Bureau of Land Management – Arizona
Resource Advisory Council Meeting
April 28, 2016

BLM Arizona State Office
One North Central Avenue, Suite 800
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

RAC Members:

Name	Residence	Interest Represented	Term Expires	Present
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. Maaike 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	N
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	Y
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	Y

*RAC Chair

BLM Staff:

Name	Title	Office	Present
Raymond Suazo	Arizona State Director	Arizona State Office	Y
Amber Cargile	Deputy State Director, Communications	Arizona State Office	Y
Elroy Masters	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	Acting District Manager	Colorado River District	Y
Pamela Mathis	Associate District Manager	Gila District	Y
Leon Thomas	District Manager	Phoenix District	Y
Clay Stewart	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Kanab, UT	Y
Dorothea Boothe	RAC Coordinator/Public Affairs Specialist	Arizona State Office	Y
Elise Smith	Intern	Arizona State Office	Y
Nicole Johnson	Recording Secretary	Arizona State Office	Y

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

- The RAC meeting was called to order at 8:37 a.m.
- Introductions – RAC Members, BLM Staff and Members of the public: Kelly Norton (President, AZ Mining Association), Bill "Yermo" Welch (Owner, Seeking Treasure Adventures LLC), Don Sprecher (King Co. Search and Rescue), Robin Barnes (Corporate Land Manager, ASARCO), Bill (Retired BLM, Consultant ASARCO) Dan Shine, Jerry Hilliard.

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

Introduction:

- Reappointments:
  - Thom Hulen, representing dispersed recreation – serving his second term.
  - Stewart Marsh – newly appointed to represent academia. Serving his first 3-year term.
  - Maggie Sacher – representing commercial recreation and serving her third (non-consecutive) term. Even when not on the RAC, Maggie has been very involved in the process. It speaks a lot to her commitment to public lands.
  - J.C. Sanders – newly appointed to represent commercial recreation/Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use. Serving first 3-year term.
  - Steve Trussell – First 3-year term. Representing public at large.
  - Terms are from January 2016 – 2019.
  - Welcome aboard and welcome back! Looking forward to having your input!
- Thank you for your time and commitment. We inform you of the things we're working on, but also take the opportunity for you to weigh in strategically on the things that are on our agenda.

Role and responsibilities of RAC:

- From the State Director's perspective, we want you to be current on the areas you represent, but more importantly, want you to engage across the board on other topics as well. The history of this RAC has shown that we can bring difficult topics to this group and have a meaningful dialogue. The diversity of perspectives is the strength. You have given BLM advice that is useful in planning and moving forward.
- Please make sure you review the charter. The charter says that the RAC will, "Upon the request of the Designated Federal Officer (DFO), develop recommendations for the BLM with respect to the land use planning, classification, retention, management, and disposal of the public lands within the area for which the advisory council is established and such other matters as may be referred to it by the DFO."
- The expectation is that RAC members will bring things to the RAC's attention in the areas that they represent. The DFO also wants to be able to come to the RAC to get advice and input from their experiences and perspective. Nominations were based on member's expertise, background, and the stakeholders represented. That's extremely valuable. You're the one's talking to the public, seeing things on the ground, and BLM values that perspective when working on issues.
- The charter outlines that the DFO sets meeting agendas and decides which issues to bring to the RAC. This authority is delegated to the DFO from the DOI Secretary Sally Jewell. This RAC reports and provides advice to the DOI, through the DFO.
- RAC members can elevate issues and agenda items to the RAC Chair (Bill Brake). The RAC Chair and the DFO will sit down and discuss these items while creating the agenda. Some items will be sent to the district or field managers to address rather than being brought to the RAC.
- The State Director's personal philosophy is to not waste the RAC's time. He wants to get the best input on the many things that the BLM is working on. The RAC does not have decision space or authority within the BLM regulations. It is not a body that will vote on a project or decision, but it does provide advice to BLM, which will be weighed with other perspectives while working on planning and on the way to the record of decision.

- BLM has broad mission. The spectrum ranges from conservation/protection for future use to extraction/mineral/resource, etc. use. The State Director is focused on finding that balance point between conservation and use. The RAC's advice on that balance point is very critical.
- The RAC is one lens of many to evaluate the impact on public lands. The State Director doesn't want to just see things through the BLM or program lens. We want input and advice from the RAC and the stakeholders they represent.

