



Public Meeting Comments

June 28, 2011

Laurel Hill Golf Course Clubhouse, Lorton, VA

These are the public comments received during the Public Scoping Period for the Meadowood barn facility. Private, personal information including, but not limited to, e-mail and physical addresses, etc., have been redacted.

However, while every effort was made to eliminate personal information from public view, all attendees were made aware of the following statement:

"Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so."

LOWER POTOMAC FIELD STATION Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area

10406 Gunston Road
Lorton, VA 22079
Phone: 703-339-8009
www.blm.gov/es
E-mail: ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov



bluestein brendon

06/23/2011 02:48 AM

To ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Fwd: [MNCA] Public Meeting - Meadowood - June 28, at 7:00 p.m @ the Laurel Hill Golf Course

Ma'am,

I use the meadowood trails for running and family hikes as do many of my neighbors. As for the barn and horses we had looked into lessons for my kids but the cost was prohibitive at 40 dollars a session for each child. i am sure i am not alone in this assessment. I believe the stables would get more use from the public and generate more revenue if the price for lessons was cut in half. Use volunteers to assist one paid employee in conducting group lessons and run these frequently. Obtaining free advertisement and publicity should not be difficult if these changes were made.

On another note, I support the plan to connect the trail system of meadowood to Pohick.

Best Regards,

Brendon Bluestein
Mason Neck Resident

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Peter Weyland [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, 22 Jun 2011 14:37:13 -0400
Subject: [MNCA] Public Meeting - Meadowood - June 28, at 7:00 p.m @ the Laurel Hill Golf Course
To: mnca@listserve.com

mnca

U.S. Department of the Interior • Bureau of Land Management • 7450
Boston
Blvd. • Springfield, VA

NOTICE of PUBLIC MEETING
Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area

LORTON, VA - The Lower Potomac Field Station has scheduled a public scoping meeting to share information about the current condition and potential future options of the equestrian stables located at the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) in Lorton, Virginia. The meeting will be held on June 28, at 7:00 p.m. local time, at the Laurel Hill Golf Course Clubhouse located at 8701 Laurel Crest Dr., Lorton, Virginia 22079.

The meeting will begin with a brief overview of the condition and short discussion of options for the 34-year-old barn, followed by a short question and answer period. No decisions will be made at this meeting but it is important to collect as wide a variety of the public's views and



Chris Bright
[Redacted]

06/27/2011 10:19 AM

To ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Comments on the subject of the horse barn

To whom it may concern:

Please find attached a letter on the subject of the horse barn at Meadowood.

Thanks very much and all the best,
Chris

Chris Bright
President
Earth Sangha

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

cbright@earthsangha.org
earthsangha.org



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as "one of the best small charities in the Washington, DC, region."*



Earth Sangha letter BLM 062711.pdf

EARTH SANGHA

June 27, 2011

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in response to the recent BLM announcement about the public meeting on June 28, concerning the horse barn at the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area.

I am president of the Earth Sangha, a small environmental organization based in Fairfax County and devoted to ecological restoration. Nearly all of our local work involves the management of vegetation on public lands, and nearly all of it is done by volunteers—usually more than 500 of them per year. On an annual basis, our volunteers usually invest over 10,000 hours of labor on our restoration projects in and around Fairfax County.

We have had the privilege of collaborating with BLM staff on several restoration projects at Meadowood, beginning in 2008. Hundreds of our volunteers have worked on our Meadowood projects, and we look forward to working with hundreds more.

I really do not have an opinion on how the Meadowood horse barn ought to be designed. I like horses, but I know very little about them. I have, however, followed the horse barn controversy from a distance, and I'm writing now because I have grown increasingly uneasy about what I perceive as a lack of balance and perspective in the debate itself, and perhaps especially in the way that it has been covered in the local press.

Meadowood is a multi-use property, and much of what is valuable about the property, at least from my perspective, has little if anything to do with horses.

For example, Meadowood has been designated by BirdLife International as an "Important Bird Area," which means that it contains substantial habitat for migratory or biome-restricted bird species. I gather that Meadowood's songbird species-count has increased since the BLM took ownership of the property.

Another example: Meadowood's magnificent forests appear to contain at least one true vernal pool. Vernal pools are unusual habitats; they flood during the wetter times of the year and dry out in the summer. Vernal pools are important amphibian habitat, and there are fewer and fewer of them left in our region. At Meadowood's pool, we have seen the egg-masses of the spotted salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*); vernal pools in mature deciduous forest are prime habitat for this species. As development in our region proceeds, Meadowood is likely to become increasingly valuable as a refuge for such habitat specialists.

Just one more example, closer to our own line of work: Meadowood contains, albeit in somewhat degraded form, several distinctive and very interesting native plant communities. One of our favorites is the meadow / grassland assemblage near and around the property's old gravel

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quarry. There, you can find thriving populations of broomsedge (*Andropogon virginicus*), little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), purple lovegrass (*Eragrostis spectabilis*), deertongue (*Dichanthelium clandestinum*), tapered rosette grass (*D. acuminatum*), two native—and increasingly rare—lespedezas (*Lespedeza procumbens* and *L. repens*), various goldenrod species (*Solidago spp.*), and Maryland goldenaster (*Chrysopsis mariana*). (Despite the name of the latter species, we're proud to have it here!) Although most of these plants are still fairly common in our region, there are fewer and fewer places where you can see entire assemblages like this. This little spot is also home to a big colony of native ground-nesting "solitary bees," which are important native pollinators. (Solitary bees are bees that do not live in hives).

I mention these things just as a reminder. As every Meadowood regular knows, the property's staff is tiny, and its responsibilities are enormous. Safeguarding Meadowood's natural assets—stabilizing erosion, reducing the unnaturally high deer population, controlling invasive alien plants, creating trails that let visitors see the property without damaging it, conserving and restoring native plant communities—in my opinion, these are the tasks that are likely to make the biggest difference to the property, and to Meadowood's extended community of supporters, over the long term.

Clearly, Meadowood's horse boarders have a legitimate claim on the staff and the facility—and it's in everyone's interest that this claim be respected. It's certainly in our interest; it's wonderful just to watch the horses, and many of our volunteers love having them around, and enjoy talking to their owners about them. I am myself especially fond of that program that gives those young people a chance to ride. (I regret having forgotten the program's name!)

But legitimate interest is not exclusive interest, and there are downsides associated with having so many horses on the property—for example: increased erosion, nutrient pollution (or the expense of preventing it), and the need to maintain large areas in exotic pasture grasses, which offer little habitat value for native plants and animals. As always in a multi-use context, it's necessary to try to strike a balance, and there's no guarantee that yesterday's solution will remain the best policy forever. In this context, reducing the number of stalls available to horse boarders is hardly suggestive of some sort of anti-equine agenda on the part of the staff. Besides, anyone who actually knows the people involved will know that they have no such prejudice.

Personally, I believe that Meadowood should retain some characteristics of the farm that the property once was. But I hope that the people engaged in the horse-barn debate will adopt a perspective familiar to many good farmers. Like a good farmer, we should respect the land, manage for the whole, and think long term.

Thanks for reading my note.



Chris Bright
President
Earth Sangha



Katie [REDACTED]
06/24/2011 11:55 AM

To ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Meadowood facility

Good morning -

I am a horse owner who boards on the Mason Neck, although I do not board at the Meadowood facility. I'm always interested in the BLM facility, as it impacts the horse industry and owners' access to barns/trails/facilities in the area.

I was under the impression that some of the past concerns about boarding horses at the BLM property were due to cost effectiveness. In other words, it's hard to make it profitable. (and I don't know if it's currently breaking even or in the red)

In addition to the boarding and therapeutic riding operation, has BLM considered rent out the indoor arena to private groups? I know the Clifton Horse Society is sometimes looking for a location to host horse-related clinics. Or perhaps the barn could host schooling shows, which would bring in some money.

Just some food for thought.

Best regards,
Katie



WG van As

06/26/2011 01:36 PM

To ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Meadowood Stables

Hi

I was the barn manager for the previous contractor at Meadowood for 2 years and also the SRP holder to start and operate the lesson program at Meadowood recreation area. These activities occurred from 2008 to 2010.

I have 30 plus years of horse experience and built 2 barns in the past 20 years. I also trained horses and maintained several barns in Kentucky and WV in this time. I am a professional horse trainer and riding instructor.

Having this experience with horses in general and also a thorough base of information about the Meadowood equine facility I feel, as a US citizen, that I should give you my comments about the current situation at the facility.

Since the previous public meeting held on November 16, 2010, two inspections / assessments, one by the Fairfax County Department of public works and another by a contracted civilian; POZ environmental LLC, were done. This expense and use of tax-payer money was called for by boarders and then required by elected government officials. Public funds were used for this purpose and I would like know that those demanding this be done have read the results. The results from both these actions would lead any knowledgeable person to realize that the current structure should be replaced. This is unless the government would like to continue to keep an unsafe structure open to the public.

As I understand, of the goals that BLM have, none is to operate a business in competition with the private sector. Also the resources that BLM use must be for operations that would benefit the public at large. Both of these two goals would be in jeopardy. Currently there are several private citizens with open stalls available for boarding in a 5 mile radius from Meadowood. It is not that there are no other options for boarding, it is more that there are no other options where you can run to local elected officials if you are not happy with the situation and rules. By only allowing 20 boarders to have exclusive life-long boarding does not serve the public at large. Most other federal operated facilities have a time limit for stay. That was done, rightfully so, to prevent those that have money and influence from being the only ones reaping benefits from tax-payer investment operations.

The Therapeutic riding program, as well as the regular lesson program, are open to the public and should continue. A much smaller barn could be planned and designed for that purpose only, well within the current budget.

In the current economical situation that our country and government is in, where every opportunity to cut expenses is a goal for survival, building a new equine facility for some 20 individuals would make nice headlines.

I sure hope that the local, state and federal officials that let themselves get involved in this situation would take the time to read the results from the two inspections and make decisions accordingly. This is not the time to think about re-election or the favor of a few citizens. Our country can use every penny they can get to stay solvent. Do what is right please.

Social media has become a very powerful tool. It was able to bring about government change in a country like Egypt. It can also be used to spread misinformation. I have been reading several e-Mails that were sent, in the social media, as a petition and would like to uncover some of the misinformation that is being spread around by some individuals.

Misinformation 1.

BLM has \$250,000 in maintenance funds that was raised from boarding fees.

BLM is not getting any money from current boarders, in fact they are paying the contractor to operate the facility. In other words they are using my tax dollars and paying a contractor to take care of a facility that houses horses for 20 individuals, whom by choice own a horse. It is not the federal government's responsibility to do this. The fees paid to BLM over the past ten years would not amount to 10% of the number that is being falsely mentioned.

Misinformation 2.

Boarders are contributing \$1 million per year to the local economy.

This would calculate to \$50,000 per horse. Boarders that are spending any money other than coffee, apples, carrots and a lunch here and there, are people that reside near the barn and would spend that kind of money anyway.

Money spent on veterinarian services, farrier services and equipment such as horse tack, does not stay in Lorton. The vet services are from Haymarket, horse surgeries are being done at Morven Park in Leesburg. Most of the tack and horse supplies are being purchased at Dover in Centerville or other proper tack shops in

the Middelburg area. Not Booths, the local tack shop with no more than 50 horse related items. It is not the favorite place to shop for supplies other than grain. Individuals that say they are financially able to spend that kind of money on a hobby should do so privately and keep the federal government out of it.

BLM officials would most probably like to get this situation resolved sooner than later. They were not hired by the Federal government to spend countless hours to listen and resolve the problems of 20 people. The private sector would like for the current boarders to come and fill the stalls in their small, locally owned boarding businesses.

Keep Meadowood special recreation area open TO THE PUBLIC. GET RID OF PRIVATE BOARDING.

Thanks.

WG



"Cynthia Shifflett"
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

06/27/2011 10:33 AM

To <ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Meadowood Disposition

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to discuss the upcoming decision concerning the disposition of the riding stable at Meadowood Recreation Center. My decision to NOT support the boarder drive to keep the existing facility comes from a number of area's. 1) For a period of time, I was involved in the management of the barn, 2) I was a boarder in the facility for over ten (10) years and 3) I am well acquainted with both the boarders and the BLM Management and staff at the location.

The building is unsafe, period. While all of the politicians and whomever may have had a battery of inspectors, architects and the like reviewing the building did they actually have people with equestrian experience look the building over? This facility has more horse related injuries than others in the area for a variety of reasons. The building is old, nails are popping everywhere (puncture wounds), the herds are too large (gang violence), the wood in the stall is petrified (no give, concussion injuries), the pastures are not properly maintained by management leaving horses to subsist on weeds and dead grass (gut issues), the arena is quite simply, dangerous. I have seen more riders and horses go down in that arena than I care to think about (including my personal mount, at least three times)... my list could go on and on. Certainly, I am available to discuss further at your convenience.

In addition, there is current management in the location without sufficient knowledge to manage a barn and grounds of that size, in my opinion. A more manageable number of boarded equine say ten (10) or twenty (20), would certainly help to preserve the pastoral vision that the community is looking for without stressing the facility and environment. I was in that facility for ten (10) years and every time I heard that the BLM was rethinking the boarder situation I would shudder and scramble to have boarders participate in "saving" the facility. Now that I have left, I look back on that and wonder why I fought so hard to do that.

I have a special needs horse that I was told on day one by the current management, was not welcome at the facility. An interesting concept as he had spent the better part of his life at the facility and had been welcomed by all prior management. Anyway, we moved on and the most amazing thing happened. The horse flourished!!! After six months, I sat back and tried to analyze why this had happened. It came down to one fact, while I fought for convenience in boarding, the facility at Meadowood is not conducive to the overall health and welfare of the equine stabled there. At Meadowood the Vet is there DAILY. At my new facility, the Vets have been out for annual check-up and shots. No injuries. The horses are happy, stable vices have diminished or been eliminated and most importantly, they are healthy. Quite simply, the current manager requesting that my special needs horse leave the property was the best thing that could have happened to him. I have talked to other boarders who had been asked to leave or left for a variety of reasons and we all come back to the same place, BEST thing that could have happened to us and our equine!

At the end of the day, it boils down to two things in my mind. 1) Is the facility safe for the animals that are housed there? The answer is no unless the facility was completely gutted

and rehabbed which I would suspect would be unbelievably expensive verses simply putting up a new barn. Additionally, they could take some of the money and cross fence paddocks to facilitate smaller herds (this is a key issue for me) as well as rehab the paddocks so that horses are eating what they should be...healthy, maintained grass. 2) What is best for the community? Certainly programs such as Simple Changes should remain in place...their work is important to everyone...society in general. If that means that the number of boarding horses is reduced, well then so be it. Everyone needs to look at the BIG picture here and remember one very important thing: equestrians are a privileged class in that they can afford to house and maintain animals for a very expensive sport. Is that really what a government facility is all about, pandering to a small group of women (I am not aware of any men in the facility) who are looking for convenience?

These women are fighting for a building that is a disaster waiting to happen. I know, I managed it briefly a few years back and the liability issues are more than I care to contemplate. An equine or a human will be seriously hurt in the future due to the condition of that building and how will everyone feel then? Tear it down and build something worthy of the location that is healthy for our beloved equine companions.

Regards,
Cynthia L. Shifflett
CEO, CLS Management Services, Inc.



06/27/2011 11:24 PM

To ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Support for Simple Changes at Meadowood

To: E. Lynn Burkett, BLM-ES Lower Potomac Field Station Manager

Attached is our statement for the record in support of continuing Simple Changes Therapeutic Riding Program at Meadowood. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our input as you decide on the future of these facilities. Simple Changes provides a critical and unique service to children with a range of disabilities, and we hope BLM will continue to provide facilities for their program at this location.

Very Respectfully,

William & Marilyn Corsetti



Support for Simple Changes at Meadowood Jun 11.doc

STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD
MEADOWOOD EQUESTRIAN ACTIVITIES & SITE IMPROVEMENTS
JUNE 28, 2011

SUPPORT FOR SIMPLE CHANGES THERAPUTIC RIDING PROGRAM

We are again writing to express our support for continuation of the Simple Changes' therapeutic riding program at Meadowood Recreation Area. We are very fortunate that, after a significant waiting period, our daughter, who has significant disabilities, has been able to participate in this program. As a result of this critical therapy, she has been able to make amazing progress that we believe would not have been possible otherwise. We feel it is vital that the necessary facilities be available at Meadowood to accommodate this program, and to continue accessibility by the disabled to this federal property. There are so few activities and recreation facilities in the area that children with disabilities can take advantage of, and even fewer that offer the tremendous benefits of therapeutic riding. For our little girl, it is not merely recreation, but a unique, life sustaining treatment that is helping her not only to overcome her physical disabilities, but to boost her confidence and self esteem in a way that no other activity has been able to do. She loves to ride, and she needs to ride. The wonderful staff and volunteers of Simple Changes, and the stables at Meadowood, make all of that possible. They have a proven, established program with a very knowledgeable and experienced staff who have demonstrated the ability to work with children having a wide range of disabilities. And they are completely dedicated to the children they serve. As important, they provide this service at a cost that is affordable to families like us that have many other expenses raising a child or children with significant disabilities. It is clear to us that for Simple Changes, this is a "labor of love" – a quality that is rarely found, absolutely essential, and impossible to specify and enforce in a contract. Regardless of the administrative tool used to manage Meadowood, we urge the BLM to continue providing the necessary facilities for Simple Changes' therapeutic riding program and to minimize the disruption to the critical and unique service they provide at this location.

William & Marilyn Corsetti
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Natalie Ramirez
<[REDACTED]>
>
06/28/2011 03:20 PM

To ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov
cc
bcc
Subject The BLM Meadowood Barn

Hello,

I regret that I will be unable to be present at the public meeting tonight, June 28 at 7:00 PM, at Laurel Hill Golf Club (8701 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton, VA 22079) regarding the BLM Meadowood Barn.

With this email I would like to express my desire to see Simple Changes Therapeutic Horse Riding Center remain on the property and have use of the barn. I have been a volunteer with Simple Changes since January 2011, and in the past six months I have seen the wonderful experience and service it provides children with special needs.

Corliss, Jenny, and the rest of the staff and volunteers at Simple Changes work hard to help challenged children improve physically, mentally, and emotionally while having fun with other children and learning to ride and respect horses. They are able to socialize in a safe, positive environment and have improved focus, posture, gait, and stamina. Most importantly, they leave with a smile on their face.

For children already deprived of a normal life, we should not deny them such an incredible experience. Simple Changes needs the barn for the horses that the children ride. The trails on the property are beautiful and the kids love taking trail rides, seeing the trees, hearing the birds and the running water, and having a unique experience outdoors. The inside of the barn is also used for indoor rides when the weather is bad or when we want to do different activities with the children, such as grooming.

Please take the needs of Simple Changes into consideration when making a decision about this property.

Thank you,
Natalie Ramirez

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



"Cyrus C. Taylor"

07/05/2011 10:41 AM

To ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov, "Cyrus C. Taylor"

cc

bcc

Subject Equestrian Facilities at Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area

I am writing in regard to the equestrian facilities at Meadowood.

These facilities are critically important to the Northern Virginia community, and it is imperative that Meadowood remain open for public boarding.

Please repair the barn, continue boarding as a use, and allow vacant stalls to be filled with boarders.

With very best wishes for the continued vitality of this important facility,

Cyrus Taylor



E.Lynn Burkett/WO/BLM/DOI
07/07/2011 12:20 PM

To [REDACTED]
cc
bcc
Subject Fw: Meadowood Scoping Meeting - comments from Deanna Zagin

John, please transfer this to the comment file from the most recent public meeting. Thanks, E.Lynn

"If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging" Will Rogers

E.Lynn Burkett
Bureau of Land Management
Lower Potomac Field Manager
(w) 703-339-3461
NFWF Liaison and Natl.CCS Coordinator
(w) 202-912-7203
(c) 202-468-4110

----- Forwarded by E.Lynn Burkett/WO/BLM/DOI on 07/07/2011 12:19 PM -----



"Hanson, Marcia E."
<[REDACTED]>
[REDACTED]
06/30/2011 11:30 AM

To [REDACTED]
cc "Hyland, Gerald W." [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] "Kenney, Brett W"
[REDACTED] "Morin, Christine A"
[REDACTED]
Subject Meadowood Scoping Meeting - comments from Deanna Zagin

Good Morning Elynn,

The two e-mails (below) are from Ms. Deanna Zagin. Supervisor Gerry Hyland would like you to add them to the official BLM Meadowood Scoping Meeting comments.

Obviously, this office does not know what BLM's protocol is regarding responding to each and every comment that is received concerning the Meadowood Barn. Therefore, if BLM requires a response to each one, then Supervisor Hyland is requesting a reply to Ms. Zagin's comments.

If Supervisor Hyland receives more comments and BLM would prefer a different method in handling them, please let me know and we'll comply to that format, otherwise, we will forward them to you.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Also, Supervisor Hyland has read your e-mail and concurs with your analysis. He is now asking for your permission to forward your e-mail (below) onto E.Lynn Burkett and ask her to respond to your observations.

Please let us know your answer. If it is no, Supervisor Hyland will certainly abide by your decision.

Thank you again for your strong and continuing interest in this very important issue and for sharing your thoughts with Supervisor Hyland.

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From: Deanna Zagin [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2011 7:52 AM
To: Mt. Vernon BOS Email; Spoon, Bryan; [REDACTED]
Subject: Meadowood

Dear Supervisor Hyland, Bryan and Steve - Thank you so much for your support to repair the barn at Meadowood and maintain it as a mixed use facility for the public. Your support and representation at the meeting last night is truly appreciated!

There still appears to be a double standard at play. Three issues pop to mind after last night's meeting.

1. The Caissons - It is very obvious that they had a heads-up about the Yellow Option. The Caisson representatives were very well prepared and authorized to comment that they would "take over" the facility if Yellow was the option chosen. Clearly, someone in a higher capacity at the US Army Caissons had to know about the Yellow option in advance to authorize these selected individuals to represent the Caissons and make this offer.
2. It appears that a Scoping Meeting and/or NEPA is required for just about everything. Then why weren't there Scoping Meetings and/or NEPA when the pastures were downsized (completely closing one forever) in order to plant trees by Earth Shanga and dig a hole for a pond? Based on the NEPA experts comments last night, planting trees/creating ponds changes the environment, thus requiring this process.
3. BLM authorized an additional horse to be boarded at the barn for Simple Changes and one for the Lesson Program. So why can't the BLM authorize re-opening the vacant stalls for public horse boarding (there is waiting list of 23 people waiting to board their horse there)?

I hope that BLM can come to a resolution quickly to do what the public is asking for - repair the barn and maintain it as a mixed use facility. Again, thank you so very much from the bottom of my heart for your continued support - we can't do this without you.

ELynn Burkett/WO/BLM/DOI
07/07/2011 12:21 PM

To [REDACTED]
cc
bcc

Subject Fw: Meadowood

John , please put this in the comment file for the barn. Thanks, E.Lynn

"If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging" Will Rogers

E.Lynn Burkett
Bureau of Land Management
Lower Potomac Field Manager
(w) 703-339-3461
NFWF Liaison and Natl.CCS Coordinator
(w) 202-912-7203
[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded by ELynn Burkett/WO/BLM/DOI on 07/07/2011 12:20 PM -----



"Spoon, Bryan"
[REDACTED]

To [REDACTED]
cc [REDACTED]

06/30/2011 11:10 AM

Subject RE: FW: Meadowood

Thanks E Lynn.

From the responses and interactions I've had with constituents and from the 200 plus petitions received by Anna Gibson, the overall response is to move forward as quickly as possible with the short-term barn deferred maintenance and then plan for longer term options.

I think Supervisor Hyland did a wonderful job, as did you with mending fences and reaffirming BLM's commitment to moving forward.

Looking forward to you continuing to be the hero in this process.

Bryan Spoon
Office of Congressman Moran
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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-----Original Message-----

From: eburkett@blm.gov [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2011 9:54 AM

To: Spoon, Bryan
Cc: JLyons@blm.gov
Subject: Re: FW: Meadowood

Thank you Bryan. I appreciate you sharing this with me. I will be sure to address it head-on.

