones safely without impacting resources and aircraft.
- Under the current BLM policy on drones, requests must be made for monitoring projects through the State Aviation Manager and forwarded to the National Operations Center in Denver for approval.
- The public can go on public lands and use drones, but not approved for use in wilderness areas.
- Commercial use of drones on public lands needs to go through the BLM permitting process. Drones cannot be used to harass livestock or wildlife.

Question: What is the policy on permittees using drones to check water supply?

- It depends on if it is within the BLM's operational control.
- Does it fall into commercial and in the terms and conditions of your permit?
- Need to figure out how this applies to BLM grazing permits terms and conditions.
- The BLM has pulled together a team to establish drone protocols.

ACTION ITEM: Suggested by the State Director for Kelly Castillo, Roxie Trost, and technical experts do brainstorming on drone issues and start formulating a framework to move forward and bring suggestions to the RAC. Also discuss what the regulations are regarding private helicopters landing on public lands.

Agenda Item: Balance Point: Managing the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Presenter: Amber Cargile, Deputy State Director for Communications

- Amber presented a PowerPoint presentation on managing the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands.

Agenda Item: Public Comment Period (30 minutes)

For the public comment period, Simone Netherlands, Salt River Wild Horse Management Group, was the only person to submit written comments for the record.

Name: Mike S. (? **Name not on sign-in sheet**). No written transcript provide for the record.

Name: Scott Eugene Glover/Innovative Solutions: No written transcript provided for the record.

Name: Karen Michael/Volunteer at the Animal Defense League of Arizona: No written transcript provided for the record.

Name: John Hamill/Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership: No written transcript provided for the record.

Name: Robin Crawford/Heber Wild Horse Freedom Preservation Alliance: No written transcript provided for the record.

Name: Jean Whittman/Queen Creek Wildlife Rescue: No written transcript provided for the record.

Name: Simone Neatherlands: I am Simone Netherlands, president of the Salt River Wild Horse Management Group, a Scottsdale-based Arizona non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the historic Salt River wild horses in the Tonto National Forest. Our 100 volunteers are on the river daily, identifying horses, tracking their movements, conducting range stewardship activities (such as trash and barbed wire removal and repair of fencing) to protect this cherished wild horse herd. We are also certified to use the PZP fertility control vaccine and stand ready to work with the Forest Service and the State to humanely manage this population to maintain its numbers and reduce the need for future of removals of horses from the range. I come before you today less than a week after the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory board recommended the mass killing of up to 45,000 wild horses and burros stockpiled in government holding facilities. I say killing, because there is no such thing as "euthanizing" a healthy wild horse. You are talking about killing our national icons...murdering our American spirit. Yesterday, the BLM clarified that it is rejecting the recommendation for a mass killing plan. While this is a positive development, actions speak louder than words. And every action this agency is taking is geared toward one outcome: lifting the ban on slaughtering our cherished wild horses and burros. The American people will not stand for it. As the recent public outcry demonstrates, We the People demand humane, on-the-range management of our remaining wild horses and burros. The BLM must stop the roundups and start using birth control. The PZP vaccine works, it's available and

yet the BLM is not using it except on isolated herds. Here in Arizona we are lucky to have some of the nation's largest and most genetically viable wild burro herds. And we are lucky to have a BLM that is forward thinking in implementing a pilot program to humanely manage the Black Mountain burros using the PZP birth control vaccine. We need more programs like that, and a holistic approach to wild horse and burro management on the range. This is 2016. Better options exist. The perpetual cycle of rounding up wild horses, removing them from the range must end. Viable solutions include: 1. Managing wild horses on the range using fertility control. 2. Accommodating current wild horse and burro populations by reducing livestock grazing on the 17% of BLM rangelands where these animals live. 3. Returning some of the 45,000 wild horses warehoused in holding facilities to the range, to some of the 20 million acres of wild horse and burro habitat that have been "zeroed out" for wild horses by BLM over the past 40+ years. Under no circumstance is killing captured wild horses and burros acceptable. Our government rounded up these animals and stuffed them into holding pens. We now have a responsibility to care for these animals who have been robbed of their freedom and their families. The American public is not going to stop letting its voice be heard until we have humane, on-the-range management that truly protects and preserves these national treasures on our Western public lands. Thank you for your consideration.

Public Comment Period Closed at 3:04 p.m.

Agenda Item: RAC Committee Reports

Presenter: Bill Brake

- Thanks to Amber Cargile for emailing the district reports to the RAC Members for review prior to the meeting.

