

AGENDA

Statewide BLM Colorado Resource Advisory Council Meeting

February 23-25, 2011

The Steam Plant Event Center, 220 W. Sackett St., Salida, Colorado

February 23, Wednesday

- 1:00-1:15 Welcome—Helen M. Hankins—BLM Colorado State Director
- 1:15-1:30 Members from all three Colorado RACs (Resource Advisory Councils) introduced themselves to the group.
- 1:30-2:30 Dynamics of the New West—Marjo Curgus—Director, Training and Community Leadership, Sonoran Institute
- 2:30-2:45 Break
- 2:45-3:20 Colorado Overview – Helen M. Hankins
Questions from the audience and answers.
- 3:20-3:50 BLM Colorado Camping Rules – John Bierk
Questions from the audience and answers.
- 3:50-4:20 District Managers Reports
- 4:30-5:15 The Role of the RACs – Allison Sandoval, BLM National RAC Coordinator
- 6:30-8:00 Group get-acquainted dinner at the Steam Plant, tables hosted by BLM Staff

February 24, Thursday

- 8:00-8:15 Reconvene and Orders of Business
- 8:15-9:30 Wild Land Discussion
- 9:30-10:15 Ginny Brannon, Assistant Director for Energy and Minerals, Colorado Department of Natural Resources

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| 10:30-11:15 | Public Comment |
| 11:15-12:30 | Buffet Lunch |
| 12:30-3:00 | Pods, Meet, Discuss Assigned Topics |
| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is BLM Colorado’s role in working with underserved populations (youth, minorities, economically disadvantaged, wounded warriors, etc.)? How should BLM prioritize resources for these populations and service providers? 2. RACs and the REC (Recreation) RACs –should Colorado’s existing RACs take on the role of Recreation RAC for public lands? If so, How? 3. NLCS-Does the public understand the NLCS and how it differs from other public lands? How should NLCS be branded to differentiate from other national public lands? Does it matter, or should the effort go toward common goals...and merged operations? |
| 3:00-4:30 | RAC Pods make presentations to the combined group and BLM managers Staff |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3:00-3:30—Pod 1—Underserved Populations • 3:30-4:00—Pod2—Recreation RAC • 4:00-4:30—Pod 3—NLCS |
| 4:30 | Thursday meeting ends, adjourn for evening, dinner on your own |

February 25, Friday

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| 8:00-9:45 | Individual RAC Meetings |
| 9:45-10:00 | Break |
| 10:00-11:30 | Joint Meeting and Open Discussion |
| 11:30-12:00 | Wrap-up |
| 12:00 | Adjourn |

NOTES:

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February 23-25, 2011

Final Meeting Notes

February 23, 2011, Wednesday

“Dynamics of the New West”—Marjo Curgus—Director, Training and Community Leadership, Sonoran Institute

(no Powerpoint)

Helen M. Hankins, State Director for BLM Colorado Presentation:

See [Powerpoint](#)

Discussion:

Q: How many uranium leases are there in Colorado?

A: The Department of Energy handles uranium leases. BLM does not lease uranium. Generally for other mining claims on BLM lands, we do not have that information because when people ask for mining claims we don't always know what minerals they want to extract.

Q: Will you comment on the new Federal wild lands policy?

A: On December 23, 2011, this policy was announced. BLM was directed to provide internal comment. The policy was to continue to evolve until February 23 and then be finalized, but that hasn't happened. We are not aware that we asked RACs for comments. Clearly comments by the RACs could be made.

Q: If this gets passed by the U.S. Senate, does BLM move ahead, even if there is no money?

A: This has happened in the past and we will work to support what our Congress asks us to do.

John Bierk, LE Ranger for Colorado Camping Rules Presentation:

See [Powerpoint](#), Camping Rules

Discussion:

Q: How many camping length-of-stay enforcement issues did you have last year?

A: We just started putting the rules into effect last year and do not have statistics to report as of yet.