Just so that you know and hopefully you already do - we have to base our decision on facts and data and not solely on emotions. Just as Congress has the responsibility, the Federal Government has the responsibility to spend the tax-payer dollars wisely and carefully, weighing the facts and data as well as the needs of the American people.

The reason that the Army knows about the Yellow option is that they came to talk with me and I would have told that to anyone that was willing to take the time to come and talk with me. The "Yellow" no action alternative is required under the National Environmental Policy Act and is a very open process that has been in the public eye for many years. I did not ask the Army to be there - they have a right to be there just as anyone else would. I make it a strong practice to treat everyone equally.

Although I am very careful to keep my personal opinions out of any of this process, you and I have talked enough that I am comfortable in telling you that as a tax payer and free citizen, I am a bit embarrassed that we treated the Army Caisson Unit so poorly, allowing personal self-interests to rise so far above a difficult and important mission of burying those that have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Given that, during the Scoping process everything is on the table for discussion including the Army, so the process is working successfully as long as people allow it to work.

"If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging"

Will Rogers

E.Lynn Burkett
Bureau of Land Management
Lower Potomac Field Manager
(w) 703-339-3461
NFWF Liaison and Natl.CCS Coordinator
(w) 202-912-7203

"Spoon, Bryan"

06/30/2011 09:26
AM

"

To

cc

Subject

FW: Meadowood

FYI-

Thought you'd like to see this as to mitigate any suspicion...

Bryan Spoon
Office of Congressman Moran

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (703) 881-1234

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From: JOYCE CROSS [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2011 4:09 PM
To: mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov; Spoon, Bryan; Jerry, Steven
Subject: Meadowood

Supervisor Hyland, Bryan and Steve:

Thank you for attending the meeting last night and for your support in our efforts to maintain Meadowood as a mixed use public facility.

Having had a 37-year career with the federal government, I know that there are laws, rules and regulations to permit the federal government to do just about anything it wants to. If there is will, federal employees find a way. This can be both good and bad. From my perspective (as a boarder), it seems to me that the only reason for BLM to deny allowing the current contractor to accept more boarding horses is so that the contractor will fail. The contractor must remain solvent in order to operate the boarding operation. If the contractor cannot operate successfully, then boarding horses are out of the barn. Without supporting infrastructure, I do not see how a therapeutic riding operation can succeed. Is this the agenda that BLM really has? An empty barn?

Mr. Hyland, your concluding comments last night were so appropriate: the community has said it wants the current mixed use barn repaired. BLM should allow the contractor to accept enough new boarding horses to remain solvent; the current barn should be immediately repaired while there is still time and money; in the meantime we can decide as a community what our dream facility should be and how to help BLM make that happen. This all takes time. We should do the short-term possible while planning for the long-term dream.

And, I would like to know, how did the Army know about the Yellow Option so they could be prepared to talk about "taking over" the facility??

Sincerely, Joyce Cross

E.Lynn Burkett/WO/BLM/DOI
07/07/2011 01:05 PM

To [REDACTED]
cc
bcc

Subject Fw: [MasonNeckHorseCoalition] Fwd: Op Ed [1 Attachment]

More information for the record. Thanks John

"If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging" Will Rogers

E.Lynn Burkett
Bureau of Land Management
Lower Potomac Field Manager
(w) 703-339-3461
NFWF Liaison and Natl.CCS Coordinator
(w) 202-912-7203
(c) 202-468-4110

----- Forwarded by E.Lynn Burkett/WO/BLM/DOI on 07/07/2011 01:05 PM -----



Lynn Taylor
[REDACTED]
06/25/2011 09:00 PM

To "eburkett@blm.gov" <eburkett@blm.gov>
cc

Subject Re: [MasonNeckHorseCoalition] Fwd: Op Ed [1 Attachment]

Hi ELynn,

Yes, you can put the messages in the record.

Thank you,
Lynn

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 25, 2011, at 11:21 AM, eburkett@blm.gov wrote:

> Thank you Lynn. If it's alright with you, I would like to submit the
comments you have made for the record. All of this helps. My end goal here
is not to get rid of any one use.
> In this meeting I am going to try and keep this moving forward rather than
getting stuck in the past but given that we will have some of the break out of
where funds have come from. And you know the "color" of the money determines
how it can be used. The original funds from deferred maintenance was about
\$717, 000. Many general maintenace repairs have been made using \$ from fees.
People do not notice them because they are hidden (example: water heater) and
because we do not advertise when we make repairs. Also, making piecemeal
fixes like bandaids for an open wound don't make sense I.e the roof. Better
to make all of the pieces fit together well. All I can do is the best I can
and I'm going to do that if people will let me.

>
>

> ----- Original Message -----
> From: Lynn Taylor [lynndoug1@cox.net]

> Sent: 06/24/2011 08:33 PM AST
> To: Elynn Burkett
> Subject: Re: [MasonNeckHorseCoalition] Fwd: Op Ed [1 Attachment]

> Hi E Lynn,

> Thank you for your reply. I certainly appreciate your enthusiasm, candor and commitment to fairness!

> On the relocation -- there are 30 horses at Meadowood. There aren't 30 slots in local boarding facilities to absorb these horses. At our meeting, we talked about field boarding during the period of repair or, if the repair occurs during winter, inexpensive temporary stalls. I was asking because I know this is an evolving process and didn't know if the thinking had changed, but know how hard it would be to relocate all the horses at the same time. We are relatively new to Meadowood (1 year) and were on multiple waiting lists for 9 months before the Meadowood opening arose.

> I had another issue I wanted to share with you. Because the stated purpose for the fee increase (which predates us) was to set aside money for the barn repair, and the boarders at the time supported the fee increase (which aided RRAC approval) because it ultimately would benefit them, can BLM use those funds set aside from boarders to repair the barn and then end boarding after the repair? Prior to the fee increase, there was roughly \$600,000 in deferred maintenance funds. Long term Boarders calculate that some \$200,000 of the \$800,000 now in deferred maintenance came from the set asides from higher boarding fees in the period from 2008 -2010 (prior to Allison's contract).

> On public process, I commend you for commencing it. That said, Last fall, I think the issue was that BLM appeared to be using the deferred maintenance funds to build a new smaller barn and end boarding without public notice or public comment. Presumably, then and now, BLM could have used the barn deferred maintenance money at that time to repair the barn without public notice or comment. It was the proposed use of those funds for something other than repair that seemed to triggered the outcry.

> My daughter has boarded her pony at Meadowood for 1 year so we don't have the long history many boarders have. Those that have boarded a horse longer say they have participated in a public process many times (4 times if I am remembering correctly) and that the public always has strongly supported boarding. So, they worry that supporting boarding isn't the response BLM wants or they wouldn't keep asking for comment on uses. Viewing it that way, you can see why they are skeptical about why another public process is needed to spend money that already was earmarked for barn repair especially when they think 25 percent of the repair funds came from their higher boarding fees.

> I thought your op Ed did a good job of explaining why a public process is appropriate. And I know you will do a fine job of presenting the fair and open approach you have proposed. Many of the current users (boarders, lesson riders and therapy program) have experienced a lot of misunderstanding in their past dealings with BLM and are not sure whether they can trust BLM now having felt they were so mislead and even poorly treated in the past. Those operating businesses worry about the economic consequences of potential changes. I understand all 3 programs have waiting lists. For lessons, it is hard to accommodate demand when doing so would require acquiring more horses and the future for the venture is so uncertain. I would imagine the same may be true for simple changes. For boarders, all worry about where they can move their horse if Meadowood closes to boarding. There are few safe boarding options remaining. My daughter's pony came to Meadowood from a farm that had

no grass, no fields, no trails and barns built in the 1930s. The owners were knowledgeable and committed to taking good care of horses, but faced huge monthly property tax bills and had little money for repairs. Since the financial crisis began in 2008, a number of larger, better quality boarding operations have closed, many due to bankruptcy. Private farm owners continue to face large property tax bills that have become harder to meet. Even the future of Woodlawn Stables, a large lesson facility on Route 1 in Alexandria owned by a national historic trust, is in jeopardy as woodlawn plantation contemplates the creation of an agricultural display site.

>
> I share all of this with you in anticipation of the meeting to help you understand what animates some of the emotion you already may have experienced. I think users of all 3 programs want to have faith in you and BLM and the process, but many have done so to their detriment in the past and frankly, they are afraid. Afraid of being stuck with expensive horses and no site to run a lesson or therapy program. Afraid of being unable to relocate their horse to a safe alternative boarding facility within driving distance of home. And if they can't then what? Since the financial crisis began, it is increasingly harder to sell and lease horses too.

>
> Thank you for all your hard work to find an appropriate solution. Thank you for letting me share my thoughts and observations with you. I look forward to the upcoming meeting and to working with you.

>
> I hope you have a good weekend,
> Lynn

>
>
> Sent from my iPhone

>
> On Jun 24, 2011, at 6:39 PM, eburkett@blm.gov wrote:

>> First question - temporarily removing horses.
>> Almost any option entails removing the horses at least temporarily.
>> The details of this have not been worked out. I think that you can
>> appreciate the fact that it is necessary for me to "follow the book" on
>> the National Environmental Policy Act process and therefore address this
>> meeting as a full scoping meeting and the first step to getting all of the
>> information analyzed and in writing. This means that there could be
>> many options on the table, many ideas, many solutions, many needs. Someone
>> out there may have a really good idea that none of us have even thought
>> about. The last time the BLM had a public meeting, we came to the
>> meeting with a proposed action and then received out-cry from the people
>> attending. I do not want to approach this meeting in that way nor should
>> I if I am following the NEPA guidelines so I am approaching this meeting
>> with a completely open mind and I will encourage all options. I have no
>> agenda to get rid of one use over another but I do need patience from
>> folks in order to complete this process successfully. If I (put the cart
>> before the horse) sorry for the pun - we could end up in court which in
>> turn means that if we cannot move forward to having a safe facility that
>> meets code, we could eventually have to close the doors and I don't want to
>> do that. Right now we have a documented liability risk. There is so
>> much potential here. Sometimes I dream about having a state of the art,
>> full size arena that could be used for many types of events - riding
>> lessons, classes, show events, dog shows, ????. This requires creativity,
>> "out of the box" thinking, potentially the involvement of a non-profit
>> group or a foundation. My limitation is how much I have in the Deferred
>> Maintenance account, balancing things with other uses, the environment
>> and natural habitat, and getting cooperation and support from those that
>> love this place.

>>

>> Second question - stabling - boarding
>> Again, I want to be very careful here to not jump ahead of the
>> process. One of my goals in whatever way we move forward is to use a
>> different administrative tool because I do not have the workforce
>> or the expertise to directly manage domesticated horses and it is not in
>> the BLM mission. Given that, I believe that a Concession (these require a
>> public process as well) is the way to go. This would be a business -
>> in fact Rock Creek Park is a good example. Although we may have some
>> influence on this Administrative tool, I would not want to tell this
>> business how to run their business and require them to board horses if
>> the data shows me otherwise. As a manager, I make a decision after taking
>> in all of the data and facts. One of the facts that I see and some of the
>> data that I have read so far is that we have boarders here and that this
>> area in Virginia has a high population of people with disposable income to
>> spend on horses and that need a place to board them.
>> I know that you would prefer that I make a decision now and say that
>> boarders will be here no matter what, but then I would not be following
>> the process. Remember - I have no agenda and I am not against any of
>> the current uses, I'm new, I just need some understanding and patience in
>> order to walk this through the process successfully.
>>
>> Come talk with me anytime - ask me questions. Hopefully you will hear me on
>> the radio and read a few more Op-Ed's from me. Those entities out there
>> that are saying things behind my back and stirring the pot with a negative
>> past will only get in the way of working forward to a future facility that
>> meets everyone's needs. I know that there is tension and mistrust out
>> there but I am new - give me a chance - we can make this work. This will
>> not be the only meeting we have on this and we will probably conduct a few
>> field trips. Your approach is helpful. I really want to make this a great
>> place for everyone to enjoy. Granted we may not have rock climbing here or
>> kayaking but we could end up with a beautiful stable with regulation size
>> stalls and a state of the art arena. Think of the possibilities.

>> "If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging" Will Rogers

>>
>> E.Lynn Burkett
>> Bureau of Land Management
>> Lower Potomac Field Manager
>> (w) 703-339-3461
>> NFWF Liaison and Natl.CCS Coordinator
>> (w) 202-912-7203
>> (c) 202-468-4110

>> "Lynn Taylor"
>> [REDACTED]

>> <ELynn_Burkett@blm.gov>

To

>> 06/24/2011 05:28
>> PM

cc

>> Subject
>> Re: [MasonNeckHorseCoalition] Fwd:
>> Op Ed [1 Attachment]

>>
>>
>>
>> (See attached file: 11.6.20 Barn Op-ed.docx)
>>
>> The BLM Meadowood Barn
>>
>>
>> I am always amazed at how beautiful an area can be during the summer
>> months
>> before the heat and humidity really set in and the Meadowood property is
>> no
>> exception. The only concern out my office window is an aging structure in
>> need of some assistance in order to continue its service to the public.
>> On
>> June 28th, 2011, 7PM, at the Laurel Hills Golf Club, the BLM will hold a
>> public scoping meeting in order to gather ideas, suggestions, additional
>> options, and comments from the public concerning this building. As the
>> new
>> site manager, I am aware of past rocky starts that have lead to
>> misunderstandings and tension, but with everyone's constructive help, I am
>> committed to making sure that we move forward through the approved
>> environmental and public process, the National Environmental Policy Act
>> (NEPA) and seeing that whatever configuration we have is safe and meets
>> many needs.
>>
>> I see three firm goals to consider when looking at this project. #1 It is
>> absolutely necessary that if the barn remains, it functions as a safe
>> public facility. In its current condition, this means that the structure
>> cannot remain exactly the same; something has to be done. In that light,
>> no matter the decision, horses will need to be removed from the barn, at
>> the very least, temporarily. #2 The BLM must separate the administrative
>> area from the public use areas due to safety and security considerations.
>> This pertains more to design and layout rather than directly related to
>> the
>> barn structure. #3 Depending on the final decision, the BLM must use a
>> different administrative tool, like a Concession, that releases the BLM
>> from directly managing domesticated horses. The BLM does have a Wild
>> Horse
>> and Burro (WH&B) Program that serves to auction and adopt wild horses to
>> the care of approved owners, but the current facility does not give us the
>> option to use it in support the WH&B program. The BLM does not have the
>> staff or expertise to directly manage domesticated horses nor is it in the
>> BLM mission, but this does not mean that horses cannot be a part of the
>> recreational experience through trail riding, lessons, stabling, or
>> physical therapy programs.
>>
>> No decisions will be made during this meeting but it is very important to
>> capture the views and ideas of the citizenry. There will be some experts
>> on hand at "information stations" to answer specific questions pertaining
>> to the engineering reports, safety issues, the NEPA process and what a
>> concession or lease entails. There will also be information available
>> about Meadowood's new trails and very active environmental education
>> program. I hope that a variety of people who enjoy the outdoors and the
>> area's many recreational opportunities, will consider attending and
>> sharing
>> their thoughts and ideas. While it is the responsibility of the BLM to
>> make wise decisions pertaining to a safe recreational experience balanced
>> with care for the surrounding flora and fauna, it is also important to
>> hear and understand the value and needs of the general public.
>>

>> I look forward to meeting many of Meadowood's neighbors, friends and
>> participants on June 28th.

>>
>>

NOTICE of PUBLIC MEETING
Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area

>> LORTON, VA - The Lower Potomac Field Station has scheduled a public
>> scoping
>> meeting to share information about the current condition and potential
>> future options of the equestrian stables located at the Meadowood Special
>> Recreation Management Area (SRMA) in Lorton, Virginia. The meeting will
>> be
>> held on June 28, at 7:00 p.m. local time, at the Laurel Hill Golf Course
>> Clubhouse located at 8701 Laurel Crest Dr., Lorton, Virginia 22079.

>>
>> The meeting will begin with a brief overview of the condition and short
>> discussion of options for the 34-year-old barn, followed by a short
>> question and answer period. No decisions will be made at this meeting but
>> it is important to collect as wide a variety of the public's views and
>> ideas as possible. The barn is currently being used as a boarding
>> facility
>> for private horses, while accommodating therapeutic riding and offering
>> riding lessons to the public.

>>
>> The purpose of the meeting is to provide information and collect public
>> comments, suggestions and ideas pertaining to the future of the structure.
>> The public can submit their ideas, suggestions or comments through an
>> on-site drop box, or via the U.S. Postal Service, or by e-mail to:
>> ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov. All ideas, suggestions and comments are subject
>> to the Freedom of Information Act.

>>
>> For further information, please contact E. Lynn Burkett, BLM-ES Lower
>> Potomac Field Station Manager at telephone number: 703-339-3461. Persons
>> who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the
>> Federal
>> Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above
>> individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a
>> day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above
>> individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

BLM

>>
>> The BLM manages more land - over 245 million acres - than any other
>> Federal
>> agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is
>> primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, with
>> a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of
>> sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use
>> mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for
>> the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau
>> accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation,
>> livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by
>> conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public
>> lands

>>
>>

>> Diane Hendry
>> External Affairs
>> Bureau of Land Management - Eastern States
>> 7450 Boston Boulevard
>> Springfield, VA 22153-3121

>> Office: 703.440.1720
>> Cell: 703-801-6463
>> Fax: 703.440.1722
>> <http://www.blm.gov/es>
>>
>> Attachment(s) from brianp8592@aol.com
>>
>>
>> 1 of 1 File(s)
>> (Embedded image moved to file: pic14018.gif)11.6.20_Barn_Op-ed.docx
>> Reply to sender | Reply to group | Reply via web post | Start a New Topic
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07/12/2011 09:46 AM

To es_meadowood@es.blm.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Barn

Dear E. Lynn Burkett

I am writing to you in regard to the debate over usage of the BLM's Meadowood Farm located in Lorton, VA. It is my understanding that the BLM has been trying to eliminate horse boarding at their facility and have met with some public opposition. But there is another side to the story that you should be aware of please. My Grandfather Martin Jarvis owns a horse boarding facility within 1/2 mile of the BLM. Our facility currently has 10 vacant stalls. Two other nearby horse boarding facilities also have vacancies (within two miles radius of the BLM). Yet the BLM has a waiting list because their facility is federally funded and much nicer than what a private business owner can provide. The horses that are boarded at the BLM are also tax subsidized which is outrageous. The BLM is a federal park and as such is a public good. A public good should be available to everyone, yet the boarders at the BLM will not let the public ride at their facility, they kick us out. It is against what is right to allow the BLM to continue to have a tax subsidized horse boarding facility which competes against the nearby privately owned horse boarding facilities. A public good cannot be for the consumption of only a few citizens.

I ask that you open the BLM's Meadowood Farm to public use. Everyone should be able to bring their horses to the BLM and be able to ride in the rings and indoor arena and use their cross country course. This tax funded facility should not be hoarded by less than twenty citizens. What is happening at the BLM's Meadowood Farm is unlawful and consequentially nearby privately owned businesses suffer financially.

I have written to Gerry Hyland and Gerry Connolly as well to tell them my opinion on the subject.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Shannon Jarvis



Floyd Harrison
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
07/12/2011 06:38 PM

To ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Barn Comments 2-5

Publish a Plan

There needs to be a public published purpose, standard and plan by which BLM's performance can be tried to certify compliance with the will of the community.

As it is, We can't say whether any action was to a purpose or what purpose such action satisfied. We can't say whether any action was to the needed degree or quality to achieve the purpose. And we can't say on what day the administration failed to do part of the job and what excuse may justify such failure. No deadline ever came when performance could be compared to a standard.

So, the facility barn is ten years older, the facility and grounds are in a run down condition so that it is only clear that the maintenance is overdue. The Community has been duped into accepting this failure meeting by meeting. This is an injustice which needs to be rectified.

Floyd Harrison
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
Lorton Valley Star Communications
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted] 9



Floyd Harrison
[Redacted]

To ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov

cc

07/12/2011 06:40 PM

bcc

Subject Barn Comments 3-5

Apiary and Polinator Gardens

Aside from the equestrian boarding facility, I think that a good function and one that would benefit the public indirectly would be to host an Apiary or Honeybee hives. Meadowood has vast area to keep the bee operation safely apart from recreational activities and could encourage pollinator gardens to attract and feed the bees.

The large area of Meadowood, far from commercial farms using quantities pesticides could be an organic area giving the bee colonies a best chance of being healthy and perhaps help offset the lost of bee population. It might also attract bees away from homes where they would more tend to get into conflict with people.

Another benefit might be to further the educational potential of Meadowood by hosting school groups to get into the woods and observe nature something city youth are generally lacking in our time.

I have a contact looking for an Apiary site. They need an acre with a mix of flowers. Perhaps Meadowood could define a couple such areas out of the 800.

Floyd Harrison

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
Borton Valley Star Communications

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]



Floyd Harrison
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
07/12/2011 06:43 PM

To ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Barn Comments 4-5

Non-Proffit Non-Priviledge

Non-Proffit organizations should not be treated any differently than private citizens or private boarders. In a couple of instances, special privilege concerning the equestrian area of Meadowood has caused interference and misunderstanding among the boarders.

Simple Changes pays a different stall fee allowing then to claim that they have rights because of contributions made to the facility. Priority access to the rink area has caused discontent and wasted time for the paying private boarders. I advocate therefore equal fees and equal access so there will be level competition for space.

In another instance, access allowed to the non-proffit Earth Sangha, has allowed an "environmental demonstration area" to encumber pasture area that will be needed with the historical population of horses. The demonstration, which is not in the public area, caused erosion by killing a acre of grazing grass and caused a health hazard mosquito mud hole. They planted trees on the public nickel, most of which died out of sight and out of mind of the public. It's as if anyone seriously believes that Meadowood or Mason Neck is lacking for trees.

Other private groups use the public areas, do not cause facility damage and are accessible and enjoyable by the recreating public. This should be a minimum qualifying test for participation by non-proffit groups.

Floyd Harrison
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
Lorton Valley Star Communications
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]



Floyd Harrison
<Publisher@LortonValleyStar.com>
07/12/2011 06:47 PM

To ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Barn Comments 5-5

Trail Condition

Gravel is horrible to walk on and detracts from the quiet natural setting. Trails should be planned in loops so that hikers don't have to back track to complete a tour.

The gravel driveway over at Meadowood West gives me the chills to walk on. Horse trails are quiet and pleasant to walk on. Quiet treading allows hikers to see more wildlife. The crunch of gravel makes a place sound busy not secluded. Some gravel on a new trail to lock the clay into place may be desirable but soft material should always be the finish in a wild area.

Loud sound making devices of any kind should be forbidden and children should be admonished that they are in a place to listen. By the same token I don't see bicycles or motorized vehicles as being compatible with this scheme.

Smoking and fires are hazards which cannot be allowed in the Meadowood setting at all.

Gravel is the worst noisy surface for a trail. Paving kills the wild atmosphere also and is not good for horses.

Floyd Harrison

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
Lorton Valley Star Communications
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]



ELynn Burkett/WO/BLM/DOI
07/12/2011 01:48 PM

To John_Reffit@blm.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Fw: Regarding Meadowood and the Bureau of Land Management

John, please put the enclosed letter with all the other comments received during the scoping period.
Thanks, E.Lynn

"If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging"

Will Rogers

E.Lynn Burkett
Bureau of Land Management
Lower Potomac Field Manager
(w) 703-339-3461
NFWF Liaison and Natl.CCS Coordinator
(w) 202-912-7203
(c) 202-468-4110

----- Forwarded by ELynn Burkett/WO/BLM/DOI on 07/12/2011 01:47 PM -----



"Jerry, Steven"

[Redacted]

07/11/2011 03:28 PM

To "Jerry, Steven" [Redacted]

cc "Fields, Zack" [Redacted], "Spoon, Bryan" [Redacted]

Subject Regarding Meadowood and the Bureau of Land Management

Hello,

Attached is a letter from Congressman Connolly and Congressman Moran to BLM regarding the Meadowood facility. A hard copy has been mailed to BLM.