Agenda Item: RAC Questions/Comments on BLM District Reports

Presenters: RAC Members, State Director, District Managers and BLM Staff

Phoenix District Manager's Report – Leon Thomas, District Manager

- Ron Tipton will become the Monument Manager/Assistant Field Manager for the Agua Fria National Monument and Hassayampa Field Office renewable resources programs.
- Amanda James transferred to become Field Manager of the Ukiah Field Office in Ukiah, CA.
- Public Meeting on October 4, 2016, at the Burton Barr Library in Phoenix from 6-8 p.m. regarding the Recreational Target Shooting Environmental Impact Statement to unveil the range of alternatives.
- The Hassayampa Field Office completed the Federal Register submission package regarding the Notice of Realty Action for the Vulture Mountains Recreation and Public Purposes Application.
- The BLM is reviewing Arizona Public Service's (APS) final detailed Plan of Development for the Sun Valley to Morgan Transmission Project, and will issue a Notice to proceed with construction in the Fall 2016, at which time APS intends to begin construction.
- The U.S. Forest Service Tonto National Forest, Arizona Game and Fish Department, the grazing lessee, and dozens of stakeholders, the Agua Fria National Monument is

developing a Coordinated Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Horseshoe and Copper Creek grazing allotments. The plan should be complete in October 2016.

- The Sonoran Valley Parkway final briefing on the Federal Register Notice is being scheduled with the Washington Office before obtaining final approval.
- The court-ordered closure to target shooting on the Sonoran Desert National Monument continues to remain in place and has been effective with minimal violations.
- Seven law enforcement surges were completed for Operation ROAM during FY 2016.
- The Lower Sonoran Field Office has been moving forward with grazing permit renewals.
- The Gila River Hazardous Fuels Reduction project continues to treat tamarisk along the Gila River between the Highway 85 bridge and the Gillespie Dam.

Gila District Manager's Report - Scott Cooke, Acting District Manager:

- In the Gila Valley, the chamber sponsors the Gila Valley Leadership class and leaders from the local community participate in a natural resources day to educate the local leaders on what the BLM is doing.
- Effective October 30, 2016, Scott Feldhausen will become the BLM's Gila District Manager.
- The Record of Decision for the Southline Transmission Project was signed on April 21, 2016.
- The BLM will be offering right-of-way grants to both Southline LLC, the proponent, and Western Area Power Administration for the upgrade of their existing line on BLM-administered lands.
- The BLM created a new wildland fire crew to be stationed at Fort Huachuca in Sierra Vista. The crew is currently working toward Hotshot certification.
- The 22-member crew is currently stationed at the San Pedro Project Office in Hereford until a remodel of facilities at Fort Huachuca is complete.
- The BLM and cooperators held a kick-off project to repair the Gila River diversion canal.
- The Safford Field Office (SFO)/Gila District has been participating in the Arizona Association of Conservation District's Arizona Conservation Partnership in Navajo and Apache Counties.
- Working with multiple partners to evaluate restoration projects within 1 mile of the U.S.-Mexico border between the Mule Mountains and New Mexico on suitability for vegetation management treatments.
- Received funding through the Land and Water Conservation Fund to work with the Trust for Public Lands to purchase the ET Ranch in eastern Arizona near Safford.
- The SFO is working on a landscape-scale integrated vegetation management Environmental Assessment (EA) that will cover the entire field office.
- The EA will be completed via contract with the support of an Interdisciplinary Team comprised of SFO and State Office staff. Once the contract is awarded a start date is anticipated for the fall of 2016, with a start date in the fall of 2016.
- Progress continues on the development of a RMP for the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area. In the process of hiring a new project manager.
- The Tucson Field Office continues to assist the lead agency, Coronado National Forest, for the Rosemont Copper project in evaluating the proposed mine located 30 miles

southeast of Tucson.

- Owners of the planned Silver Bar Mine Regional Landfill are seeking a right-of-way to improve and utilize existing roads on public lands in order to access a privately-owned landfill site located on 800 acres of private lands approximately 10 miles northeast of Florence.
- The U.S. Air Force is in the process of relinquishing back to the BLM the site of a decommissioned Titan Missile facility with the boundary of the Ironwood Forest National Monument with a ribbon cutting ceremony tentatively scheduled November 17, 2016

It was suggested to Scott Cooke to schedule a permittee meeting to hear what they are doing in the field and to get permittee feedback. Scott replied that every year the SFO attends the annual Cattlegrowers meeting.

Arizona Strip District Manager's Report - Tim Burke, District Manager:

