



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Kremmling Field Office
2103 E. Park Avenue, PO Box 68
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RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL SUBGROUPS MEETING # 7

Thursday, May 6, 2010 (5:00 PM – 9:00 PM)

**Kremmling Chamber Building
2103 E. Park Avenue, Kremmling, CO**

FINAL SUMMARY NOTES

Attendees: Dennis Gale (BLM), Dave Stout (BLM), Andy Windsor (BLM), Susan Valente (BLM), Sue Cassel (BLM), Holly Whitten (Hiking Group), David Costlow (Mad Adventures – Boating), Carol Petersen (Grazing Group), Jim McDaniel (Good Chance Guided Hunts Outfitters), Randy Miller (Oil and Gas and Colorado Snowmobile Association), Cliff Jarman (Tetra Tech), Matt Loscalzo (Tetra Tech).

Handouts:

- BLM/ Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Subgroups Meeting #7 PowerPoint:
- Chapter 4 Comment Assignment;
- Copy of Table 2-1 from the Draft Chapter 4B;
- Table of Content for Draft Chapter 4B;
- CD containing the Recreation Appendix, Stipulations, and Tables 2-1 and 2-2; and
- CD containing Draft Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4B and Comment Response Matrix.

Introductions:

- The BLM welcomed everyone and thanked them for their participation. This was followed by a round-table of introductions and then an overview of the agenda.

Goals of Today's Meeting:

- Reacquaint the RAC Subgroups with the KFO RMP Revision.
- Discuss Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences sections.
- Explain what the BLM needs from the RAC Subgroups.
- Discuss revisions to the alternatives and use GIS to illustrate restrictions or management actions.
- Discussion of useful comments from the RACs.
- Discussion of the RMP and RMP process:
 - Chapters 2 and 3 are complete.
 - As of May 2010, the BLM is currently analyzing the effects of the alternatives.
 - Prepare a Draft RMP.
 - Prepare a Proposed RMP.
 - Publish NOA.
 - BLM is not going to discuss travel management, air quality modeling or the socioeconomic analysis at this meeting because these analyses are not yet complete.

- RMP Schedule:
 - State Office Review: 7/12 – 7/23, 2010.
 - Air quality modeling and socioeconomic analysis complete: 8/17/10.
 - Washington Office Review: 9/13 – 9/24, 2010.
 - Release draft RMP: Winter 2010/2011.
 - End of public comment period: Spring 2011.
 - Publish NOA: Winter 2010/2011.

Review of Alternative Themes:

- Chapter 2 - Alternative Themes
 - Alt A – No Action – Managing under the old RMP.
 - Alt B – Mixed Emphasis– Balances conservation and resource uses.
 - Alt C – Conservation Emphasis– More quiet uses, less resource uses.
 - Alt D – Resource Use Emphasis.

Planning Process Overview (What has happened since our last meeting on February 10, 2009):

- Last meeting took place on February 10, 2009 where the BLM and RACs focused on Chapter 2 – Alternatives.
- It was also determined at this meeting that the RAC Subgroups would continue working with the BLM in the RMP revision process including a review of the preliminary Draft RMP and reporting back to the Northwest RAC (NWRAC).

Today's Handouts and Take Home Information:

- Do not share the handouts with the public.
- RACs will not be getting updated socioeconomic and environmental justice sections today.
- Numbers in each section of Chapter 4 have not been updated.
- Cumulative Impact discussion for several resource and resource uses.

Brief Introduction to Affected Environment (Chapter 3) and Environmental Consequences (Chapter 4) sections:

- Chapter 3 – Affected Environment
 - Discusses existing biological and physical environment of the KFO area, including resources and resource uses.
 - Tetra Tech will email the RAC Subgroups a new Chapter 3 with the correct page numbers.
- Chapter 4 – Environmental Consequences
 - Evaluates direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts from the alternatives.
 - Cumulative impacts will include a list of all other projects that will be considered when analyzing the impacts of the RMP. This includes past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects.

Comments Discussion – What the BLM needs from the Group by June 4, 2010:

- What constitutes a useful comment?
 - Concise and specific.
 - Identifies errors or contradictions in the analysis.
 - Addresses the adequacy of the analysis.
 - Points out new or missing information that would impact the analysis.
 - At this time, the BLM is not looking to identify personal preferences.
 - Identifies comments that are beyond the scope of the analysis.

- Correct errors or contradictions in the analysis.
- How the Comments will be used
 - Written comments due back to the BLM by June 4, 2010.
 - To reevaluate the range of alternatives.
 - To determine the adequacy of the analysis.
 - BLM will consider the comments and revise the document based on the comments. The RAC Subgroups will receive the comment matrix back to see how the BLM responded to their comments, which will be noted in the “Response” column on the comment matrix.
 - Question: Will the RAC Subgroups receive the entire comment matrix back, with all other subgroup’s comments, or just their individual comments?
 - BLM needs to check on this per the RAC agreements.