Sincerely,
Steve Jerry

Constituent Services Representative/Outreach
Office of Congressman Gerry Connolly

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Click [here](#) to get email updates from Congressman Connolly





Reps Connolly Moran letter to BLM on Meadowood July 2011.pdf

July 7, 2011

Mr. John Lynn
State Director, Eastern State Office
Bureau of Land Management
2451 Eastern Blvd.
Springfield, VA 22153

Dear Mr. Lynn:

On behalf of the members of the Virginia House of Delegates, I am writing to you regarding the Meadowood Project in Fairfax County. We are pleased to be working with your organization and staff on this project and we are committed to the success of the project. We are currently in the process of reviewing the project and we will be in contact with you as we move forward with the project. We are currently in the process of reviewing the project and we will be in contact with you as we move forward with the project.

We are currently in the process of reviewing the project and we will be in contact with you as we move forward with the project. We are currently in the process of reviewing the project and we will be in contact with you as we move forward with the project. We are currently in the process of reviewing the project and we will be in contact with you as we move forward with the project.

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John P. Moran
Member of Congress
Fairfax County, Virginia

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 7, 2011

Dr. John Lyon
State Director, Eastern States Office
Bureau of Land Management
7450 Boston Blvd
Springfield, VA 22153

Dear Dr. Lyon,

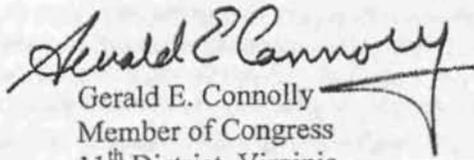
Congratulations and welcome to the Virginia Branch of the Bureau of Land Management. We are writing with respect to the Meadowood Equestrian Facilities. We had previously been working with your predecessors to elicit an appropriate outcome in determining the future of this site. Ensuring the safety and future viability of this facility is a project with tremendous public support, and we look forward to continue working with the Bureau of Land Management to realize this important goal.

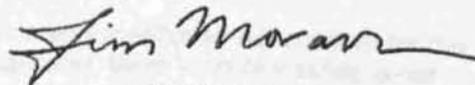
We congratulate you for vigorously pursuing public input regarding this project. BLM is currently engaged in the NEPA process, the first step of which is public scoping. We are heartened by BLM's repeated assurance to carry out the communities' wishes. Based on a meeting with E. Lynn Burkett at Fairfax County Supervisor Gerry Hyland's office, it is our understanding that available funds are sufficient to complete POZ Environmental, LLC's Alternative 1 with available deferred maintenance funds while still being able to cover some of the additional costs within Alternative 1A.

Considering that more than 200 petitions were presented at the last meeting alone by the boarders, families and community members expressing their deep desire to move forward with the deferred maintenance funds to refurbish the barn, we would encourage you to make preparations to expeditiously begin repairs of the existing structure. As the footprint of the structure will remain the same, we are hopeful that an environmental impact study will not be necessary. We would also like to convey the sentiments of many of our constituents regarding offering additional stalls for boarders under the management of Allison Mills as well as with Simple Changes.

We appreciate your desire to strictly adhere to the public input process and would like to request a detailed timeline for necessary maintenance to be completed. As we only have until late 2012 to have this project completed, we are sure you appreciate the need to move quickly in all aspects of this project. Again, thank you for your commitment in maintaining Meadowood for public use and recreation purposes.

Sincerely,


Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress
11th District, Virginia


James P. Moran
Member of Congress
8th District, Virginia

E.Lynn Burkett/WO/BLM/DOI

07/13/2011 05:48 PM

To John_Reffit@blm.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Fw: Meadowood

John, please put this into the comments file. Thanks, E.Lynn
"If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging" Will Rogers

E.Lynn Burkett
Bureau of Land Management
Lower Potomac Field Manager
(w) 703-339-3461
NFWF Liaison and Natl.CCS Coordinator
(w) 202-912-7203
(c) 202-468-4110

----- Forwarded by E.Lynn Burkett/WO/BLM/DOI on 07/13/2011 05:47 PM -----



"Hanson, Marcia E."

[Redacted]

To [Redacted]

cc <eburkett@blm.gov>

07/13/2011 04:48 PM

Subject FW: Meadowood

Good Afternoon Ms. Zagin,

Thank you for your comments! On behalf of Supervisor Hyland and by copy of this e-mail I am forwarding your e-mail to E.Lynn at BLM for their comment records.

Marcia Hanson
Ombudsperson for
Supervisor Gerry Hyland

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

From: Deanna Zagin [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, July 12, 2011 8:11 AM
To: Mt. Vernon BOS Email, [Redacted]
Subject: Meadowood

Dear Supervisor Hyland, Bryan and Steve:

It is very interesting that the BLM, specifically Elynn Burkett, repeatedly mentioned her concern for the safety of the horses/people using the "unsafe" barn. As you all know, there is no real safety issue - some repairs are needed. In fact, if the barn is so unsafe, why would the BLM allow the Caissons to practice in the barn, and why would the Caissons want to use an unsafe barn? The "unsafe" issue is just another smoke screen to close down the facility.

Thanks for your continued support and concern. Happy Trails, Deanna

Deanna R.H. Zagin
Director, AAA Sales and Marketing
The Hertz Corporation

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded by Deanna Zagin/SFA/Hertz on 07/11/2011 03:02 PM -----

"Allison Mills" <

[REDACTED]

To "Allison" <[REDACTED]>, "Anna Gison" <[REDACTED]>, "Carol Ackerman" <[REDACTED]>, "Carol Alston" <[REDACTED]>, "Carol Kennedy" <[REDACTED]>, "Carol Oman" <[REDACTED]>, "Clair Maher" <[REDACTED]>, "Corinne Conner" <[REDACTED]>, "Crystal Majewski" <[REDACTED]>, "Deanna Zagin" <[REDACTED]>, "Dee Dee Crank" <[REDACTED]>, "Jeanne Binder" <[REDACTED]>, "Jenny Weston" <[REDACTED]>, "Jinx Fox" <[REDACTED]>, "Karen Deutsch" <[REDACTED]>, "Kim Campbell" <[REDACTED]>, "Linda Lautenschlager" <[REDACTED]>, "Linda MacDonald" <[REDACTED]>, "Linda Staples" <[REDACTED]>, "Lisa Bailey" <[REDACTED]>, "Lynn Taylor" <[REDACTED]>, "Maria Lukowsky" <[REDACTED]>, "Mary Louise Kelley" <[REDACTED]>, "MIRIAM" <[REDACTED]>, "Robyn Megonigal" <[REDACTED]>, "Rosie Dugan" <[REDACTED]>, "Shellyn McCaffrey" <[REDACTED]>, "Simple Changes" <[REDACTED]>, "Susan Larson" <[REDACTED]>

07/08/2011 09:56 AM

cc
SubFW: Tuesday, July 12 & Tuesday, July 19 - Arena Reserved during the day
ject

-----Original Message-----
From: jxfox@blm.gov [mailto:jxfox@blm.gov]
Sent: Thursday, July 07, 2011 3:47 PM
To: stablesatmeadowood@verizon.net
Subject: Tuesday, July 12 & Tuesday, July 19 - Arena Reserved during the day

Just a heads up, in addition to next week on Tuesday, July 12, the Caisson Platoon is scheduled to use the indoor arena all day the following week on Tuesday, July 19.

Please do not use the indoor arena when they are getting ready to enter, setting up, or using it.

We will let you know of any changes to their schedule.



ELynn Burkett/WO/BLM/DOI
07/15/2011 08:01 AM

To John Reffit/ESO/ES/BLM/DOI@BLM
cc
bcc
Subject Fw: Barn: Worry about serious erosion elsewhere.
Meadowood is fine.

Please put this email thread into the barn scoping records. Thanks, E.Lynn

"If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging" Will Rogers

E.Lynn Burkett
Bureau of Land Management
Lower Potomac Field Manager
(w) 703-339-3461
NFWF Liaison and Natl.CCS Coordinator
(w) 202-912-7203
(c) 202-468-4110

----- Forwarded by ELynn Burkett/WO/BLM/DOI on 07/15/2011 08:00 AM -----

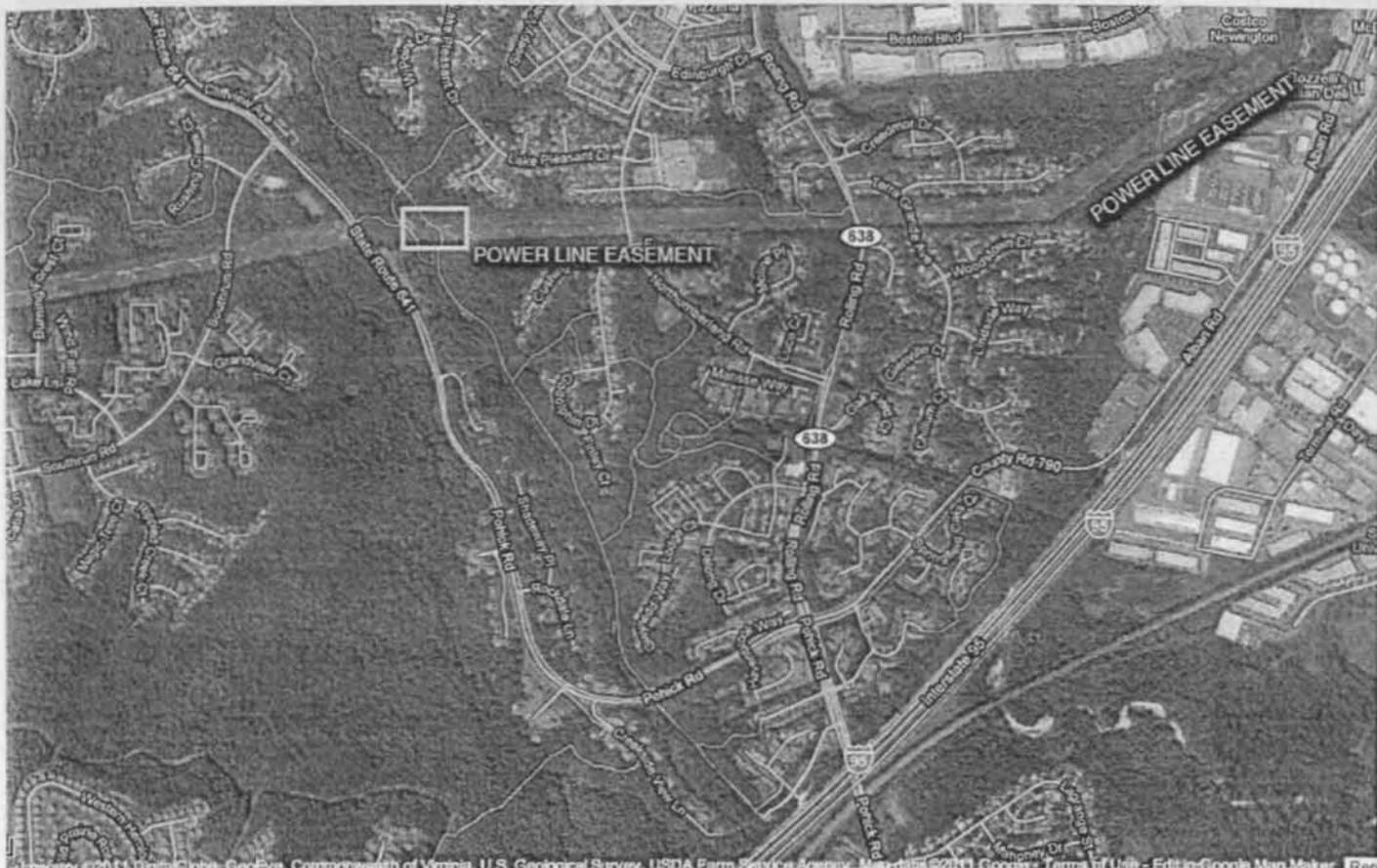


Floyd Harrison
<publisher@lortonvalleystar.com>
07/15/2011 01:55 AM

To [REDACTED]
Es_Meadowood@es.blm.gov
cc Elynn@blm.gov, "Allison Mills" [REDACTED]
Subject Barn: Worry about serious erosion elsewhere. Meadowood is fine.

Worry about serious erosion elsewhere. Meadowood is fine

This is just one spot that you can walk to and be in a recreational designated area. But, follow that power line easement for yourself. That's a strip of forest a 100 yards wide and hundreds of miles that was stripped bare. Why don't environmentalists work here? The power company doesn't want trees there so they can maintain the lines. There's more than 40 acres of trees removed just in this picture. And kids on dirt bikes rut it perpetuating erosion. Just look at all the white scars within that track. And this is just one path. Now, look at the whole Occoquan water shed for these power line easements.



Here's the magnification. This Pohick Stream valley is 100 feet deep and the erosion ditches could bury you. What this shows as a trail is a joke. Maybe, you can see part of the reason I get upset about environmentalists whining about Meadowood which doesn't begin to be a problem compared to this. The County allows this to go on. It's just that it's convenient for the environmentalists to get in the way of someone else having their recreation and meddle in something they don't even care about. I want the self appointed, busybody tree huggers to do something worthwhile or don't bother me. Send your Earth Sangha out here to do something on a grand scale instead of playing, killing grass in green pastures and wasting county resources by letting hundreds of seedlings die. If you care, save the rain forests instead of straining at a gnat. Hey, why do they allow golf courses? Shouldn't that be all trees?



You know, out at Occoquan Bay Wildlife refuge, where there's no government contention about a horse barn that they don't want to keep, they tout the benefits of open grassland habitat. I guess it's not convenient to remember that when you have an idle agenda against horses. Go ahead, argue with me, it's motivating.

Floyd Harrison

[REDACTED]

Lorton Valley Star Communications

[REDACTED]

On Jul 14, 2011, at 8:54 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Floyd,

When I read "take a walk" it took my breath away because it sounded so ugly. I'll look on a map, no problem, but I hope you are not as angry as that sounded.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In a message dated 7/14/2011 12:42:00 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, [REDACTED] writes:
Where the high tension easement crossed the Pohick Stream valley and the cross county trail. Take a walk.

Floyd Harrison
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Lorton Valley Star Communications
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

On Jul 14, 2011, at 7:09 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Floyd,

OK, where is the erosion problem on Dominion's easement? It should be addressed.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On Jul 13, 2011, at 10:24 PM, Floyd Harrison <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Exactly, and why do they ask? Because it's a smoke screen, a block, an excuse to not get the job done. No one really cares about that little runoff. No one cares about serious erosion. Believe me, they don't respond when you tell them because they are only concerned about kudos and things people can see. Try it, go see what I'm talking about and document that and try to tell some one to do something about it. It's on Dominions easement, they don't care, the county apparently has no power there. No pun intended. No power over power. Ha Ha. That one snuck up on me, really.

Floyd Harrison
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Lorton Valley Star Communications
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

On Jul 13, 2011, at 8:55 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Subj: Re: One final point

Floyd,

I re-read your messages and you make some valid points - like the point about serious erosion elsewhere. I am addressing this Meadowood issue because they are asking for comment to the process. Nobody is asking for comments regarding the other area.

And I attended the meeting last November and saw horse owners verbally abusing U.S. Government employees, one of which was subsequently fired or transferred. It was the most disturbing crowd behavior I've ever witnessed, like they were crazed or on drugs. Really, really scary angry crowd of powerful, wealthy horse owners against the staff of Meadowood. They wouldn't even let the Meadowood staff finish a sentence in November. It was terrible. Then you were foaming anger in your newspaper, again and again on the side of the horse owners.

I enjoyed our dialogues up until Meadowood and I too thought you were saintly until I saw this angry side of you. And your anger because I was getting information to comment to the process? This is not an evil deed - it is what will allow me to comment intelligently. I commented to the Refuge 20 year plan process and I'll comment on this. It is not evil sinister behavior on my part, but if the public discourse had been more civil then I might not have felt the need.

[REDACTED]

In a message dated 7/13/2011 8:07:47 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time,

[REDACTED] writes:

Floyd,

You didn't comment on the co-op idea. Since I'm concerned with the environment then I think a public concession would be interested in maximizing profits while the horse owners would be concerned with keeping the quality of the area pristine if they were the "owners" of the horse barn. It would be better for our area to have a co-op than a public concession. You did not respond to this idea. And you shouldn't be angry with me, I'm just gathering information, nothing more.

Did you know that Pohick Bay Park's gatehouse was robbed of cash on Saturday? Any details?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In a message dated 7/13/2011 1:36:44 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time,

[REDACTED] writes:

[REDACTED] I told you all there is. There ain't no more and you're not listening. So, how many time do I say the same thing over and over. It's a business not an environmental experiment. The charge was to operate a horse farm not to make anything impossible with environmental encumbrances. That was never the issue but tree huggers are trying to make it so. All roofs are impervious. Get out with your noise. But, what you have done is given me practice at defining the problem and made my comments to BLM more incisive.

Floyd Harrison

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Lorton Valley Star Communications

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

This is where we diverge because local environmentalists think that mitigating negative environmental impacts of horse activities is an important part of the planning process at Meadowood. You think "Mason Neck has been saved." Wrong, it is a continuous process. And precedent matters. And Mason Neck is different. And, obviously, it doesn't matter what I think anyway because you have made up your own reality and you are sticking to it.

I report what is.

You report what you think is reality but I think your reality is distorted. You have utmost integrity so you do not report lies, only the reality which you perceive.

I just got a call today that said that the price at meadowood is justified because it's nicer than the surrounding facilities. Evidenced by the fact that Meadowood has a waiting list, the others do not. Well, I don't believe all of the message because, as I understood it, it doesn't make sense within itself but I'll find out. They seemed to be misinformed too. We'll see.

I don't know where you get your funny ideas, but your friend had the idea that it was not a horse farm. You environmental people are confusing the issue. No wonder you are so bitter if you believe what you want to believe. Jeff is history and so is that mentality. Meadowood is going to succeed and the tree huggers wasted their time and energy. Their participation was illegal. And the building is fine, nothing wrong with it, it was to code at the time. They were trying to mount a case against it but it's really fine, good for another decade at least.

Floyd Harrison

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Lorton Valley Star Communications
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

On Jul 12, 2011, at 8:27 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Answers in blue:

In a message dated 7/12/2011 6:15:52 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, [REDACTED] writes:

[REDACTED]

I brought it up because you said I should have trusted you were handling this for the community. I wanted you to know that I'm not big on trust and didn't know how else to explain it. I really don't ever bring it up unless someone expects me to trust them. And I've never learned in the meantime that there is no need to be skeptical.

But, you argued with me for weeks and then used that to go behind my back to do what you knew I didn't want.

I kept telling you that I was going to find out and that I was going to get to the bottom of it. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] You keep telling me there are so many things I don't know. You are not filling me in. Why? However, you have swung me around from my usual knee jerk environmental response to BLM to a place where I value a horse barn remaining on Mason Neck and wanted to see if there is a solution for the horse barn with its huge roof and severe runoff from huge roof causing erosion from storm water runoff problems. You should consider me a "win" when you are tallying up the score. I did listen to you and now I do value horses remaining on Mason Neck. But I believe BLM Meadowood was mandated from the upper BLM/Interior Dept. management to deal with their responsibilities to the environment and to get rid of the public horse boarding so it wouldn't become precedent for other BLM properties. I'm just guessing that Jeff's managers were all over him to get rid of the horse boarding, year after year after year because the manager's managers were all after them. And they cannot use an unsafe dilapidated structure on U.S. Government property. So a pot of money was found and they went for a solution. And they should have given notice and this wasn't done and Jeff lost his job.

And then insulted my integrity as a journalist.

[REDACTED] Probably not, because your newspaper only wants to keep the barn and bring back all horse pastures, to heck with the environmental impacts. With this issue it's like the Fox News of newspapers at the Lorton Valley

Star. I still wonder if there were drug sales run out of the barn because the horse people act like they are loosing their next fix instead of a stall for their horses. You said someone would move away if there were no horse stalls and you were losing a friend. Hmmm.

You think you are the only one with trust issues? Maybe you have trust issues because you never learned to be a buddy.

I only have buddy issues with MALES when the other person wants me to blindly trust what they are saying without getting a third opinion. It is now apparent that your wife thinks everything you say is the truth and absolutely factual with no gray areas while she lets you wear a kilt around and people wonder if you are crazy. But she trusts you to know this is the best way to dress for running a newspaper. You are a lucky man.

At some point you have to grow up and stop wanting to force what is not your business because that IS one of those noxious liberal traits.

I saw an injustice being done by the Mason Neck horse community to the management at BLM. When in November Jeff mentioned the runoff from the barn roof and everyone in the room groaned, I knew there was a problem which was unfair. The audience didn't get it. I was in an Overlay meeting many years ago and I mentioned storm water management and Linwood Gorham, I still remember this, said it wasn't a big problem. Just shrugged me off, thought it needent be considered by the Overlay Task Force. Seems our local Republicans do not understand these things. Of course they don't because they do not go to seminars or read e-mails or follow this because it is not on their radar. Only noxious liberals understand storm water runoff and the damage it causes to the marine ecosystems from the point of input to the Chesapeake Bay. It is a major problem. It is the damage done by a velocity of a huge quantity of water during a rain storm to the stream channels. It is severe and those who study this, see the impacts, see that this must be avoided on Mason Neck as it should be avoided elsewhere. However, Mason Neck is a peninsula and it must be really, really avoided on Mason Neck. And Mason Neck has highly erodible soils.

I thought you were beyond this, that we were still

[REDACTED]

In a message dated 7/11/2011 11:29:54 P.M.
Eastern Daylight Time,

[REDACTED] writes:

There you go assuming something based on your weird distorted ideas of what liberal and conservative is. I despise your assumptions about me because you are wrong. I can speak for my self, but you don't listen when I do so no more about Meadowood. You severely annoyed me with your damned evaluation and wasting my breath when you won't accept what I say. So, you set out to be contrary and you've chosen you expert and it's not me so moving on to the next subject.

Floyd Harrison

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Lorton Valley Star Communications

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On Jul 11, 2011, at 8:04 PM,

[REDACTED] wrote:

Floyd,

I was in correspondence with Jinx last November (I met her at the meeting) and she asked me to help her with watering the pollinator garden at that time. We corresponded a bit about a cistern and plants needed and then when it got hot and dry I remembered and called her to help - as I'd promised. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I have been active in local environmental issues since William was small. He is 24 years old now. I testified at the Planning Commission in opposition to sewer. I'll bet you were on the side of bringing the sewer. Right? And I attended the Overlay meetings and I was the chairman of the Friends of Mason Neck for maybe three years. We published a newsletter but I had Liz' help to write it.

I saw that you are publishing articles while the the local webmaster is sending around letters for help to keep the 45 stall horse barn at Meadowood. Everyone is afraid of the retribution they will get if they go against the horse people and you. So I thought that I'd find out the truth about the horse barn from an environmental standpoint. Cut the bullshit and what is the impact of the barn and could something be done so there is no detrimental environmental impact from having such a large barn and does meadow work for controlling erosion, etc. When my report is back it may say that the keeping of horses is entirely inappropriate for this area of Mason Neck. Or he may come back with the proper systems which are required in order that horse boarding and fields of meadows are sustainable for the Chesapeake Bay. It will be specific to this site. You said it isn't helpful but I think what I find out will be helpful and I don't know the answers I will get from the consultant. I can share that information with the community if they will send it around. Maybe they won't. The publisher of the local paper



Floyd Harrison

07/16/2011 12:24 AM

To ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Transfer the Charge 6-8

Transfer the Charge

I feel that the attitude of BLM, which I have heard quoted multiple times from multiple offices, that: "BLM is in the LAND business not the horse business or people business." is proving to be a detriment to the upkeep of Mason Neck, Lorton's most beautiful and historic private horse boarding facility, Meadowood Farm, designated the Meadowood SRMA. The charge should be handed to the National Park Service which is in the people business and operates Rock Creek Park Horse Center through a concession.

