

Sierra Front Northwestern Great Basin

Resource Advisory Council

August 12, 2016 ~ Meeting Minutes

Fallon, Nevada – Holiday Inn Express

Taken by Terah Malsam

Introductions:

- BLM representatives: Ralph Thomas – Carson City District Manager, Lisa Ross – Carson City District Public Affairs Officer, Robert Towne – Winnemucca District Manager, Terah Malsam – Winnemucca District Public Affairs Officer.
- RAC members present: Kyle Snyder, John Ugalde, Matt Gingerich, Patrick Irwin, Greg Hendricks, William Molini, Ron Cerri, David Von Seggern, Patrick Haynal, Mark Freese (Chair).

Approval of minutes:

- Tri-RAC minutes with supplemental goals – Approved.
- June Winnemucca District meeting minutes – Approved.
- Business meeting minutes – Approved.

Public comment period – No public comments.

Militia Affairs Resolution:

- MOSO RAC does not want to be involved.
- NE RAC does not approve our resolution and wants to draft their own.
- Where do we want to go from here?
 - Ron: I wouldn't mind seeing another resolution.
 - Mark: Let's wait two weeks and see if they send something over. If they don't, we approve it and send it to BLM. If they do, we have everyone review and merge the two resolutions.
 - Pat: I think we should move forward with ours.
 - David: I concur.
 - Ron: We should move forward with ours. We can always change it. We can expand to Cattleman's Association hopefully. Will this be published?
 - Mark: We will need to put in a formal request to publish online and put out a press release.
 - Robert: It would be a powerful message to get this out. Maybe spread to other States.
 - David: How do we get the resolution out? Does the BLM have the authority to turn it down?

- Lisa: I will find out.
- Mark: We aren't looking for a response from the BLM.
- Pat I: I make a motion to push forward to BLM with grammar changes (pointed out by Pat H.)
- Ray: I second.
- All approved.
- Mark: We can ask BLM to share with media and on their websites.
- Matt G: How will employees see this?
- Robert: We can send it out in an All-employee email, post in offices, present in All-employees meetings. Mark could come to our meetings to announce resolution.

NCA Subgroup: Willie Molini

- Subgroup met in May – reported results in June RAC meeting.
- Did not meet prior to the meeting.
- There have been land acquisitions in the area.
- Double Hot/Casey Hot Land acquisitions.
- BLM met with interested parties.
- RAC was considering making recommendations to BLM to revisit the appraisal of land. It fell apart because appraisal was not sufficient for land owner.
- RAC was hoping to get an answer from BLM on if this could be done.
 - Mark: is this a topic the NCA could revisit at their next meeting? Bill O'Sullivan (last Acting WD DM) said that his concern was that the subgroup was not meeting subgroup expectations. We need clarification from BLM on what they expect from the subgroup.
 - Robert: That should be done through William Mack, Black Rock Field Office Manager.
 - Willie – If the group meets before November, have them contact Robert.
- End of report.

Grazing subgroup – Chair Ron Keil not present

- DFO is Mike Herder
- PAO is Lisa Ross
- Have a fall meeting with subgroup in the September/October timeframe.

Sage grouse subgroup – Willie Molini

- Checklist with guidance for subgroups sent out to RAC.
- Nominations from NE/MOSO RACs to solicit more interest.
- We have six members (from our RAC) and should pair it down a little. We need a DFO as well. Once we have a group and DFO, we can set up a meeting.
 - Greg: Mark can you put on agenda for RAC chairs/DFO meeting?
 - Mark: Yes.

- SFNWGB RAC members on Sage grouse subgroup: Matt Gingerich, David Von Seggern, Kyle Snyder, Deborah Lassiter, Willie Molini and Ron Keil.
- We need more biologists and ranching representation.
- Added John Ugalde and took Matt Gingerich off the subgroup. Willie will follow up with Deborah to see if she still wants to be on the subgroup.

Wild Horse and Burro subgroup – Greg Hendricks

- There are interested parties from all three RACs, but not a whole lot of interest from wildlife. We need a DFO. Terah is the designated PAO for the subgroup.
- We received information from Alan Shepherd (Nevada BLM WHB State Lead).
- More volunteers are helping move animals from private property. Reaching public with more education. There is more acceptance from the public when information comes from the RAC rather than the BLM.
- Ron volunteered to join the subgroup representing ranching.
- WHB Advisory Board meeting will be on September 8-9th in Elko.
- Humane Society and BLM:
- Pilot on burros – PZP – in EA stages.
- Near Kingman, AZ there is a large PZP effort going on (Black Mountain HMA).
- After the next National meeting, we should have more information on research.
- End of report
- Pat I: I would be interested in joining the NCA subgroup meeting.

District Manager reports:

- Ralph Thomas – Carson City District
 - Mark: Can we hear back from Ralph on the Virginia Mountains Complex ES&R plan?
- Robert Towne – Winnemucca District

Presentations:

- Sarah Peterson – Spring Riparian Management
- Kathryn Dyer – Grazing Management Practices and Strategies

Discussion items following presentations:

- Range program retention, offering incentives, recruitment for those jobs, bottlenecks from a ranching/grazing perspective – horses, water sources, outsourcing of NEPA, NDOW help with range improvements.

Action items from discussion:

- Mark will summarize suggestions and put in a recommendation letter to the BLM outlining short-term and long-term goals.

Public comment period - One member of the public (Sabrina MCCue) spoke and thanked the BLM and the RAC members for allowing her to attend the RAC field tour on Thursday and the RAC meeting on Friday.

Motion to adjourn: John U.

Second motion: David V.

All approved.

Meeting Adjourned