Q: The new stay limit is 13 days in a 30 day period?

A: 14 days in a 30 day period. You can be within the range.

Q: Men's club never knew about these camping rules? Doesn't this seem strange. Is it 30 miles or 30 air miles?

A: Thirty air miles.

Q: What is the difference for them to move those miles?

A: It disburses the land use. Within the 7 miles [explain] I am still allowing others to use that land.

Q: Have things gotten better with camp use?

A: From talking with other rangers yes it seems to have gotten better.

Q: Concerns – I have been on the RAC for a long time. We didn't know about these new camp rules. This didn't come out for us to know. According to these rules, I can't hunt and camp. Sheep owners would have to move.. There is a breakdown in communications on the change

from three miles to 30 miles. Now that it is changed where do we go? Understand that an outfitter now has a problem.

A: Outfitters -We would like to see how many problems we have this hunting season and then see where we are.

Q: Seasons overlap and unless you go to different areas you will not be able to see the problems. Also hikers go up and leave and return etc., you are putting people in a position where recreation is breaking the law or not breaking the law.

A: If people are traveling from here to California, something like this causes a problem for people staying on the land. Are locals still able to enjoy the lands? Thirty miles is not good enough.

Q: We suggest you send out a notice to all hunters. Should this be on the agendas of the RACs because it seems that we didn't do it properly? There should be a very concerted effort on BLM to get this information out. People may not even know they are doing things wrong.

Sounds more like sanitation is more of a concern here, rather than making sure people are not living out there. A LE ranger would have to be out there every day to even know if someone was out there longer than 14 days.

A: Camping is the only issue that does address this issue clearly.

Q: Could a person come back if they were there seven weekends?

A: Yes, they could come back.

It was brought up that the Front Range RAC did get this questions and no one had concerns at that time. Per Dan Dallas. Others said not at their RAC.

This discussion needs to be brought back up.

Q. Could you send letters to each of us about this ?

A. We can't suspend the Federal Register notice, per Helen Hankins.

District Managers Reports:

Dan Dallas, Acting District Manager, Front Range

See Handout

Q: What is the latest on the "sheep rule?"

A: This is not a recent development it has been an issue throughout the years with domestic sheep in proximity to wild sheep. There is lots of disease transmission when they intermingle.

Lori Armstrong, Southwest District

See Powerpoint

Q: CCA and stockgrowers

A: Working with all the partners. There is not much progress on this so far.

Steve Bennett Northwest District, Acting

Land use planning effort. Important process. It guides our process. We hope to have a draft out. White River RMP Amendment in the Spring of 2012. We do have RAC subgroups for each. Very helpful for us. Little Snake RMP is expected out in late May. Oil Shale RDD 2 are going to be addressed for public review in the spring. Wild horse front range and the NW District - White River did round up about 73 horses in that area. We did have some controversy. GJ natural gas development going on. Lots of permitting and planning going on there. These are the highlights

Q: \$480,000 for the gather?

A: Yes, that is accurate.

Q: Facility control for horses. How are you doing it?

A: We are darting them. We are seeing some initial success in controlling the reproduction.

A: We are challenged at every turn. Decisions and method of gathering is all a part of our situation.

Allison Sandoval, BLM National RAC Coordinator on The Role of the RACs

See Powerpoint

Q: What do you mean by any interest in a situation you need to excuse yourself?

A: Financial gain of any kind.

Q: All RAC members being vetted in – the process is long?

A: Yes, however, this year has been much better. All of the Colorado RAC members have been nominated.

Q: Are you recruiting Wyoming RAC members for the new RAC there?

A: Yes there is a push to get RAC members in the state of Wyoming.

February 24, Thursday

Jason Robertson's Presentation Wild Land Discussion

See Powerpoint

Wilderness and wild lands are not the same.

Concerned that the Wilderness Society was not advised of this [The wild lands designation.] and we have sponsors that oppose this. We ask that we do this as a group with our opposing views. We are not wilderness opposed.