This attitude, of BLM apparently is the root cause of ongoing conflict and postponed maintenance. The SRMA created by a land swap ten years ago, gave BLM a charge to maintain a private horse boarding facility of 40 acres and 48 horses. The Community expected this and the boarders expected this. Not only is this not being accomplished, but there has been the constant threat of letting it decline, encumbering pasture area and stalls, trying to sneak plans to evict boarders, harassing lady owners so that they moved out and finding excuses to replace the facility with a meager substitute stable. And who knows if they actually would have replaced it? Ten years later the barn only has 26 boarders and engineering evaluations indicate that maintenance is needed making the condition sound urgent, still no haste is made to do the major repairs such as a new roof. We recently got yet another scoping meeting, which is a continued smoke screen for not doing the job. It's even been suggested that Burkett will hand the community resource to the Army which would be an even more noxious "solution".

I don't just accept every damning tale I hear about abusive treatment of animals and people, and shady legality lodged against the BLM but it think that the abundance of such tales confirms that they have made a raft of enemies. I have faith, that with a new director of Meadowood, E. Lynn Burkett and a new Eastern States office director, Dr. John Lyon, that the effective attitude will not change because BLM does not have a desire to be in the horse business nor a corporate culture of being congenial to the public.

In short, BLM is demonstrating that truly, that they have accepted a charge which they do not want and will neglect to maintain. They do not accept the charge to maintain Meadowood as the citizens understand it. This is a crime against the Mason Neck, Lorton people, the local economy and the boarders who deserve better than to have their recreational resource squandered. Let the National Park Service try before Ms. Burkett wrecks it totally.

Floyd Harrison

Lorton Valley Star Communications, LLC



Floyd Harrison
[Redacted]

To ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov

cc

07/16/2011 12:36 AM

bcc

Subject Concentrate on The Issue 7-8

Concentrate on The Issue, remove distraction

Let's concentrate on the discussion of purpose. Meadowood has been a horse farm log before Masons Neck was threatened by development and pollution. The only discussion that matters now is the BLM charge of maintaining the private horse boarding operation on 40 Acres and the public recreation, and education on the remainder of the 800 acres.

Clouding the discussion of the maintenance of the stable barn is a lot of smokescreen about runoff and erosion and tree projects. None of that is germane to the operation. A half acre of roof is a large impervious surface but unnecessary structures which are wasting away on Meadowood are impervious surface too if anyone really cares. Tear down the other ill-maintained structures. Runoff can be contained. Erosion is not a problem as evidenced by clear streams and black swamp on the low acres. The most evident erosion is that created by the non-profit club which killed pasture grass as a demonstration.

Being that such a stupid useless activity was allowed, I'll insist that environmental discussions do not get in the way of proceeding with necessary maintenance of the horse stable barn.

Floyd Harrison
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
Lorton Valley Star Communications, LLC
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]



Floyd Harrison
[Redacted]
07/16/2011 06:51 PM

To ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov
cc Elynn@blm.gov
bcc
Subject Indictment without Conference

I asked to confer with you in consideration before I let go another editorial and letters to your up-line chain of command. I have not gotten a response. I realize that the legacy of Meadowood was not created by Elynn or Dr. John Lyon and I have no personal axe to grind However:

I am preparing my indictment of BLM. Basically that BLM has failed, has an attitude to fail saying "we are in the land business not the horse business", has no plan for the care of Meadowood but to fail, and probably has handled the site illegally, and it is an injustice to the boarders who expected BLM to keep their charge. They should not have taken the charge; it should be handed lock, stock and budget to the National Park service which is in the people recreation business. We will continue to have conflict with BLM because of the inherent attitude. They have let it rot for ten years and it only now becomes urgent. I will insist that the community is compensated for the loss.

Floyd Harrison
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
Lorton Valley Star Communications, LLC
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]



E.Lynn Burkett/WO/BLM/DOI
07/18/2011 10:09 AM

To Floyd Harrison [REDACTED]
cc [REDACTED]
bcc John Reffit/ESO/ES/BLM/DOI
Subject Re: Indictment without Conference

Mr Harrison,
I will make sure that your comments are a part of the record. You have been the only media outlet that I have conferred with on the matter of the barn to this date.
It is my hope that you will channel your efforts in support of moving this process forward rather than taking measures to further delay the process and put in jeopardy further use of the facility.
Please understand that once you move forward with any legal proceedings pertaining to the barn or the BLM, all communication with your publication could potentially end.
As i would caution any member of the public; move forward as you see fit but carefully weigh the ramifications.
In the mean time, I can assure you that we are working hard to compile information received during the scoping process and will post it accordingly on our website.

"If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging" Will Rogers

E.Lynn Burkett
Bureau of Land Management
Lower Potomac Field Manager
(w) 703-339-3461
NFWF Liaison and Natl.CCS Coordinator
(w) 202-912-7203
(c) 202-468-4110

Floyd Harrison <publisher@lortonvalleystar.com>



Floyd Harrison
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
07/16/2011 06:51 PM

To ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov
cc Elynn@blm.gov
Subject Indictment without Conference

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urgent. I will insist that the community is compensated for the loss.

Floyd Harrison

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



████████████████████
████████████████████
07/18/2011 01:22 PM

To eburkett@blm.gov
cc dhendry@blm.gov
Subject Re: Indictment without Conference

Dear Blynn,

First of all I am not a boarder and therefore not a stake holder and will not be party to or financially supporting any legal proceedings. I am merely aware of contentions.

I offer comments as a citizen who lives with the economy of Lorton and who uses the recreational facility. Some negative but mostly positive.

I represent the public need to know through Lorton Valley Star and so I am part of the public information gathering process. If you communicate with me, I can help your process.

As editor, from information that I have, I feel that BLM has not done the job before you arrived and I look to encouraging the new administration to do better than the past. I have nothing personal with either of you and I don't relish the tension. I am clear that you and Dr. Lyon are not part of the failure of the past. However, not knowing you and being painfully aware of the past, you have something to prove to myself and the public. Do you agree? That's the first question.

As it happens, I just wrote another long article updating and further illuminating the situation. In the thought process of actually, writing my eight personal comments, a couple of revelations came to me which I want to share. One is the cultural culture of BLM goes beyond your comment that you don't want to be in the private horse boarding business. So, that for you, eliminating private boarding at Meadowood would actually be a success for you. This gives me chills. Am I wrong? that's the second question.

On the positive side, there has been no standard or schedule by which progress or failure can be measured. Now there is a punch list generated by the evaluations and finally, the Congressmen have asked for a detailed schedule of repairs. Will you provide the schedule? That's the third question.

Today, you have the opportunity to answer these questions and give the community some hope that you will save the future of private boarding. But, all I hear from you is a ploy to ward off legal action. Why would you do that if you intend to respond positively to the community? I have to close this issue to get ready for printing.

I will tell you that I feel that BLM has done the community an injustice in the past which cannot be forgotten. Failure is not an option. I see pressure mounting on you from outside BLM. I have prepared letters myself containing my assessment and the need as I see it to elicit attention from over your head. Sorry, it's that critical.

Right now, as you say, I am the only press you have dealt with. Communicate with me. If you will not speak to me, then the community will judge that and it won't assist understanding. Do, not speak to

me and you'll have national press knocking at your door. As part of the actual community to which Meadowood belongs, I am interested that we work together going forward and that the process yields progress and success for Lorton.

I can't see how you say I could jeopardize further use of the facility. That sounds like obstinance. Please explain. That's the fourth question.

I'll look for your response this evening.

Floyd Harrison
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Lorton Valley Star Communications, LLC
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Lorton Valley Star Communications, LLC

On Jul 18, 2011, at 10:09 AM, eburkett@blm.gov wrote:

- > Mr Harrison,
- > I will make sure that your comments are a part of the record. You
- > have
- > been the only media outlet that I have conferred with on the matter
- > of the
- > barn to this date.
- > It is my hope that you will channel your efforts in support of
- > moving this
- > process forward rather than taking measures to further delay the
- > process
- > and put in jeopardy further use of the facility.
- > Please understand that once you move forward with any legal
- > proceedings
- > pertaining to the barn or the BLM, all communication with your
- > publication
- > could potentially end.
- > As i would caution any member of the public; move forward as you see
- > fit
- > but carefully weigh the ramifications.
- > In the mean time, I can assure you that we are working hard to compile
- > information received during the scoping process and will post it
- > accordingly on our website.
- >
- > "If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging" Will
- > Rogers
- >
- >
- > E.Lynn Burkett
- > Bureau of Land Management
- > Lower Potomac Field Manager
- > (w) 703-339-3461
- > NFWF Liaison and Natl.CCS Coordinator
- > (w) 202-912-7203
- > (c) 202-468-4110
- >
- >
- >

> Floyd Harrison
> [REDACTED]

> [REDACTED] To
> ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov

> 07/16/2011

> 06:51

> PM

> cc
> Elynn@blm.gov

> Subject

> Indictment without Conference

> I asked to confer with you in consideration before I let go another
> editorial and letters to your up-line chain of command. I have not
> gotten a response. I realize that the legacy of Meadowood was not
> created by Elynn or Dr. John Lyon and I have no personal axe to grind
> However:

> I am preparing my indictment of BLM. Basically that BLM has failed,
> has an attitude to fail saying "we are in the land business not the
> horse business", has no plan for the care of Meadowood but to fail,
> and probably has handled the site illegally, and it is an injustice to
> the boarders who expected BLM to keep their charge. They should not
> have taken the charge; it should be handed lock, stock and budget to
> the National Park service which is in the people recreation business.
> We will continue to have conflict with BLM because of the inherent
> attitude. They have let it rot for ten years and it only now becomes
> urgent. I will insist that the community is compensated for the loss.

> Floyd Harrison
> [REDACTED]
> [REDACTED]
> Lorton Valley Star Communications, LLC
> [REDACTED]
> [REDACTED]
> [REDACTED]
> [REDACTED]
> [REDACTED]
> [REDACTED]

ELynn Burkett/WO/BLM/DOI
07/18/2011 03:03 PM

To Floyd Harrison [REDACTED]
cc [REDACTED]
bcc John Reffit/ESO/ES/BLM/DOI
Subject Re: Indictment without Conference [REDACTED]

Mr. Harrison,
Thank you for your questions here are some answers.

Q1 "However,... you have something to prove to myself and the public. Do you agree?"

A1 No I do not agree. I do believe that there has been lost trust from past actions, and the BLM must take great care and consideration to use due diligence toward completing this process in transparent a manner as possible.

Q2 "...the cultural culture of BLM goes beyond your comment that you don't want to be in the private horse boarding business. So, that for you, eliminating private boarding at Meadowood would actually be a success for you. This gives me chills. Am I wrong?"

A2 It is not in the BLM mission to directly care for domesticated or (private) horses. This does not mean that we cannot support or provide for that type of recreational activity as appropriate. It just means that we need to move to an instrument that better accommodates a variety of uses such as physical therapy programs, lesson riding programs, trail riding programs and boarding of private horses. An instrument that will provide better amenities, care, and oversight of these opportunities and one that will relieve some of our direct oversight. Success is having a safe, compliant, ADA compatible facility that meets the needs of multiple uses that many can enjoy.

Q3 "...the Congressmen have asked for a detailed schedule of repairs. Will you provide the schedule?"

A3 Yes, at the appropriate time. Right now I need to allow the Scoping period to end and to finish compiling those comments. In the mean time we are putting together the rest of the package for the Environmental Assessment. Since there is alot of data already in place, we are hoping that moves quickly. Depending on the comments, we will also move forward with the Concession/Lease bids so that what ever actions are taken - they could potentially meet the needs of that management unit. Until I receive bids on the various actions, I will not know a timeline.

Q4 "I can't see how you say I could jeopardize further use of the facility. That sounds like obstinance. Please explain."

A4 If we are moved into a lawsuit that could slow down or even stop the process.

On a more personal note, I will need to go out of town for a few short days to care for my mother. I hope that you can be patient with my responses until I return.

"If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging"

Will Rogers

E.Lynn Burkett
Bureau of Land Management
Lower Potomac Field Manager
(w) 703-339-3461
NFWF Liaison and Natl.CCS Coordinator
(w) 202-912-7203
(c) 202-468-4110

Floyd Harrison [REDACTED]

Floyd Harrison

> [REDACTED]
> [REDACTED]
> [REDACTED]
> [REDACTED]

> On Jul 18, 2011, at 10:09 AM, eburkett@blm.gov wrote:

>> Mr Harrison,
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>> Floyd Harrison
>> [REDACTED]

>> [REDACTED] To
>> ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov

>> 07/16/2011
>> 06:51 PM cc
>> Elynn@blm.gov

>> Subject
>> Indictment without Conference

>>
>>
>>
>>
>>



ELynn Burkett/WO/BLM/DOI
07/18/2011 05:09 PM

To Floyd Harrison <publisher@lortonvalleystar.com>
cc
bcc John Reffit/ESO/ES/BLM/DOI
Subject Re: Indictment without Conference

Thank you.
"If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging" Will Rogers

E.Lynn Burkett
Bureau of Land Management
Lower Potomac Field Manager
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NFWF Liaison and Natl.CCS Coordinator
(w) 202-912-7203
(c) 202-468-4110

Floyd Harrison <publisher@lortonvalleystar.com>



Floyd Harrison
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
07/18/2011 04:26 PM

To eburkett@blm.gov
cc dhendry@blm.gov
Subject Re: Indictment without Conference

Thank you. For the first time, I read evidence that you are moving positively. And again I am sorry for my misappropriation of the term indictment which caused a misunderstanding. There will be no legal action from Lorton Valley Star Communications or myself. I can't speak for any others. Critical analysis is to define the problem. I'm from a scientific background; I analyze everything. Indeed trust has been lost through shady actions and inaction and though that is not your fault, it is encumbant upon you to "live it down". I offer you a channel to speak to the greater Lorton Community for the August issue while they wait for specific results. You were too late with your release before the meeting but I will accept your OpEd by Thursday. Failing that I will just keep your comments in mind as I write.

I would appreciate knowing as it becomes clear to you, what your requirements will look like on the solution? How will safety and ADA be satisfied specifically. I would like to publish the time table when it is drafted understanding that plans evolve but progress comes from having a plan and that is the difference you can make. There's never been a plan. By that action alone, you break with the past and become a genius. I hope that you will be the hero and that we can be friends.

Floyd Harrison
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
Lorton Valley Star Communications, LLC

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

On Jul 18, 2011, at 3:03 PM, eburkett@blm.gov wrote:

> Mr. Harrison,
> Thank you for your questions here are some answers.
>
> Q1 "However,... you have something to prove to myself and the
> public.
> Do you agree?"
> A1 No I do not agree. I do believe that there has been lost
> trust from
> past actions, and the BLM must take great care and consideration to
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> stop the
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> On a more personal note, I will need to go out of town for a few
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> (c) 202-468-4110

> Floyd Harrison
> [REDACTED]

> [REDACTED] To
> eburkett@blm.gov
> 07/18/2011
> 01:22 PM
> dhendry@blm.gov
> CC

> Subject
> Re: Indictment without
> Conference

> Dear Elynn,
>
> First of all I am not a boarder and therefore not a stake holder and
> will not be party to or financially supporting any legal proceedings.
> I am merely aware of contentions.
>
> I offer comments as a citizen who lives with the economy of Lorton and
> who uses the recreational facility. Some negative but mostly positive.

> I represent the public need to know through Lorton Valley Star and so
> I am part of the public information gathering process. If you
> communicate with me, I can help your process.

>
> As editor, from information that I have, I feel that BLM has not done
> the job before you arrived and I look to encouraging the new
> administration to do better than the past. I have nothing personal
> with either of you and I don't relish the tension. I am clear that
> you and Dr. Lyon are not part of the failure of the past. However,
> not knowing you and being painfully aware of the past, you have
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> the first question.

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> your comment that you don't want to be in the private horse boarding
> business. So, that for you, eliminating private boarding at Meadowood
> would actually be a success for you. This gives me chills. Am I
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> On the positive side, there has been no standard or schedule by which
> progress or failure can be measured. Now there is a punch list
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> the actual community to which Meadowood belongs, I am interested that
> we work together going forward and that the process yields progress
> and success for Lorton.

>
> I can't see how you say I could jeopardize further use of the facility.
> That sounds like obstinance. Please explain. That's the fourth
> question.

> I'll look for your response this evening.

> Floyd Harrison

> [REDACTED]
> [REDACTED]
> Lorton Valley Star Communications, LLC



07/18/2011 03:24 PM

To ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Plans/Ideas for Meadowood Horse Facility

Below please find thoughts/ideas I would like to submit for your consideration after attending the Scoping Meeting held in Lorton at the end of June. All comments are based on the idea that the existing multi-use horse barn remains in place and that monies currently available to the BLM will be used on its repair, as identified in previous surveys. I think this assumption is evident by the outpouring of public support to maintain the horse facility as is, by Rep. Hyland's continued mediation of the issue to accomplish the same, and by endorsement in a recent joint letter written to you by Congressmen Connolly and Moran.

Step 1: Increase the number of publicly boarded horses back up to 30.

- a. Allow the contractor to manage the equestrian facility as a business, including pasture management, ring use, scheduling, etc. in order to maintaining a knowledgeable entity in place to oversee and supervise the repair process.
- b. Remove the BLM from minute management responsibility as per your desire .
- c. Remove public perception that the BLM would like to see the boarding operation fail and that public demand is not important to the BLM.

Step 2: Include all barn entities in the repair decision-making process. Decide together the order of repairs to be made and why. .

- a. No one's business should suffer or be put on hold to accommodate barn repairs. There are ways to get these repairs done without moving horses off the premises
- b. Explore ideas for temporary field shelter and riding rings and solicit research results already done by boarders on how to accomplish..
- c. Utilize changing weather/seasons intelligently to get repairs logically accomplished and still keep regular activities running.

Step 3: Address the BLM's desire to separate their administrative footprint from the barn area due to safety concerns by doing the following:

- a. Relocate all BLM equipment , storage and workshop buildings to the Mustang Field property . There is already a private drive for entry and access to all trails from there. There is already an existing shed being used by the BLM, and there is already ample area to construct a new building or put up a trailer where the pre-existing house was torn down.

b. Concentrate all BLM admin offices in the Belmont office location, and convert the older house (with the conference room in the basement) for public use.; i.e. use for girl scout/boy scout activities, youth groups, Audubon meetings, boarder meetings, etc.

c. Convert the small office across from the farrier sheds to a public restroom area, complete with disability upgrades, for use by the general public on the property be they hikers, birders, riders, etc.

Step 4: Permit the contractor to expand opportunities to host riding seminars and programs to enhance the "public" image and increase use of the facility ..

a. Give temporary permission for trailer parking and provide space on an as needed basis.

.In short, allow the 40-acre equestrian facility to operate as such; something that is already designed for public equestrian use. This will help the BLM accomplish its goal to separate their offices from the facility, and concentrate their focus on the remaining 760 acres for conservation.

Thank you,
Jennifer Weston,
Meadowood Boarder



07/21/2011 01:26 PM

To ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov

cc

bcc

Subject I'm against horse Boarding at your facility

Hello,

I just wanted to comment to you about what I "hear" the current horse boarders at your facility are pushing for.

I hear they are trying to get the BLM to rent out all 53 of the stalls at your facility and to also lower your board rate. I am related to the owner of Jarvis Stables and we currently have ten empty stalls and our monthly board rate is \$480.00. If your federally funded facility opens up more stalls and lowers the board rate we will certainly lose more business. The same can be assumed for the boarding facility off of Old Colchester Rd., I believe it is called Cholchester Hills Farm. Their board rate is \$500.00 a month and I hear they are half empty, nor do they have an indoor arena or the trails that the BLM boasts. Private businesses can't compete with the BLM which is funded by our tax dollars. I didn't think private businesses were supposed to have to compete with the government. I am so disappointed and afraid of what I'm hearing.

Meadowood needs to be open so that all of the public can use its riding rings and rubber footing indoor, it needs to be an equestrian facility for the public. Please don't let it be leased out by a contractor that uses it for private boarding or to sell lessons. Private facilities cannot compete with contractors using the BLM's federally funded facility. Please don't let that happen.

Simple Changes is a charity and I can see allowing them space at your facility.

Thank you,

Shannon Jarvis



07/21/2011 02:52 PM

To ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov,

cc

bcc

Subject Meadowood Stables Comments

Hello,

I would like to submit the following comments in regards to developing a strategy for the Meadowood Stables.

1) Each year Fairfax and surrounding counties loose both green space and boarding facilities to developers as the majority are privately owned. Meadowood stables on Mason Neck is the only existing public boarding facility. Meadowood ensures that there will be a public horse presence on Mason Neck for years to come.

2) The current barn provides therapeutic riding, lessons and trail rides (not sure if this operation is still ongoing), all of these activities meet the public's need for recreation in one way or another.

3) With the current available funds - \$900K, I support the opinion raised by Supervisor Hyland that the best approach is to repair the existing facility and maintaining it for public use.

4) I found it disturbing that any option (other than leaving the barn as is) would require the horses to be off of the property for 6 to 8 months. This could easily force the closure of Simple Changes and the critical services they provide to their clients. I also believe that once the horses were out of sight they would become out of mind...any plan MUST address providing field boarding or some other option so Simple Changes can continue operations and borders have options.

Thanks!

Brian Purdy



Eric Whipkey

07/21/2011 07:05 PM

Please respond to
Eric Whipkey

To es_meadowood@es.blm.gov

cc

bcc

Subject BLM - Meadowood Equestrian Facilities - comments

Attn: E. Lynn Burkett,

I am writing as follow up to the June 28th scoping meeting, regarding the situation that has evolved with the Meadowood equestrian facility. I have enjoyed watching my girls' (Tara - 8 and Charlotte - 5) confidence grow as they have been learning to control Cookie, Doc, and Cupcake since 2009. We started working with WG and now work with Alison and her team. The programs offered at Meadowood are top rate and we don't want to go anywhere else. What is more, I have always thought it to be a great thing that the BLM saw fit to support such activity for the community. I have pointed this out to the kids on several occasions, recommending that they should thank their government for helping to care for "their" horses so well. Needless to say, I was dismayed to learn that this may not be the case anymore. That BLM may be considering closing Meadowood or worse yet, tearing down the barn and the stables. What should I tell them now. There must be a better plan than that. Couldn't a new stable or stables be built in a modular fashion so that the existing barn could remain standing while the new barn is being constructed. This is done with human housing these days. I am sure a barn could be raised and set in place in a similar fashion. It seems to me that the BLM is not excersizing much creativity in developing its plans.

It concerns me greatly that the BLM would question the value of a facility like Meadowood, which houses so many needed services and programs to the community. To name a few:

- Providing boarding opportunities for private horse owners
- Providing lessons and an introduction to a wonderful sport for children of all ages
- Providing hiptherapy through programs like Simple Changes
- Providing employment for those eager to spend their days with horses and teach their love of horses and horsemanship to others
- Among other benefits to the community I am surely missing

Meadowood is our horse riding home where I hope to someday board a horse myself for my girls. I hope you and the BLM will see the value in it too and keep it in place. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Eric M. Whipkey

[Redacted contact information]



07/22/2011 05:02 PM

To es_meadowood@es.blm.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Simple Changes at Meadowood

The Simple Changes community -- including clients, their families, volunteers and donors -- is delighted to be a part of Meadowood. We are grateful that BLM lets us use the barn and property. Services provided by Simple Changes are critical to local individuals with disabilities and necessary to the community at large -- as evidenced by Simple Changes' three year waiting list. We feel strongly that any barn structure -- new or refurbished -- needs to be safe for horses and humans. Simple Changes needs to continue operations at the facility during any construction or renovation process. Therapeutic riding is the only form of exercise for many of the clients and offers true public use. Any individual with a disability can get on the waiting list to ride Simple Changes' horses.

