

**Bureau of Land Management**  
Northwest California Resource Advisory Council  
Business Meeting  
Thursday, June 13, Weaverville, California

**Summary Minutes**

The meeting came to order at 8 a.m. District Manager Nancy Haug chaired, pending arrival of RAC Vice Chair Ryan Henson.

**Attending**

Category one: Dennis Possehn, Alan Abbs, Eric Leuder. Absent: Stan Leach.

Category two: Ryan Henson, Bob Schneider. Absent: Michael Kelley, John Bernstein.

Category three: Pat Frost, Tony Shaw. Two vacancies.

*There are no majorities present in categories two and three, and no quorum of the RAC.*

BLM Staff: District Manager Nancy Haug, Arcata Field Manager Lynda Roush, Redding Field Manager Jennifer Mata, Ukiah Field Manager Rich Burns, District Public Affairs Officer Jeff Fontana.

Guests: Jeff Morris, Judy Morris, Alex Cousins, all of Weaverville; Sherry Oster (conference line).

**Approvals**

The agenda was approved with Bob's addition: continuing discussion of the RAC reorganization.

The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

**California Coastal Collaborative**

Lynda Roush summarized the intent of the effort is for the BLM to work jointly with state agencies to conserve coastal landscapes. It builds on existing partnerships and projects. It is a priority issue for State Director Jim Kenna, who has been meeting with California Resources Secretary Laird on the issue.

Highlights:

- There are opportunities to share resources and staff to conserve habitats, develop recreation amenities and communicate more effectively with the public about the importance of conserving coastal resources.
- At Stornetta Public Lands there are opportunities for State Parks and BLM to cooperate because the Stornetta Lands abut Manchester State Beach, which had been slated for closure. The BLM, City of Point Arena and Moat Creek Managing Agency have been working with State Parks to help manage and maintain the beach.
- A similar situation is unfolding at Elk, where Greenwood State Park was slated to close. The BLM is working with the local historical society to use the Elk Museum as a visitor center for the California Coastal National Monument. The Ukiah Field Office staff will help staff the visitor center, and BLM rangers will show presence at Greenwood State Beach. There are plans for cooperative signs directing visitors to the CCNM visitor center.
- A process is now underway that might lead to the Trinidad Light Station being transferred from the Coast Guard to the BLM, and opening it to the public.
- Trinidad Gateway partners have cooperated to develop TV public service announcements aimed at encouraging children to get outdoors.

There was also discussion about the partnership between and the King Range NCA and Sinkyone State Park.

Bob Schneider suggested a next step on outreach would be listing all the partners and adding logos to the communication materials. He suggested considering the California Coastal Commission as a collaborative partner.

Lynda noted there is some interest in Crescent City in forming a gateway committee.

Council members suggested that the BLM should look for opportunities to work more closely with Sinkyone State Park.

Other suggestions:

- Continue and strengthen BLM involvement with Visit Mendocino (Tony Shaw).
- A list of partner names, especially local government, should be included in promotional and outreach materials (several).
- BLM should determine the cost associated with assistance provided to state agencies (Ryan Henson).

**Continuing Discussion about RAC changes:**

Bob Schneider: Looking at the proposed structure we need to consider whether this is good for the land, good for the people, and good for the agency. He is particularly concerned with Ukiah moving to CenCal. He suggests that the RAC should discuss whether Ukiah should be part of NorCal -- the district and the RAC. In the interim there will be no Ukiah representation on the CenCal RAC from someone familiar with Ukiah Field Office issues. He noted that CenCal nominations have been closed and there will be no Ukiah area representation. He proposed moving Ukiah into NorCal.

Dennis noted that timber management issues in Ukiah are more consistent with NorCal than CenCal.

Ryan agreed that at least in terms of the RAC, lumping Ukiah into CenCal is ridiculous.

There was discussion, and comments from Ukiah Field Manager Rich Burns, about the BLM decision to move the Ukiah Field Office from the Northern California District into the Central California District.

Nancy discussed the importance of the RACs advising on the full range of issues that the District leadership team, functioning much like the district leadership team in which field members contribute to discussions involving issues outside of their own geographic areas.

Bob suggested that this issue be on the next agenda for the CenCal RAC, including discussion about expanding the CenCal RAC to 15 members.

Tony said the challenge for the BLM will be to get more regular citizens to show up at the meetings.

**Trinity Collaborative**

Jennifer explained the background:

- The Trinity County Board of Supervisors last year asked the Trinity Council Resource Conservation District and Trinity Resource Center to develop a structure to facilitate discussions among the federal agencies and county government. They felt the forum would be valuable because a large percentage of the county is federally managed land.
- Following local meetings involving U. S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, a USDA team, including Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell in January to kick off the collaborative.

- There have been three collaborative meetings. They rotate between Hayfork and Weaverville. 60 to 75 people have been attending. The collaborative is divided into forestry production and recreation/trails subgroups.
- BLM is a partner with the Forest Service Much of this stems from the BLM-Community successful partnership at the Weaverville Community Forest.

Judy Morris, a member of the Trinity County Board of Supervisors, reemphasized the success of the Weaverville Community Forest and the leadership of the BLM in setting the groundwork for forming the collaborative.

There was continuing discussion.