RAC Nominations:

- RAC Nominations for new members will be closing, May 2. RAC terms used to all begin and end at the same time, but are now staggered. Nominations get vetted through the Arizona governor's office and the Secretary of the Department of the Interior's (DOI) office. If you know anyone who is interested and who would bring value to the RAC, please have them apply.

Personnel Updates:

- Have had a lot of employees retire or move on to other opportunities. Working on recruitment and filling holes.
- Julie Decker is now the Senior Advisor for the southwest border (Arizona, New Mexico, California) and liaison for Washington, D.C. office. Needed consistency on border efforts and messaging. Also helps to get resources to border issues. Will give RAC update on border efforts in coming year.
- Kathy Pedrick (Special Assistant to the State Director) retired. Active member of the Public Lands Foundation now. Took on multiple roles for BLM over the years.
- Tim Shannon (Gila District Manager) will be going on BLM Washington, D.C. Office (WO) detail, April 29th. Pamela Mathis (Gila Associate District Manager) is acting short term. Sam Burton will be covering the first 60 days of the detail. Sam has worked in Arizona before on recovery projects. Originally from Southern Arizona. Sam is from the BLM Leadership Academy, our leadership development program.
- June Shoemaker (Deputy State Director, Resources and Planning) accepted the DSD positon for Resources in Idaho. Elroy Masters is acting while June has been on detail to WO. June was called to WO to act as the liaison for the Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals and has been gone for about six weeks.
- Jim Gipson (Human Resources Officer) is on detail as the Agua Fria National Monument Manager.
- Amanda Dodson has been selected as Kingman Field Manager. She reports May 15th, filling behind Ruben Sanchez who retired in December.
- Jason West was selected as the Lake Havasu Field Manager. Acting as District Manager for Roxy Trost this week.

Program Updates:

- Fire/Aviation Update:
    - Expected big fire season last year that never happened. Lots of fuel out there right now. Expecting a bigger fire season this year. Southeastern and Central Arizona and the Colorado River-area have high potential for large fires. Have had small fires throughout the state already.
    - Aravaipa crew has been created. The goal is to have this crew become a hot shot crew within the next three years. They are being housed at Ft. Huachuca through a partnership agreement. Want to use crew for restoration when they are not working on fires. Focused on becoming a veteran crew. This is an opportunity for people who are finishing their tours of duty with Ft. Huachuca to become integrated and trained with the Fire Program. The plan is for them to transition to fire specialists with BLM, Forest Service, and other land management agencies.
- Communities at Risk:
    - BLM provides funding through communities at risk agreements with State Forestry. This is especially for communities with lands adjacent to BLM lands. We do hazardous fuels reduction projects, create fuel brakes, and defensible areas.
    - Example//Deans Peak Fire – BLM and partners created fuel brakes, etc. Stopped a fire that was heading for community.
- Border:
    - Currently in middle of Reclaim Our Arizona Monuments (ROAM) surge seven. Eight surges are planned for the year; one was cancelled due to national priorities. During the fourth surge of the

year, we operated more in the southeastern portion of Arizona (San Pedro/Las Cienegas). Typically we operate on the Sonoran or Ironwood. Received a lot of intelligence and were able to see the impacts. There was a lot of dialogue with stakeholders. Interested in getting the RAC's feedback on the effectiveness of project ROAM that can be shared with Law Enforcement.
    - Working with new state director in New Mexico. Looking across the two states to examine the risks and opportunities for managing public lands along the border.
    - On-going work: boundary fence inspection and maintenance work, wildlife water repair maintenance, access and travel management, road infrastructure, illegal route remediation, vehicle barrier inspection maintenance.
    - Gila and Phoenix District offices have been engaged with Project Day Light – litter removal, public and internal engagement.
    - At five year mark on Project ROAM. Taking a step back and looking at the bench mark. How it's working and where to go from here. What do we need to change on the way we're doing things on the border? Looking at our strategy.
    - Accomplishments can be found online (statistics on amount of trash removed, illegal drug seizures, etc.).
- Planning 2.0:
    - Date for public comment period ending mid-May.
    - Planning 2.0 was discussed during the working group. It's appropriate if the RAC has a position and wants to submit comments via a letter to the State Director.
    - Planning 2.0 – BLM is moving to be more up-front about planning. Working on improving National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.
    - Great opportunity for RAC to express concerns, etc., which will be put in the record.
- Wild Horse & Burros:
    - RAC has submitted letters on this program which have been elevated from DFO to the DOI Secretary. Have received a lot of comments on this topic from the public, but also from other agencies and Senator McCain's office. Thinking about concepts on how to address areas of concerns.
    - Last September, took some end of your funding to put up bill boards emphasizing adoptions. Starting next week. Digital billboards in Phoenix metro area will be up for a couple weeks. Static billboards in rural areas in southern Arizona. Will be up for month of May.
- Miscellaneous:
    - Secretary Jewell – Gave a speech during Earth week, which was held in conjunction with National Parks week on the next 100 years of conservation. Talked about needing a "course correction" regarding conservation. Includes inspiring all Americans from all backgrounds to connect with public lands. Want to pay attention to where we want to go. NorthStar 2020 presentation later today will discuss a lot of those issues. What is BLM going to be in the future?
    - BLM 60th Anniversary coming up and 40 year Anniversary of Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). Look for more with regard to anniversaries.

