WEMO DAC Subgroup Meeting
April 10, 2012
Minutes

- Call to order
    - Dinah Shumway. 5:00 pm
- Pledge of allegiance
- Roll call/ introductions

• ***Invited Attendees: (subgroup appointees)***			
Mickey Quillman—Designated Federal Official	Present	Kim Erb—DAC Alternate Rep	Present
Dinah Shumway—DAC Member	Present	Randy Banis—DAC Alternate Rep	Present
Jill Bays—Biological Resources	Absent	Tom Budlong—Biological Resources Alternate Rep	Present
Bill Maddux—Motorized Recreation	Present	Jim Wilson—Motorized Recreation Alternate Rep	Absent
Ed Waldheim—Motorized Recreation	Present	Mark Algazy—Public-at-Large	Present
Thomas Laymon—Public-at-Large	Present	Jim Kenney—Public-at-Large	Present
Ron Schiller—Motor-Dependent Recreation	Present	Robert Reynolds—Non-Biological Resources	Absent
Terry Raml BLM DDC Manager	Absent		

Meeting Facilitator: Dinah Shumway, Desert Advisory Council Representative

- Briefing on minimization techniques and practices
    - Subgroup can identify additional minimization measures
        - Comment: Original WEMO flaw: BLM didn't properly document minimization. Document, document, document!
    - Comment: Basic minimization measure is erosion control, but it is not on the list.
        - Reply: There are a variety of specific measures that can be employed to control erosion and task group members can recommend such measures. Consider and add to these minimization techniques. Point out problems.
    - Decision: Be specific with criteria

- Presentation of new simplified decision tree
- Introduction of materials:
    - GTLF data base
        - BLM and subgroup will contribute data to databases for TMAs simultaneously
        - GTLF: ground transportation linear feature = road
    - Hard copy maps
    - Digital maps
        - Discussion: Route designation conflicts
            - map to map
            - database to map
                - Closed routes have old WEMO identification numbers to which task, and subgroup members can refer while communicating with BLM
                - Discussion:
                - need for standardization of route designations to facilitate public use and comments
                - need for landmarks to appear on maps
                - need for maps to show both open and closed routes
                - Decision: subgroup has limited resources, either it uses the resources available or accomplishes nothing. Reference and identify problem routes on hard copy GTLF maps, FEIS maps with route designations, and other current maps that show open and closed routes as well as landmarks. In the future GTLF maps may be digitized.
        - Comment: some known routes don't appear on the maps (undesignated)
                - Reply: task and subgroup members can bring attention to undesignated routes so that they can be brought into the process
                - Decision: don't get hung up on closed routes vs. undesignated routes as they are essentially the same and can be treated as such. Subgroup may have a better chance petitioning for designation of un-designated routes Provide what information you can regarding these routes.
    - Subgroup can recommend:
        - Undesignated routes be designated appropriately
        - Closed routes be opened

        - Question: Does the BLM document reasons for closure decisions
            - Answer: yes, in an appendix on the disc.
        - Consider route connectivity if attempting to reopen a closed route.
        - Subgroup must defend request to reopen routes
            - Decision: Subgroup task is not to do another WEMO road study; there is no enough time. **Focus on defending the green roads in danger of closure**, if you feel strongly that a red road should be opened the subgroup can attempt to do so, but the majority of focus should be on the green roads. There is no need to discuss routes that will remain open.
- Discussion: Data collection methods
    - Decision: Discuss TMAs in general, discuss controversial routes only, discuss roads according to their popular names, subgroup members and task group members can then discuss issues and recommend action.
        - Subgroup, task groups, public can identify specific routes with issues, BLM informs subgroup of routes that need attention
- Task Groups:
        - Challenges:
            - Engage task groups before making recommendations
            - Get as much public participation as possible
            - Get to the task as soon as possible
                - Suggestion: Use existing vehicles in a variety of locations
        - Purpose of task groups
            - Identify routes known to exist, and used, but are not marked or acknowledged by the BLM so that they may be involved in the process
                - **Minimal criteria needed to regulate public involvement to ensure that the public involvement is serious and dedicated**
                - Good map (such as a topographic map) with the route in question clearly marked
                - Valuable comments as to existing issues and recommendations for minimization
                - Map can be scanned and emailed to subgroup
                - This is not the venue to reopen all the closed routes, depending on the situation the subgroup can recommend reopening of certain routes or routes in a certain area
        - Task groups focus on assigned TMAs
        - Attempt to include public members from Los Angeles etc. at task group meetings perhaps using digital communication

            - Discussion regarding the manner in which public submits their data
    - Discussion: Task group meeting(s): Establishment of next task group meeting:
        - When: Wednesday May 16, 5:00 - 8:00 pm
        - Who: at least one DAC subgroup member (Dinah volunteers)
        - Where: Jawbone Station
        - What: TMA 1
    - Next Subgroup meeting:
        - When: May 8
        - Where: Ridgecrest BLM Office
        - What: actually looking at maps, determining how subgroup can defend reopening of routes, and collect data and start drafts of reports on individual TMAs as they are discussed
            - Proposal to discuss what subgroup reports will look like
- Discussion: end of public comment period and availability of public comments which may help subgroup channel effort
- Adjournment: Dinah Shumway, 8:00 pm

Assignments:

- Edy Seehafer
    - Make and disperse additional map discs to subgroup members