Helen Hankins: From the statement point of BLM this was not an agenda item relative to directing the BLM on Wilderness policy. You are welcome to express your views to us. Anyone can bring any information that want to discuss.

Kathy Weld: Similar to the camping issue yesterday, wild land designations appeared out of nowhere and the RACs were not consulted. It just happened. Local constituents were not a part of this development.

I can see a huge possibility for abuse of roadless areas. Today when you say the word "roadless," some people imagine areas that are both roadless and developed. It seems to convey the idea that they don't qualify for protection

Andrew Gulliford: Wee heard from Law Enforcement about the camping regulation yesterday. What are we going to do to protect these areas? Are we going to inventory these areas? Is it illegal?

Helen Hankins: On camping regulations and wild lands policy and the fact that these new policies didn't come before the RACs. There seems to be the perception that we should bring all of these policy items before the RACs. That is not practical. BLM has been in trouble for informing too many people in the past. It is not practical for BLM to bring every policy issue before you. and I can assure you don't want to look at all of our policy processes. With respect to camping, we understand that you should have been more involved. We will revisit this issue in order to give you an opportunity to state your views.. With respect to the wild lands policy, no one was consulted about this. We were aware of the discussions but that is as far as it went. and we didn't have the opportunity to bring those issues to you. Although you may think that the state directors are all knowing, there are many instances where we are not included.. There will always be things we are not happy with. I will forward this information on to [BLM Director] Bob Abbey with your concerns. I will commit to you that every opportunity we have to get you involved we will do that. In this case, I was not asked my opinion. We were all in the dark.

Ken Emory: Are we going to have wild lands information, such as for emergency minerals?
A: The process will be the same. The Wilderness Act was an act of law. We don't have that authority. When Congress passes an act, we have to maintain what it directs.

Q. Can BLM identify wild lands ?

Helen Hankins: Yes.

Steve Smith. We appreciate Helen clarifying for us.

Wes: When will you have a final decision, will it be in Little Snake RMP ROD?

Helen: We may not have had a complete inventory. In those cases, my impression is that unless we specifically added an area to protect wilderness characteristics we would not change the ROD. Would have to do a new amendment.

Jason: validates what we were already doing.

Kit Shy: A lot of WSA signs getting dilapidated? Is there a limit on time for studying WSA?

No. Until Congress acts.

Clare: Comes down to how it is executed on the ground. How the guidance gets carried out at local level. Very specific guidance is going to be needed because of lack of impairment standard. Concerns from all sides of isle about how this will be implemented? How will you train staff on implementing this?

Jason: nothing yet. Will try to be consistent across Colorado, across BLM, in how we apply this policy. Management decisions can chance

Pat Kennedy: Is there a citizen wilderness proposal still out there? How does it relate?

Jason: Not a designation, it is a recommendation from the public. We will be looking at citizen wilderness proposals as we have done in the past in our planning.

Lynn Padgett: Would like a Powerpoint presentation to be available on-line. Public participation is a critical piece of this. UFO subgroup is going well, another one not as well. But what about something like that to review wild lands proposals? It is a process that works well and we are familiar with (local sub RACs of bigger RAC). I need to be able to go back to public and assure people there will be meaningful public input on these.

Ken Emory: Secretary Salazar says you can't use the same rating system to evaluate each area, and can't compare areas. So how do you evaluate?

Jason Robertson: We have to look at each area individually. If we determine wilderness resource basis for one area, that's the determination. Doesn't matter if next area over has "better" or "worse" wilderness resource. Area stands on its own.

Ken Emory: So it is subjective. Could vary by field manager. Someone is going out and making a determination on their own.

Jason: We do compare it against a standard.

Andy: Could look at it the other way, too. One great area might be devalued by being compared to an even greater area.

Helen: Always some degree of subjectivity in decisions. There will be criteria on this, and we are expecting to have very detailed training for managers and staff about how to do this. We are hoping to increase the consistency among field offices. Definitions, guidelines and training will help us be consistent. District managers will be looking across all field offices. We will do our best to have maximum consistency.