Questions/comments:

- Re: May 25 deadline for comments to Planning 2.0 - Stephen Trussell
    - How best to mobilize to get comments together? What can the RAC do to expedite comments? Director Suazo's response: In past, RAC has gathered together, established a position, drafted a memo that was submitted through the RAC Chair to the DFO, who then elevated it to the DOI Secretary. As an individual you can provide comment. As a RAC, you can have a separate dialogue or phone call and if there's agreement, draft a memo. There are two ways you can submit your comments. You can send a memo to the public comment website or you can send a memo to the DFO to elevate.
      Bill Brake – Voted unanimously during the working group meeting that the RAC does want to comment. The plan is to solicit a few members of the RAC to draw up letter, show the rest of the RAC for approval, submit to the Chair for signature and submittal to DFO. All in agreement.

Action Items	**Person Responsible**
Draft letter commenting on Planning 2.0 from RAC to DFO.	Bill Brake, Stephen Trussell

Also submit through public comments site.	

- Re: Importance of the RAC – Bill Brake
  - About three years ago we had a situation in Kingman, Arizona. A rancher was unhappy with their relationship with BLM. This had all the ear marks of another Bundy situation. Before it got to that level, the RAC formed a sub-committee, worked with the District Manager, public, etc. and resolved issue out of the press. It just goes to show the importance of the role and responsibility of the RAC.
  - On another occasion, there was a situation in Safford that was brought to the attention of the State Director via the RAC. It was able to be handled though BLM leadership.
  - What the RAC does is important and it's important to attend both the working and business meetings.

Agenda Item: Threatened & Endangered Species Program Overview (T&E on BLM Public Lands)
Presenter: Tim Hughes, BLM Program Lead/T&E Specialist

State Director Introduction: A few RAC meetings ago, we had a Mining 101 presentation. We talked about the process, the regulations, how it works, etc. We've done one on Section 106 consultation. We're going to keep working through each of the program areas so you get a sense of how things work at BLM. We're committed to keeping you informed of the process and the work that we do.

- Have spent entire career in Arizona and have worked for 30 years for BLM Arizona.
- T&E Program Lead at Arizona State Office for the past six years.
- Overview of the Endangered Species Act.
- The Act doesn't change; however, the interpretation of the Act is constantly changing due to case law. Litigation drives the Endangered Species Act.

Slide show Presentation (Attachment 1)

- The Endangered Species Act (ESA) regulations can be found in 50 CFR 402.
- There are 18 sections. But presentation only covers about 6 of them.
- New BLM Biologists take a 4 day class covering the ESA.
- A number of species have gone extinct due to economic growth and development. Other species (plants and wildlife) are in danger of extinction.
- Must be discrete and markedly different – has to be important. Litigation occurs over whether a species or subspecies or distinct population segment meets those criteria. BLM comments on those and have argued that some are not. Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy Owl was listed as a distinct population segment for 10 years, but was delisted because of litigation that argued the distinct population validity.
- Fish and Wildlife Service is given a budget for listing every year. They rank them and focus on the ones with the most need for listing based on the level of threat. Section 2
- Harassment can vary. What disrupts one species may not disrupt another.
- If you violate the Arizona Native Plant Law, then you are violating the endangered species law on private land. On public lands, there is no "take".
- Damage to protected plants must be malicious to be considered in violation.
- Why are plants treated differently from wildlife? Because when the US was colonized a lot of people came from England, where all of the wildlife belonged to the King. They couldn't hunt without permission. So, in the States, they wanted the wildlife to belong to the people. All the laws were written with that intent. Plants always went with private land.
- There is a limit and reporting required under the incidental take permit. We get reasonable and prudent measures and terms and conditions to implement those measures. When we get those from FWS we have to implement them. In that biological opinion there is a reinitiation notice, part of the incidental take statement, will say how many you're allowed to take and how you're going to document that take.

