

Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council

July 22, 2016

Elko District

California Trail Interpretive Center

RAC Attendance

William Wolf- Chairman	(3) Public at Large
Jack Prier	(2) Environmental
Kenneth Conley	(1) Grazing
Julie Hughes	(2) Dispersed Recreation
Dan Anderson	(1) Energy/Minerals
Jon Rice	(3) Elected Official
David Pierce	(1) Energy/Minerals

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Representatives Present:

Mike Herder	District Manager – Ely
Doug Furtado	District Manager – Battle Mountain
Jill Silvey	District Manager- Elko
Ron Moblei	BLM NSO

Members of the Public Present

Martin Paris	Congressman Amodei's Office
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Meeting began at 9:30 a.m. at the California Trail Interpretive Center with welcome and introductions.

- **Housekeeping:** A minor correction to the minutes from last meeting was purposed and voted on. The minutes were then approved by the committee
- Sub-Group Discussion
 - The Aug. 11th meeting was discussed briefly. That meeting will address three sub-groups (grazing, WH&B, and one other)
 - The Sage Grouse sub-group was discussed further.
 - Still looking for members
 - Does anyone want to join that sub-group?
 - Questions were asked about the goals of that sub-group
 - An opinion was expressed that mining needs to be represented on the Sage-Grouse sub-group.
 - A follow up comments was made saying the same for the livestock industry

10:00 a.m. *Standards and Guidelines presentation by NSO Katheryn Dyer*

- Jack Prier ask questions about making significant progress towards– What does that mean and how long do we have to get there?
- Comment was made about having measurable goals in rangeland health
 - Doug Furtado commented that there is a lot of legal guidance already that establishes what significant progress is defined as.

11:00 a.m. *SNPLMA Presentation by Ron Moblej, NSO*

- The funds generated by the BLM sales go into a special account to be used at the Secretary of the Interior's discretion.
 - Does that money have to be spent in NV?
 - No
 - The boundary that determines what lands can be sold, can that change?
 - Yes
- We only expect a few 100 acres over the next few years to be sold (much less than in past years)
- Presentation focused on the Grant side of things vs. disposal
- Hazardous fuels are being considered as a category for SNPLMA grant applications. (things like juniper removal near communities)
 - Is Elko County eligible for SNPLMA?
 - No
- The presenter explained that new guidelines have been put in place that encourage organizations to complete their project in a timely manner – your projects don't move forwards/are not considered if the work is not being completed.
- A handout was provided that detailed Round 16 preliminary recommended actions

12:00 p.m. *Sage Grouse presentation by Matthew Magaletti, NSO*

- The presentation on Sage Grouse habitat requirements generated a lot of questions.
- Strong emphasis was put on the need for collaboration to achieve adaptive management goals.
- Range is still the only program that has a timeframe associated with it in regards to the new Sage Grouse regulations (if I recreation activity is thought to be causing damage to Sage Grouse habitat it needs to be assessed and mitigation efforts made....but those mitigation efforts would not have a timeline by which they need to be completed like the Range program would.)
- There are a lot of new MOU's coming out that clarify certain parts of the new Sage-Grouse plan. They are expected to be complete in the spring of 2017
- Presenter made it clear that all activities that take place in SG habitat (not just grazing) require us to apply the SG policy. If an OHV trail falls in habitat we must strive to make improvements towards the 2-2 goals.

- We have not fully adopted the new USGS maps because it would require a plan amendment (which takes 1-4 years) but we are working towards that.
- %10-%18 change in habitat when we do adopt the new maps
- More workshops coming up with presentations to permittees explaining the new processes.
- Matt asked the group if they had any recommendations as to who should BLM reach out to with the SG information
 - Sportsman's groups – national level
 - WH&B groups
 - Rec people
 - Universities – Schools
 - DMV? – an idea was presented – what if we provide the DMV with information to hand out when someone receives their OHV license?
 - Matt said he would follow up on this idea

1:00 p.m. Range Management Update

Rangeland Health Presentation

- Doug Furtado introduced this presentation with a brief history of drought over the past few years and how, as a district, Battle Mountain has managed rangeland health issues.
- Sam Alt from the Battle Mountain District;
 - Defined drought
 - Explained the tools that BLM uses to identify drought
 - Gave a history lesson on drought in our area over the past few years
 - Announced to the group that nearly all of the drought decisions in the Battle Mountain District have now been lifted.
 - Shared results from drought practices – how much resting certain allotments has helped

Rangeland Health Presentation (Wild Horse and Burro)

- A presentation on Wild horses and burro (WH&B) in the Elko/Ely area was given. Presenter explained how much over AML those areas are and talked about the large gather request that has been submitted for the area.
 - If we don't start eating them the problem will become way too large – paraphrased
 - As a resource council we should be able to submit something to influence these larger problems.
 - **An action item was voted on – the group agreed that a letter should be drafted with the group's thoughts on the WH&B program and what they support as solutions.**

2:00 p.m. Public Comments Open

2:30 p.m. Public Comments Closed

2:30 p.m. Other Business

- Julie Hughes was voted in as vice chair of the Northern Great Basin Resource Advisory
- The group discussed the two vacancies on the RAC
 - A recommendation for the cultural seat was made – arrangements are being made for this individual to apply for the position.
 - Group discussed next meeting's agenda
 - Meeting Aug 11-12 in Battle Mountain
 - **Conference call will take place the week of 8/1 to finalize the agenda**

3:00 p.m. Meeting Adjourned.

Action Items: An action item was voted on – the group agreed that a letter should be drafted with the group's thoughts on the WH&B program and what they support as solutions.