

Minutes

Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) Work Group

December 6, 2006

1. A meeting of the REA Work Group was convened at the BLM Phoenix District Office at 1:15 p.m., December 6, 2006. The agenda items are shown at enclosure 1.

2. Attendees:

a. RAC members: Glen Collins, Sandee McCullen, Frances Werner, Tina Clark, Norman Perry, Ty Kelly, Linda Kennedy, Jan Holder, Jay Adkins, Larry Howerly, Jason Williams, and Steve Saway.

b. BLM personnel: Tom Folks (for Don Applegate).

c. Forest Service personnel: Jeff Saari (Southwestern Regional Office), Dave Killebrew (Tonto National Forest), and Doug Schmidgall (Prescott National Forest).

3. Action on agenda items:

a. Draft minutes of November 1st REA Work Group meeting. Motion made by Frances Werner, seconded by Sandee McCullen, to approve the minutes as stated. Motion was approved.

b. Draft RRAC Protocol. Motion made by Glen Collins, seconded by Sandee McCullen, to approve the protocol as stated. Motion was approved.

c. Quarterly schedule for RRAC review of Fiscal Year 2007 BLM and Forest Service fee proposals. Dave Killebrew identified two changes: delete the Tonto Annual Pass and move the Haigler Canyon CG/PA from 4th quarter to 3rd quarter. Revised schedule is attached at enclosure 2. Frances Werner recommended that the forest service brief the Arizona Game and Fish Commission on the Pena Blanca Lake CG fee proposal. Also, it is important to provide good public outreach as this is a popular recreation site of the local Hispanic population in the area.

d. Forest Service fee proposals:

(1) Groom Creek School/Cabin, Prescott National Forest. Doug Schmidgall provided the group additional information that was requested at the November 1st meeting. One handout gave an overview of the forest service cabin rental program. Other handouts updated the fee proposal with additional documentation and identified additional public outreach and feedback to date. A letter of support from an interested Prescott citizen, Marc Delany, was also passed around for review. Overall, the group was satisfied with the documentation of public support as evidenced by the handouts.

(2) Sycamore Cabin, Prescott National Forest. Doug Schmidgall provided the group additional information that was requested at the November 1st meeting. The

handouts updated the fee proposal with additional documentation and identified additional public outreach and feedback to date. Members asked questions concerning the financial details. The fee was structured based on both a market comparison of similar facilities as well as the costs of operations and maintenance. Regarding public outreach, it was noted that the forest service press release was dated December 4th and there has not been adequate time to assess public reaction. Overall, the group felt the proposal was reasonable but more time was needed to gauge public support.

e. Draft motions for RRAC action:

(1) In line with the RRAC Protocol, the REA Work Group developed a draft motion to take to the RRAC on each fee proposal. Each motion is subject to change based on public comment at the RRAC meeting and would only be made after the public comment period.

(2) Fee proposal: Timber Camp Campground, Tonto National Forest. Motion made by Sandee McCullen, seconded by Tina Clark, as follows: I move that the Arizona RRAC forward the following recommendation to the Designated Federal Official: the Arizona RRAC supports the Timber Camp Campground fee proposal as presented and recommends its approval. Motion was approved.

(3) Fee proposal: Sycamore Cabin, Prescott National Forest. Motion made by Jay Adkins, seconded by Norman Perry, as follows: The Arizona RRAC has no objection to the proposed Sycamore Cabin fee proposal but recommends that implementation be deferred for two months to allow more time for public comment. Recommend the forest service come back to the Arizona RRAC if there is substantial negative public comment or proceed to implement if not. Motion was approved.

(4) Fee proposal: Groom Creek School/Cabin, Prescott National Forest. Motion made by Norman Perry, seconded by Glen Collins, as follows: I move that the Arizona RRAC forward the following recommendation to the Designated Federal Official: the Arizona RRAC supports the Groom Creek School/Cabin fee proposal as presented and recommends its approval.

f. Potential meeting locations. Based on the quarterly schedule of fee proposals, the work group members discussed logical locations that would facilitate public involvement at the upcoming RRAC meetings. Following are the tentative recommendations that will be brought to the full RRAC for decision:

- 2nd quarter: Yuma, Lake Havasu City, or Phoenix.
- 3rd quarter: Phoenix.
- 4th quarter: Phoenix.

g. Other REA Work Group business. None discussed.

4. Minutes submitted by: Steve Saway, REA Work Group Chair

5. Date approved: February 7, 2007