If you exceed that take? There are reinitiation triggers in that biological opinion. If you exceed, you have to stop and reinitiate with FWS.

- There is an exemption process. The "God Squad" has been convened three times to exempt an action from the ESA. Two actions were congressionally exempted either before or after the God Squad met. The third was for BLM timber sales in Oregon that were impacting the Northern Spotted Owl. They got the exemption, but it came with reasonable and prudent alternatives. The BLM had to write the Northwest Forest Plan as a result. It was so onerous and expensive that they didn't end up permitting for the exemption.
- Section 7 consultation is triggered by the NEPA process.
- BLM biologists go out and look and if an area isn't suitable habitat and there's nothing there, we don't have to do section 7 consultations. It goes into the administrative record for the NEPA that there was no significant effect.
- In the even that BLM is challenged, everything is documented in the administrative record.
- If we're going to affect the behavior of a species, its take and triggers section 7 consultations.
- BLM is in consultation with FWS right now to address backlog. As new species are listed, we have to go back and look at all of our (10) resource management plans, grazing permits, special recreation use permits.
- ESA is not as onerous of a process as it seems. It is, however, a low hanging fruit for anyone who wants to challenge the government or an activity that we permit. The process has to be documented and we have to keep good records.

Questions/Discussions:

- Are species in candidate status de facto listed?
  - There's no protection for candidates. The prohibitions don't apply until the species is formerly listed. However, BLM and Forest Service treat candidates as agency sensitive species.
- The Sonoran Desert Tortoise was not listed, so why does BLM then require offsets?
  - BLM started requiring offsets 25 years ago. In 1988, BLM had a range wide plan that came out. The BLM Director made it policy because we didn't want the Tortoise listed. We were willing to manage it at a more stringent level in order to avoid the listing. It didn't work for the Mohave Desert Tortoise, because it had the additional threat of disease and there was nothing we could do to affect that.
- Can there be critical habitat proposed without it being species occupied?
  - No. You can't designate critical habitat for a species that's not listed or proposed.
- Can delisting be citizen driven?
  - Yes. Listings have been petitioned by citizens.
- How can you have a permit for incidental "take"?
  - It's based on your intent. Your intent is to build houses, put in a road etc. not to disturb whatever occurs there. However, by going through their habitat, you might kill a couple of them. Through consulting, we get terms and conditions to minimize that take.
  - Example// to shoot a protected wolf is intentional, but if a wolf gets hit by a truck when you're building your road unintentionally, then that's covered by the permit.
- There have been incidents where a hunter has killed the wrong species of duck and gotten their license taken away. It's the responsibility of the hunter.
  - That's covered by Migratory Bird Act, not ESA.
- When you introduce a species in an area they haven't been before – does permittee have say before implement?
  - Yes. Have to do section 7 consultations and have to do NEPA before implementing a reintroduction. The permittee can comment during the NEPA process. The action has to be approved by the State Director before happens. It can't be delegated below.
- If an employee has reintroduced a species without going through the process, then they've broken the law?
  - Yes. And that has happened. It happened when a Refuge Manager in Arizona that approved and moved frogs to a different tank to establish a new population without doing section 7 consultation. He lost his job and was fined.

