

**Central California Resource Advisory Council Meeting**  
**Notes April 23-24, 2015**  
**Eldorado Hills, CA**

**April 23 Attendees RAC:** George Armstrong, Blair Knox, Mary Gorden, Emmy Cattani, Jim Keller, Trent Rosenlieb, Matt Kingsley, Carl Twisselman, Steve Evans. BLM: Este Stifel, CenCal District manager; Ruben Leal, Associate District Manager; Rick Cooper, Hollister Field Office Manager; Bill Haigh, Mother Lode Field Office Manager; Gabe Garcia, Bakersfield Field Office manager; Steve Nelson, Bishop Field Office manager. Public: Amy Granat, Don Amador.

**Central California District Manager's Report:**

**Personnel**

Angie Lara retired as Associate State Director and Joe Stout is replacing her. Karen Barnette retired as Deputy State Director for Support Services. Matt Johnson, Central California (CenCal) District Fire Management Officer (DFMO) accepted a promotion with the Park Service (Dave Brinsfield will be acting as the DFMO).

**National Conservation Lands (NCL)**

This is the 15 year anniversary of NCL, formally known as National Lands Conservation System (NLCS), and there are festivities celebrating the events across the state. The CenCal events are the following: June 3<sup>rd</sup> at Fort Ord National Monument, June 10<sup>th</sup> at Piedras Blancas Light Station Outstanding Natural Area, and June 27<sup>th</sup> in Elk, CA at the museum.

**Nomination of Officers**

Emmy Cattani was nominated RAC chair by Carl Twisselman, second motion by Matt Kingsley and Jim Keller was nominated vice chair by Matt Kingsley, second motion by Carl Twisselman.

**OHV**

**ACTION:** The RAC discussed whether to continue having a standing OHV committee to address the lack of opportunities for OHV recreation in the Central California District. Mary Gordon made a motion that the RAC committee entertains OHV interest/concerns on a case-by-case basis. George Armstrong made a second motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Notes from the discussion:

Jim Keller – Careful consideration should be taken that a decision to abolish the standing OHV committee had recently been made.

Blair Knox- He is still a part of the temblors subgroup for the Bakersfield Field Office.

Trent Rosenlieb- It might be better to address OHV interests/concerns on a case-by-case basis instead of having the OHV standing committee.

Amy Granat from the Blue Ribbon Coalition- She thanked Steve Koretoff, past chair for the RAC, for his work on the OHV committee. She said there are very few opportunities in CenCal for people to recreate with OHVs and we owe it to the public to provide more opportunities.

### **Supplementary Shooting Rules Hollister Field Office**

Rick Cooper, Hollister Field Office Manager presented the proposed supplementary shooting rules for the Hollister Field Office.

**ACTION:** Emmy Cattani suggested that shooting be restricted on trails as well as roads in the supplementary shooting rules. Trent Rosenlieb made a motion to take Emmy's suggestion and Jim Keller made a second motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Santa Cruz-Redwoods National Monument Campaign**

A Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument representative gave a presentation on the campaign to designate the Coast Dairies property as a National Monument. He asked the RAC to draft a letter of support for National Monument designation.

**ACTION:** The RAC discussed whether to draft a letter of support for the Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument group. George Armstrong made a motion to delay the decision to draft a letter of support until more information is provided about the proposed Monument. Carl Twisselman made a second motion and everyone except Mary Gordon supported the motion. The decision whether to draft a letter of support will be discussed at the fall meeting.

Notes from the discussion:

Carl Twisselman: The BLM does an effective job managing public lands without designations and says Monument designations restrict uses in perpetuity.

Rick Cooper: Coast Dairies already has deed restrictions. Grazing will not be eliminated and it's an important use to keep the fire danger down

### **Blue Mountain Community Forest Initiative**

Bill Haigh, Mother Lode Field Office Manager gave a presentation on his initiative to work with communities to improve Forest Health. Bill asked the RAC for involvement in the form of a steering committee.

**ACTION:** None taken.

### **Fort Ord Interim Leash Rule**

Rick Cooper, Hollister Field Manager talked about the interim rules that requires the public to keep their dogs leashed while recreating on Fort Ord.

### **Mother Lode Field Office Manager's Report**

Bill Haigh provided an update on Mother Lode issues. No action required

### **Hollister Field Office Manager's Report**

Gabe Garcia provided an update on Mother Lode issues. No action required

### **Ukiah Field Office Manager's Report**

**Fire and Fuel Projects** – Dry conditions will keep the second phase of the Mill Creek Burn Project scheduled for Cow Mountain from happening this spring. Already there have been numerous small fires of 25 acres or less across the region.

