

RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL (RAC)
DRAFT MINUTES
May 8, 2014

Bureau of Land Management
National Training Center
9828 North 31st Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85051

AGENDA ITEM: Welcome and Introductions: Bill Brake, Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Chair, RAC Members, Bureau and Land Management (BLM) Staff, and Guests.

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 a.m. by RAC Chair Bill Brake. Bill welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. The working groups had a successful meeting on March 7.

Following the call to order and welcome, the Council members introduced themselves and the areas they represent. Members of the audience were also asked to introduce themselves and their affiliation.

Resources Advisory Council Members in Attendance:

Category 1 – Commercial/Commodity Interests

Bill Brake

Maggie Sacher

Emmett Sturgill (attended May 6 S&G Training and May 7 Working Group Meeting)

Thomas Hulen (attended May 7 Working Group Meeting)

Category 2 – Environmental, Dispersed Recreation, Archaeological/Historic, Wild Horse & Burro Interests

Glen Collins

Michael Quigley

Carl Taylor

Doug Traub

Category 3 – Elected Officials, Native American, Public at Large, Academia, Local Government Officials

Dawn Duncan-Hubbs

Larry Howery

Harold “Drew” John

Jeffrey Sargent

Gary Watson

Jim de Vos, Arizona Governor’s Representative

ABSENT: Stu Bengson, Huibertje Maaik (Mica) Schotborgh

BLM STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Ray Suazo, Julie Decker, Deborah Stevens, Matthew Thorburn, Mary D'Aversa, Roxie Trost, John MacDonald, Tim Shannon, Dorothea Boothe, Kathy Pedrick, Aaron Wilkerson, Elroy Masters, and Susan Williams

Guests/Members of the Public: Patrick Bray, Arizona Cattlegrowers Association; Kelly Norton, President of the Arizona Mining Association; Gerry Hillier, Executive Director, Quad State Local Government Authority; Mary Darling, Consultant, Cochise County and City of Sierra Vista; Holly Taylor, member of the public

AGENDA ITEM: State Director's Introduction and Update on BLM Programs and Issues
BLM Arizona State Director, Raymond Suazo, thanked everyone for taking time to attend the meeting and engage with the BLM. He gave a short overview on what's happening. The RAC Charter is established by the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The Charter sets the basis for the RAC to provide input/advice that leads to the planning process and decision making. He is the designated federal official (DFO). Suazo pointed out that the Arizona RAC has had a lot of successes and acknowledged how valuable their input is in the decision making process. Suazo's interest is in taking advantage of the diversity, knowledge, and input of the RAC. This continues to be his goal; the dialog and discussions the RAC has lead towards successful decisions. He is interested in the RAC's input and how we can more effectively manage the public lands moving forward. Suazo noted we work together to bring solution-oriented options to be considered by the BLM and he thanked all RAC members for what they do for the benefit of the public lands.

Suazo said his approach is always trying to find the balance point. There are many opportunities to think of conservation and use. Part of our mission is multiple use, grazing, mining, recreation, etc., which at times can be in conflict. Protecting resources and making sure they are used appropriately for future generations is part of our mission.

Yesterday, Suazo had the opportunity to be with Secretary Sally Jewell and Deputy Secretary Michael Connor in Phoenix to discuss renewable energy. The greater majority of tribes in the State met to discuss opportunities for renewable energy. The outcome was that tribal energy grants were announced. The BLM in Arizona has trust responsibility on many of the tribal lands for surveys, right-of-way or energy transmission, and working together with the tribes statewide to discuss where the opportunities are located. There were a lot of interesting discussions and great ideas with tribal leadership. Now that the tribes know that grants are available, Suazo hopes they will think about the economic benefit of renewable energy projects, and also for energy companies to research renewable energy opportunities on tribal lands. The BLM is ready to be responsive to items brought forward.

He briefly mentioned the Nevada trespass issue. Based on the conditions at the time, and consultation with law enforcement, a decision was made to back away to keep the public and workforce safe. Ranching has always been an important part of the nation's heritage. Going forward, this will be dealt with judiciously. The BLM will continue to work closely with the ranching community.

The Governor of Arizona signed SB1292, establishing an Arizona Resource Advisory Council. In discussions with Governor Brewer, it was stated that the BLM still has a responsibility with the BLM

RAC and will continue to do the important work that the RAC does. The BLM RAC still has a role to play as we manage public lands.