Ken: Draft manual is very, very vague. Leaves it open.

Helen: The Manuals are being revised.

Peter M: This is the consultative process we heard about. The public will need to have very clear instructions on what we are being asked to evaluate during the process.

Barabara Hawke: Lots of ongoing planning processes, including wild lands in the RMP process is a great opportunity for public involvement.

Laura B: how long does it take Congress to act on Wilderness Study areas on average? There needs to be a national assessment.

Jason: No set time. We have had WSAs since the 1980s.

Helen: Has been national assessment. We will inquire and make it available to you.

Jim Cochran: The Secretary chose not to consult with RACs, which is unfortunate. Now that implementation is on the table, BLM has the opportunity to involve RACs, we urge you to do that. This affects a lot of people. An earlier statement that field managers have incredible discretion makes me very nervous. The Gunnison basin has seen wide variety of field managers with a variety of views on such designations

Ginny Brannon, Assistant Director for Energy and Minerals, Colorado Department of Natural Resources Presentation

(No Power Point or speech provided)

Barbara: You mentioned baseline ground water surveys. Who is doing them? Information is online

Ginny: COGCC should be online.

Clare: Why are no renewables treated in your presentation?

Ginny: DNR does not have anything to do with renewables. Governor's Energy Office handles that.

Clare: It still makes sense to include in a talk about Colorado's energy resources.

Al Heaton: Fracking. Wells have been contaminated, people have died, gotten sick. Common sense says that the wells have been contaminated.

Ginny: Wells have been contaminated, but how? Has the fracking itself caused the contamination?

Al: Is it COGCC's responsibility to ensure this doesn't happen?

Ginny: Yes.

Andrew G: An oil and gas worker became sick. Health workers got sick. Energy companies did not release what was in those fluids. Want phone number in my area to find out what is in fracking fluid.

Ginny: You could have agency oversight, or check on the national registry for about 80 percent of the fracking sites

La Plata County commissioner: Knowing what is in fluid is very critical. COGCC has rules about what needs to be reported when spilled – it's a large amount, like 50 gallons. A lot less than that can make people sick. Need to look at impacts of quantities of these chemicals. Sickness may come later, years after exposure. Potential is very high for water contamination. Oil and gas is huge economic boon for La Plata County, and we don't want the industry to leave. We need assurances that environment will be protected. A large amount of fracking fluid stays in the ground after fracking. That is large potential. Don't know what you are testing for.

Ginny: COGCC knows exactly what they are testing for. Companies have to disclose to COGCC when they test.

Barbara V: Companies are hiding behind maintaining secrets, companies have to self-report. In a Jackson County oil field, a neighbor downstream found an oil slick, had to go to Denver Post to get a state agency to look at it. Putting it on public view to make a complaint is upside down. We depend on companies to self report. So there is tension there.

Ginny: Cat is out of bag on chemicals now. Before a lot of secrecy. Know Wyoming is requiring disclosure, just becoming more public. Should be full disclosure.

La Plata Commissioner: Governor could support a bill requiring that.

John Cochran: In Gunnison County, a fracking fluid truck tipped over within 100 yards of a reservoir. Emergency responders don't know what's in a truck when it isn't marked with anything but a hazardous materials symbol.

Al Trujillo: It's been four- years since consultation rules were initiated by DOW, CDH. Transparency was a big part of that. Companies resisted. Constituency supported disclosure, got overwhelmed by industry. Remember they are out there that don't want to see gains lost. Why not require tracers in fracking chemicals so we can see when there is contamination?

Open Public Comment:

Dave S: Western Slope Fee Coalition: Meetings like this are usually during the week, have to take off work to attend. Hard to get information in advance, hard to make informed comments.

Have to get info out there in advance. Publishing proposed fee increases only locally doesn't reach most of the people that use the lands. Need to know what's going on in order to be involved.