- In terms of NEPA would it be assessment?
    - Yes. It is usually an Environmental Assessment. FWS has a categorical exclusion for stockings. We have delegated supplemental stockings to the district managers, but not initial stocking – that has to be done by the State Director.
- How do you establish known?
    - We go out and look. For example//When we get a Notice of Intent (NOI) to mine – biologist reviews to see if it's an area occupied by T&E species. If the timing is right, we go out and do surveys. If not, we can assume it's going to be occupied. If occupied, then triggers Mining Plan of Operation, which leads to NEPA and section 7 consultations.
- After survey, do you go back and look?
    - It depends on the activity and the actions. We do monitoring and go out and look. There's one biologist per field office in most cases, who cover over 1 million acres each, so they can't do an inventory and continuous monitoring on all areas, but they go out and look and can assess the habitat suitability for whatever species it is. If a species is there, we'll do surveys and determine whether it's occupied. Example//we don't always find Desert Tortoise's, but find scat so we know it's occupied.
- What is the difference between "insignificant" and "discountable"?
    - Discountable is the likeliness of occurrence. Insignificant is the level of effect.
- It's important to have these sessions because it's an example of the type of work and actions that BLM does. The RAC's understanding of how this all works is helpful when working with constituents and stakeholders. When asked by Congress, etc. why things haven't been done – we look at laws and regulations, funding, resources, etc. We have to look at streamlining and prioritizing workloads. This process helps to educate all of us. To be more informed to where we can be responsive. This is no small work load, but it's a required workload that impacts both conservation and industry as we're trying to make decisions on public land.
- How often does a species get reassessed by BLM? Who brings up the fact that a species looks like its declining?
    - BLM doesn't make recommendations for listing. BLM collects data and provides data to FWS to help them make informed decision. BLM only has one piece of the information.
- Part of renewing grazing permit is to discuss with BLM if we have critical habitat or endangered species. Listing or delisting is usually done by the public or organizations.
- FWS also works with the State.
    - There are a number of different societies and organizations that are sharing information with the FWS.
    - For candidate species, AZ G&F is required to do an annual review Candidate Notice of Review (CNOR). They look to see if there's new information that they should be considering. Listed species are reviewed every five years. State has a database (HTMS) which feeds an online review tool. FWS has a similar tool online. You can look at a general area and see the listed species that have been found there.
- If you live on a landscape with lots of permits and T&E and lots of visitors that aren't permitted – how do you factor in the recreating public?
    - When doing consultation on Land Use Plans or Travel Management Plans, we take them into account. We close roads, create designated camp sites, etc. If an area is having too much of an impact, we try to take measures to minimize that impact.
    - If a species gets listed, most of the time it's because we failed to protect it. Sometimes it's because of things like white-nose syndrome.
- If a species is listed as T&E, does it change what you do?
    - Yes. It can change what we do and how we do it. It increases the bureaucracy and the time to get things approved. We try to keep a species from being listed by managing it right.

Agenda Item: Northstar 2025 Project (Information)
Presenter: Adam Milnor, BLM Gila District, Public Affairs Specialist

State Director Introduction:

- Northstar 2025 focuses on trying to see trends and make decisions for the future.

PowerPoint Presentation
https://prezi.com/91rzux8fyscl/northstar-2025-slt/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy

Looking at the whole landscape of Arizona – all the things that public lands and BLM touches and try to get a sense of the major trends in the topic areas. Also, looking at how BLM Arizona adapt to those changes and stay ahead.

Background:

- Initiated by BLM Arizona. Brought together a team of employees from all of the offices.
- Got involved with ASU for research – initially did a literature review.
- Did scenario planning with outside agencies, tribes, RAC members.
- Findings report is in the draft process with SLT right now. Hope to have final report in next week.

Most important trends to BLM and how to adapt.

- Changing Times need Changing Minds
    - Population in Arizona is increasing.
    - Largely urban state
    - Demographics changing
        - Aging white population
        - More Latinos
        - Need to anticipate how this influences who our stakeholders, employees, recreation users are.
- Trends:
    - Water:
        - Higher demands for water and decrease in supply.
        - Potential for more conflicts over water.
        - Changes projects and land management in the future.
        - Recommendations:
            - Additional capacity – hiring contractors, using partners, cross training employees.
            - Adaptive mindset – need to be aware of this trend and what going on and being talked about regarding water.
    - Economics:
        - Mining:
            - Be prepared for an increase in requests.
        - Solar Energy:
            - Probably continue to lag behind California.
        - Ranching:
            - Employees have viewed decrease in ranching even though it wasn't found in the literature.
    - Recreation:
        - Size of population, where they live – demographics is biggest driver of recreation users and uses.
        - Hunting, fishing permits are on the decline in AZ. Increases in active recreation, close to urban centers, using public lands for fitness.
        - Users are becoming more specific. More diverse groups to work with.
        - More technology being used.