The BLM is currently reviewing and vetting Arizona RAC nominations. There are 15 nominations to consider for five vacancies that expire on September 21, 2014. This will be a 4-month process in selecting new RAC members. The Secretary of the Interior will appoint the new members and make that announcement later in the year.

Personnel Updates: Thanks to Matt Thorburn for doing an excellent job as the Acting Arizona Strip District Manager and being responsive to the RAC, constituents, and taking on the extra workload in his acting capacity. Tim Burke has been selected as the Arizona Strip District Manager, and it was announced in a news release issued on May 7.

Gera Ashton, Deputy State Director for Business and Support Services, started working at the State Office three months ago and is doing an excellent job. She is looking at partnership opportunities and how we can be more effective with the resources we have.

Renewable energy continues to be a priority workload. We have signed Record of Decisions (ROD) with the Sonoran Solar Energy, Mohave County Wind Farm and Quartzsite projects. The Maricopa Solar Park project is on hold until the winter 2014; and the Hyder Valley Solar Energy project is on hold until summer 2014. The proponents are working on securing Power Purchase Agreements for Sonoran Solar Energy, Quartzsite, and Mohave County Wind Farm projects.

Public meetings have been held, and the BLM is probably a year out from the draft preferred alternative on the Southline Transmission Project.

The BLM should have a decision soon on the SunZia project. The MIT study with Lincoln Labs and White Sands Missile Range is complete and discussions are ongoing at the Department of Defense on how best to move forward.

The BLM continues to work cooperatively with solar energy companies, Tribal leaders, Federal, State and local agencies, and a range of interest groups to provide for environmentally responsible and diverse energy development to help meet the Nation's energy needs.

On January 16, 2014, Suazo signed the ROD connecting the Sun Valley to Morgan transmission lines in northwest Phoenix. This solidifies the grid in Arizona, and is an important project for transmission infrastructure.

Suazo and staff attended the Arizona Solar Summit this year. What role does Arizona play with California, Nevada, and other western states in providing power? The states seem to be working independently. Arizona has projects ready to go, but nobody is purchasing the power. Potentially, this could also happen on Tribal land. Suazo will be attending the Western Regional Partnerships meeting in June and will raise the issue.

Regional Mitigation: The BLM has conducted stakeholder meetings related to solar energy. Julie Decker will be attending the Deputy State Director's meeting in Washington, D.C. in May, and regional mitigation will be discussed.

The Grand Canyon Parashant National Monument received the International Dark-Sky Association award on March 21. The Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument's International Night Sky Province designation means the Monument now joins an impressive group of night sky places that span the United States and the globe.

Sonoran Landscape Project: Developing concepts for a recreational shooters ethic. There are still impacts. Partnerships are developing and people are paying attention. Engagement leads to understanding the issue and protecting resources across public lands. The RAC has given valuable advice on the strategy that the BLM is now using.

Regarding the six Secretarial Themes: America's Great Outdoors, Climate Change, Native American Nations, New Energy Frontier, Water Challenges, and Youth. Yesterday, the BLM presented the Secretary of the Interior themes to the RAC and the RAC recommended ideas for the BLM to carry forward. Suazo is very interested in hearing what the RAC came up with. He also said America's Great Outdoors is getting the word out to the public. Climate Change is in the forefront. The President's Climate Action Plan came out this week with specific items highlighting drought conditions in the southwest, tornados in the Midwest, and the role public lands play in addressing these issues. Arizona has very important Native American Nations. The New Energy Frontier is an area that we need to pay attention to how things are changing, and how we are connected to energy developments moving forward and the impacts to resources. Water resources have a need for protection. The BLM Arizona does a great job in involving youth, but we need to do more to make sure the next generation is engaged. The Phoenix District Office does a fantastic job in engaging youth. The Secretarial Order on implementing the Youth Initiative, includes the goals of play, learn, serve and work. The BLM is figuring out how to use internal resources and how to engage youth in public lands. The BLM needs to make sure that the next generation values public lands. Kathy Pedrick is the contact for RAC ideas on involving youth.