We would like to see a long-term plan for Simple Changes continued use of the facility -- so that this process does not need to be repeated in the near future. As therapeutic riding is part of the long-range plan for the property, supporters would like assurance that Simple Changes can continue to offer their valuable and necessary services to individuals with disabilities regardless of what entity is operating the facility.

Thanks for your continued support of Simple Changes at the Meadowood property.
Regards,
Annemarie Roketenetz, volunteer



"Withers, Lang"

07/22/2011 05:40 PM

To "es_meadowood@es.blm.gov"
<es_meadowood@es.blm.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject: renovation plan for Meadowood stables

Hello,

I am writing as the parent of a disabled daughter, Hannah, who participates in therapeutic riding at Meadowood Stables with Simple Changes every week. You may have seen her in the front row in a wheelchair at the Lorton meeting last month.

This therapy provides vital exercise for a girl who cannot move her own body. Continuing this activity in good safe stables is very important for her and others like her. It is truly much more than recreational for these disabled children.

The Simple Changes community -- including clients, their families, volunteers and donors -- is delighted to be a part of Meadowood. We are grateful that BLM lets us use the barn and property. Services provided by Simple Changes are critical to local individuals with disabilities and necessary to the community at large -- as evidenced by Simple Changes' three year waiting list. We feel strongly that any barn structure -- new or refurbished -- needs to be safe for horses and humans. Simple Changes needs to continue operations at the facility during any construction or renovation process. Therapeutic riding is the only form of exercise for many of the clients and offers true public use. Any individual with a disability can get on the waiting list to ride Simple Changes' horses.

We would like to see a long-term plan for Simple Changes continued use of the facility -- so that this process does not need to be repeated in the near future. As therapeutic riding is part of the long-range plan for the property, supporters would like assurance that Simple Changes can continue to offer their valuable and necessary services to individuals with disabilities regardless of what entity is operating the facility.

Thank you for being proactive and practical in managing this property for the common good of our community.

Sincerely,

the Withers family
Lang, Tina, and Hannah



"Beth or Paul Pautler"

[Redacted]

07/22/2011 05:55 PM

To <es_meadowood@es.blm.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Simple Changes at Meadowood

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a volunteer for Simple Changes, the therapeutic riding program at Meadowood. As you are most likely aware, the services provided by Simple Changes are very important to local individuals with disabilities; for some Simple Changes clients, therapeutic riding is their only exercise and recreation. As you may also know, this program is open to any individual with a disability and has a three year wait list for riding slots. Simple Changes provides a valuable service to the community which is possible only because of its partnership with the BLM, donations, volunteer help and rider tuition.

As a volunteer for Simple Changes, I understand that the barn at Meadowood needs to be rebuilt or refurbished but hope plans will be made to allow Simple Changes to continue operating during construction. I also would like to see a long term plan for the facility which allows Simple Changes' continued use of it regardless of what entity is operating the facility.

This program provides a valuable and necessary service to individuals with disabilities in our community and I would like, in this time of change, some assurances that it will be able to continue doing so.

Sincerely,
Beth Pautler

[Redacted]
[Redacted]



"Deb Riley"
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

07/22/2011 07:11 PM

To <es_meadowood@es.blm.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject therapeutic riding

I want you to know how important Simple Changes therapeutic riding program is for me and my son, Tucker. Tucker cannot walk and riding his horse, Dixie, is a truly unique opportunity for him. He is able to experience "the feel" of walking and it helps him work on balance and strength. Washington is teeming with opportunities for my other two children, yet this is the only fun activity that provides exercise for Tucker.

We love the Meadowood facility. It is a peaceful and beautiful place, tucked away from the craziness of everyday life. We are hopeful that any construction or renovation will provide a safe place for both my son and his horse and that his riding will be uninterrupted. Raising a disabled child creates a life full of uncertainty. It would be comforting to have the certainty of knowing that this one opportunity will continue to be there for us for the long term.

We appreciate your consideration of our son and family as you discuss the future of Meadowood. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions @ [REDACTED]

My best,

Deb Riley



Tracy Orlinsky

07/22/2011 09:07 PM

To es_meadowood@es.blm.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Fwd: Meadowood Property

The Simple Changes community -- including clients, their families, volunteers and donors -- is delighted to be a part of Meadowood. We are grateful that BLM lets us use the barn and property. Services provided by Simple Changes are critical to local individuals with disabilities and necessary to the community at large -- as evidenced by Simple Changes' three year waiting list. We feel strongly that any barn structure -- new or refurbished -- needs to be safe for horses and humans. Simple Changes needs to continue operations at the facility during any construction or renovation process. Therapeutic riding is the only form of exercise for many of the clients and offers true public use. Any individual with a disability can get on the waiting list to ride Simple Changes' horses.

We would like to see a long-term plan for Simple Changes continued use of the facility -- so that this process does not need to be repeated in the near future. As therapeutic riding is part of the long-range plan for the property, supporters would like assurance that Simple Changes can continue to offer their valuable and necessary services to individuals with disabilities regardless of what entity is operating the facility.

Theraupeutic riding is one of the few available activities that my daughter loves and looks forward to each week. We are so thankful for Meadowood - a convenient location for us and many others - and the Simple Changes program. We hope to continue there for many years to come.

Thank - you,

The Orlinsky Family



Elizabeth Knight

07/22/2011 09:46 PM

To es_meadowood@es.blm.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Simple Changes at Meadowood

The Simple Changes community -- including clients, their families, volunteers and donors -- is delighted to be a part of Meadowood. We are grateful that BLM lets us use the barn and property. Services provided by Simple Changes are critical to local individuals with disabilities and necessary to the community at large -- as evidenced by Simple Changes' three year waiting list. We feel strongly that any barn structure -- new or refurbished -- needs to be safe for horses and humans. Simple Changes needs to continue operations at the facility during any construction or renovation process. Therapeutic riding is the only form of exercise for many of the clients and offers true public use. Any individual with a disability can get on the waiting list to ride Simple Changes' horses.

We would like to see a long-term plan for Simple Changes continued use of the facility -- so that this process does not need to be repeated in the near future. As therapeutic riding is part of the long-range plan for the property, supporters would like assurance that Simple Changes can continue to offer their valuable and necessary services to individuals with disabilities regardless of what entity is operating the facility.

Thank you,
Beth Knight



Kevin Diane
[REDACTED]

07/23/2011 12:09 AM

To "es_meadowood@es.blm.gov"
<es_meadowood@es.blm.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Re: Meadowood Property

To whom it may concern,

The Simple Changes community -- including clients, their families, volunteers and donors -- is delighted to be a part of Meadowood. We are grateful that BLM lets us use the barn and property. Services provided by Simple Changes are critical to local individuals with disabilities and necessary to the community at large -- as evidenced by Simple Changes' three year waiting list.

Our daughter went on the waitlist at age three when she was diagnosed with autism, and started services at age five after a two year wait. To the best of our knowledge, there are no other therapeutic riding programs that service families in southern Fairfax County. Other programs exist in Clifton, Herndon, Great Falls, Middleburg, and Manassas, but the time and distance would keep this service from being available to our special needs child.

We feel strongly that any barn structure -- new or refurbished -- needs to be safe for horses and humans. Simple Changes needs to continue operations at the facility during any construction or renovation process. Therapeutic riding is the only form of exercise for many of the clients and offers true public use. Any individual with a disability can get on the waiting list to ride Simple Changes' horses.

We would like to see a long-term plan for Simple Changes continued use of the facility -- so that this process does not need to be repeated in the near future. As therapeutic riding is part of the long-range plan for the property, supporters would like assurance that Simple Changes can continue to offer their valuable and necessary services to individuals with disabilities regardless of what entity is operating the facility.

Sincerely,

Diane Cramer
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Natalie Ramirez

[Redacted]

>

07/24/2011 09:35 AM

To es_meadowood@es.blm.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Simple Changes and the Meadowood Property

To whom it may concern,

The Simple Changes community -- including clients, their families, volunteers and donors -- is delighted to be a part of Meadowood. We are grateful that BLM lets us use the barn and property. Services provided by Simple Changes are critical to local individuals with disabilities and necessary to the community at large -- as evidenced by Simple Changes' three year waiting list. We feel strongly that any barn structure -- new or refurbished -- needs to be safe for horses and humans. Simple Changes needs to continue operations at the facility during any construction or renovation process. Therapeutic riding is the only form of exercise for many of the clients and offers true public use. Any individual with a disability can get on the waiting list to ride Simple Changes' horses.

We would like to see a long-term plan for Simple Changes continued use of the facility -- so that this process does not need to be repeated in the near future. As therapeutic riding is part of the long-range plan for the property, supporters would like assurance that Simple Changes can continue to offer their valuable and necessary services to individuals with disabilities regardless of what entity is operating the facility.

Thank you for your consideration,
Natalie Ramirez, Simple Changes Volunteer



07/24/2011 04:12 PM

To ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Meadowood Barn comments

Greetings!

My name is Charlotte Roberts and I am one of the students who take regular lessons at Meadowood Barn. A little about myself: I am a 54 year old member of the military (SGM with the U.S. Army Band at Ft. Myer), am a native of Virginia, growing up mostly in the Richmond area. My husband and I lived in Alexandria from 1991 - 2006 at which time we moved to Springfield. I have been a life long lover of horses and of beautiful open spaces (my grandparents had a 500 acre farm in Caroline Co. which I visited many times growing up). As far as horses, as much as I loved them I could never have one (thanks Mom and Dad!) but still managed to ride once in a while, here and there, even taking lessons for a couple of years in Richmond before moving to Northern Va. in 1991. Once here, my dreams of becoming an accomplished rider and spending time with horses dried up as I raised my son and worked long hours for the Army. But really, the main reason my dreams dried up was because there did not seem to be very many places a person could go for affordable lessons without driving great distances and at great expense.

So, imagine my delight when my husband (who is an avid runner and runs almost exclusively in the various parks in Fairfax Co.) came home and told me that there was a public barn just a few miles away from us that has beautiful horses grazing in beautiful pastures - and gave reasonably priced riding lessons! I have to say, I was so impressed to see such a wonderful partnership between the "government" and the public. It's the first time I had ever seen riding stables that weren't privately owned. I just couldn't get over how lucky we were to have found such a place. I signed up for lessons right away! As I mentioned, my husband runs in the various parks, and we have both hiked many of the hundreds of miles of trails these wonderful parks provided, but this was the **ONLY PUBLIC USE STABLE** that I had ever seen. Wow!!! You know, if you look around the area, there are locations and public access for every other imaginable type of outdoor activity: boating, hiking, running, soccer, baseball, Frisbee, camping, golf, picnicking, dog parks, etc. But Meadowood is the only public stable I am aware of in this area that provides for someone like me. I do not love boating, running, soccer, baseball, Frisbee, camping, golf, etc. I love horses and learning to ride horses is my passion, my hobby, my sport of choice. I am SO grateful that Meadowood exists, **JUST AS IT IS!**

I have attended one of the recent meetings held to discuss the issue of Meadowood. After everything was said and done, I walked away with a sense that just about everyone there wants what I want:

1. Repair the existing barn with the money that is **ALREADY SET ASIDE**. From what I have read, recent studies show that the barn is safe and repairs can be made to bring it up to code, again with money that is already there.
2. Allow boarders to return. Not that I know the details, but it sure sounds like someone is saying "you can't bring in any more boarders" and then that same someone is saying "the barn is not making enough money, so the contract for boarders may have to be canceled". Please allow boarders back in. Let them fill all of the stalls. There are many reasons to do so, even beyond the revenue to the barn, to include the positive financial impact on the area by bringing in the money these boarders would spend in/on local establishments and also the fact that the boarders help act as stewards of the property and help educate the students and others that come to love and call Meadowood their "horse home".
3. Keep the lesson program!! Obviously, this program means a great deal to me and helps contribute to a better quality of life, health and well being for me and others like me, just as other sports and activities do for other people.

Sorry to be so long winded, but I feel very strongly about keeping Meadowood barn going in its current



"Jordan Daze"
[Redacted]

07/24/2011 06:04 PM

To <es_meadowood@es.blm.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Simple Changes

Dear BLM Employees,

The Simple Changes community -- including clients, their families, volunteers and donors -- is delighted to be a part of Meadowood. We are grateful that BLM lets us use the barn and property. Services provided by Simple Changes are critical to local individuals with disabilities and necessary to the community at large -- as evidenced by Simple Changes' three year waiting list. We feel strongly that any barn structure -- new or refurbished -- needs to be safe for horses and humans. Simple Changes needs to continue operations at the facility during any construction or renovation process. Therapeutic riding is the only form of exercise for many of the clients and offers true public use. Any individual with a disability can get on the waiting list to ride Simple Changes' horses.

We would like to see a long-term plan for Simple Changes continued use of the facility -- so that this process does not need to be repeated in the near future. As therapeutic riding is part of the long-range plan for the property, supporters would like assurance that Simple Changes can continue to offer their valuable and necessary services to individuals with disabilities regardless of what entity is operating the facility.

Sincerely,

Simple Changes Rider



07/24/2011 09:36 PM

To es_meadowood@es.blm.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Meadowood Property

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you in support of the Simple Changes Therapeutic Riding program and its continued use of the Meadowood Property. My daughter has participated in therapeutic horseback riding for 7 years and has ridden with Simple Changes for 3 years. Therapeutic riding is vital to her well-being, and I hope you will continue to recognize the critical nature of this program for individuals with disabilities. Many individuals with disabilities have difficulties finding any form of exercise in which they can participate; therapeutic horseback riding provides an opportunity for these individuals to enjoy a form of regular exercise. Many individuals with disabilities have social skills challenges and difficulty forming friendships or connecting with their typically developing peer group; therapeutic horseback riding provides these individuals with connections to a peer group as well as to animals that exhibit their sensitive, caring nature, and unconditional love and acceptance of their riders. Many individuals with disabilities have challenges with motor coordination, concentration, visual motor integration, auditory processing, and a host of other developmental issues; therapeutic horseback riding provides a forum in which children can develop these skills in a fun, non-threatening environment.

I know all of this has happened for my daughter. I cannot imagine her life without therapeutic horseback riding. Her lesson days are the best days of every week, and we do not want to see this end. I hope you will continue to allow this critical community service to continue at Meadowood. There are so few opportunities for children with disabilities to feel successful; please do not take this one away from them.

Thank you for your consideration of preserving the Simple Changes program at Meadowood. We love being there and feel that it is almost a "home away from home" for us and for our daughter.

Sincerely,

Jennifer and Jeremy Shanahan



peggy carr

[REDACTED]

07/24/2011 10:38 PM

To <es_meadowood@es.blm.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Meadowood barn

Hello,

We are writing to support the repairing and expansion of the barn for increased boarding at Meadowood.

We think that this option would serve the needs of our community as well as the needs of the BLM.

Thank you for considering our input-it is much appreciated.

the Carr family



[Redacted]

07/25/2011 06:01 AM

To ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Comment in Response to Scoping Meeting on the Meadowood Equestrian Facilities



Please find attached my comments. Joyce Cross BLM Letter July 2011.docx

Monte Joyce Cross
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

July 24, 2011

Ms. E Lynn Burkett
Lower Potomac Field Station Manager
10406 Gunston Road
Lorton, VA 22079

Dear Ms. Burkett

This is in response to BLM's request for public comment at the Scoping Meeting on the Meadowood Equestrian Facilities on June 28, 2011.

Here is what I would like to have done:

1. Permit the current contractor to immediately begin boarding more horses so that she will remain solvent. Denying CAS Company the ability to board enough horses to remain economically viable is tantamount to causing the contractor to fail.
2. Repair the barn immediately. This has community support and the funds are available. Get it done.
3. Relocate the trail that was put in the lower east pasture to the woods and restore the pasture to horse turnout.
4. Plan a dream facility.

As I see it, BLM should do the short-term possible now and plan for the future in a reasonable fashion. The dream facility will take a lot of planning and funding - and time.

Meadowood is a good home for my horse and I want to keep him there. I stand ready to cooperate fully while the barn is being repaired - and want the horses to stay on the property during the repairs.

Sincerely,

Joyce Cross



[REDACTED]
07/25/2011 09:46 AM

To ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov, [REDACTED]
cc
bcc
Subject Meadowood Horse Boarding Facility

To BLM representatives:

CAS company and the Meadowood stables have been good neighbors to us over the past several years, while making boarding and by extension riding available in a safe yet accessible area of Fairfax County/the Washington metro area. The relatively large pasture area combined with the boarding facility make it unique within the metro area. In thinking about proposals to destroy the current barns to replace them with a smaller facility, I'm reminded of the old saying "Don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good." We support repairing the current facility, expanded boarding at Meadowood, and retaining the pasture and other space devoted to equine activities.

Thank you

David R. Poston
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



"Linda Sinrod"
<lsinrod@cox.net>
07/25/2011 09:58 AM

To <ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Meadowood Barn

As a 34 year resident of Hallowing Point, one of the things I love most and have enjoyed for so many years is seeing the horses grazing in the fields at Meadowood on my trips up and down Gunston Road. I am sure the millions of visitors to the various parks on Mason Neck would agree with me. Please repair the barn, and increase the number of public boarding horses so that we may all continue to enjoy this lovely view.

Linda Sinrod
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

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ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov
ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov
ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov
ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov
ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov

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ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov

ELynn Burkett/WO/BLM/DOI
07/25/2011 10:50 AM

To jreffit@blm.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Fw: Response to BLM re: Meadowood

From: Deanna Zagin [REDACTED]
Sent: 07/25/2011 08:27 AM EST
To: "Spoon, Bryan" <[REDACTED]>; <[REDACTED]> Zack.Fields>;
[REDACTED] Elynn Burkett; John Lyon; es_general_web@blm.gov
Subject: Response to BLM re: Meadowood

Hello - Below is a copy of the letter to the BLM regarding my comments for the future of the Meadowood Equestrian Facility. Thank you!

Deanna R.H. Zagin
Director, AAA Sales and Marketing
The Hertz Corporation

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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----- Signed BLM letter.pdf

July 19, 2011

Ms. E. Lynn Burkett
Lower Potomac Field Station Manager
BLM
10406 Gunston Road
Lorton, VA 22079

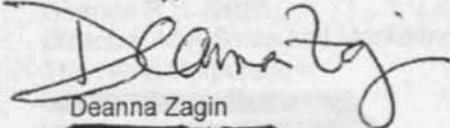
Dear Ms. Burkett:

Thank you for your time and the information you provided at the BLM Scoping Meeting regarding the Meadowood Equestrian Facility on June 28, 2011. Per your request for additional comments, I would like to see to following actions taken to preserve the Meadowood Equestrian Facility:

1. Repair the existing barn immediately. Allow the horses to remain on the property during this process.
2. Restore the pastures that were downsized, returning the area to the 40 acres dedicated to Equestrian use (originally there were 60 acres).
3. Allow the contractor, CAS, to fill the empty stalls with publically boarded horses - immediately.
4. Permanently maintain 36 stalls for public boarding at Meadowood.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Deanna Zagin
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

cc: Dr. John Lyon
Congressman James P. Moran
Congressman Gerald E. Connolly
Supervisor Gerry Hyland

Elynn Burkett/WO/BLM/DOI
07/25/2011 11:33 AM

To jreffit@blm.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Fw: Letter from Linda MacDonald re: Meadowood

From: Deanna Zagin [REDACTED]
Sent: 07/25/2011 08:30 AM EST
To: "Spoon, Bryan" [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] Zack.Fields>;
[REDACTED] Elynn Burkett; John Lyon; es_general_web@blm.gov
Cc: Linda MacDonald [REDACTED]
Subject: Letter from Linda MacDonald re: Meadowood

Linda MacDonald has asked that I forward the attached letter to you on her behalf regarding her comments on Meadowood:

Deanna R.H. Zagin
Director, AAA Sales and Marketing
The Hertz Corporation

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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----- L.M. Letter to BLM 7.21.11.pdf

July 21, 2011

E. Lynn Burkett
Lower Potomac Field Station, BLM
10406 Gunston Rd.
Lorton, VA 22079

Ms. Burkett,

I am writing to you to give recommendations for the Stables of Meadowood.
Here are my recommendations:

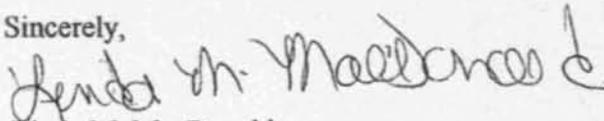
1. Repair the existing barn.
2. There is no need for the horses to leave the Meadowood property, they can be on field board.
3. Allow the contractor-CAS Company-to fill the empty stalls with publically boarded horses.
4. Maintain 36 stalls for public boarding, allocate the remaining 12 stalls for the riding lesson program, and the therapeutic riding.
5. Restore the pastures that have been downsized.

In the meeting you asked for ideas for the barn. I have a few:

1. Increase ventilation – add fans in the barn. Example-ceiling fans in the arena and the aisles.
2. Remove boards from the bottom of the stage, leave 4 boards at the bottom and then install lattice up to the seating area. This does not require much work and would tremendously improve ventilation.
3. Lighten the inside of the barn by adding more of the skylight panels in the roof.
4. For the future plan: provide a freestanding riding arena on the mustang parcel.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Linda M. MacDonald



[REDACTED]
07/25/2011 11:56 AM

To ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov

cc [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

bcc

Subject Concerns Involving Meadowood and BLM From A Citizen's Perspective

TO Bureau of Land Management Meadowood Study Chairman:

I find it inconceivable that the BLM would consider, under the economic conditions the Government is in at present, tearing the existing barn at Meadowood down and reducing the services it currently provides to the equestrian oriented citizens and surrounding community. Therefore, I strongly suggest that BLM repair the barn now rather than demolishing the current structure and building a replacement facility with fewer capabilities.

The BLM should be planning to increase the number of boarded horses to 35 and eventually plan to increase that capacity to 40 along with insuring that the currently provided services be maintained at the current level. For BLM not to take this course of action will show that the Bureau is not attune to public demand, is not aware of the impact not to do so will have a detrimental impact on the local economy and impervious to the fact that the government will have a better financial return.

Further, the BLM should not enter into the business of managing the Meadowood equestrian facilities and services in favor of allowing a private contractor assume these responsibilities. The government has proven repeatedly that it is not a good manager of similar endeavors and should not think any differently in the case of Meadowood.

Repair of the existing facilities should be planned to include allowing existing boarded horses to remain on the premises, The simple reason for this is that there is no place to relocate them while repairs are being conducted. The horses would remain out of danger with a modicum of management.

Finally, repair of the current facility would result in a minimum disruption of the equestrian services being provided by the current Meadowood staff of contractors, boarder owners of horses and numerous volunteers coming from interested parties in the Lorton community.

Of note, the BLM is not an agency that is well known or understood in the eastern part of the United States and particularly in the Washington, DC area. It would behoove the BLM to continue to provide the current level of public equestrian riding services in a repaired facility in order to show its relevance to this region of the country.

Sincerely,
Shep Crow

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



"ann elise sauer"

07/25/2011 11:45 AM

To <ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject: Preserve Meadowood Stables

To Whom It May Concern,

I want to register my strong support for continuing public boarding of horses at Meadowood.

As a neighbor of the facility, I enjoy the daily drive along Gunston Road and the bucolic atmosphere created by the horses grazing in picturesque pastures. But aside from the purely aesthetic appreciation of the site, Meadowood boarding serves an important public interest, providing a safe, accessible location for local residents to board and enjoy riding their horses.

In addition, continuing the current arrangement of contracting out the management of the stables maintains jobs and supports small business enterprises. In our challenged economy, this should be a principal concern of the BLM. Surely, BLM cannot make the argument that boarding of horses is an inherently governmental function – which is the new OFPP standard for in-sourcing contracted work, and based on my own experience in government contracting, any misguided effort to in-source the operation of the stables will invariably cost much more than employing a private enterprise. Based on the facts presented in recent public fora, allowing the current contractor to fill the vacant stalls at the site would return the operation to financial viability.

From the standpoint of simple fairness and trust, BLM must honor the commitment to repair the current barn. Funds are available for maintenance, and it would be the height of irresponsibility to let those funds lapse or return to the Treasury instead of using them to bring the barn up to standards.