        - Recommendations:
            - Plan for technology.
            - Leave some wiggle room in planning for advancing technology.
            - Try to keep pace with how people like their information.
            - Consider land users as a source of information.
    - Ecological Integrity
        - Invasive, fire, climate, loss of biodiversity.
        - Have to manage more on a landscape level.
        - Recommendations:
            - Lean on adaptive management.
            - Use NEPA as a "barometer".
            - Climate model output for land use planning
    - Valuation of Public Lands
        - Public lands are a major controversial issue
        - Disconnection of the public with the lands
        - Recommendations:
            - Increase social science and conflict resolution capacity
            - Stay on top of social trends
    - Our BLM Workplace
        - A lot of employees eligible to retire at the same time
        - Worried about succession and turn over planning.
        - Loss of institutional knowledge
        - In 2025, Millennials will be 50 percent of workforce
        - Recommendations:
            - Identify at-risk institutional knowledge and respond
            - Focus on recruitment and retention challenges
    - Data Generation and Information Management
        - Lots of information being collected due to technology increases, yet data management is lagging.
        - Information being collected by employees, but also the public at large.
        - Recommendations:
            - Address organizational and cultural barriers to innovation
            - Additional resources
            - Establish data stewards, standards
            - Need to treat data more like property and account for it.
    - Communication and Media Consumption
        - Faster and more detailed if the user wants it to be
        - More specialized audiences
        - Interactive
        - Employee opinion is that BLM is better at engaging stakeholders than at engaging the general public.
        - Recommendations:
            - Continue keeping up with social media
            - Internal communication improvements – especially project management (use disbursed mobile teams that can work on things)

Overall Message:

- BLM AZ needs to be adaptable and able to change.
- Before acting on a decision, the leadership team needs to ask: Does this make us more agile or more difficult to change? More or less digitally enabling? More or less collaborative or transparent? More or less adaptable to ecological change? Are we going in the right direction for things that we know are going to be important?

Comments/Clarification:

- Federal agencies as a whole are good at looking at strategic approaches as a whole. Arizona is the only state in the bureau that is looking at trends and scenario planning. The National Leadership Team is aware of the project and is watching and waiting for the results.
- Why less permits, hunting, fishing? Demographic trends - Less children getting outside.

Agenda Item: Public Comment Period

Glenn Dickens – Representing the Arizona Wildlife Federation, Vice President of Conservation

- Arizona Wildlife Federation stands for two things: Sound science and best governance. Keeping politics out of the Game and Fish Department and their biological decisions.
- Board met on the Wild Horse & Burro Program. Read letter supporting BLM Arizona State Office's participation in the new proposed partnership with agencies of the State of Arizona in improving the management of Arizona's wild burro population. (Attachment 3)

Kelly Norton – President of AZ Mining Assoc.

1. Thank you for T&E presentation
2. Glad RAC is going to comment on Planning 2.0
3. Read letter from education committee (Attachment 4).

Gerry Hilliard – Executive Director for Quadstate LGA

1. Glad about extra time for Planning 2.0 and that RAC is going to comment. There are significant changes.
2. Non-listing of Sonoran desert tortoise; should give RAC write-up of what BLM has committed to manage the species
3. Compliment BLM for being part of AZ interagency desert tortoise team.
4. Observation on hunting/fishing permits declining – read that hunting/fishing was passed down from father to son, but with more single families with mother as head of household, this is being lost. Trend downward is also demographics and urbanization.

Paul Defenderfer, Cave Creek Museum

- Read letter from Evelyn Johnson, Executive Director of Cave Creek Museum (Attachment 5) about getting tram towers that are on BLM lands.
- Requesting copies of the BLM findings of the determination that the towers are of historical significance.

Agenda Item: Recreation Resource Advisory Council (RRAC) Session
Presenter: Maggie Sacher, Recreation and Committees Work Group/RRAC Chair/RAC Vice Chair

Called to order: 2:20 pm

Recreation RAC Review of Paria Canyon/Coyote Buttes Special Management Area Proposed Business Plan
(Recreation RAC Recommendations/Vote)

Tim Burke, District Manager, Arizona Strip District
Presentation on Paria Canyon/Coyote Buttes Special Management Area Proposed Business Plan
(Attachment 6)

Agenda Item: Public Comment Period

Victor Cooper – Rockin' B Café owner, 17 year resident of Kanab

- Discussed the impact that the walk-in lottery has on the economy of Kane County and the city of Kanab,

Utah.

- People come from all over the world to hike the wave. The walk-in lottery and in-person safety talk are critical. People stay in town, day after day trying to win the lottery, which brings in money to the town's hotels and restaurants.
- Recommend increasing the fees further, keep the walk-in lottery, and keep the hour long safety talk.