Awards: The Cienega Watershed Partnership received the 2013 Partners in Conservation Award, and the Friends of the Agua Fria received recognition. Partnerships and Friends groups allow us to get more work done on the ground and help in protecting resources. By using Friends groups and partnerships, the BLM is able to bring more resources and attention to the Agua Fria and Cienega Watershed. The work done by Friends groups is very important.

DISCUSSION: Carl Taylor: Very interested in the Native American survey discussion, particularly with regard to the Navajo where it's a multiple-state reservation. How does this work with the BLM? Suazo commented that the Arizona and New Mexico cadastral surveyor crews, through the DOI and BIA, submit requests through the Cadastral Automated Request System; then requests are prioritized based on development importance, and available funding is distributed for the surveys. The work is then parted out to the states. Of approximately 10,000,000 acres, mostly Navajo, about half has been surveyed. Doug Traub asked if a liaison

from the BLM RAC can serve on the Governor's new State RAC. Suazo said not according to the BLM RAC Charter. Taylor commented that there seems to be an issue with a lack in marketing of renewable energy. The BLM has done a good job on identifying suitable locations for renewable energy sites. Taylor expressed disappointment in the lack of wind energy. In Suazo's opinion, the technology and wind energy development arena is changing to using smaller wind turbines. Solar technology is also improving; getting a lot more localized energy generation and distribution. As people start reviewing their opportunities, the market will change. The economy also plays a role. The grants for renewables on Tribal entities may change. Talking about corridors for energy transportation. Five years ago projects were on the fast track, but not a lot of thought on how to distribute the energy. The transmission discussion will change as well. The discussion needs to be at the western regional level to think about not just the grid, but where the power is going.

Bill Brake regarding the Bundy issue asked: What are we getting ourselves into as a committee? The subcommittee that Roxie Trot put together has alleviated a situation that could have gotten out of hand. This shows how you can gain trust through communication if the BLM and the entities are willing to make a commitment. A trust was created between the BLM and the Mohave area. Thanks to all involved that helped make this happen.

**AGENDA ITEM: Colorado River District Grazing Subcommittee
Review of Issues – Roxy Trost, BLM Colorado River District Manager**

This was a team effort. Last May, the BLM Kingman Field Office released a preliminary Environmental Assessment (EA) for three grazing allotments, Cerabat, Quail Springs, and Fort McEwen. After release of the EA, there was a lot of controversy and discussion with the local community. The BLM CRD took a step back, and with Ray Suazo and Julie Decker's support, came before the RAC to consider creating a sub-committee to better coordinate, collaborate and communicate on other opportunities; look at the alternatives and issues; and maybe expand them or come up with another alternative as a recommendation to our designated federal official for us to consider and analyze at that point. Doug Taub agreed to be the Chair and Dawn Hubbs agreed to be the Co-Chair. The subcommittee was very results driven. Members of the subcommittee attended every meeting and did a fabulous job. Dawn Hubbs stated that Roxie and the facilitators were outstanding. One of the most important outcomes was the ability of the negotiating team to bring everyone together and ask us what we want the future of the landscape to be, and from that there was a plethora of answers organized in categories. The themes were environmental concerns, and that these concerns be respected and preserved, balanced environmental issues, positive BLM and constituent relationships was crucial and a key pivoting point in building on the relationships. Open space and access was extremely important, monitoring of resources, sustainable landscapes. Through Doug's direction, the group was able to focus on the process. The roles and responsibilities of the group were very clear. A critical element was being out on the landscape to see what we were dealing with.

Process to Resolve Issues - Doug Traub, Grazing Subcommittee

The subcommittee was faced with three scenarios. Do nothing, find the middle ground by balancing the interest of conservation and stewardship of the land, and the adaptive management

alternative became the only solution. We spent several full-day working sessions. The bottom line was what will be the holding capacity on the land? An unacceptable alternative was no cattle on the land.