Finally, I believe the current arrangement at Meadowood is a perfect example of public-private cooperation. Our community would be adversely affected economically by the closure of the stable operations, and the government would suffer as a result of fewer volunteers working to make Meadowood a community treasure.

In my view, continuing the boarding operation at Meadowood and increasing boarding to maximum capacity makes the most sense and would demonstrate BLM's commitment to be a partner to the Mason Neck and surrounding community.

Sincerely,

ann

ann elise sauer

[Redacted signature line]

[Redacted signature line]

[Redacted signature line]



Richard Garlick
[Redacted]

07/25/2011 01:33 PM

Please respond to
Richard Garlick
[Redacted]

To "ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov"
<ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov>

cc [Redacted]

bcc

Subject Request for Public Input- Meadowood/BLM

Dear Ms. Burkett,

I was elated to read in the July 2011 Lorton Valley Star that Meadowood now has a manager committed to the property. Those of us who reside on Mason Neck care very much for the entire peninsula. Many of us had the opportunity to witness Liz Hartwell labor year after year to save the land that is now Mason Neck State Park and Wildlife Refuge. And the blessing that was the land-swap which created Meadowood exceeded all of our expectation.

The challenge now is to preserve, sustain and improve Meadowood, whatever is best and whatever it takes. The core mission of Meadowood, as I understand it, is an Eastern location for BLM to auction Mustangs. If that is the case, then no actions should be taken that distracts BLM from accomplishing that core mission. I am more than just a little pleased that recreation became the land-use focus of Meadowood. I have walked every trail throughout the property several times and plan to continue to do so.

I ask you to bring together the best minds to resolve the current barn/horse boarding issues. The successful strategy to be consistent with the core mission of Meadowood. I feel certain that continuation and growth of public boarding can be/is consistent with the core mission. A long-term funding stream to pay for items other than the core mission will require all possible venues, I am sure, including: pay-as-you-go boarding to barn capacity (lots of free advertising is available), increasing and not decreasing barn capacity, increased public-private partnerships (contact the Mason Neck Citizen Association and Lorton CoC for assistance), increased/reimbursed use by Fort Myer stables (et.al.), donations, and friends-of/volunteers (e.g. BSA), to name a few.

I built my home on Mason Neck in 1978. I thank BLM for the role they play in also protecting our history. And, Ms. Burkett, I hope this helps you better understand our commitment to The Neck and thank you for affording us the opportunity to input the process, as you move forward.

vr,

Rich Garlick

[Redacted signature block]

[Redacted address block]



Gerald Lyons
[REDACTED]

07/25/2011 02:08 PM

To ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Horse Boarding at BLM Lower Potomac Field Station

I am writing about the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area on Mason Neck in southern Fairfax County, Virginia. I urge BLM to restore and improve or rebuild a horse boarding barn/facility to sustain the boarding of a minimum of forty horses.

Thank you,

Gerald L. Lyons
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Jonathan Kiell
[REDACTED]
07/25/2011 02:43 PM

To <es_meadowood@es.blm.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Save the Barn

I want to let you know that I strongly support maintaining the barn at its current size and allowing new boarders to be brought in to increase usage and help with cost. If building a new barn (of approximately the same size) is more economical, that is a reasonable option. Part of the "public use" of the facility should include allowing boarding of horses and training opportunities. BLM needs keep in mind its mission to serve the public.



Jonathan Kiell

07/25/2011 02:44 PM

To <es_meadowood@es.blm.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject FW: Save the Barn

From: [REDACTED]
To: es_meadowood@es.blm.gov
Subject: Save the Barn
Date: Mon, 25 Jul 2011 14:43:45 -0400

I want to let you know that I strongly support maintaining the barn at its current size and allowing new boarders to be brought in to increase usage and help with cost. If building a new barn (of approximately the same size) is more economical, that is a reasonable option. Part of the "public use" of the facility should include allowing boarding of horses and training opportunities. BLM needs keep in mind its mission to serve the public.

Jonathan Kiell
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



nancy wilochka
[REDACTED]

07/25/2011 03:18 PM

Please respond to
[REDACTED]

To <ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov>

cc [REDACTED]

bcc [REDACTED]

Subject Meadowood Boarding

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a local resident who uses the equestrian trails at Meadowood about 8 hours per week.

I am writing to you to voice my opinion FOR increasing the number of public boarders allowed at Meadowood Stables. CAS Company should be able to bring the number of horses there up to 36, and pasture space needs to be reclaimed. The larger the area for horses to graze on, the less concentration of manure will build up. The area is being squeezed for open space, and with that comes severely diminished opportunities for boarders. Increasing the number of boarders will pump several hundred thousand dollars into the local economy, and help preserve equestrian activities in the area.

The barns at Meadowood can be repaired. I would like for BLM to pursue this option. The horses presently at Meadowood can be temporarily housed in the fields, with simple three-sided sheds covered in UV-resistant plastic. This is a low cost option that will bode well for everyone.

I appreciate your consideration of my above comments.

Nancy Wilochka
Alexandria, VA



Nina Phillips
[REDACTED]
07/25/2011 03:33 PM

To ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov
cc [REDACTED]
bcc [REDACTED]
Subject BLM Meadowland

July 25, 2011

To: Bureau of Land Management
Re: Meadowood Special Recreation Area

We encourage you to keep full scale boarding at Meadowood; repair the barn; allow CAS Company to increase boarding to 30; and give back pasture that was taken away.

Eric and Nina Phillips
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Registered Voters
Residents of Mason Neck
Members of the Mason Neck Citizens' Association



"Jim & Janice Wallen"

[REDACTED]
07/25/2011 04:13 PM

To <ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Concerned About Deterioration of Meadowood

Dear Meadowood Managers,

As a resident of Mason Neck for the past 30 plus years, and an almost daily traveler on Gunston Road I have observed a disappointing deterioration of the pastures adjacent to Gunston Road. This seems to have occurred for the most part over the last two years. Apparently equestrian activities at the facility are being scaled down. I for one would like to see the facilities for these activities maintained at least to the level they were when BLM assumed responsibility for the property. My experiences with the activities relating to horses at this facility have generally been very good. My autistic grandson benefitted from the program for autistic children. My only tense experience occurred one foggy morning before sunrise when I encountered two horses in the middle of Gunston Road at the curve between Gunston Hall entrance and Pohick Park entrance. This is an outstanding record for 30 plus years of almost daily travel over this road.

Sincerely,

James Wallen
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Hilary Kiell

[REDACTED]
07/25/2011 04:50 PM

To <es_meadowood@es.blm.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Barn and pasture at Meadowood

I understand that you are looking for additional public input regarding the renovation of Meadowood's barn and boarding issues. I strongly support the proposed barn renovation; full scale boarding; allowing CAS Company to increase boarding to 30; and giving back pasture land that was taken away.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need further information.

Hilary Kiell

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Francesca Wall

07/25/2011 04:53 PM

To ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Barn

Hoping that all can come to an agreement amicably. My suggestion echoes Gerry Hyland's: take the money, get the barn up to code electrically and fix the roof. In addition, update the restroom facilities to accommodate the special needs visitors.

This situation is dragging on unnecessarily.

It is a simple matter.

Get the barn fixed!

As far as the contract goes, as far as I know Allison Mills is doing a great job, is well liked and as they say, "if it ain't broke.....don't try and fix it!" This should only be about the barn!

I don't have a horse there, I just have always enjoyed the presence of the horses there. Mason Neck would be the same without the Meadowood Barn, FIX IT!!!

Thanks and Godspeed!

Francesca Wall



Doreen Hart

07/25/2011 05:12 PM

Please respond to
Doreen Hart

To "ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov"
<ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject: Keep and Repair the Barn!

To BLM:

Please keep the barn and land open for boarders and riding...there are few spots left in northern VA that allow riding and boarding of horses. This service draws citizens to the property, they love the horses on the grounds.

This property was given to BLM with the stated purpose of providing horseback riding opportunities to the public. Don't take away such a lovely gift to horse lovers.

Sincerely,

Doreen Hart



"rmunsie"

07/25/2011 06:31 PM

To: [redacted], <ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov>

cc: [redacted]

bcc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Concerns Involving Meadowood and BLM From A Citizen's Perspective

Shep: I concur with your analysis and support your position for the future of Meadowood. Bill Munsie

From: [redacted] On Behalf Of [redacted] Sent: Monday, July 25, 2011 11:57 AM To: ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov Cc: [redacted] Subject: Concerns Involving Meadowood and BLM From A Citizen's Perspective

TO Bureau of Land Management Meadowood Study Chairman:

I find it inconceivable that the BLM would consider, under the economic conditions the Government is in at present, tearing the existing barn at Meadowood down and reducing the services it currently provides to the equestrian oriented citizens and surrounding community. Therefore, I strongly suggest that BLM repair the barn now rather than demolishing the current structure and building a replacement facility with fewer capabilities.

The BLM should be planning to increase the number of boarded horses to 35 and eventually plan to increase that capacity to 40 along with insuring that the currently provided services be maintained at the current level. For BLM not to take this course of action will show that the Bureau is not attune to public demand, is not aware of the impact not to do so will have a detrimental impact on the local economy and impervious to the fact that the government will have a better financial return.

Further, the BLM should not enter into the business of managing the Meadowood equestrian facilities and services in favor of allowing a private contractor assume these responsibilities. The government has proven repeatedly that it is not a good manager of similar endeavors and should not think any differently in the case of Meadowood.

Repair of the existing facilities should be planned to include allowing existing boarded horses to remain on the premises, The simple reason for this is that there is no place to relocate them while repairs are being conducted. The horses would remain out of danger with a modicum of management.

Finally, repair of the current facility would result in a minimum disruption of the equestrian services being provided by the current Meadowood staff of contractors, boarder owners of horses and numerous volunteers coming from interested parties in the Lorton community.

Of note, the BLM is not an agency that is well known or understood in the eastern part of the United States and particularly in the Washington, DC area. It would behoove the BLM to continue to provide the current level of public equestrian riding services in a repaired facility in order to show its relevance to this region of the country.

Sincerely,
Shep Crow

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]



07/26/2011 02:00 AM

To ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Public Concern for the Future of Meadowood

I am saddened that this letter is even necessary. My husband and I knew Mr. and Mrs. Lynch well. They were two of the finest people to ever grace our local community. The Lynch's truly desired those things in life that brought forth good for the entire community. Their generosity was unparalleled. Mr and Mrs Lynch loved Meadowood and the purpose that it served to all.

My purpose in writing to you is to plead for the continuation of public boarding at the Meadowood Special Recreation Area. My position is as follows: BLM refusing to make necessary repairs to the site is bad business, bad community support and awareness, and mismanagement of a proven entity. BLM has ignored prior promises made to repair this property. In fulfilling their prior promises of such repairs they would be creating support for the local economy, not to mention the value of the facility. There is a lack of appropriate boarding in this region already. This would appear to be the most cost effective approach and the only logical option under the current plans.

It is glaringly apparent that the number of publicly boarded horses needs to IMMEDIATELY be increased to at least **30!!** I can only assume that BLM's refusal to do so is one of many ploys to let this community facility FAIL!! It make no sense to limit and eventually do away with a facility that has such a strong public demand, can bring a better financial return for the US Government and quite frankly, if forced into failure, is sacrificing a minority woman-owned business. It is an outrage.

If boarding is brought back to 36 horses and the boarding is maintained at that scale, Meadowood would be providing the best financial outcome for this property. There is a substantial public demand that is being dismissed. The public asks for the repair and maintenance of Meadowood as a means of support to the community and the local economy. If the contractor was allowed to manage the equestrian facilities as a true business, including management of the pasture, ring scheduling AND ADMITTING NEW BOARDERS, it would clearly be a better use of our public resources. If BLM was taken out of the daily management of Meadowood (which they have expressed a clear desire to have done), the site would provide a better return on the investment for US taxpayers. If need be, the horses should be allowed to remain on the property during the promised repairs. As stated earlier, there is already a shortage of boarding in the area therefore leaving no place to relocate them. There is no evident danger to the horses if a minimal amount of management is arranged. A low cost option might be temporary stalls or even field boarding if planned appropriately.

It is evident that ANY proposal for a new barn would have to be made by an appropriate planning process and with appropriate corresponding funding. If the current amount of "scoping" is required for the stated current repairs...just imagine the amount of time and resources that would be necessary to plan and build a new one.



"Kim Campbell"

07/26/2011 07:57 AM

To <ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov>

cc <director@blm.gov>, <mike_pool@blm.gov>, <marciynn_Burke@blm.gov>, <janet_lin@blm.gov>

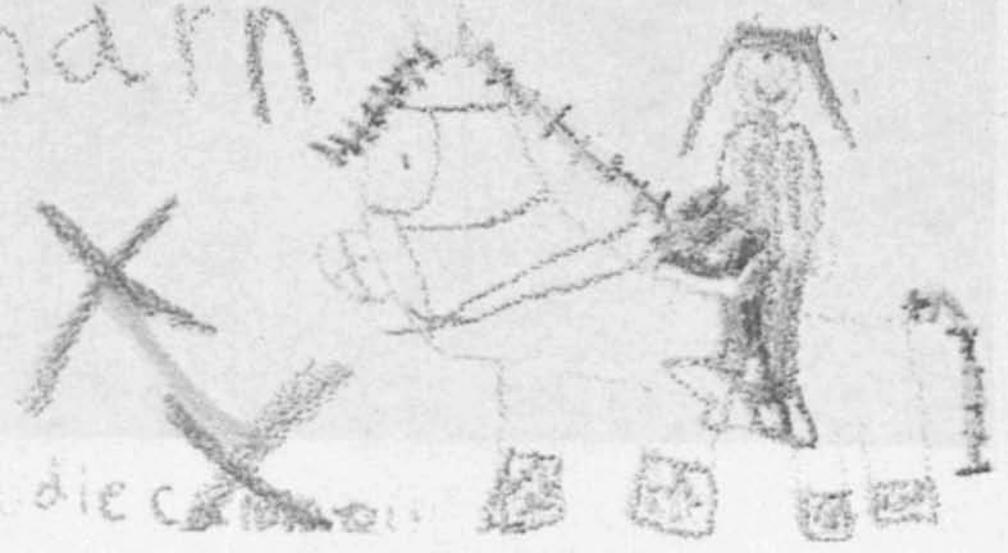
bcc

Subject The Stables at Meadowood Barn-Public Comment

My name is Codie Campbell and I am a public boarder at the Stables at Meadowood. I am 6-years old and have been riding for 2 years. My pony, Cupcake, is the smallest resident, with the biggest personality. The barn is 5 miles from our home – it is a beautiful, safe facility, which encourages the love of horses for all ages. I love talking to all my fellow boarders, as well as the other kids that take lessons. I am so happy the barn is only 5 minutes from our house so I can go to the barn almost every day to see Cupcake. If we had to move her to another barn, I would not be able to go every day, as my mom is busy with my brothers' activities as well. More of my friends could have the opportunity to ride a horse or keep their horse near their home if they could use the empty stalls. Allison Mills (she runs the barn) is my lesson instructor and I love her. She has taught me so much! Please help me keep Cupcake close to my house and allow Allison to continue to be able to teach me as I get older.

Thank you. Codie Campbell and Cupcake

Please let Cuddie
stay in her stall.
and please fix the
barn



Cuddie





The year, we were the winners of the county fair and we were
the first to win a ribbon for our horse. We were so proud
of our horse and we were so happy to go
to the fair and see our horse.

Thank you for the ribbon and the prize.



Robyn Megonigal

07/26/2011 09:26 AM

To ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov

cc

bcc

Subject keepourhorsesat meadowood

Dear BLM,

I have been at Meadowood with several different horses over the years, 26 years to be exact. We have enjoyed the rolling hills of the pastures, the green grass and clover the horses had to eat and the trails have been heavenly. What an answer to all the daily problems we face each day. I live in Arlington and when I get off work at 3:00 in the afternoon and head south on 95 and end up at the barn by 3:30 and spend time with my horse, it is time that recharges my mind and body.

My mother is not well either and I need to be close by in case I need to go home suddenly. This would not be possible if I were to take my horse any further down the road in any direction. Not to mention the time it would take, cost of fuel, extra traffic and not being able to get home in a hurry if my mother needed me.

My horse has not known any other home, I bought him as a 3 year old right out of the baby field and into the big field here at Meadowood. The horse I had before this one is buried in the horse grave yard.

I have been looking at other boarding situations for the past year, and there is nothing any where I would even think of taking my horse to.

With Laurel Hill plans to operate a public horse barn, building it from the ground up with the public in mind they will have an edge over you. Meadowood was built to support a boarding operation. Gene Thompson built this Meadowood with it in mind to make money boarding horses. And they made plenty of money boarding our horses. They got the horses in and out quickly, fed them, cleaned the stalls, the automatic waters worked well and we were provided a place to ride and train the horses. Horse trailers were kept here too because they go where ever the horses are.

I urge you to please save Meadowood for our horses, thank you. Robyn



ANNE GORHAM

07/26/2011 10:28 AM

To <es_meadowood@es.blm.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Save the Meadowood Barn

Hello BLM,

Do not put horse boarding out of business at Meadowood. Repair the current Meadowood barn and allow the current contractor to increase the number of boarders now on a waiting list. I am a Mason Neck community member and although I do not ride horses, I do enjoy and appreciate the beautiful horses and pastures each day. I want to see the preservation of this public land for future recreational use and environmental protection.

Public horse boarding seems to be such a logical use for the natural protection plus good fiscal management of the Meadowood property now and in the future, not to mention the community support it receives. By repairing the barn and allowing for an increase in the number of boarders, BLM would preserve and utilize the current barn facility to its full potential while increasing revenue for the site and make it self-sustaining.

Building a smaller, new barn does not make sense because of the limited number of boarders, and therefore limited revenue to support the facility. And, we already have a nice barn that with some improvements can be made even better!

Be a good neighbor and do what the community wants. Repair the Meadowood barn and allow for an increase in boarders. Thanks!

Anne Gorham



Chris and Laura
[REDACTED]

07/26/2011 11:06 AM

To ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov

cc Dave Albo <DelDALbo@house.virginia.gov>, "Congressman
Gerald E. Connolly" <VA11GCIMA@mail.house.gov>,
tpuller@aol.com

bcc

Subject Please Repair and Restore the Barn at Meadow Wood to full
capacity.

Bureau of Land Management-

To Whom It May Concern:

As a long time resident of Mason Neck we have watched the area change and yet maintain its character. The latter achieved with oft heroic efforts on the part of many of the residents and the supportive government representatives who understand deeply the importance of the sanctity of this reserve. When Congressmen Davis, Moran and Wolf fought valiantly and creatively to preserve the Meadowood farm through a unique land swap in 2001, BLM gained an exceptional treasure of amazing value.

It has come to our attention, again, that the main barn on the property needs repairing and the leading plan on the table is to tear it down, and build a smaller one in its place. You must first understand that although this area may seem laid back and casual I assure you the people here are thoroughly involved in the maintenance and preservation of Mason Neck and Lorton and in turn preserving a treasure for all of Virginia to behold and partake. The Stables and boarded horses at Meadowood are as intricate a part of this special landscape as the eagles, blue heron and foxes.

It would be our desire for BLM to do everything in its power to repair the barn and restore the number of boarded horses back to its previous potential. This will help maintain an income for the property, jobs for the locals, money into the community and harmony for all. And this would no doubt be the easiest course of action for you to follow.

We request this, not as horse owners or even riders but as those who support the affordable lessons offered by CAS, the valuable therapeutic program given by Simple Changes, and as folks who often hike the Meadowood trails and benefit from the maintenance offered by the volunteers from those programs.

Please repair and restore the barns to their full 36 horse capacity. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Chris Donaghy and Laura Douglas
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

CC: Congressman Gerald Connolly
Rep Dave Albo
Sen. Toddy Puller

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Project: *[Faint text]*

To: *[Faint text]*

Thank you for your interest in public input concerning the future of the *[Faint text]* facility. As a result of the following:

- Review the data provided for this project. Notices are to remain in the public domain.
- Review the location of publicly recorded records and address. Some of the records are not yet ready to be filed without further delay.
- Review public building of *[Faint text]* and other information.
- Advise the contractor to arrange for a location facility including a plan, management, and other related items, including new furniture.
- Return the data on location of *[Faint text]* and other information to the contractor for review and approval.
- Advise the contractor to arrange for a location facility including a plan, management, and other related items, including new furniture.
- Advise the contractor to arrange for a location facility including a plan, management, and other related items, including new furniture.
- Advise the contractor to arrange for a location facility including a plan, management, and other related items, including new furniture.

For approval to the following:

- Review the project location and building information.

[Faint text]

Scott Mills LEED AP
Sr. Project Manager

With over 20 years with a new look



[Faint contact information]



Rick Mills
[Redacted]
07/26/2011 11:53 AM

To "ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov"
<ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Meadowood Future

To whom it concerns,
I am responding to your request for public input concerning the future of the Meadowood Equestrian Facility. I am in support of the following.

- Repair the barn now without further delay. Horses are to remain while repairs are completed.
- Allow the increase of publicly boarded horses immediately. Allow the maximum amount (36) of stalls to be filled without further delay.
- Maintain public boarding at Meadowood indefinitely
- Allow the contractor to manage the equestrian facility including pasture management, ring usage, scheduling, and admitting new boarders.
- Return the areas of pasture that have been taken away for the "vernal pond" and "trail to nowhere". Clean up the mess that has been created by these projects and allow these areas to be used for horse grazing.
- Listen to and act on the overwhelming public support for continued boarding and lessons programs at this facility.
- BLM to act responsibly and be a good partner to the current contractor, the users of this facility, and this community.
- BLM to keep it's promise to repair the barn.

I am opposed to the following.

- Razing the current facility and building a new facility
- BLM's secret agendas, behind closed door dealings, and favoritism toward one user over the other.
- Earth Sanga and BLM's conversion of pasture land to other uses
- BLM's current ploy of minimizing boarding and starving the contractor
- More scoping meetings. Enough is enough. Get on with the repairs.
- Army caission's use and/or management of this facility

Sincerely,

Rick Mills, LEED AP
Sr. Project Manager

We're celebrating 50 years with a new look....



scott long
construction

A history of trust. A passion for building.

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]



Gillette [REDACTED]
07/26/2011 12:25 PM

To ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Meadowood

As one of the original boarders at Meadowood, I am appalled at the suggestion that the current horse barn be replaced by a smaller barn, when there is a waiting list for boarders, anxious to enjoy the beautiful grounds and facilities at Meadowood. Surely, down- sizing Meadowood was not the purpose when the "swap" took place.

One hardly knows where to begin in this discussion. But, here goes. First, why not increase the number of boarding horses when that would mean additional funding? If it costs more money for BLM to run the barn than they bring in, and there are empty stalls, why not allow the people on the waiting list to come into the barn???? Surely, there is money to be made on each horse. If that is not the case, the barn is not being run efficiently.

Why not repair the current barn? That must be less expensive than replacing the barn???? And, especially if the people on the waiting list are allowed into the barn as boarders and the current boarders do not have to move to temporary stalls (an additional expense) while a new barn is being constructed.

Why not get BLM out of the management business and contract management of the horse-related activities to the current manager. Is BLM really that interested in managing Meadowood???? Wouldn't a professional in the horse industry be better equipped to manage a horse boarding/training facility more efficiently?

Who really knows how much money is spent in the community by the people who board their horses at Meadowood. Certainly, the lack of boarders contributed to the closing of Booth Feeds. It seems fairly obvious that anyone who can afford to pay at least \$700/month to keep one horse boarded at Meadowood can afford to spend money at local restaurants, gas stations, and at other area retailers. Forcing these people elsewhere doesn't seem to make any sense (cents!).

