

Central California Resource Advisory Council  
March 31, 2015, videoconference

ATTENDEES

BLM: Bill Haigh, Este Stifel, Ruben Leal, David Christy, Sky Murphy, Rick Cooper, Gabe Garcia, Steve Larson, John Hodge, Sue Porter, Ryan Cooper, Steve Nelson, Jonna Hildenbrand, Rich Burns.

RAC: Reb Monaco, Mary Gorden, Sally Miller, Jim Keller (phone), Emmy Cattani (phone), Matt Kingsley (phone).

PUBLIC: Kevin Mazu, Bob Schneider.

Agenda:

Alabama Hills: Kevin Mazu discussed historic RAC involvement with the Alabama Hills are requested support for designation as a National Scenic Area. ACTION: RAC members present unanimously supported sending a letter of support to BLM and Secretary Jewell. Sally Miller signed a letter that was distributed to Secretary Jewell, BLM Director Kornze, BLM CA Director Kenna, Senator Feinstein and Congressman Cook.

Bakersfield Resource Management Plan: Gabe Garcia, Bakersfield Field Office manager and Sue Porter, planner, outlined the decisions in the RMP Record of Decision. Emmy Cattani asked about the reaction of counties to changes in the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan. Gabe Garcia said the DRECP only affects small areages designated for conservation, so DRECP isn't an issue for Bakersfield. Steve Nelson, Bishop Field Office manager, said Inyo County has done a good job of planning with DRECP in mind and DRECP also dovetails with BLM planning.

Bishop Field Office report: Steve Nelson said a hearing on the Casa Diablo 4 geothermal project CEQA will be Wednesday. A decision on the bi-state sage grouse by U.S. Fish and Wildlife is expected at the end of April. The Bodie Hills vegetation Decision Record should be signed in the next day or two.

Mother Lode Field Office report: Bill Haigh, Field Office manager, asked if there was interest by the RAC in a forestry subgroup. He would bring up the issue at the April meeting.

Hollister Field Office report: Rick Cooper, Field Office manager, asked for feedback from the RAC on proposed shooting regulations. BLM will prepare an activity-level plan for Coast Dairies under the 2007 Hollister RMP. The plan will cover such things as trails and access points. He expects planning to start in the fall and would like to have RAC participation. Implementation of the permit system at Clear Creek Management Area is going fairly well. There is a significant amount of OHV trespass by individuals and groups. Hollister is preparing one RMP amendment for the Desert Hills area that the RAC toured in 2008 and a second amendment covering oil and gas.

Ukiah Field Office report: Rich Burns, Field Office manager, said legislation is being reintroduced for a Snow Mountain-Berryessa National Monument. A monument also could be designated by executive action. Secretary Jewell hiked in the area in December and took part in a public meeting in Napa attended by about 400 people. Legislation transferring Lake Berryessa from the Bureau of Reclamation to the Bureau of Land Management also is expected to be reintroduced. A Discover the Coast event will be held June 27 in Elk, where BLM and State Parks are establishing a visitor center. AmeriCorps crew members are doing trail work at Cache Creek. Trail work is also being done at Cow Mountain using State OHV Division funds. Water releases in Cache Creek will allow some rafting this year.

Public comment: Bob Schneider said the videoconference was held on Cesar Chavez Day and asked BLM to be aware of possible conflicts. A new Snow Mountain-Berryessa legislative map excludes some USBR land and adds Snow Mountain Wilderness. As visitor use increases, access issues need to be addressed at Cold Canyon, Amicus Trail and Cedar Roughs.

Clear Creek Management Area: OHV groups and users wrote letters asking the RAC to reinstate an OHV Subgroup and establish a subgroup for CCMA use outside the naturally occurring asbestos area of critical environmental concern.

Reb Monaco said he opposes a general OHV subgroup. Specific issues that affect OHV should be brought before the RAC. He would be open to forming a subgroup for a specific area.

Carl Twisselman said grazing and CCMA were the first two issues raised when the RAC was formed.

Mary Gorden said CCMA has been an issue as long as she's been on the RAC.

Emmy Cattani said OHV access is a dead issue if it conflicts with the health risk issue.

Trent Rosenlieb and Matt Kingsley suggested CCMA use be put on the April RAC agenda.

Rick Cooper said BLM will prepare a travel transportation plan for Clear Creek outside the asbestos ACEC.