Recommendation: Six different fences need to be taken down, reconstructed or improved. Then it came down to water and six potential well sites on the property. In the meantime, the rancher will physically bring the water to the sites. Who will be on this annual team to work with the rancher? A number of people were potentially earmarked for this process. We looked at the threshold protocol. What will be the rainfall threshold before you move cattle? What kind of measurements will be made? What type of weed control? We have created a document and reaffirmed with the original permittee the stocking capacity limits. Over a two to three-year period capacity limits will be adjusted up or down as conditions dictate. Asking the RAC's approval: #1 - Do you concur that the adaptive management system makes sense?; and #2 - Will you affirm the stocking count of 578? We can take this document to the BLM to be reviewed, analyzed, and adjusted as necessary before being re-released to the public. Doug Taub recommends the RAC approve or disapprove the adaptive management plan for this property and pass it back to the BLM to be reviewed, analyzed, adjusted as necessary, and re-released to the public. Then ultimately come to agreement with the rancher.

Proposed Recommendation – Dawn Hubbs, Grazing Subcommittee

Thanks to the team for their participation. The roles and responsibilities of the group were very clear. It was critical to be out on the landscape. From analysis of the data, the committee was able to work through the process.

DISCUSSION

ACTION: Bill Brake motioned to approve/disapprove the agreement that was reached by the subcommittee to present to the State Director for guidance. Seconded by Doug Taub.

VOTE: Motion approved - The RAC Grazing Subcommittee's recommendation will be forwarded to the State Director.

Maggie Sacher attended the RAC Standards and Guidelines (S&G) training in the field yesterday, and said it was an informative day. She noted, the Rangeland Resource Teams have been difficult to keep together. Maggie's recommendation is to require new RAC members to work directly with the District Manager in their jurisdiction, and schedule a time to go out with the technical teams in their district, rather than trying to meet one date for S&G training. Therefore, the new members can track the process all the way through and have a better understanding of the S&G process.

MOTION by Maggie Sacher: In an effort to make S&G training more meaningful to new RAC members, I submit the following motion:

Incoming RAC members will accomplish the S&G training mandate by scheduling an S&G field visit with their respective District Manager. S&G training manuals will be provided (by State Office) with RAC introductory information. Each incoming RAC member will schedule their S&G field evaluation within six months of RAC appointment. The RAC member will function as a Rangeland Resource Team member making field comments for the record, submitting comments to the District Manager in writing, reviewing the draft report, and making comments if appropriate and reviewing the ROD at the conclusion of the process. The RAC member will report on the S&G field visit and to the RAC during the Rangeland Health and Livestock Grazing Working Group meeting.

MOTIONED SECONDED BY: Doug Taub

VOTE: Motion Approved

AGENDA ITEM: Sonoran Landscape Pilot Update
Mary D'Aversa, BLM Phoenix District Manager

The Sonoran Landscape Project kicked off the first quarter holding its first stakeholders meeting in Phoenix. The working group partners are the BLM Arizona State Office and Phoenix District Office, the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD), the U.S. Forest Service, Region 3, and Tread Lightly!, Inc. The project seeks to reduce the amount of litter left behind on public lands by shooters. The recreational shooting community in Arizona is very dispersed and not easily accessible. Tread Lightly! shooting posters have been created. We are looking to go to point-of-sale places for public outreach. This is one place where our partners can make more headway than the BLM in getting the Tread Lightly! materials displayed at shooting events and retail public locations in the area. The concept is to engage retailers to promote the importance of leave no trace when shooting, and to recreate responsibly on public lands.

In February, there was a master Train-the-Trainer course sponsored by the AZGFD, and was attended by Mary and Ed Kender. Focus was on Tread Lightly! concepts. This is good training to be used by staff in terms of more outreach. The AZGFD also hosted the course targeting AZGFD employees. There may be a third course in July or August with more BLM staff expected to attend.

The BLM hosted a Recreation and Visitor Services meeting, also on the Table Mesa Area.

To date, Tread Lightly! has produced brochures, hang tags, posters, and rented two billboards on the Sonoran Desert National Monument to provide educational messages on recreational target shooting for the public. We are also interested in posting information in the north valley. There are a couple of kiosks targeted for construction this fiscal year advocating responsible shooting.

This past winter, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office. Enforcement is not the primary focus, but once we get through the administrative procedures it will allow our law enforcement to enforce State laws on public lands. It was interesting to meet with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office and gain their

support. By being able to issue citations, the BLM becomes technically a crime victim and can obtain restitution for resource damages. The BLM has another \$85,000 to provide stability for the partnership.