- The Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument and Arizona Strip Field Offices are drafting an EA for the Unikaret Mountains Landscape Restoration Project.
- The Wildland Fire Management Program received Habitat Partnership Committee grant monies from the Arizona Game and Fish Department for mastication of pinyon and juniper in the Buckskin Mountains.
- Continues to work with the U.S. Geological Survey on implementing studies identified by the Northern Arizona Withdrawal Management Oversight team to study impacts associated with uranium mining in the Grand Canyon watershed.
- The Kanab Creek Riparian Restoration Project is currently removing invasive salt cedar and Russian olive, which has altered natural flow regimes and reduced diversity of riparian species.
- Consultation continues with the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on the Proposed Travel Management Plan (TMP)/EA Route Designations.
- A TMP/EA has been prepared for the Colorado City and St. George Basin Travel sub-regions.
- The BLM will initiate consultation with the Arizona SHPO for the Littlefield Travel sub-regions and finalize route designations in 2017.
- A Draft Business Management Plan has been prepared to guide future business practices in the Paria Canyon-Coyote Buttes SMA. The draft business plan was tabled by the RAC at the April 2016 meeting. The plan was revised to solely address fees and the BLM plans to submit the revised plan for public comment and then present it for a formal hearing to the Recreation RAC and full RAC in early 2017.
- Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument staff members are preparing an EA to disclose the impacts related to permitting motorized commercial activities on existing roads. Related activities such as hiking on existing trails will also be analyzed.

Colorado River District (CRD) Manager's Reports – Roxie Trost, District Manager

- CRD volunteers received two National Volunteer Awards this year. The Lifetime Achievement Award went to volunteers Jack and Sandy Gasser, and Outstanding Achievement award to volunteer Bob Mackie.

- The LHFO was awarded Partner of the Year Award by the Lake Havasu Marine Association.
- The CRD Field Office ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new office was last month.
- Removed the dock at Havasu Springs as it became unsafe. Working on a proposal to replace the dock.
- The 3rd annual Grazing Forum was held in Lake Havasu and included presenters from the grazing community.
- The Freeport McMoRan Baghdad EA is currently out for public review.
- CRD Law Enforcement Rangers have provided essential security, including support to the El Centro Field Office, in covering the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area during increased security restrictions.
- There were no significantly large fires on CRD managed lands during fire season.
- The LHFO continues to work on implementation of the Havasu TMP with Mohave County.
- The LHFO Recreation team is planning to assist the BLM Washington Office in a pilot for automated fee collection systems.
- In the concessions program, the CRD has contracted with a professional appraiser to determine fair market value rent for future concession leases.
- The LHFO continues to work with partners to improve native and sport fish habitat within Lake Havasu.
- The Yuma Field Office (YFO) continues to work on TMPs for the Imperial Hills, Lower Colorado River, and Gila Valley.
- As a result of an Office of Inspector General Report, the YFO is investigating the possibility of increasing fees at BLM campgrounds and establishing fees at free camping areas, particularly in the Quartzsite area.
- The YFO is currently consulting with the Colorado River Indian Tribes on the Ten West Transmission Line Project.
- The Kingman Field Office (KFO) range staff recently completed the land health evaluations for the Hualapai Mountains North Area.
- The KFO recently completed abandoned mine land remediation efforts on the Pope Mine Complex.
- The KFO recently released for public comment an EA for a burro fertility management pilot program as proposed by the Humane Society of the United States.

Agenda Item: Questions of BLM District Reports

Presenters: RAC Members, State Director, District Managers and BLM Staff

Question: On the Arizona Strip is juniper involved? Yes, and so is ponderosa pine. Enhancing sagebrush grasslands as well.

Agenda Item: Wrap Up/Future Agenda Items/Next Meeting Dates/Adjourn

Presenters: RAC Members and BLM Staff

- Maaike Schotborgh thanked the State Director for participating on the call in June

regarding Wild Horse and Burro Partnership updates.

- The Arizona Friends and Partners Action preliminary markup is out and going to the Conservation Lands Foundation per Maggie Sacher.
- Bill Brake recommended that the RAC go online and read recommendations made by the national Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board following their recent meeting.
- Thomas Hulen commented that the Archaeologists Committee met with Matt Basham to discuss the mining artifacts north of Cave Creek and will continue meeting on this issue. Will schedule a meeting with Leon Thomas, Gila District Manager, soon.
- Krishna Parameswaran stated that the RAC appreciates the BLM planning tools so they know what is going on. Once it is finalized and that the plan is announced they will be updated. Thanks to Amber Cargile for her BLM history presentation.
- The RAC updates are useful in helping to disseminate information to the constituency.
- Thanks for the BLM history today by Amber Cargile. If the working groups have time let's talk about the different interests to help us look at them at different angles.
- Please send in your agenda items to Amber Cargile. Amber stated that RAC meeting information needs to be posted in the Federal Register 30 days prior to the meeting so please send her your requests for agenda items a couple months prior to the next meeting.
- Bill Brake mentioned that the RAC needs to have a seminar and learn more about communicating to the public.
- Amber Cargile will clarify when RAC Member's terms expire. She will contact the Washington Office and find out.

Next Meeting Discussion: Amber Cargile will send a Doodle Poll with date suggestions for the next. If too many current RAC Members terms expire and there are not enough RAC Members for a quorum, then the next RAC meeting will probably be after January 1, 2017. The RAC Members have also expressed that when RAC meetings are located downtown at the State Office that their lodging be closer to downtown.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:45 p.m.