There are four fee proposals for the next REC RAC. One is North Fruita Desert, which was tabled from an earlier meeting. One of the concerns was the Fruita Fat Tire Festival. County commissioners were told there would be trash collection. Shelf road is proposing a higher fee than public is comfortable with. We understand the NW RAC has expressed interest in taking over REC RAC.

Kitty Vanzar, Western Slope No Fee Coalition: You have a break out session today addressing this question. We asked to give a presentation at that breakout. The NW RAC was led to believe by BLM that REC RAC just didn't want to approve the North Fruita desert proposal. The Forest Service REC RACs are basically rubber stamps for fee approvals. Rarely disapprove. Members are hand-picked to be favorable to Forest Service. Members are under a lot a pressure. BLM RACs are different – you were picked for your background that BLM seeks for advice.

No role for the REC RAC. REC RAC is obligated to represent entire constituency. Have to document that there is public support. Recommending, not advising like BLM RACs. How can the public comment on a proposal when a business plan is not available until after public comment period? I could have provided detailed comments in this case if I had specific information. We attend REC RAC meetings in many states. In Arizona, BLM RAC has REC RAC responsibility. But they want to get out of that business. Get out from under the recreation proposals. You are trying to grab on to something they are trying to get rid of. REC RACs are all in limbo. Charters have expired, new appointments are needed. Be careful what you wish for.

Pat Kennedy: Question, what is status of the REC RAC? We have things we need to do. That's our issue. Nothing is being done with REC RAC.

Kitty: The REC RAC is not meeting. BLM has only had proposals on agenda one time. When they were, proposals were discussed thoroughly.

Clare: One of the reasons we are proposing taking responsibility is that we are a locally--appointed group, so we have a good understanding of these proposals. Number two, we meet regularly. We publish agendas and have public comment opportunity. Are you opposed to having this authority transfer to these RACs? What are you asking for?

Kitty: need outreach beyond the local area. National REC RACs are organized like a cluster. Some states have one, some states have more than one, some REC RACs cover multiple states. You need to assure that the fee proposals will get beyond a local area.

Ken Emory: Have been on REC RACs since it started. BLM RACs meet regularly because BLM schedules it. Managing agency in Colorado put this on the backburner. Want this to be a rubber stamp. We were doing things according to the law. Told by managing agency that they would do these whether REC RAC approves or not. We didn't have meetings for more than a year, some terms expired. We were willing to have meetings. We were denied the opportunity. Could we get

some information, not the financials? A REC RAC is more representative of recreation industry than an advisory council.

Dave S: REC RACs are set up to represent constituents. We would like to change the law too. Right now we are all bound by it and must follow it. Do whatever you need to do to get the word out –ads in the Denver Post or climbing magazines, for instance.

Underserved Populations discussion

Led by Lori Armstrong and Brian St. George

What is an underserved population?

Youth, students, wounded warriors, minorities, and vets: These are the topic of discussion.

What ways we can help accommodate these types of people.

What are some creative ways to engage underserved population?

Our two questions to you:

1. What is BLM Colorado role working with these populations
2. How should we prioritize and serve these populations.

Discussion: It is very unfocused on what you want. Good job on access issues. Really across the board.

We need to do better at reaching these populations.

If people arrive to take trips provided by a commercial provider, we (BLM) would provide the commercial outlet for them.

Could we offer them a break on fees if they agree to do these trips?

Bill Dvork: We got a grant to pay for their fees. Programs are designed to help wounded warriors, with this service. That is a good way to get the expense covered.

They would buy a commercial launch. It's often very hard to get on the water for someone with a handicap.

Buck McGee: You are doing a lot that you should take credit for.

Go to the VA and discuss what they need first. Then go from there and see what you can provide and what you need to do this. They do a great job already. A lot of this is already in place.

Lori: There are some things being done already. But we do a poor job with some.

Buck: I congratulate you for coming forward and helping.