**OHV Grant Funding** – The Field Office has asked for in OHV funding in law enforcement and operations and maintenance. The Chalk Mountain restoration project funded at \$25,000 will be implemented this year. The Ukiah Field Office continues to work with State Parks and the local community of Fort Bragg to develop an OHV area along the coast range above the Mendocino coast.

**Knoxville** – Though we have hit some more bumps, the land exchange with Homestake Mining Corporation is scheduled to be accomplished in 2015. The low water crossing over Hunting Creek was completed early this year. A major trespass case involving a recreational sportsman hunting club was settled this year. Work continues with the NRA to identify specific areas within the Knoxville region to be available for shooting.

**Cow Mountain** –The Field Office is completing the soils portion of the Cow Mountain Recreation Area Management Plan (CowRAMP). Once completed, the Field Office can better accomplish maintenance and management. As with Knoxville, the Field Office is working with the NRA to designate additional areas for shooting sports.

**Mount Konocti/Black Forest** –The Field Office should complete the land exchange in 2015. There is a significant die off of pine trees within the Black Forest Boundary. Climate change and the drought are considered suspects but no one really knows for sure. BLM is working with the County of Lake to gain a better understanding of what is going on.

**Walker Ridge Wind** – AltaGas continues to stay involved with a 67 megawatt wind energy development project for Walker Ridge. It is unforeseen at this time when a draft EIS for the Walker Ridge Wind project would be available for public review. BLM is waiting for AltaGas to provide cost recovery funding to complete the work being requested by the company.

**Cache Creek** – We are totally indebted to our partners, volunteers, and friends who have stepped forward to help us maintain the Cache Creek Natural Area. Work continues with plan development, habitat improvement, riparian restoration, and trail projects.

**Stornetta Brothers Coastal Ranch-Point Arena Ranch/California Coastal National Monument (CCNM)** – The Ukiah Field Office will host two “Discover the Coast Events this year. The first event will be held in Elk, California on June 27<sup>th</sup>. This event will highlight the partnership between BLM and State Parks and focus on the Elk Museum and the region's

historical importance. The second event will be held August 1 in Point Arena. It's another major community event with plans of being larger than the previous event held in 2014.

**Cedar Roughs Wilderness** – BLM is still working with the Land Trust of Napa County on the acquisition of the in-holding within the Cedar Roughs Wilderness. BLM and the land Trust hope to complete the acquisition this year.

**Proposed Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument** - BLM is providing assistance as requested. A secretarial Visit and Town Hall meeting held in Napa, California occurred in December 2014. The Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Act was reintroduced by Congressman Mike Thompson and co-sponsored by Representatives Jerrod Huffman and John Garamendi in February.

**Lake Berryessa Proposed Land Transfer** – Congressman Mike Thompson is to reintroduce legislation which would transfer the lands and management of Lake Berryessa from the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to BLM. The BLM is working with BOR to develop models on how a transition for Lake Berryessa could take place.

**Geysers** –The Ukiah Field office is working with CalPine on the drilling of an additional well, geotechnical studies, and a potential pipeline expansion. Bottle Rock Power LLC is to develop a third pipeline to the Geysers where treated waste water from Lake County could be re-injected into the geothermal steam field. The Field Office is also accomplishing the Bureau's first geothermal permit renewals for 2 power plants.

**Marijuana Eradication Efforts** –The Field office is working in partnership with sheriff departments from Yolo, Colusa, Lake, and Mendocino Counties; along with National Guard assistance from Sacramento to clean up and rehabilitate another 19 individual garden sites scattered throughout the Ukiah region.

**May 24 Attendees RAC:** George Armstrong, Blair Knox, Mary Gorden, Emmy Cattani, Jim Keller, Trent Rosenlieb, Matt Kingsley, Carl Twisselman. BLM: Este Stifel, CenCal District manager; Ruben Leal, Associate District Manager; Rick Cooper, Hollister Field Office Manager; Bill Haigh, Mother Lode Field Office Manager; Gabe Garcia, Bakersfield Field Office manager; Steve Nelson, Bishop Field Office manager. Public: Amy Granat, Don Amador.

### **Bakersfield Field Office Manager's Report**

#### **Bishop Field Office Manager's Report**

Renovations were done on campgrounds in 2011 and 2012 and the Field Office is considering long term visitor permits and a new fee structure. The Bishop Field Office is working on a business plan that would need to be reviewed and approved by the State Office and the Recreation RAC. The Recreation RAC has not reconstituted because of vacancies. Steve Nelson, Bishop Field Manager asked in the CENCAL RAC in they would review and approve the business plan in the absence of a Recreation RAC.

**ACTION:** The Bishop Field Office will draft a business plan for the next meeting and will describe how the Field Office will conduct the public process.