DISCUSSION:

Maggie Sacher: Myself and friends groups were hammered with emails and calls from people questioning why the BLM was advocating shooting on public lands. Replies were that this is a public outreach program. This is an opportunity to bring in friends groups to help get the information to the public.

Ray Suazo: My intent with this approach hasn't been on a focus of saving shooting, but with a focus on protecting resources while providing an opportunity for saving shooting. I believe we will continue to provide the opportunity for recreational shooting. Engaging friends groups is an excellent opportunity to keep this evolving.

Bill Brake: I agree with protecting resources. Please don't lose site of the fact that the general public needs to be aware that there are other people recreating on public lands and to respect the public lands.

Carl Taylor: I am interested in seeing the MOU with the Sheriff's Office. Is this restricted to illegal shooting behavior? Mary D'Aversa responded that the MOU is not restricted to shooting. This gives BLM law enforcement the ability to enforce State statutes as an extra tool in supporting public land management.

Drew John: Very well done, the most difficult problem is getting the users on your side.

Regarding the Box Canyon Cleanup, Mary D'Aversa stated that they have dedicated funding for next year.

AGENDA ITEM: Department of the Interior Themes & Landscape Level Opportunities for BLM - Kathy Pedrick, BLM Special Assistant to the State Director

One of the State Director's tasks given to the RAC was to look at the Secretaries six priorities and give suggestions to the BLM on how to achieve their goals and look at projects the BLM has ongoing. As a result, we grouped recommendations into two areas looking at America's Great Outdoors and youth, and a climate change, water, healthy landscapes group. As a group, you came up with a list of recommendations under each of the two categories.

Key points are to work under a prototype approach so that if something is working use that rather than creating new programs. An example is the Blue Water Trail in Lake Havasu, which is very successful. It would be good to finish projects like this rather than starting new projects, and in this particular case adding a land trail. Take this concept in how it was developed and use it as a model across the State. Create a partnership program to include industry set up to find a way to partner and share expenses to allow more Phoenix College interns along with interns from other

colleges, and partners to go out in the field to be expanded throughout the State. This is a very expensive program, but there are groups and organizations that have an interest in what goes on with public lands. Use this as a training and education opportunity. Engage partners that are not currently engaged with the BLM.

DISCUSSION: The emphasis was on what the BLM can do to educate youth on what's available to them. The BLM needs to work with colleges to work with the BLM to form youth partnerships. Recommended that the BLM establish a State full-time position to work with youths and track the programs, and also have someone from the District offices involved. Create a youth-oriented brand to understand the value of the BLM. Use Public Service Announcements (PSA) to get the word out. Focus on the importance of marketing the BLM through local colleges and partnership groups.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department has a University Summit. Due to public outreach via PSA, YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, etc., they have now seen a tremendous increase in the interest and understanding of wildlife management. The payoff is in youth volunteers.

The main outcome is the District Managers get a lot of requests for partnerships. The District Managers can get input from the RAC possibly during a working group session.

Due to climate change, adaptive management of plants and animals is changing. Develop a program to deal with invasive species across the landscape. Identify and prioritize critical landscapes by mapping and identifying areas affected by climate change, and develop regional landscape policies. For travel management planning it is suggested to consider landscape resiliency and climate change. Involve the County Supervisors, Tribal officials, Natural Resources Conservation Districts, and other agencies.

**AGENDA ITEM: Rapid Ecoregional Assessment (REA) Update
Aaron Wilkerson, BLM Program Lead for Soil, Water and Air**

Aaron showed a PowerPoint presentation. Three REAs have been completed within Arizona, Colorado Plateau, Sonoran Desert, and Mojave. The Madrean REA is almost complete. There has been detailed user training and participants learned the importance of bringing Field Office staff and collaborators together in the same room and talk about the uses for this data. The REA information can be accessed at www.blm.gov/landscape approach website. The REAs may give us a tool to deal with outside mitigation. BLM would like to have training specific to management and not as lengthy. Step-down efforts are the next REA steps and to also work with partners on the use the REAs for critical management questions.

DISCUSSION:

To what extent were mineral resources used? Mineral resource development was looked at as one of the change agents like mining on the landscape and incorporated into the REAs. Glen Collins suggested that plans be made on surface resource evaluation.

