

To: Butts, Sally[sbutts@blm.gov]; Bob Wick[rwick@blm.gov]
From: Clayton Daughenbaugh
Sent: 2017-05-26T17:13:18-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Notes from Sierra Club call
Received: 2017-05-26T17:13:32-04:00
Interior & BLM Sub-Team Notes 5,23,17.doc

...are attached.

Have a great weekend,
Clayton

Clayton Daughenbaugh
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SIERRA CLUB WILDLANDS & WILDERNESS BLM SUB-TEAM with INTERIOR

N O T E S

Tuesday, May 23, 2017

ATTENDANCE

Sierra Club: Luther (MN), Larry (NV), Vicky (CA), Alan (CO), Tom (NM), Jim (UT),
Miya (NM), Will (UT), Wayne (UT)
Interior: Sally and Bob

LWC INVENTORIES AND MANAGEMENT

Status Update Per New Administration – Sally and/or Bob except as noted

1) LWCs: manuals still in place, new leadership is learning the ropes so things are slowing down. New priorities will be looking for compatible multiple uses in LWCs as permitted. Energy, access, and recreation are priorities from Sec. Zinke.

Jim commented that FLPMA requires harmony among multiple uses and a focus on ecological balance. Sally concurred.

2) Status of NLCS and Monuments: 17 BLM monuments included in review. Comments will be reviewed by software IDing form letters, those will be counted as one comment though the number of them will be noted. Comments will be organized by Monument referenced. There will be four tribal listening sessions: Portland, Phoenix, Billings, and Connecticut.

Wayne noted the inadequacy of this as applied to Bears Ears. Wayne also noted the confusion over whether the B.E. comment period ends Thursday or Friday. Sally will pass along the later piece of info and try to get it corrected.

3) Any changes to NEPA process: they will seek to streamline

4) Any changes to Tribal consultation: no changes

5) BLM 2.0: rejected by Congress so we're back to the 1983 planning regs which will be re-published soon.

6) Impact of 'Cut Two Regs for Every One Added' Ex. Order: primary impact appears to be to discourage any new regs.

7) Staffing changes per budget discussions: hiring freeze has been lifted for G-12 and below except in Denver and DC offices.

8) Trainings schedule: none schedule, manual update in the works by end of year.

Volunteer Monitoring

Will reported a successful remediation effort at the end of April with the new Price office staff person. All items found have been addressed. He got to play around a bit with ACE but still reviewing. More dates in field to come.

STATE SPECIFIC ITEMS

Wyoming: Kim commented on difficulty of conducting simultaneous RMP and travel management plans since later is supposed to be conditioned on former. Said they are likely stuck with it at this point but Rock Springs office not being forthcoming on reasons why. Bob will raise with Peter DeWitt.

Utah: Jim noted population, job, income increases in Garfield County since Grand Staircase Monument began at rates higher than surrounding counties. Sally and Bob said that was significant info. Jim will send the data. Wayne asked about Master Leasing Plans (MLPs). Sally said there was no change in regs; Bob said they were moving slower.

New Mexico: Tom reported on local efforts to comments in pertaining to the two new national monuments and the unanimous support for Rio Grande del Norte and overwhelming but not quite unanimous support for Organ Peaks.

Miya noted that the Chaco area is 91% leased and that a new RMP was begun in 2014 due to lack of consideration in previous one of cumulative impacts and that LWC inventory work was done but new plan isn't due until late 2018 and leasing continues based on old legally inadequate Plan. She asked if archeological sites could be made pertinent in the LWCs. Bob said, yes but that there are also other places of relevance - check <https://www.blm.gov/programs/planning-and-nepa> . Sally noted site was difficult to navigate. Clayton will put Miya, Tom, Sally, and Bob in touch with each other.

Nevada: Larry reported folks are commenting in support of Gold Butte and Basin & Range national monuments. Bob emphasized the importance of local input.

Larry said the Defense Dept. is seeking BLM lands, including WSAs and asked if BLM could slow down or stop. Bob said no but it's all subject to NEPA and would require congressional action.

Larry said Battle Mountain LWC inventory has ground to a halt despite considerable citizen input. Bob said staffing situation means they will likely focus primarily on places where there are proposed projects.

Minnesota: Luther expressed "deep concern" about Rep. Nolan's meeting with Sec. Zinke encouraging that the new leasing review process be circumvented pertaining to Twin Metals and sulphide mining; noted that 80% of local residents favored the review. Bob said that at this point the review was still proceeding. There is an August deadline.

Colorado: Alan reported a huge uptick in oil and gas leasing since the New Year. He noted he had submitted comments which he'd also sent to Sally and would be sending to Grand Junction office and Chad. He also commented upon the terrible Uncompahgre office plan which allowed 95% of area leased despite extensive LWC documentation from citizens. Bob said Chad was the right person to be in touch with and that comments in Uncompahgre would need to be focused on individual leases.

California: Vicky noted six monuments in California and that much local comment was being obtained. She asked about staff transition and Bob said that he thought she would like the new guy - Mike.

Arizona: Clayton asked if Sally or Peter had checked on the issue of proper meeting notice regarding Sonoran National Monument meetings. Sally said they had not but that she would.

OTHER

Jim asked if the Geo-Communicator feature on the website could be reinstated. Bob and Sally will look into it.

NEXT CALL: Sept. date TBD

ADJOURN