Bill "Yermo" Welch – Seeking Treasure Adventures owner

- Representing guide services interests. Provided letter and booklet (Attachment 7).
- There is a lot of wastage with permitting at S. Coyote Butte. Many people have gotten permits and not showed up.
- Have a signed petition with over 1,000 of people who want to keep the walk-in lottery.
- The town has offered to pay for a building and BLM employee's salary to lower the costs.
- 80% of people that are saved by Kane County Search and Rescue are people who got online permits and didn't have to have to attend the in-person safety brief. Feel it's necessary for people to have an in-person safety brief.

Don Sprecher – representing Kane Co. Sheriff's Office and Search & Rescue

- The Business Plan isn't following Secretary Jewell's plan for gateway communities.
- See Petitions and "Save the Live Walk-in Wave Lottery."
- Took a 2 week sampling of people who show up for walk-in lottery for the Wave
    - Half of people who come to see the Wave stay the night.
- Want to partner with BLM.
- Want RAC members to experience lottery. People get very excited when they win.
- A guide owner did an interview with KTAR Channel 2 news in Salt Lake City the day before the meeting, talking about the wave lottery. This is a huge story!

Will & Megan James – Dreamland Safari Tours owners

- Read letter protesting the proposed business plan (Attachment 8).
- Recommends keeping the walk-in lottery as is, or to make all permits walk-in.

The RRAC decided they were not prepared to endorse or otherwise make a recommendation.

- RRAC was charged with looking at fees. Since they are a substantial increase in fees, the committee felt that the request dictated a close scrutiny and evaluation of the business plan to see if the fee increase is justified. High fees can be justified if there's a value to people on the ground. Didn't feel there was enough information to make the decision. There are a lot of unanswered questions. Big part missing in the plan was the public input.
- Recommend turn back to RRAC subcommittee for more discussion with BLM.

MOTION	**Motion made by**	**Second**
Table the discussion on the fee increase for a later RAC meeting. Turn back to the subcommittee for continued review.	Bill Brake	Thom Hulen
Unanimously Approved.		

The RAC would like to weigh in and give advice to the State Director on the business plan as well.

Session closed: 3:35 p.m.

Agenda Item: RAC Committee Reports
Presenter: Bill Brake, RAC Chair

Archaeological and History – Thom Hulen

- Nothing to report.

Wild Horse & Burro – Maaike Schotborgh

- Appointed Maaike as new chairman and added Stuart Marsh to committee.
- Received letter and proposal today. Going to consider steps and be in communication with people about that.

Action Items	Person Responsible
Set up meeting between Maaike and State Director in the next few weeks.	Maaike Schotborgh will get with Executive Secretary to schedule.
If not on a subcommittee and are interested in a particular one – send an email to BLM Dorothea Boothe and RAC Chair Bill Brake. Otherwise will be put on subcommittee.	New RAC members.

Rangeland Health – Bill Brake

- Drones on public land. Use as a topic of discussion for thoughts on how to move forward.

Action Items	Person Responsible
Add to agenda at later meeting – Drones on public lands (overview of where things are for drones and initiate dialogue for).	RAC Coordinator

Recreation – Maggie Sacher

- Friends Action Plan Cooperation Agreement - at the printer. Final copy will be provided at the next meeting and will be taken to Conservation Lands Foundation Friend's Rendezvous in the fall.

Energy and Materials – Krishna Parameswaran

- Solar Project with ASARCO – as of February of this year, it has been expanded.

Water – Michael Quigley

- Want to give some thought about scope of subcommittee and then will recruit members.

Agenda Item: RAC Questions/Comments on BLM District Reports
Presenter: RAC Members, State Director, District Managers and BLM Staff

Tim Burke, District Manager, Arizona Strip District Office

- Uinkaret Project (Vegetation Management Project)
  - Federal Register Notice in WO to discontinue with EIS. Hope to have EA available for public review in next couple months.
- Kanab Creek Project
  - Got Decision Record signed. Treating Russian olive and salt cedar infestation.
  - Through consultation with Fish and Wildlife Service found out that the endangered Willow Flycatcher has started to rely on invasive species for habitat. Going to treat smaller areas and give the birds a chance to establish new habitats.

Questions/Comments:

- Why spending $2 million for FY16 and $2 million for FY17 to look at Uranium Mining? What is the status?
  - This is a 15 year plan involving multiple agencies to gather information prior to 2032 when the withdrawal expires. By that time the Secretary will have the information to make a decision on the impact of Uranium Mining on the Grand Canyon watershed.