There are a lot of data gaps. We need to focus on obtaining better data for analysis. The REAs are not decision documents, and not intended for management decisions. The REAs are a way of understanding the landscape level and what's out there. The limitations and scales are going to change. The Graphic Information System models are there and can be rerun for analysis.

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment Period

Patrick Bray, representing the Arizona Cattlemen's Association, stated that it's important for the Association to commend the BLM on their work on the permitting process in the Kingman area. Everyone learned a lot about how the permit process works, and we came out with a good solution. I have done a lot of permit renewals on BLM and Forest Service lands with a lot of contentious issues regarding burros, big horn sheep, etc. Thanks for a job well done. It was handled well and we look forward to the outcome. The Arizona Cattlemen's Association will stand by the BLM when necessary.

AGENDA ITEM: RAC Questions on BLM District Reports (see handouts)

Phoenix District: Mary D'Aversa, District Manager

The District has completed a series of multi-agency Fire Refresher trainings; seasonal firefighter hires; and is now coordinating on a weekly basis with State, Federal, and County agencies within the southwest zone for Fire Restrictions.

The Phoenix District initiated an effort to bring together the executives of the Department of the Interior agencies within Arizona who form a board to streamline youth programs and opportunities pursuant to the Secretarial Order on Engaging Youth to Play, Learn, Serve, and Work. Over the last year, the agencies completed intra-agency memorandums of understanding and have provided minimal seed money for a coordinated service housed at the Phoenix College.

The Phoenix District is working with State Director Suazo in the development of a Strategic Business Plan for the dispatching and intelligence-gathering center. The BLM-Arizona launched a multi-agency Federal Law Enforcement Communications Center in 2009 that today serves as a pilot business model for efficient regional and multi-agency dispatch and intelligence-gathering services.

In the third quarter of fiscal year 2014, the Phoenix District has more than 50 active Special Recreation Permit (SRP) files.

Hassayampa Field Office (HFO)

In fiscal year 2014, the Hassayampa Field Office and Agua Fria National Monument have completed the monitoring of 17 livestock grazing allotments to manage grazing and collect data necessary to evaluate and permit future livestock grazing, and will conduct monitoring on 40 allotments by year end.

On January 16, 2014, the BLM approved the proposed Sun Valley to Morgan Transmission Project. State Director Suazo signed on January 16th, a Record of Decision for the Hassayampa

Field Office (HFO)that amends its land use plan, called the Bradshaw-Harquahala Resource Management Plan.

The HFO began recreation and travel management planning for the area of public lands stretching from Black Canyon City to nearly Prescott Valley, which includes the 80-mile long Black Canyon National Recreation Trail.

On April 22-23, the HFO Wild Horse and Burro Specialist, the Arizona Game and Fish Department, and the USGS conducted an inventory of wild burros by helicopter in and around the Lake Pleasant Herd Management Area, north of Phoenix.

Agua Fria National Monument

The Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument (Friends) won the BLM Public Lands Partnership Excellence Award for 2014. The award recognizes an interpretive association or friends group that has demonstrated exceptional support for the BLM's interpretative, environmental education, and/or public outreach programs. For nearly a decade, Friends' volunteers have devoted thousands of hours to the Monument in a variety of ways.

Lower Sonoran Field Office/Sonoran Desert National Monument

The lawsuit filed by Western Watersheds Project et al in regards to grazing on the monument is still ongoing. A Motion for Summary Judgment was received by the BLM on April 7, 2014, to which the BLM will respond by May 2, 2014. On September 27, 2013, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Archaeology Southwest filed suit in regards to recreational target shooting within the Monument.

Trespass livestock (cattle, horses, and burros) from the Tohono O'odham Nation and Mexico continue to be an issue on the Monument south of Interstate 8, on the Goldwater Range, and in Ajo. Interagency coordination between the BLM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Park Service, the Air Force, and the Nation is continuing in order to find ways to stop the trespass.

On November 10, 2013, the BLM Arizona began the first of seven scheduled law enforcement "surges," for Operation ROAM ("Reclaim Our Arizona Monuments") for FY 2014. Project Daylight, an operation to remove carefully selected vegetation along the Interstate 8 right-of-way, is being coordinated with the Arizona Department of Transportation. This project is designed to remove places of concealment available to criminals adjacent to Interstate 8.

