

RECREATION RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL (RRAC)

Final MINUTES

December 6, 2007

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

AGENDA ITEM: Recreation Resource Advisory Council (RRAC) Session REA Work Group Report, Steve Saway

DISCUSSION: Meeting was called to order at approximately 2:30 p.m.

REA Work Group Report: Steve Saway, REA Work Group Chair, gave a summary of the REA Work Group meeting held on December 5th. That work group meeting was primarily intended to review the RRAC's past year's experience with REA, to update the RRAC protocol and 2008 fee review schedule, and to prepare a draft letter to the BLM State Director on the RRAC's assessment of REA implementation. Also, during the Work Group meeting, Bruce Asbjorn, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Kingman Field Office, gave the group an overview of fee proposals that will come to the Work Group later in the fiscal year. There are no fee proposals to be discussed at today's RRAC meeting. The Work Group meeting was productive and was a good opportunity to exchange views on the group's experience with REA implementation. Jeff Saari, Region 3, Developed Sites Program Manager, and Julie Cox, RRAC Enterprise Team, Portland, Oregon, discussed their views from the Forest Service perspective. Bruce Asbjorn discussed the BLM's perspective. Steve passed out handouts of the following REA Work Group documents: Draft RRAC Protocol, 12-06-07; Draft RRAC Business Cycle Guidelines, 12-06-07; Draft Agency Guidelines for Fee Proposals, 12-06-07; Draft FY 2008 Fee Review Schedule; and Draft RRAC Letter to the BLM State Director. These documents were developed by the REA Work Group and will be submitted to the full RRAC today for review and approval.

Minutes of September 7, 2007 RRAC Meeting. Motion made by Norman Perry, seconded by Frances Werner to approve the draft RRAC minutes as presented. Motion carries.

Draft Arizona RRAC Protocol, including two enclosures: RRAC Business Cycle Guidelines and Guidelines for Agency Fee Proposals, 12-06-07. Steve explained the changes made to the previous versions that had been adopted by the RRAC in December, 2006. Looking to adopt a semi-annual schedule with fee proposals coming in April and September. We would entertain urgent matters on a case by case basis. Proposed draft was discussed and the Work Group went with semi-annual business cycle... ready to go forward to the RRAC. Does the full RRAC have any questions/comments before we put it for a vote? Comments: do fee proposals by field office instead of individually; do forest-wide, not separately. We are posting more to the RRAC web page. We will provide electronic copies of all fee proposals, work group minutes, etc. The public notice should occur earlier in the process. Federal Register notice out 30 days before RRAC meets, so the working group meeting will be earlier. Will be tight but will work on earlier notice with the FS. See the advantages of twice a year RRAC. The proposed schedule gives target dates to get information in to REA Work Group and RRAC. Discussed the changes to agency guidelines. Fee proposals had come to the Work Group before the public involvement process was complete. It was hard to gauge the public support. We are asking the fee proponents to provide results of agency's public comment period for review at work group meetings. If you

did good public outreach with few negative comments, you could say there is good public support.

Motion: The Arizona RRAC Protocol developed by the REA Work Group as of 12/06/07 be approved, to include the semi-annual business cycle and the guidelines for recreation fee proposals. Further, that modifications to the semi-annual fee review schedule will be considered on a case-by-case basis as needed. Motion made by Norman Perry and seconded by Glen Collins. Motion carries.

Arizona RRAC FY 2008 Fee Review Schedule. The draft schedule was reviewed and discussed by RRAC members. Maybe hold two different meetings, one in Phoenix and one in Prescott. Any controversy on Prescott plan? The OHV one will generate some controversy. Schedule is tentative. If something gets bumped, FS will let you know. Travel management plans are ongoing on FS lands, all proposals are interrelated and require public involvement. They will be tied together when it gets to the public involvement stage.

Motion: The Arizona RRAC FY 2008 Fee Review Schedule developed by the REA Work Group as of 12/06/07 be approved. Motion made by Norman Perry, seconded by Linda Binder. Motion carries.

Draft RRAC Letter to BLM State Director. The draft letter was reviewed and discussed by RRAC members.

Motion: The draft letter developed by the REA Work Group as of 12/06/07 be approved, signed, and submitted to the BLM State Director. Motion made by Norman Perry and seconded by Linda Kennedy. Motion carries.

Glen Collins stated that Steve Saway had done a masterful job in organizing and documenting the RRAC actions this past year. Norman Perry stated that he had not ever seen where anyone had gone through every statute and understood the details. Steve: it's been a team effort with the REA Work Group and RRAC. Great effort and support from the team.

ACTION: RRAC meeting adjourned at approximately 3:15 p.m.