RAC Comments:

Bob Schneider: It is important to recognize that all people in the nation have an interest in the public lands, but recognizes the importance of local groups and their interests being fully represented.

Detailed information, including videos of each meeting are posted at [www.trinitycollaborative.net](http://www.trinitycollaborative.net)

## **Planning Issues**

### **King Range Business Plan:**

Lynda noted that comments from the Shelter Cove meeting were incorporated into the plan edits, including the suggestion that fee increases be tied to the Consumer Price Index. Next week the plan will be submitted for public comment and publish a federal register notice. Public comments will be used in finalizing the plan. A presentation is planned for the next meeting of the RRAC. The public comment announcement opportunity will be announced soon. The annual fee for local residents was not incorporated (response to Bob's question).

Lynda updated the RAC on the manhunt that forced closure of the King Range NCA over the Memorial Day weekend. There has been no sign of the suspect Shane Miller. The King Range was re-opened on May 31.

### **Arcata and Redding RMPs:**

Arcata has completed the preplan and a proposed budget for updating the land use plan. Both were submitted for headquarters consideration. The field office is waiting to hear funds will be available to start the planning effort. Redding rated above Arcata because the need seems greater.

Redding's RMP was completed in 1993; Arcata in 1995. The Redding plan focused heavily on land tenure adjustments, including disposal of isolated tracts and consolidating public land holdings. The Arcata RMP had more management direction.

The president's proposed budget contained a request for planning money, but Jennifer noted that budget negotiations are still continuing.

The managers confirmed that climate change will be included in the process. RMP updates can take three to five years.

Alan Abbs noted the state air pollution control officers are developing a list of developers – an exchange -- who need California Environmental Quality Act credits for greenhouse gases. Alan will provide links and protocols when the site goes live this fall.

Tony questioned whether the RAC should consider developing a recommendation in that area -- a programmatic environmental document, for example, to be included in the Redding RMP.

#### **Activity Level Plans:**

**Prosper Ridge/Coastal Prairies:** The plan will be released for public comment next week and be presented to the Coastal Commission. The alternatives include brush mastication and prescribed burning. Lynda said she will again consult the RAC if public comment proves to be controversial.

Lynda noted the RAC has already supported the proposed action.

The plan will be provided to the RAC and comments from members will be accepted.

**Malel Dunes:** A proposal for horse trails in the fore dunes is being considered as a result of public requests. Scoping will begin in early fall. There will be a good opportunity for RAC discussion at the next meeting.

The Redding Field Office will ask for RAC input on an activity level plan for the Gover property in the Sacramento River Bend, also this fall.

**Ukiah:** The field office will consider an update to the current RMP, completed in 2006. Issues will include management of public lands west of highway 101 currently included in the Arcata RMP. These lands might be shifted into Ukiah Field Office management. The new plan needs to address management of lands recently acquired, and address shooting designations. The RMP also needs stipulations for oil, gas and geothermal development.

#### **Walker Ridge Project**

Rich Burns reported there has been no progress since the last meeting. The most significant new issue is the new proposed location for the intertie substation. The company has selected a site on public land that was acquired with Land and Water Conservation Funds. Development is not allowed on those lands because they were acquired for conservation. There are also concerns that the EIS under development does not have a wide enough range of alternatives.

The company has indicated they want to continue pursuing the project. The timelines proposed earlier are no longer in effect.

### **Public Comment**

There were no requests, in person or on the phone, to address the council.

### **Field Managers' Reports**

**Ukiah:** There were questions and answers on written reports.

Rich and Bob Schneider also briefed the council on the status of the Berryessa-Snow Mountain National Conservation Area proposal.

Rich said the Cypress Abbey acquisition is nearing completion. When final, there will be continuous public land coastal access from Irish Beach to Point Arena a stretch of about 12 miles.

The field office expects \$35000 in OHV grant funds for law enforcement support.

Eric Leuder briefed the council on the status of the state off highway vehicle recreation grants program. There were no RAC comments or recommendations.

Additionally:

- Pot growing appears to be reduced over past years.
- The field office continues working with Napa County to shift property at Berryessa Estates to Napa County under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act.
- Mendocino Redwoods has approached BLM about accessing their Black Gulch property across BLM managed land to facilitate a timber sale.
- Tuleyome is concerned with more shooting activity in Knoxville in light of BLM's diminished law enforcement capacity.

Bob thanked Rich for trying to find ways to replace the Highway 40 bridge over Cache Creek, which is important for access by rafters.

**Redding:** Jennifer Mata distributed a written report.

Tony encouraged the BLM to work closely with loggers when designing timber sales.

**Arcata:** Lynda distributed a written report. There were no questions.

### **Member Roundtable**

Pat thanked the RAC for choosing Weaverville and helping to boost the local economy.

Eric said he heard many compliments from OHV commission members about operations and maintenance of the Chappie Shasta area after the tour. He complimented the Trinity Collaborative effort.

Dennis and Bob complimented the BLM on accomplishments. Dennis singled out vegetation management work.

Ryan said he and his wife have been visiting BLM sites and have been impressed with the conditions, cleanliness and signage. He said it reflects dedication of BLM employees.

### **Closing Business**

Ukiah will host the next meeting this fall. The BLM staff will poll members to determine dates and times.

There was no further business.