I do not live in Fairfax County anymore. We moved our horses to Fauquier County years ago. Many, who live in Fauquier, say: Don't Fairfax, Fauquier. I would add to that. Don't destroy one of the last remaining beautiful areas in Fairfax County. Mason Neck, Gunston Hall, Meadowood....truly some of the very last treasures in a county that has become a mass of ugly concrete and cars. Alison Gillette



Janet Cole
[REDACTED]

07/26/2011 12:41 PM

To ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Proposed Meadowood Plans

To: Meadowood/BLM

As a 50 year resident of Mason Neck, I have followed the various uses of Meadowood very closely for a long time. I was pleased when BLM acquired the property, and I have been delighted with the efforts they have made to maintain and improve the land and encourage public use for recreation, education, and conservation. The presence of the horse facility has always seemed to me the best of all worlds to meet the professed goals of BLM: enhancing public use, offering a needed public equestrian facility that could be a source of income to help maintain the property, fulfilling Federal requirements for a wild horse/burro auction place on the East Coast, and providing space for much appreciated public services such as Simple Changes.

I was very disappointed with BLM's original plans for replacing the existing barn with a smaller one and restricting the public boarding of horses. The horse community on Mason Neck is an active one and supports many aspects of the community, from local businesses to meeting the environmental and historical goals this community has fought hard to sustain for many years.

I strongly urge BLM to make repairs as needed to maintain a full scale public boarding facility, probably by the use of a responsible concession, as is done on many Federal lands around the country. I urge BLM to continue to seek input from the local Mason Neck and the wider horse ownership communities to work out an equitable solution that will benefit all constituencies.

Janet Cole
Member, Friends of Meadowood
[REDACTED]



Andrew May

07/26/2011 02:54 PM

To "ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov"
<ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject: Saving Meadowood

Dear BLM Representative:

I am writing in response to public input concerning the Meadowood Equestrian Facility. Based on current discussions of future plans, I am in support of:

- Repairing the barn as soon as possible, and having the horses remain while repairs are completed as they have no-where to go
- Having the contractor manage the equestrian facility (pasture management, ring usage, scheduling, and admitting new boarders)
- Continued public boarding and lessons programs at this facility
- Allow the increase of public boarding to the maximum amount - 36
- Return the areas of pasture.

I am not in favor of razing the barn.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrew May
Centreville, VA



Jason Dunham
[REDACTED]
07/26/2011 05:00 PM

To "ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov"
<ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Saving Meadowood

To whom it concerns,

I am responding to your request for public input concerning the future of the Meadowood Equestrian Facility. I would like to express I am in support of repairing the barn now without further delay and allowing the horse to remain while repairs are completed. Allow the increase of publicly boarded horses immediately. Allow the maximum amount (36) of stalls to be filled without further delay. Maintain public boarding at Meadowood indefinitely Allow the contractor to manage the equestrian facility including pasture management, ring usage, scheduling, and admitting new boarders. Return the areas of pasture that have been taken away for the "vernal pond" and "trail to nowhere". Clean up the mess that has been created by these projects and allow these areas to be used for horse grazing. Listen to and act on the overwhelming public support for continued boarding and lessons programs at this facility. BLM should act responsibly and be a good partner to the current contractor, the users of this facility, and this community. BLM should keep it's promise to repair the barn.

I am opposed to the razing of the current facility and building a new facility.

Sincerely,
Jason Dunham



Tom Mulquin
[Redacted]
07/26/2011 05:06 PM

To "ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov"
<ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject: Request for Public Input

Dear BLM Representative:

I am writing in response to public input concerning the Meadowood Equestrian Facility in Lorton, Virginia. As a 23 year resident of McLean, Virginia and Fairfax County, I am in support of:

- Repairing the barn as soon as possible, and having the horses remain while repairs are completed as they have no-where to go
- Having the contractor manage the equestrian facility (pasture management, ring usage, scheduling, and admitting new boarders)
- Continued public boarding and lessons programs at this facility
- Allow the increase of public boarding to the maximum amount - 36
- Return the areas of pasture.

I am not in favor of razing the barn.

Thomas A. Mulquin 
Senior Project Manager

We're celebrating 50 years with a new look....

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]



07/26/2011 05:14 PM

To ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Saving Meadowood, public input requested

Sirs: I do not understand the problem. Your representative stated that at a stall fee of \$700 per month you were losing money. She did not say how much the loss was, but you should be making money. When my wife boarded our horse there the barn had 40 to 50 horses in it and there was a long waiting list. At present boarding fee levels 45 horses would generate about \$31,500 per month or about \$378,000 per year. Other barns in the area that are privately owned are able to operate at a profit, so I don't understand your problem. If for some reason you could not fill the barn then you could well be in trouble, but with the demand in this area like it is, you should have no trouble with being filled to capacity. I would venture a guess that if you were at less than half the potential {say at 20 or less stalls filled} then you could be at the break even point. I recommend that you retain the present barn, maintain as needed and have someone take look at your profit and loss statement. The construction of a new facility, I think you will find, will only add to your cost problems and may well lead you to abandon Meadowood which could be your hidden agendaThomas E. Kennedy, [REDACTED]



Grady Reese

[Redacted]

>
07/26/2011 06:27 PM

To [Redacted]

<es_meadowood@es.blm.gov>

cc [Redacted]

bcc [Redacted]

Subject RE: Concerns Involving Meadowood and BLM From A Citizen's Perspective

Although I don't have a dog (in this case, a horse) in this fight, I am curious as to what the BLM would do with the hundreds of thousands of dollars it charged boarders for the repair of the barn and stables. Would the funds (and the interest earned) be returned to the boarders? It seems to me that any other use of the funds would be unethical.

Grady

From: [Redacted]
To: [Redacted]; ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov
CC: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Concerns Involving Meadowood and BLM From A Citizen's Perspective
Date: Mon, 25 Jul 2011 18:31:15 -0400

Shep: I concur with your analysis and support your position for the future of Meadowood. Bill Munsie

From: [Redacted]] On
Behalf Of [Redacted]
Sent: Monday, July 25, 2011 11:57 AM
To: ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Concerns Involving Meadowood and BLM From A Citizen's Perspective

TO Bureau of Land Management Meadowood Study Chairman:

I find it inconceivable that the BLM would consider, under the economic conditions the Government is in at present, tearing the existing barn at Meadowood down and reducing the services it currently provides to the equestrian oriented citizens and surrounding community. Therefore, I strongly suggest that BLM repair the barn now rather than demolishing the current structure and building a replacement facility with fewer capabilities.

The BLM should be planning to increase the number of boarded horses to 35 and eventually plan to increase that capacity to 40 along with insuring that the currently provided services be maintained at the current level. For BLM not to take this course of action will show that the Bureau is not attune to public demand, is not aware of the impact not to do so will have a detrimental impact on the local economy and impervious to the fact that the government will have a better financial return.

Further, the BLM should not enter into the business of managing the Meadowood equestrian facilities and services in favor of allowing a private contractor assume these responsibilities. The government has proven repeatedly that it is not a good manager of similar endeavors and should not think any differently in the case of Meadowood.

Repair of the existing facilities should be planned to include allowing existing boarded horses to remain on the premises, The simple reason for this is that there is no place to relocate them while repairs are being conducted. The horses would remain out of danger with a modicum of management.

Finally, repair of the current facility would result in a minimum disruption of the equestrian services being provided by the current Meadowood staff of contractors, boarder owners of horses and numerous volunteers coming

from interested parties in the Lorton community.

Of note, the BLM is not an agency that is well known or understood in the eastern part of the United States and particularly in the Washington, DC area. It would behoove the BLM to continue to provide the current level of public equestrian riding services in a repaired facility in order to show its relevance to this region of the country.

Sincerely,
Shep Crow

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted text]



Allison Mills

07/26/2011 11:05 PM

To "Este Stifel (BLM)" <es_meadowood@es.blm.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject: Public comment on Meadowood

Dear Elynn,

BLM was entrusted with the care and use of a fabulous piece of property, rich with local history and surround by a community that cares about its future. It was the will of the people of this community that the property remain a horse based/related entity and that public boarding remain a component of this property. BLM has insured this specific use by incorporating boarding in its own approved Plan Used document, I hope as this "process" unfolds BLM understands and embraces the community's responses and takes the only course that is appropriate.

This is my response to your request for public comment on the use of Meadowood Stables. For the record I want:

1. BLM to repair the barn.

Why? BLM has the money that is to be used for deferred maintenance to repair the barn, and not build a new one. BLM collected/increased rates from boarders telling them it was to repair the barn. Major, needed repairs were not done

2. Allow the contractor to bring in new boarders.

Why? Without doing so BLM is directly effecting a certified women-owned business the ability to do the job BLM hired my company to do. Essentially you, BLM, is killing my business. BLM knew before my contract was signed that they were going to tear down the barn. That information was not put forward for the public during the RFP process/period and therefore should be conceived as non-disclosure. No one, including myself, would have bid on a barn that was going to torn down. I suspect that BLM already had the design for the new barn before the ink dried on my contract. The paper trail is there to follow.....

3. Return the pastures that were taken away.

BLM has systematically reclaimed pasture that was used to support the horse activity on the property. For many outsiders looking in it could look like BLM has some kind of master plan to eliminate horses by eliminating the pastures the horses require. And then in some cases the pastures were given to what could appear as pet projects-such as the vernal pond and the "reforestation" of Meadowood. None of these uses were in the plan used document.

Again, the Mason Neck community is rich with political activism, land use conservation and rallying around a cause. I know many of my neighbors have specifically written in support of repairing the barn and keeping boarding and horses on Meadowood.

On a personal note, I feel used by BLM. Had I ever know what I was walking into when I agreed to this contract (the non disclosure issue), me and my family would have never taken this on. What could have been a rich and dynamic relationship between BLM and my company has fallen into something unrecognizable and is slowly killing my business. It is my fondest hope that this issue turns around and that BLM wants a fruitful and mutually rewarding relationship with my company.

With all due respect,,

Allison Mills
CAS Company

1000 West 10th Street
PO Box 1000
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74101
Phone: (918) 438-1234

Dear Mr. Smith,

We are writing to you in regards to the hardware you purchased through our company from a store in Virginia.

Our company is pleased to have you as a customer and we hope you are enjoying the use of the hardware you purchased. We are sorry to hear that you are having trouble with the hardware and we would like to help you resolve the issue as quickly as possible. We will be happy to provide you with the necessary information and support.

Please contact our technical support department at (918) 438-1234. They will be able to assist you with the hardware issue. If you are unable to resolve the issue, please contact our sales department at (918) 438-1234. They will be able to provide you with the necessary information and support. We are sorry to hear that you are having trouble with the hardware and we would like to help you resolve the issue as quickly as possible. We will be happy to provide you with the necessary information and support.

We are sorry to hear that you are having trouble with the hardware. It is very frustrating to have trouble with the hardware and we would like to help you resolve the issue as quickly as possible. We will be happy to provide you with the necessary information and support. We are sorry to hear that you are having trouble with the hardware and we would like to help you resolve the issue as quickly as possible. We will be happy to provide you with the necessary information and support.

Our technical support department is available to assist you with the hardware issue. They will be able to provide you with the necessary information and support. We are sorry to hear that you are having trouble with the hardware and we would like to help you resolve the issue as quickly as possible. We will be happy to provide you with the necessary information and support.

We hope you are enjoying the use of the hardware you purchased through our company. We are sorry to hear that you are having trouble with the hardware and we would like to help you resolve the issue as quickly as possible. We will be happy to provide you with the necessary information and support.

Sincerely,

Allison Mills

Manager, Customer Support

Phone: (918) 438-1234

Email: amills@cas.com

Address: 1000 West 10th Street



Leslie Moore

07/28/2011 11:01 AM

To <es_meadowood@es.blm.gov>

cc Derek Moore

bcc

Subject Moore: In Support of Meadowood Stables

Dear Ms. Burkett,

We are writing to you in regards to the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area in Lorton, Virginia.

Our youngest daughter, Natalie, takes riding lessons at Meadowood under the guidance of Allison Mills (CAS Co.). What began with the constant begging for riding lessons from a six year old girl has become a wonderful Saturday afternoon for our entire family.

Natalie thoroughly enjoys her riding lessons with Allison. She has a natural love of horses and the riding lessons at Meadowood have been outstanding. Allison Mills teaches with command, compassion and a strong level of professionalism. Natalie has made wonderful progress in her lessons, but even more importantly she has gained confidence and discipline while enjoying riding. We were thrilled to find the riding lessons at Meadowood! We feel they provide a unique opportunity for Natalie and allow us to expose her to horses while not owning a horse ourselves.

We love being in the barn and seeing all the horses (and cats)! It's truly amazing to walk into the barn and see so many horses and learn their names and unique personalities. It adds to the riding lesson experience in that there are so many horses and you can see the owners taking care of them and going out for rides themselves. We've had the chance to speak with some of the boarders and they talk of their love of riding and how they started at a young age. They are good role models for Natalie and they explain the work involved in owning and caring for a horse.

Our entire family enjoys Meadowood and looks forward to our Saturday afternoons. We live in Alexandria, VA about a thirty minute drive from Meadowood in a townhouse with a tiny yard. Once we cross Route 1 onto Old Colchester Rd, we feel as if we have entered another world that reminds us of our roots in Texas. Our family has hiked many of the trails at Meadowood and fished at both Hidden Pond and Enchanted Pond. Meadowood has provided a setting that every member of our family enjoys and hiking has become a family activity that allows our girls to spend wonderful time with their father. Given the hectic, indoor and traffic-jammed lives that we live in Northern Virginia, Meadowood is a welcome respite for our family.

We hope that the Bureau of Land Management continues to make Meadowood and its wonderful stable and trail facilities open to the public and allow all families to enjoy a bit of nature at its finest.

Sincerely,

The Moore Family

Leslie and Derek Moore
Texas A&M - class of 1993

Katherine Moore - age 8
Natalie Moore - age 6



Lisa Robinson

07/28/2011 04:47 PM

To <es_meadowood@es.blm.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Please keep Meadowood open

Please keep the Meadowood Equestrian Facility open, by repairing the current facility. There are fewer and fewer facilities like this in our area, and after all Virginia is horse country and brings in many tourist dollars because of that. Riding is a relaxing but also physical discipline that encourages empathy for animals and conservation. Thank you, Lisa Robinson, Clifton, VA.

--



Dawn Scardina

07/28/2011 06:43 PM

Please respond to Dawn Scardina

To "es_meadowood@es.blm.gov" <es_meadowood@es.blm.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Meadowood Property

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Simple Changes community -- including clients, their families, volunteers and donors -- is delighted to be a part of Meadowood. We are grateful that BLM lets us use the barn and property. Services provided by Simple Changes are critical to local individuals with disabilities and necessary to the community at large -- as evidenced by Simple Changes' three year waiting list. We feel strongly that any barn structure -- new or refurbished -- needs to be safe for horses and humans. Simple Changes needs to continue operations at the facility during any construction or renovation process. Therapeutic riding is the only form of exercise for many of the clients and offers true public use. Any individual with a disability can get on the waiting list to ride Simple Changes' horses.

We would like to see a long-term plan for Simple Changes continued use of the facility -- so that this process does not need to be repeated in the near future. As therapeutic riding is part of the long-range plan for the property, supporters would like assurance that Simple Changes can continue to offer their valuable and necessary services to individuals with disabilities regardless of what entity is operating the facility.

Thank you for your time in regards to this matter.

Respectfully,
D. Scardina



"Kim Campbell"
[REDACTED]

07/28/2011 07:33 PM

To <ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov>

cc [REDACTED]

bcc [REDACTED]

Subject The Stables at Meadowood - Barn

To: Elynn Burkett, Lower Potomac Field Station Manager
Bureau of Land Management

From: Kim Campbell, Mason Neck Resident

Date: July 24, 2011

RE: Barn at the Stable at Meadowood

My name is Kim Campbell and I am writing in support of repairing the horse barn and continuing full scale public horse boarding at The Stables at Meadowood at Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area in Lorton, Virginia, under the direction of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Eastern States. I also support allowing the current barn contractor, Allison Mills (CAS Company), to continue her contract with an expanded role to oversee all horse-related operations at the Stables of Meadowood, including all other horse-related Special Recreational Permits (SRPs).

I am a Mason Neck resident and an avid horse-back rider. My two horses, Cupcake and Ed, currently reside at Meadowood. They have occupied their stalls since May and September, 2010, respectively. I was one of the last "new" boarders allowed into the barn as subsequently, BLM ceased allowing the barn contractor to allow vacant stalls to be filled off the waiting list.

At the June 28, 2011 public meeting, Elynn Burkett, Lower Field Station Manager, was adamant that our comments should be followed with reasons why. So here are my comments and the specifics underlying them:

1. Fixing the existing horse barn. Under all 3 assessments that were completed, the current barn is repairable. This is based in fact within all the reports. In 2008, the boarders were lead to believe that the monthly rate should be raised and a portion of the increase would be used to make repairs to the barn. This increase was approved at all levels, and the money has been raised over the course of three years, yet no significant repairs have been made to the barn. During the November 16, 2010 public meeting, a detail listing of the repairs that BLM had made to the barn using these funds was requested and never provided to the public. The significant repairs could be made with the balance of deferred maintenance discussed in prior meetings and as outlined in the barn assessment reports.

There is a belief among BLM that the current horses on the property could not be kept on the property during a period of repair of the barn. This is not true. On many occasions, the onsite staff at BLM have said they are not experts in the field of horse management and would actually prefer not to be involved at all. As far as I am aware, they have not consulted any expert in the field of horse management (their current barn manager, vets, trainers, etc.) to assess the proper care of horses during a period of

construction. My sister, Terri Young, is an expert horse woman and has her own training facility in Leesburg, Virginia. She notes that there are many options that can be used to accommodate the horses throughout a period of construction - from 24/7 turnout during mild months to temporary stabling tents, similar to those erected at long-term horseshows in Florida and Vermont, and in our own Upperville, VA and Washington DC during the weeks of the International Horseshow. In fact, BLM has 6 outside stalls that currently go unused, as well as equipment sheds that could be configured temporarily to house the horses.

2. Full-scale public boarding to be maintained with at least 36 stalls. There is a huge need for Meadowood as a full-scale public boarding operation, as documented by the 25 plus members on the current waiting list for a stall at Meadowood. In the Northern Virginia area, boarding facilities are disappearing at a rapid rate, with the most recent demise of Cedar Run in Woodbridge, VA, to development. Meadowood is a beautiful facility, close in to where I live. It is a short 10 minute drive from my home. If Meadowood were to cease the boarding operations, there would not be any other reputable horse boarding options in the area where I could board my horses. There has been talk about the "available stalls" in other horse boarding operations near Meadowood, but speaking from experience at having taken lessons at one, and boarded my horse at another, I would not even consider them as an alternative.

So much of horse boarding is in the care of the horses, as well as the barn and related facilities. No other horse boarding operation in the local area compares to the care that the current barn manager provides to my horses, nor do they have a barn with indoor arena, and beautiful fields for my horses to run in.

My specific concern also surrounds my 6 year old daughter and her pony Cupcake. Codie began riding in the lesson program at Meadowood at 4 years old. She LOVES going to Meadowood to care for and ride her pony. She is learning responsibility. She is learning compassion. She is outside and keeping active in a world where the average kid is watching TV 4 hours a day! Codie and I spend days on horseback together developing a bond that will aid us in the teenage years to come. I also have two other children that are active in the local community, from South County Little League to the I9 Basketball program. Having my daughter's horse-riding activities close to home is extremely important to me in order to be involved in my two boys' activities.

If horse boarding were to cease at Meadowood, either we would be forced to sell our horses or move them to a comparable facility that would likely be over an hour away. Whereas, now we can be to the barn in 10 minutes - the future may require us to spend two hours in a car to care for our horses. Not only does moving our horses take money out of the local community, the increased auto usage is detrimental to the environment in gas emissions.

3. Current horse management. The current management of the horse activities at Meadowood is broken up into various SRPs which BLM oversees. The horse boarding operations are managed by CAS Company. The SRPs for the therapeutic riding and lesson programs are overseen by BLM. At random times the Army Caisson horses are allowed to use the property by BLM and all other users are usurped. This disjointed process of horse management results in frustration by all the users. As noted above, the onsite staff at BLM do not care to be in the horse business. Therefore, it would be in their best interest to provide a long term vehicle under which the current barn manager could manage all the users of the facility in a clear and productive manner.

In conclusion, I note that the Bureau of Land Management's mission is "to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations." Maintaining public horse boarding at Meadowood meets all aspects of their mission - having boarding available to the horse riding public enables individuals to maintain a healthy outside sport (many people use horseback riding as a means to de-stress after a tough day at work), public horse boarding is a diverse use for BLM to promote on their lands, and the operation itself could be run productively and profitably. By committing to the use of public horse boarding, the Stables at Meadowood would be available for all current users as well as future generations - the land would be preserved as one of the only public horse boarding operations far into the future as more and more open land is turned in to development within the close-in Northern Virginia area.

Thank you.



Anna Gibson

07/28/2011 11:08 PM

To <es_meadowood@es.blm.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Comments for public scoping regarding Meadowood

Dear Bureau of Land Management:

I am writing you today to urge you to repair the existing barn at Meadowood. My reasons are as follows:

1. There is no time to do the necessary environmental assessment to build the new, smaller barn that was proposed last fall and, which according to BLM Staffer Jinx Fox, was really just a request for suggestions rather than an actual design process.
2. The current barn at its current size fills an important public recreational need by providing boarding. The BLM's own documents recognize public boarding as a licit recreational usage. There is no boarding facility in the region that could replace what Meadowood brings to the area. Jarvis and Old Colchester, the only two public boarding facilities within many miles of Meadowood, are substandard structures and have only a handful of stalls available. Their quality takes them out of consideration for most boarders anyway. Consider that Meadowood has a lengthy waiting list of 27 or so boarders willing to pay \$700 a month for a stall in the barn even before repairs when the other facilities are much less expensive. Even BLM's 2008 fee increase document acknowledges that these stables are not competitive with Meadowood.
3. It is the only thing you can legitimately do with the deferred maintenance money under FASAB 6, the rules which your expenditures are governed by. And you should know by now that the hundreds of people who have rallied to save Meadowood will want to actually see how this is spent.
4. It is the right thing to do. It is the implicit promise you made when you took over the property. It is what every public process has identified as what the public wants.
5. The flawed public processes around action on Meadowood - the June 28 purported scoping meeting was conducted like a Land Use Planning meeting rather than a NEPA meeting - mean that you'd have to start over to do anything else, meaning the money would expire. Since a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) could be easily obtained for the repairs, repair could begin as soon as it logistically made sense to do so.

I would also urge BLM to turn management over entirely to the barn manager the selected through the 2010 selection process, CAS Company. BLM could do this by merely adhering to typical government contracting processes, where any BLM staff would take performance issues up with the contracting officer (in Colorado in this case) but would not be involved in anyway in day-to-day operations of the barn.

I further suggest that BLM should move all of their administrative offices to the commodious accommodations on Belmont Road. That would solve their concerns about the public getting too close to their offices and being run over by errant BLM equipment.

Finally, I suggest that Simple Changes be moved to the old park service stalls, which offer wheel chair access, and that their field be restored. They could then build an arena for their exclusive use in the current BLM parking lot just in front of the Park Service stalls as it would no longer be needed for parking if the BLM offices were moved to Belmont. Simple Changes had previously secured donations to build an arena and I am sure they could do so again. This would provide the safest, most accessible environment for their riders and would resolve the issues around ventilation that concerned one couple at the meeting.

Sincerely,

Anna Gibson



07/29/2011 06:09 AM

To es_meadowood@es.blm.gov

cc [REDACTED]

bcc [REDACTED]

Subject BLM Equestrian facilities

As a long time resident of Mason Neck I support maintaining the equestrian facilities at Meadowood. It is important that the facility support a variety of community needs:

- Horse boarding in an environment when such facilities are facing closures;
- Lesson program to meet the needs of the community and introduce people to equestrian activities;
- Therapeutic riding to meet the needs of riders with disabilities.