Al Trujillo: Best ideas are from the field. The field most of the time is guided by policy and budgets. There needs to be a policy in place to keep these programs going, but now there is no budget. Example: We invited the BLM and other partners to know about several programs.

Lori: The policy is rapidly evolving, but there is nothing specific from Washington, our State office is willing to help out. Washington is working on something for Vets.

Al Heaton: Schools do get involved with the curriculum development. We should get involved with the curriculum. The programs within the schools are already in place through the State level. Talking about the underserved and maybe the under-represented. Offer them a place on the RAC so there is a source for them to go to.

Steve Smith and Pat Kennedy: Partnerships would help with the budget. There is a passion and a motivation for other partners. Colorado Discoverability is an example. Direct that partnership.

Jim: Gunnison has a role for Western Colorado Conservation Corp. The county provided an area on sage grouse and could have done something with youth. There is a great opportunity in this same area. They are benefiting the resource and environment. They could find the grants to do some of this together.

Buck : Special Olympics could help out with what they already have in place.

Bill Dvork: Some other programs address special populations group. In the Grand Canyon they have outfitters willing to work with different types of folks with disabilities. You will find different outfitters that are willing to do this. In 1973, an Act of Congress put this group in place.

Al Trujillo: We try to target groups with disabilities and we don't think BLM is willing to go there. Perhaps some of these groups have already gone through the development and this could save time. The strength is that these groups may have the funds to help. We need greater use of partners at the Field Office level. The Field Manager has to support it in order for it to work.

John Stevenson: I belong to some foundations, like the Elk Foundation. These foundations have helped those with disabilities. They will utilize school groups to introduce them to the outdoors. A type of foundation that helps dreams come true, such as someone who is not able to go elk hunting, etc.

Patrick: There may not be a need for a new policy.

Laura: Maybe you are more of a hub for this more than anything else. To contact partners and they could help to make things happen.

Bill: The government could make IT departments available through their website where different groups could send in their information as to what was available for different areas for fishing, hunting, etc. This could be something we could tap into to help.

If the BLM had access to a clearinghouse for skills such as for retirees.

Kathy Welt: Partnership is key to providing information to different partners.. We need to overcome road blocks.

The National Park Service has a model of special population use permits.

Constraints:

If we can work with outfitters to let them know of something special—we need discretion to do this.

Any analysis done?

Can we match under-used facilities with an underserved population?

Resource stewardship for kids to serve and help.

Bill: There are already hundreds of groups to help and possibly bring their input and time to activities on BLM land in Colorado. What about other cultural heritage, partnerships that are not traditional?.

How do we broaden our thinking?

We need recreation uses to include other resource values or uses.

Al Heaton: We are already doing a very good thing. I am a rancher and also bring in guests from time-to-time. As a multi-use agency, BLM is doing a lot with grazing, mining, oil and gas and recreation opportunities.. We should not get too far off track.

BLM should be careful not to over respond to this need.How much of a priority should this be? We are already there

An educational element to this is definitely going to play a part.

Kathy Welt: BLM is still not known by the public as well as it should be.Are we targeting “underserved” or “under-educated” populations about the value of public lands?With no budget, you have to rely on volunteers, or a coalition.

It is a balance of priorities and our multiple use mission

Al Heaton: The more responsible we are for what we are doing, the better off we will be. We can teach in our schools that being more responsible, is key to everything.Buck: Does BLM have the money and the manpower? If not, then why are we even having this conversation?

Lori: We want to see where everyone stands on this. Trying to achieve two things, which is to partner with schools, etc. So the more we can engage others, the more help we will help all around.

Outcome of this session, roles and mission for BLM:

Partnerships

Clearinghouse

Balance of priorities and multiple use mission

Significant work already has been done by BLM to reach out to various populations.