Revisit the Alternatives (Chapter 2) section. Discussion of what has changed and Why:

- Refinement of Alternatives
 - BLM solicited input from the Cooperating Agencies (CAs) and RAC Subgroups.
 - BLM tried to identify conflicting goals and objectives between resource programs.
 - BLM is asking the RAC Subgroups to identify if they believe the BLM has stayed within the range of alternatives discussed at the last meeting.
 - The BLM used two areas, Wolford and Strawberry as examples to demonstrate the format of the management actions in Chapter 2.
- North Sand Hills SRMA Recreation Appendix
 - BLM is adhering to the new national recreation resource guidance.
 - New guidance requires the BLM to identify the following:
 - Why the area is considered to be “special” and the BLM’s ability to manage it.
 - The recreation objective.
 - The proposed recreation setting characteristics.
 - The RMZ outcome objectives.
 - Guidance wants the BLM to identify what needs to happen in other resources in order to manage a certain area for recreation purposes.
 - Each recreation area would have VRM classes designed to preserve the recreation setting as well as manage the area for recreation permits.
 - Implementation actions included in the Land Use Plan
 - For an implementation level decision, the BLM does not have to amend the Land Use Plan. For example, if the BLM wants to open or close a route in the KFO, they need to first determine if the new designation is consistent with the Land Use Plan.
 - Recreation Appendix Table.
 - BLM instructed the RAC Subgroups to determine if the BLM stayed within the range of alternatives that were previously discussed.
- Wilderness Characteristics
 - Norton decision – BLM no longer has the authority to designate wilderness areas, but can manage certain lands demonstrating wilderness characteristics.

- BLM needed to update the inventory to see if additional lands had wilderness characteristics not previously identified.
- Upper Colorado SRMA
 - Big issue here relates to the number of permits the BLM would allocate. This issue has been dealt with by providing a different number of permits by alternative.

Interactive GIS Illustrations and Discussion:

- This agenda item took place during the discussion of Chapter 2. Therefore, the meeting minutes for this item are contained in the Revisit the Alternatives (Chapter 2) section. Discussion of what has changed and Why as discussed above.

Wrap-up – Questions, Group Comments, Discuss Tentative Date for the Next Meeting:

- Next Meeting will be held on Tuesday June 29, 2010 at 5:00 PM.
 - Travel Management and identification of the preferred alternative will be discussed.
- Strawberry ERMA – Issue – Eastern portion of area needs some forestry management for timber harvesting and beetle kill management. To accommodate this need, and to remain consistent with the ERMA designation, the BLM, under Alt B, proposes to designate this portion as VRM Class III allowing for a certain level of landscape change. However, the western portion of the ERMA is managed as VRM Class II. Motorized and non-motorized are broken down by zones.
- Maps/Figures
 - RAC subgroups asked if there are maps and figures in the document/CD as a reference from which the RAC Subgroups can make comments?
 - Currently Chapter 3 has some maps, but the BLM is asking the RAC subgroups to identify the kinds of important maps they would like to see in the document so they and the public can understand the alternatives.
 - KFO wants to separate maps that currently combine GSFO and KFO field offices. Example would be VRM Classes and oil and gas leases.
- Chapter 4 format discussion.
 - Used wilderness Study Areas and discussed the meaning and content of the various headings in the chapter. The BLM also explained how the impacts were analyzed by resource.
 - BLM instructed the RAC Subgroups to identify whether or not they believe all the impacts are captured.
 - Cumulative Impacts – Discuss past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions identified within a specific cumulative impacts area identified for a specific resource. Cumulative impacts area could be outside the boundaries of the KFO.
 - BLM then reviewed Table 2-1 to show the RAC Subgroups the numbers generated from GIS for the action alternatives that have associated acreages and how they compare between the alternatives.
 - BLM then reviewed Table 2-2 to help the RAC Subgroups understand the methodology and management actions the BLM used to conduct their analysis. BLM instructed the RAC Subgroups to read the entire chapter 2

on the disc and then refer back to the separate Table 2-2 provided by the BLM. However, the RAC Subgroups need to refer back to the CD or combined hardcopy when referencing a comment in the comment matrix.

Action Items:

- Cooperating Agencies: Review draft Chapter 4 and submit written comments to the KFO by June 4, 2010.
- Tetra Tech to send the RAC Subgroups a new Chapter 3 with correct page numbers.
- Generate a map showing all the different ERMAs and SRMAs for the KFO.

KFO/ RAC Subgroup Meeting.

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