DISCUSSION: Suazo stated that when Mary D'Aversa started working for BLM Arizona that he was looking forward to her field experience as a manager. She truly is a manager who has a lot of experience and is setting the stage on where the Phoenix District is going.

Dawn Hubbs: On the tribal perspective, I am very impressed with the work of the Phoenix District Office.

Colorado River District: Roxie Trost, District Manager

The Colorado River District (CRD) continues to utilize the Grazing Strike Team for permit renewals. The team convened March 4-5, 2014, in Lake Havasu City at a Range Summit to discuss topics involving the range program.

The CRD Fire Management Program is on course to complete all but one planned project in fiscal year 2014. The Grapevine Prescribed Burn was cancelled in February after conducting a test burn. The fire behavior exhibited during the test burn did not meet the desired results and would not have met the burn plan objectives.

The game fence along State Route 95 from Lake Havasu City to Interstate 40 has been completed to prevent burros from wandering on to the freeway.

The Topock Remediation Project consulting parties have continued to meet on a bi-monthly basis to discuss treatment options.

Law Enforcement Rangers are focusing on off-highway vehicle use, camping and other recreation related compliance checks, visitor safety, and resource protection in the La Posa Plan Closure area, along Plomosa Road between U.S. Highway 95 and Bouse, Arizona as well as the Imperial Dam LTVA.

The Topock Remediation Project consulting parties have continued to meet on a bi-monthly basis to discuss treatment options associated with the Topock Cultural and Historic Properties Management Plan.

The Kingman Field Office is working with Freeport McMoRan on their proposed mine expansion at Bagdad Arizona and is currently reviewing the draft Mine Plan of Operation. It is anticipated that the Hillside Mine Reclamation Project remediation design will be finalized and reclamation will be completed by the end of the calendar year.

The Lake Havasu Field Office signed the Havasu Travel Management Plan (TMP) and the Finding of No Significant Impact of its associated EA. The travel network identified in the TMP comprises both motorized and non-motorized trails.

The newest draft of the MOU for the Lake Havasu Fisheries Improvement Partnership was sent to the Partners for review on February 14, 2014. Once signed, this will be the fourth MOU for the Lake Havasu Fisheries Improvement Program.

The Yuma Field Office (YFO) is working on two TMPs; the La Posa TMP in the Quartzsite area and the Imperial Hills TMP in the Martinez Lake/Laguna Dam area in Yuma County. The YFO is actively engaged in three Lower Colorado River Projects: Mitty Lake/Betty's Kitchen fire rehabilitation project on 150 acres, Paradise Cove East/Transient area 17 acres of BLM/BOR riverfront property experiencing illegal border activity, crime, and wildfires, and Customs and Border Protection Limitrophe Mitigation Project on 55 acres of BLM/BOR riverfront property

which will be cleared of dense non-native vegetation and replaced with native species. The CRD had a grazing summit on March 4-5. The CRD will be receiving two grazing interns in June. WH&B specialist did census surveys. The wind was not cooperative and they did not have much flight time. The YFO volunteers, Stan & Judy Shaw, have received the national Making a Difference volunteer achievement award.

Regarding the LHFO coordinated management agreement, the group will be meeting again, and the agreement should be signed in the next few weeks.

DISCUSSION: Suazo thanked Trost for an excellent job.

Arizona Strip District: Matthew Thornburn, Acting District Manager
Highlights are the Uinkaret EIS. The Arizona Strip Field Office (ASFO) and Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument are in the early stages of development of the Uinkaret Mountains Landscape Restoration Project.

From mid-April to mid-May 2014, four prescribed burns are planned for implementation on the Arizona Strip Field Office and the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument.

The ASFO continues to support studies determined necessary by the Management Oversight Team for the Northern Arizona Withdrawal to gather additional information on potential impacts to the Grand Canyon Watershed from uranium mining.

The Travel Management Plan route designations for Vermilion Cliffs National Monument have been largely implemented with signage or rehabilitation of closed routes.

DISCUSSION:

Sacher stated that they are looking at using burros that were hit and killed by vehicles to be used on the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument for condor food.

Gila District Office - Tim Shannon, District Manager

Fire – Seasonal Fire Restrictions started May 1, 2014. The Titan Missile site on the IFNM will be doing an interpretative display at the site. They have had tribal outreach on the Ray Land Exchange. Shannon went to the site last week.

