

# Minutes

## Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) Work Group Meeting

### March 25, 2009

1. A meeting of the REA Work Group was convened at the BLM National Training Center at 3:30 p.m., March 25, 2009. The agenda items are shown at enclosure 1.
2. Attendees:
  - a. RAC members: Norman Perry, Glen Collins, Tina Clark, Linda Kennedy, Frances Werner, Matthew Hogel, Laura Pinnas, Linda Binder, Maggie Sacher, and Steve Saway.
  - b. BLM personnel: Don Applegate, Arizona Recreation Program Lead; Deborah Stevens, RAC Coordinator; and Maria Troche, BLM Arizona State Office.
  - c. Forest Service personnel: Jeff Saari, USFS Region 3 Developed Sites Program Manager.
3. Action on agenda items:
  - a. The Chair asked all attendees to introduce themselves and then discussed the purpose and agenda for the meeting.
  - b. Draft minutes of the September 17, 2008 REA Work Group Meeting. Motion made by Norman Perry, seconded by Frances Werner, to approve the minutes as stated. Motion was approved.
  - c. 2009 Fee Review Schedule. Jeff Saari discussed future needs of the Arizona fee program. There are no fee proposals planned for review in 2009; however, Jeff is looking at the possibility of setting up a schedule to review the High Impact Recreation Areas (HIRAs). He plans to give the RAC an update on the Forest Service Arizona fee program at the June 2009 RAC meeting. Don Applegate stated that he will present an overview of the Arizona BLM Recreation Fees Program at the March 2009 RAC meeting, and the Kingman Field Office will be ready to present its fee proposals at the June 2009 meeting. The Paria Canyon/Coyote Buttes fee program will be scheduled again (date to be determined) per the RAC's request to come back and show a more self-sufficient financial strategy.
  - d. Western Slope No-Fee Coalition Comments and RRAC Protocol. The Chair passed out a handout (see enclosure 2) which summarized comments provided by Kitty Benzar, President, Western Slope No-Fee Coalition, to RRACs across the country, including the Arizona RRAC. Previously, all RAC members had received a copy of Ms. Benzar's email which included a report titled "The Fix Is In: An Analysis of Recreation Resource Advisory Committees by the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management" dated September, 2008. The Chair went through the handout in detail and solicited comments from the group. Generally, it was felt that the Arizona RRAC Protocol was functioning properly; however, the group discussed where improvements could be made. It was noted that some of the REA Work Group minutes and agendas were not visible on the RRAC web site due to broken web links. This needs to be fixed. The issue of RRAC minutes not being timely is a function of the RRAC meeting cycle

(approval not made until the next quarterly meeting). However, results of the RRAC meeting are typically posted by the agencies on their web sites or other media soon after the RRAC meeting. The function of the REA Work Group was discussed (fact-finding, no decisions) and whether it was subject to open meeting requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act as is the full RAC. Further clarification may be needed here from the BLM Washington Office. The group also discussed the pro's and con's of accepting public comments via email in addition to the public comment period at the RRAC meeting. In conclusion, the comments/concerns from Kitty Benzar were discussed in depth by the RAC members and BLM/USFS staff. There were mixed views among RAC members on providing a formal response to the Kitty Benzar email.

4. Meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:00 p.m.
5. Minutes submitted by: Steve Saway, REA Work Group Chair
6. Date approved: June 24, 2009