Pamela Mathis, Associate District Manager, Gila District Office

- Hired 22 firefighters (mostly vets). Have fought two wildland fires already. Working on fuel breaks now.
- Working on draft EA for district wide fuel break program.

- May – planning a 20K acres Rx burned. In conjunction with the Forest Service.
- San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area – Resource Management Plan
    - Plan draft alternatives have been developed. They are with the contractor for analysis.
- Analysis for Management Situation (AMS) – Is under review by the Field Manager, Melissa Warren.
- Shout out to AZ G&F – Southline Transmission Line –
    - We were able to negotiate moving a water pond (man-made lake).
    - Jim deVoss brought up the issue at a RAC meeting. Worked together and were able to resolve.

Questions/Comments:

- There is an NRCD in an area that BLM is involved in, but BLM is not participating. That money is going to other areas.
- How does the hot shot crew get sent?
    - When you call fire dept., depending on location, size, who is available etc. they will call wildland fire dispatch center and BLM fire will get dispatched.
- Folks in the community in southern Arizona had nothing but praise for the way that the San Pedro NCA Resource Management Plan was run. They felt that the community education sessions were really invaluable. When you ask people to comment, it's nice to equip them to give informed, nuanced comments, rather than just their opinion.

Action Items	Person Responsible
Call Bill Brake to get more information on this. Inform State Director as well.	Pamela Mathis

Action Items	Person Responsible
Add to agenda at later meeting – Have fire do a briefing on overview – lands, jurisdiction, who gets the call.	RAC Coordinator

Jason West, Lake Havasu Field Manager, Acting for Colorado River District Manager

- Lake Havasu Field Office is moving locations this week. Kingman and Yuma Field Offices will be covering calls during that time.
- La Posa Travel Management Plan (TMP) – A couple years ago at Washington Hill visit, the State Director got asked several times about the La Posa TMP.
    - Prior to releasing the plan, took a step back and clarified maps, the process, the outcome, got more public input. Got partners to the table, had a lot of external communication.
    - Released the plan and have had a lot of positive inputs from the public.

Questions/Comments:

- Thanks on the Hidden Hills Plan. The Yuma Field Office has stepped out in front, done some preplanning, met with the public, and are getting public feedback before they start the plan.
- Would like to see information about ATVs/OHVs at hotels, etc. so that people see that information as they're checking in to their room. Want to encourage that to take place.

Leon Thomas, District Manager, Phoenix District Office

- Lake Pleasant HMA Burros and Road Safety
    - Steve Bird, District Wild Horse and Burro Specialist, did an excellent job of showing where the burro strikes were occurring over a 3 year period.
    - Working with ADOT on a plan to fence a 17 mile corridor where most burro strikes occur.
- Horseshoe Copper Creek Allotment
    - Partnership between Forest Service, Ranchers to open up the grazing lease.
    - FS had a lot of turnover – their seasoned archaeologist left, so BLM has offered up archaeologist to keep project moving forward.
- Sonoran Desert National Monument Recreational Target Shooting EIS
    - Have a good draft with 4 alternatives regarding target shooting.
    - Next step will be to bring partners to the table to see what trigger points are when looking at

alternatives and adaptive management strategy.

- Grazing on Sonoran
    - Court remand on compatibility study associated with grazing on the Sonoran Desert National Monument.
    - Working with the field solicitor's office to negotiate a time table for going back in and gathering more data and redoing the Land Health Evaluation so we can do another compatibility study for grazing on the Monument.

Questions/Comments:

- Would the Sonoran grazing evaluation be an opportunity for the new people to see the Standards and Guides in action?
    - New members have to take that training.
    - Standards and Guides have to be done as part of the evaluation.
    - Typically do mock Standards and Guides so this would be a good opportunity to participate in a real one.

Action Items	Person Responsible
Need to set up training for new people for Standards and Guides.	930 – Elroy Masters PDO – Leon Thomas

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Agenda Item: Recognition Ceremony for 2015 Outgoing RAC Member
Presenter: Ray Suazo

- Thom Hulen
    - Recognizing end of first term.
    - Starting second term on the RAC.
    - Learned to respect that you're very open minded and offer great advice. Thank you for your first term.

Agenda Item: Wrap Up/Future Agenda Items/Next Meeting Dates/Adjourn
Presenter: RAC Members and BLM Staff

- Potential dates will be sent out for the next RAC meeting.
- Will be in 3 months

Meeting adjourned at: 4:30 p.m.