Prioritization

- Consider that much of BLM's outreach to underserved populations is accomplished outside of land use planning.
- Dedicated volunteer/outreach coordinators
 - Tracking outreach effort for budget justification
- Should the BLM allocate land use to underserved population?
 - Not until you define "underserved" and the demand and critical
 - Partnership: should focus on meeting the purpose and intent of the requests by better understanding populations rather than a specific request
- Rather than serving "underserved" populations...focus on outreach"
- Adaptive planning and response to changing conditions/demands

Consideration of Vets & Wounded Warriors:

- Consideration in an RMP process seems warranted in consideration of other responsibilities
- Be cautious about choosing one group versus another
- Is there wiggle room for BLM to allow additional use under special circumstances

Eric: What about increasing their access, is there value?

Al Trujillo: What makes them different to where we have to consider them as commercial?

Lori: They are commercial in handicap venues.

Loren Whittemore: Consider the demand and how you would incorporate it in a 20-year plan.

Steve Smith: No, I don't think you should do this. Although you ask us to look at two groups – others may have their own situations like orphans, domestic violence etc. Be careful when you pick your groups. Don't compromise yourself.

John Stevenson: Does ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) fall into your plans?

No not yet.

Al Trujillo: Continue to work with who we already work with. Use the fact that a war is going on in order to get some flexibility.

Bill: Difficult to put this in writing. Be careful of those who are in it themselves or their own reason to do certain things.

Kit: Hearing that groups want different things that vets want. Perhaps they can come up with the funding for example, to have a shooting range.

Loren: More flexibility to meet the needs of different groups. Access and availability is going to have to be considered. Everyone should have the access. Perhaps a vets day and honor them in that way among the vets.

Buck: Do you have a plan? When gas hits \$5 a gallon-we are going to start drilling in the west.

Kent Walter: Your real issue is your commercial group permits, with unlimited private use. To deal with the commercial use, make sure you have unallocated usage to distribute access. A lottery or something like that is a way to possibly provide to people so we don't want to say no or turn folks down.

February 25, Friday

Joint Meeting and Open discussion

How frequently would you like to hold the Statewide "Super" RAC Meetings?

What about cost? The travel is a little more. Average cost is not that big of an issue. The local RACs would be absorbing the cost.

Every two years!

Front Range RAC:

We passed a resolution for a REC RAC situation.

BLM needs to have an outreach coordinator that has a person that can coordinate our youth initiative,etc.

How can we get information to Washington to do this?

We are going to address this later in the year.

Helen Hankins – We are going to do better than other agencies, because we put a lot more money into the Treasury. It is true that our budget is going to be less. We do have to be careful. But we also have to take these things into consideration. We talked to Americorps and they provided us with help in other areas, and so we may have some ideas like that to look at.

John Mehlhoff:– We are in difficult budget times right now. We are standing up [setting up] our district organizations We don't have that [coordination] skill identified at this point. We will need to look at that from the District level.

Steve Bennett – We do have a couple of positions not filled yet, so we could consider that [coordination] job skill while filling these positions.

SW RAC:

We talked about the wild and scenic river suitability recommendations. We had a very dedicated subgroup that did a suitability analysis. There were some 11 or 12 public meetings and a lot of good outreach. We did review them and discuss. There were also concerns like water rights – how could they be approved through Congress? We did vote to approve the subgroup for the RMP process.

We also discussed an EA that was completed and geo thermal leases. We drafted a comment letter.. Gunnison Sage Grouse and winter grazing for game were primary discussion topics. The Gunnison FO is going to get back with a summary on how our comments will be addressed. We appreciate being a part of that. We did approve the resolution that was put together. One change is regional to local and other stakeholders. We agreed to further discuss and add to our agenda for the next meeting on camping regulations and the RACs' role and re-enforce that we feel we need to be involved. We also like our State Director's involvement. Lastly, we had a discussion about the southwest corner of the state and travel management plans that the public has commented on and the protests. The plan was released in 2008 but, because of budgets, was not implemented until last year. Effects on Canyons of the Ancients and two other locations had resulted in some public outcry. But the protest was very useful and not violent, with banners and signs outside of BLM offices. People are just mis-informed about the plan.. There need to be plans approved and decisions made on road closures, but please keep that information available so people are not caught off guard when changes are finally made, and they don't feel like the Federal government is not taking them into consideration. We have to keep people informed. This is very serious. We will support Mark Stiles and others with their issues.