The SunZia project Final EIS/RMPA was published in June 2013, and we are awaiting a final decision on the project.

The BLM and Western Area Power Administration released the draft EIS for the proposed Southline Transmission high-voltage power line on April 11. Public meetings will be held in May.

For the Southern Arizona Project, the BLM is distributing funds to continue partnerships with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, the Arizona Game and Fish Department, the Tohono O'odham Nation and the Pascua Yaqui Tribe.

A temporary closure for public safety was used during removal and remediation of unexploded ordnance near the San Pedro River. Controversy continues surrounding the proposed Rosemont Copper Mine southeast of Tucson. The Ironwood Forest National Monument Implementation Plans are undergoing final review at the Field Office level.

The suit filed by the BLM and two landholders objecting to an Application for a Designation of Adequate Water Supply granted by the Arizona Department of Water Resources to Pueblo Del Sol Water Company in Sierra Vista was heard in Arizona Superior Court on April 7, 2014.

The Safford Field Office has signed an agreement with the City of Safford to use reclaimed water in several of its ongoing operations.

The U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, relayed to Scott Cooke, Safford Field Manager that Emergency Relief funds for Federally Owned roads will be made available for the repair of road damage on Haekel Road, which was damaged as a result of monsoon rains in September 2013.

DISCUSSION:

Bill Brake thanked Tim Shannon on a job well done since starting work at the Gila District Office.

AGENDA ITEM: RAC Committee Reports (Information) - Bill Brake

Carl Taylor reported that during the last meeting the RAC got together and asked Susanne Rowe to find out if folks had issues on cultural resources. The Safford Field Office replied regarding Nine Mile Ranch at Fort Bowie that funding is needed for cadastral survey field staff and operations.

The ASFO had several things: first priority cultural inventories, places they need to complete VCNM and GCPNM, including Praia Canyon. Additional funding is needed for archaeological research. They do not currently have the dollars for a Project Manager.

DISCUSSION:

Glen Collins: At yesterday's Forest Service (FS) briefing, the Recreational Resource Advisory Council (RRAC) was informed on fees charged for recreational use on public lands. The Tonto National Forest approached the RRAC to look at what they are doing on the Tonto. The FS brought a proposal yesterday regarding the costs for annual passes, and also brought in the schedule of a dozen meetings scheduled in May, June, July to discuss proposals to the local communities. The RRAC should be brought into the process at the end of the public meetings. The RRAC is in charge of determining if the Tonto fees are appropriate. The RRAC has

guidelines for fee proposals and a recreation fee protocol that needs to be followed. The RRAC has done a good job the past 10-years in overseeing the fee process.

The REA expired in December 2013 and was extended by Congress to December 2014.

Bill Brake: Forest Service recreation issues are getting to be a big task for the RAC, and the RAC is here to support the BLM. The Forest Service needs to reach out to the public through public meetings before coming to the RRAC.

Ray Suazo suggested that the RRAC take a step back and let the Forest Service be accountable for their own decisions. Look for better opportunities to improve the process. What is the specific responsibility of the RRAC? Maggie Sacher suggested that this could be RRAC sub-committee work and follow the protocol. The Forest Service should attend the working group meeting so it's vetted before the RAC public meeting. Drew John stated that the RAC needs to remember that this is a good opportunity to create consistency between the BLM and the Forest Service.

ACTION ITEM:

MOTION: Glen Collins motioned that he and Maggie rewrite the protocol. Motion Passed

AGENDA ITEM: Wrap Up/Future Agenda Items/Next Meeting Dates/Adjourn

(Information and Discussion) - RAC Members and BLM Staff

Doug Taub: If you are on the RAC for 2 to 3-years, then you become very knowledgeable. Can the paperwork for RAC nominations be streamlined for second-term applicants?

MOTION: Have the RAC ask the Secretary of the Interior to streamline the application process for RAC members applying for additional terms. Seconded by Maggie Sacher. Motion Passed.

MOTION: Doug Taub-Recommend to the Secretary to streamline the RAC application process to 60 days. Seconded by Jeffrey Sargent. Motion Passed.

Dorothea Boothe will email a doodle calendar with suggested dates in August or early September for the next RAC meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:30 p.m.