Also, we didn't know about the road closings. This type thing of thing raises a caution flag for some of us.

NW RAC:

We had a good discussion and we welcomed a new member to the group. There was internal discussion about resolutions to be voted on and sent to the State Director and Director. We voted on and passed a REC RAC resolution, which had been discussed twice previously at NW RAC meetings. It was commented that receiving the agenda with all the topics 10 days prior to each

meeting would help prepare Recommended designating an Instant Study Area (ISA) in the San Hills area near Walden, Colorado, where ATV recreation is popular and growing. Economic involvement is happening fast there. Our contingency constituency has asked Congress to make this an Instant Study Area.

Also:

- Voted unanimously on taking over the work of the REC RAC for one year. “We don’t want to do the REC RAC’s work, but we will help get things done.”
- Camping rules were discussed concerning length of stay and recent regulations setting limits of 14 days and moving 30 miles after that stay before using another federal camping site NW RAC members Kai Turner, Gary Bumgarner and Dean Riggs agreed to study the issues and make a presentation to the June NWRAC meeting.
- Discussion with Jim Cagney, the new NW District Manager. He complimented the RAC gathering.. On the Joint camping rules – If BLM could share those things – that would be great. Yes, we will make this possible per Steven Hall.
- More contact information to know who people are and what they do would be helpful. Yes, we will try and do that as much as people will let us do that per Steven Hall.
- We are not acquainted with others (RACs), and if we could facilitate with other RACs to look at some issues it would be helpful for us to know more about state and BLM issues. So if we had a field trip at a RAC meeting would be helpful also. For example, with some of these gas issues and it would be good to see these areas.
- Cass – Discussed if the RAC could have an e-mail account to send out information on concerns. To set this up would be helpful. (Per Steven Hall - People didn’t want us being a buffer. Not sure this would be good but can be looked at.)
- Helen – Field trips – it seems to me that if one RAC is having a field trip they could send information to other RACs for those who would like to be included etc. I think the RACs could do this informally. There is no reason one person or two that is interested in going on a field trip couldn’t go with other RACs.
- Communication breakdown – like with the federal registry this needs to be addressed. Twitter and Facebook would help others to communicate information. This could be used to post things on some site that BLM has. This could deal with our communication difficulty from locations like SE and others even internationally and not just locally. We do have a Facebook page (per Steven Hall). We can use Twitter! We have an RSS fee, if you sign up for this information will be forwarded to your in box (per Steven Hall).

- BLM Resources in the state. Is there a place I can go and see maps of all of the BLM lands, development for oil and gas, etc., to help educate me and others. A general website can help with this, but we don't have a lot of capability with having that many maps per Steven Hall.
- Steve Smith – I was surprised how useful the afternoon sessions were yesterday. We only dealt with one of the issues. Would you need more information on the other subjects? Per Steven Hall – yes, if you see this as useful and you want to continue to work on the issues, we would appreciate it.
- Helen- NLCS – we still have the impression that we are going to see a wild lands policy out really soon. It is in the general category. We see a role for the RACs going forward. On the underserved populations, we are working on this general area, including outfitters and other discussions with Washington. I think that down the road there will be some RAC involvement.
- Brian – Go to that Field office website and hopefully you will see some information that you are looking for. Not to sound like a broken record, but we do have security issues we have to deal with that make it difficult. This has been a struggle for us per Steven Hall.
- Helen – The department is actually working toward having a lot of information on Google. Plus, in the case of your desires Barb, we can have someone in the SO work with you and help you get what you are looking for and want. Some data we don't actually have.
- Barb – When we have another statewide meeting if we could have this as a topic on getting information!
- Helen – Thanks so much for your time and effort to come.

The End.