In order to sustain these multiple uses, I request that BLM honor the wishes of the community as they have been expressed through multiple listening sessions and public comment periods over several years. We request that:

- The current structure be repaired using the funds available to do so;
- Continue the current contractor for horse boarding as it is well managed and effectively meets the needs of all of the users listed above; immediate raise the number of horses allowed under the contract to meet demand;
- Bring boarding back to 36 horses to meet the community demand (26 on the waiting list) and maintain public boarding on that scale;
- Maintain the horses on site during barn repairs through the use of run-in sheds or other temporary shelter options. The equine community lacks the capacity to absorb boarding for Meadowood horses on a temporary basis;
- To meet BLM preference for separate office space, consider using office space in the Belmont Rd. house, or a modular office similar to the one that BLM built next to the barn.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. I hope that the community comment will influence the final decision.

Marylouise Kelley

[REDACTED]



Melinda Freckleton
[REDACTED]
07/29/2011 06:12 AM

To es_meadowood@es.blm.gov
cc
bcc
Subject the barn at Meadowood

Hello,

As a local equine veterinarian, a user of the Meadowood trails and life long horseman, I would like to make comment regarding the debate on the horse facilities at the BLM's Lorton VA location. This facility currently houses three separate equine activities, that all have value to our community. I hope that the value of Simple Changes Therapeutic Riding does not need to be explained--the service they offer to people with disabilities is very important to a wide portion of this community. Safe, high quality riding lessons for the general public is valuable too, getting people out of doors to learn a sport that is a key part of our area's culture and identity. Boarding is also important and valuable, it is a service that is getting pushed further and further to the outskirts of the Northern Virginia area as open space is gobbled up by development and land values skyrocket. To my eye, one of the greatest things about the Meadowood equestrian community is that this mix of people and endeavors exists together in a true community. The love of horses and the great outdoors brings together a variety of people who might not otherwise have contact with one another. This community of wonderful people and horses has immeasurable value. However, the barn in which the community gathers does not. It is clear to me as veterinarian and a horseman that this building is outdated, worn out and likely to be impractical to repair. The current barn has stalls that are too small for the typical modern sport horse, and terrible ventilation that is inadequate for good equine, or human, health. The worn out footing in the indoor ring is dusty, uneven and sometimes slick, and the size proportions are not ideal for systematic and safe progressive training of the equine athlete. A larger, better proportioned ring would be better able to safely accommodate the mixed use community that now lives here. The structural, plumbing and electrical problems found in the engineering reviews confirm what a commonsense evaluation suggests: that this barn is past it's useful life expectancy. It would seem that the most reasonable solution is to build a new facility that would house all of the current functions, and maybe even more. The old barn could be used temporarily to keep this community alive and well while a new permanent home can be constructed. I hope that a solution can be created that will accommodate the entire community of horses, equestrian endeavors and programs that Meadowood currently has, and ideally would allow this community to grow and serve even more people and horses in a healthy and modern environment. While this type of facility may not be typical of BLM operations, the Meadowood horse facility is a valuable part of the local community and I hope that what ever decision is made, it will be allowed to grow and prosper in the future.

Respectfully,

Melinda Freckleton, DVM
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



"Linda Staples"
[REDACTED]
07/29/2011 06:47 AM

To <ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Repair barn

Please read attachment

----- Message from "Linda Staples" [REDACTED] on Fri, 29 Jul 2011 06:45:34 -0400 -----

To: "ES Meadowood@es.blm.gov"

Subject: Repair the Barn

As a 25 year resident of Mason Neck, I find the idea of stopping the boarding at Meadowood unacceptable. I feel the barn should be repaired and left open to the public for boarding. It is a huge part of our community. The contractor should be allowed to fill the empty spaces. The number of barns in this immediate area is shrinking. It is hard to find a place to board or take riding lessons. The public enjoys this barn and the property. So I'm for repairing the barn, increasing the number of horses and opening the property to clinics, horse shows, etc. so a larger portion of Fairfax residents (tax payer's) can enjoy a sport that has been a major part of Virginia's heritage.

Linda M. Staples

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



07/29/2011 08:04 AM

To ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Public Comments Related to the Meadowood Equestrian Facility

Good Morning,

Attached please find my comments in response to the most recent public meeting.

Regards, Jeanne Brider



Meadowood_Public_Comment_-29_July_11.pdf

Public Comment
BLM Meadowood Equestrian Facilities and Scoping Round 2

Jeanne Binder
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

29 July 2011

Bottom Line Up Front

- 1) Repair the current facility. Coordinate repairs to allow all horses to remain on the property and minimize disruption the lesson program and therapeutic riding program.
- 2) Continue public boarding at 30 – 35 horses.
- 3) Continue public lesson special recreation permit.
- 4) Continue therapeutic riding special recreation permit.
- 5) Under current arrangement have the contractor to manage the barn operations and BLM manage the contract.
- 6) If BLM Field Station Office and facilities cannot remain collocated with equestrian facility then move them elsewhere on the property.
- 7) Develop and receive public approval for a long range plan for Meadowood based on public input that minimally continues boarding at 30-35 horse, a public lesson program, and therapeutic riding. If the long range plan is to build a new facilities, site new facilities to allow old barn to operate until new barn is complete, and coordinate construction to allow all horses to remain on the property and minimize disruption the lesson program and therapeutic riding program.

What I love about Meadowood

- The sense of community. The people using the barn, the public that visit the barn, and with BLM personnel make up a wonderful diversified group that I have never experienced at a private facility. The barn is not tied to one discipline and allows many different trainers to teach there which allow people to experience and enjoy many equestrian activities. I have really enjoyed working with BLM people on various volunteer projects because it gives me a sense of belonging and I learn lots on interesting things. I really love interacting with people who come to the barn to see horses. Often the only people that are around to talk to these people are the boarders. A few particularly memorable interactions for me include introducing my horse to a young couple and having him in pose with them for their engagement photos, and introducing all the horses to very elderly lady whose husband had brought her out to see the horses, and listening to her tell fond memories of the horses she had ridden as a young girl.
- Lots of beautiful trails, and contributing to the construction and maintenance of those trails.
- I really appreciate that my horse is well cared for and that I don't have to worry about him when I am away or work prevents me from checking in on him.

- It is a tranquil oasis in the middle of a very high stress, fast moving area. After work, I can ride my horse on the trails and forget that I'm just a couple miles away from all the hustle and bustle
- I like that it is located in Fairfax County.
- The only thing about Meadowood I don't like is the stress, unhappiness, and strained relationships caused by BLM's actions and lack of openness with regard to the future of the barn. Sadly, as these events have unfolded, I have really gotten the sense that people in positions of power and influence at the Field Station, State Office, and possibly higher do not like the boarders and have not been open and honest about their plans, which so far have seemed designed to eliminate public boarding. I am hopeful, that current BLM management will correct this and see the value of having a balanced equestrian facility that includes boarders

Discussion

In June 2004, BLM issued the Meadowood Special Recreation Area (SRMA) Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Assessment. The plan authorizes activities for the Meadowood (SRMA) over the subsequent four year period. In the absence of new plan, this is the only public document available that reflects BLM's vision and future plans for the Meadowood SRMA. This plan clearly states the private horse boarding will be authorized along with other horse related programs. The 2004 plan specifically states that by allowing private boarding operation to continue at Meadowood, BLM is benefiting the Northern Virginia equestrian community by increasing boarding opportunities in a "highly urbanized area with scarce boarding resources."

While I think that it is wonderful that BLM is willing to consider replacing the upgraded facility with something better. I am not certain that they have the funds to replace the current barn and arena with something with at least the same attributes (e.g. number of stall, arena size, etc.) nor am I sure that deferred maintenance funds can be used to replace the current facility with something better. Additionally, I think that planning, obtaining funds, and constructing a better facility will take several years. If BLM decides to build a new facility, any activity to build a new facility should not shutdown the current operations and should be planned to cause minimal disruption to current operations, that is, there should be a smooth transition from old to new. It is my opinion that BLM should use the currently available deferred maintenance funds to address deficiencies and properly maintain the current facility. If a determination based on facts and through an open public process that a new facility of the same or better attributes should be constructed, then BLM should make the repairs necessary (e.g. roof, electrical) to the existing structure pending its replacement with a new facility that has at least the same number of stalls, same sized indoor riding, and same amenities.

I am concerned that the BLM's assertion that BLM has to subsidize the boarders is a very narrow view of the financial situation with the current management contract. The Stables at Meadowood is a multi-use equestrian facility that includes a therapeutic riding program, a public lesson program, and public boarding. The current management contract covers facility management responsibilities that benefit all of the facilities' users. Based on the management statement of work in solicitation #L10PS01765, some examples of management responsibilities

that benefit all users include: minor maintenance and repair of pasture fences, aisleways, plumbing, and lights; coordination with all users for shared areas, such as riding rings; clearing snow from the driveway, lots and barn access; cleaning of aisleways, buildings, wash stalls and restrooms; and dragging/grooming of riding rings. Since the management contract benefits all users, a determination as to whether or not BLM is subsidizing the management contract should be based on the revenue from all users of the multi-use equestrian facility at Meadowood. BLM also stated that they currently pay for water and electricity. The barn is metered for water; however, all users of the facility use the water, not just the boarders. The barn is not metered for electricity, so, all users of the equestrian facility and all the BLM facilities in that area use the electricity. By focusing on the difference between the per boarder stall amount the contractor is paid and the recreation fee the boarders pay, BLM appears to indicate that they expect the boarders to fully fund the management contract, thereby having the boarders fully cover the portion of the management contractor's work that benefits all users.

If there is no plan to build a smaller barn (e.g. one that allows for at least 15 boarders, the lesson program horses, and the therapy horses), and according to BLM no such plan currently exists, then it is very difficult to understand why BLM will not allow new boarders and leaves stalls empty despite a long waiting. It appears that BLM is actively trying to create a situation where the current contractor cannot succeed, and no contractor or concessionaire would be able to establish a long term workable business model for an equestrian operation at the facility. I cannot comprehend why BLM would be doing this unless they are not being open and honest about their intentions regarding the future of the facility.

BLM should be managing the contract for the equestrian facility, and not be involved in the day to day operations of the facility. In the past BLM personnel have chosen to get involved in daily operations and to direct management's actions. This has created a situation that has often put BLM in the position of working against contractor management and interfered with the contractor's ability to deal with the boarders in a fair and consistent manner. While BLM is reviewing other alternatives for managing the barn (e.g. a concession), they should ensure that they properly manage the contract to ensure that the contractor is performing in accordance with the contract without getting involved in daily operations and telling the contractor how to execute their responsibilities.

I don't understand why the field station offices can't be near the equestrian facility. Lots of Federal activities including parks have administrative offices located in areas with lots of public access and activity. However, based on their assertion of the need for separation, BLM should plan and budget for the relocation of the administrative offices. The Mustang Field area is one possibility, especially if the wild horse and burro facility is constructed. Another potential location is the current administrative building located off Belmont Road. BLM might want to consider expanding that facility to accommodate more offices and to provide improved facilities for the Environmental Education Program.



[Redacted]

07/29/2011 08:11 AM

To ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Public Comments previously submitted to BLM Regarding the Stables at Meadowood.

Good Morning,

I just submitted my latest comments, however, at the most recent public meeting it was not clear whether or not BLM has retained and planned to consider previously submitted public comments. In fact, it seemed that BLM may not have kept the previous comments for current consideration and suggested that they be resubmitted. So attached are my public comments submitted in response to past BLM meetings and actions.

Regards, Jeanne Binder



April_2011_Structural_Eval_Comments.pdf



Meadowood_Public_Comment_-_Subsidizing_Boarders_(2).pdf



Meadowood_Public_Comment_-_Barn_Repair.pdf

Public Comment
BLM Meadowood Equestrian Facilities

Jeanne Binder
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

8 May 2011

Questions and comments on the Arena/Horse Barn Structural Evaluation for Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area prepared by POZ Environmental, LLC and dated 26 April 2011

1. Why was an assessment made to extend the life of the current structure and upgrading it to meet IBC A or B class building requirements? The barn and arena are IBC class U structures. There is nothing in BLM's published public plans that would require some aspect of the facility to be upgraded (e.g. construction of an equestrian show stadium similar to the stadium at the show complex in Lexington, VA), which could be considered to be an IBC class A structure). Plans to upgrade the equestrian facilities to a horse show complex would require a separate public planning and approval process and funding other than deferred maintenance funds. Even if BLM is considering and gets approval through a public process to construct an IBC class A stadium, the barns for horses would most likely separate and classified as IBC class U structures.
2. What Federal, Department of Interior, or Bureau of Land Management instruction/document set the requirement as to whether or not and which IBC standards need to be met for an existing facility that is being repaired?
3. What public BLM plan for Meadowood SRMA includes providing "better public access for equestrian events" at the current equestrian facility? The June 2004 Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area Integrated Activity Management Plan/Environmental Assessment states "while large horse shows and events would not occur at Meadowood SRMA, the Proposed Action would increase opportunities in the Region for smaller, educational equestrian activities (e.g., 4-H, therapeutic riding clinics)."
4. I totally agree that remediating the structure without repairing the roof and walls to prevent water intrusion is inappropriate. Additionally, had BLM addressed the roof leaks, and water intrusion, years ago when they became the stewards of this public property and the magnitude of the problem was notably smaller, then the level of repair required to extend the building life 25 years at this point would most likely be significantly less. While I understand this is all water under the bridge, BLM's failure to address repairs in a timely manner indicates that they have not taken their responsibility as steward of this public property, and managing the property in accordance with BLM's published plans seriously. It is high time for BLM to step-up and act as proper stewards of the public equestrian facilities at Meadowood.
5. I also agree that it may be necessary to move the horses out of the barn during certain phases of the repair of the current structure. During this period, BLM can work barn management to provide temporary stall in the pastures or build shelters in the pasture and put the horse on temporary 24/7 turnout while providing a few stalls (e.g. the old police horse stalls) to provide barn management a way

to deal with injured horses or slow eaters or any number of good ideas to take care of the horses on Meadowood during construction. The project may also temporarily close the arena. Careful and proper project planning should minimize the amount of time the horses are out of the barn and disruption to special recreation permit program and boarders that utilize the arena.

6. In the report's conclusions and recommendation a list of repairs in order of need is provided. Why isn't addressing the water infiltration issues listed? Shouldn't this be top of the list of repairs? Why are electrical repairs so low on this list? Wasn't it previously expressed by BLM and others that the electrical system was a safety concern?

7. The cost estimates developed for the various alternatives that BLM asked POZ environment to examine provide good information to be used in developing a business case analysis to assist in planning and decision making. However, it is not clear exactly what end-state capacity characteristics of the facility were used or developing the estimates. However, since the estimates are presented in a comparative manner in the report, I can reasonably determine that regardless of the alternative chosen that facility will have pretty much the same capacity characteristics that the current facility, that is: a 25 year life; 48 stalls; an office for barn management; at least one ADA restroom; an arena of similar size; comparable tack and other storage; two wash stalls, etc.. If this is not the case then the report has a flaw which needs correction or at a minimum the report should clearly state what each alternative provides so the estimates can be adjusted for a proper side-by-side comparison.

8. Based on my reasonable determination that regardless of the alternative chosen that facility will have pretty much the same capacity characteristics that the current facility (see paragraph 7) the following spreadsheet compares the alternatives presented in the report side by side.

- a. It should be noted that there are several mathematical errors in the table on pages 12, 13, and 14. The first table below uses the numbers actually in the report. The second shows corrected figures.
- b. For the IBC upgrades, items that were addressed in the upgrade were deleted from the Alternative 1 estimate.
- c. Alternative 1 fails to address the leaking roof and walls, which is unacceptable, as clearly indicated in the report.
- d. Based on my rough comparison and my assumptions stated previously, from a purely cost perspective alternative 2, alternative 1A and Alternative 1 (IBCU) respectively are the most desirable option. However, an analysis of alternatives/business case analysis should include more than cost. Also, an understanding of what code requirements must be met and which are nice to have as well as which features are must have and which are nice to have will identify tradeoffs. Costs need to be kept within a lower budget. The other question that comes in to play when evaluating alternatives is what type of funding is available and what can it be used for. My understanding is that BLM has over \$800,000 in deferred maintenance funding to repair the facility. So depending on whether or not demolition of the barn and building of a new separate stable and arena is within the authorized use of deferred maintenance, alternative 2 may or may not be an option. Finally, there are other considerations, such as the impact on the authorized activities, contractor, boarders, and permit holders (riding lessons and the therapeutic riding program).

MEADOWOOD Preliminary Estimate Comparisons						
DESCRIPTION	ALT-1	Alt 1 IBC A or B	Alt 1 IBC U	ALT-1A	ALT-2	ALT-3
ARENA/BARN						
Demolition					\$49,891.00	\$99,781.00
Structural-Truss bracing	\$42,714.00			\$42,714.00	\$47,250.00	
Exterior Building Repairs	\$55,485.00		\$55,485.00	\$2,835.00	\$33,615.00	
Exterior Site Repairs	\$25,650.00		\$25,650.00	\$25,650.00	\$25,650.00	
<i>IBC Structural</i>		\$287,494.40	\$287,494.40			
Bathroom & Plumbing	\$17,985.00		\$17,985.00	\$17,985.00	\$17,985.00	
Utility/Storage Rooms/Office	\$10,463.00		\$10,463.00	\$10,463.00	\$10,463.00	
Sprinkler Sys. & Detection	\$118,982.00		\$118,982.00	\$118,982.00	\$73,620.00	
Horse Stall - Replace Watering Sys	\$64,222.00		\$64,222.00	\$64,222.00	\$62,618.00	
Horse Stall - New 12' by 12' Sys Stall					\$66,447.00	
Electrical	\$83,599.00		\$83,599.00	\$83,599.00	\$60,028.00	
Replace Existing Walls				\$61,695.00		
Replace Roof				\$297,633.00		
Add Windows				\$8,775.00		
<i>IBC Architectural</i>		\$114,340.00	\$114,340.00			
<i>IBC Roads/Paving/Walkways</i>		\$138,952.90				
<i>IBC Other</i>		\$455,322.84	\$152,690.38			
SUBTOTAL	\$439,099.00	\$896,110.14	\$930,910.78	\$754,553.00	\$467,566.00	\$99,781.00
Contingency@ 25%	\$109,775.00	\$224,027.54	\$232,727.70	\$188,638.00	\$116,891.00	\$24,945.00
TOTAL	\$548,874.00	\$1,120,137.68	\$1,163,638.48	\$943,191.00	\$584,457.00	\$124,727.00
New Stables A & B						\$681,898.00
New Arena-Open					\$211,635.00	\$211,635.00
New Arena-Excl. (Add)					\$72,153.00	\$72,153.00
SUBTOTAL					\$283,788.00	\$965,686.00
Contingency@ 15%					\$42,568.00	\$144,853.00
TOTAL New Work					\$326,357.00	\$1,110,539.00
TOTAL for Rehab. & New	\$548,874.00	\$1,120,137.68	\$1,163,638.48	\$943,191.00	\$910,814.00	\$1,235,266.00

MEADOWOOD Preliminary Estimate Comparisons						
DESCRIPTION	ALT-1	Alt 1 IBC A or B	Alt 1 IBC U	ALT-1A	ALT-2	ALT-3
ARENA/BARN						
Demolition					\$49,891.00	\$99,781.00
Structural-Truss bracing	\$42,714.00			\$42,714.00	\$47,250.00	
Exterior Building Repairs	\$55,485.00			\$2,835.00	\$33,615.00	
Exterior Site Repairs	\$25,650.00			\$25,650.00	\$25,650.00	
<i>IBC Structural</i>		\$300,888.40	\$300,888.40			
Bathroom & Plumbing	\$17,985.00		\$17,985.00	\$17,985.00	\$17,985.00	
Utility/Storage Rooms/Office	\$10,463.00		\$10,463.00	\$10,463.00	\$10,463.00	
Sprinkler Sys. & Detection	\$118,982.00		\$118,982.00	\$118,982.00	\$73,620.00	
Horse Stall - Replace Watering Sys	\$64,222.00		\$64,222.00	\$64,222.00	\$62,618.00	
Horse Stall - New 12' by 12' Sys Stall					\$66,447.00	
Electrical	\$83,599.00		\$83,599.00	\$83,599.00	\$60,028.00	
Replace Existing Walls				\$61,695.00		
Replace Roof				\$297,633.00		
Add Windows				\$8,775.00		
<i>IBC Architectural</i>		\$114,305.00	\$114,305.00			
<i>IBC Roads/Paving/Walkways</i>		\$88,056.20				
<i>IBC Other</i>		\$532,347.94	\$152,690.38			
SUBTOTAL	\$419,100.00	\$1,033,597.54	\$863,134.78	\$734,553.00	\$447,567.00	\$99,781.00
Contingency@ 25%	\$104,775.00	\$258,399.39	\$215,783.70	\$183,638.25	\$111,891.75	\$24,945.25
TOTAL	\$523,875.00	\$1,291,996.93	\$1,078,918.48	\$918,191.25	\$559,458.75	\$124,726.25
New Stables A & B						\$681,898.00
New Arena-Open					\$211,635.00	\$211,635.00
New Arena-Excl. (Add)					\$72,153.00	\$72,153.00
SUBTOTAL					\$283,788.00	\$965,686.00
Contingency@ 15%					\$42,568.20	\$144,852.90
TOTAL New Work					\$326,357.00	\$1,110,539.00
TOTAL for Rehab. & New	\$523,875.00	\$1,291,996.93	\$1,078,918.48	\$918,191.25	\$885,815.75	\$1,235,265.25

Public Comment
BLM Meadowood Equestrian Facilities and Scoping

Jeanne Binder
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 22070
[REDACTED]

19 Nov 2010

I am opposed to BLM's proposal to replace the current 46 stall barn and replace it with a 20 stall barn at the Meadowood multi-use equestrian faculty, thereby eliminating the public boarding program. I fully support the alternative to repair the current facility, retain public boarding, and develop future opportunities to increase public access to the BLM Lower Potomac Special Recreation Area for equestrian activities.

I am concerned that the BLM Field Station Manager's assertion that BLM has to subsidize the boarders is a very narrow view of the financial situation with the current management contract. The Stables at Meadowood is a multi-use equestrian facility that includes a therapeutic riding program, a trail riding program, a public lesson program, and public boarding. The current management contract covers facility management responsibilities that benefit all of the facilities' users. Based on the management statement of work in solicitation #L10PS01765, some examples of management responsibilities that benefit all users include: minor maintenance and repair of pasture fences, aisleways, plumbing, and lights; coordination with all users for shared areas, such as riding rings; clearing snow from the driveway, lots and barn access; cleaning of aisleways, buildings, wash stalls and restrooms; and dragging/grooming of riding rings. Since the management contract benefits all users, a determination as to whether or not BLM is subsidizing the management contract should be based on the revenue from all users of the multi-use equestrian facility at Meadowood. BLM also stated that they currently pay for water and electricity. The barn is metered for water, however, all users of the facility use the water, not just the boarders. The barn is not metered for electricity, so, all users of the equestrian facility and all the BLM facilities in that area use the electricity.

- By focusing on the difference between the per boarder stall amount the contractor is paid and the recreation fee the boarders pay to BLM, BLM appears to indicate that they expect the boarders to fully fund the management contract, thereby having the boarders subsidize the portion of the management contractor's work that benefits all users.

-I'm concerned that if a smaller facility is built and public boarding is no longer offered at the Meadowood multi-use equestrian facility. The remaining equestrian operations, therapeutic riding, and public lesson and trail rides will not have the resources (e.g. labor and equipment) to manage the facility as currently required by BLM. If this is the case, since BLM appears to be unwilling to subsidize the barn management contract, the programs may effectively be forced to leave Meadowood thereby ceasing all equestrian operations at the facility. This would constitute a dramatic departure from the current land use, and public access to the Lower Potomac Special Recreation Area. Alternatively, if BLM is willing to "subsidize" or take over management of the facilities for these two users, then why wouldn't they be willing to do it for boarders? All of

the equestrian activities at the facility cater to a segment of the public (e.g. handicapped riders, people who want to learn to ride, and horse owners) All have limited capacity to meet demand for public recreational/use opportunity they provide. Why would BLM give preference to one user over another?

December 14, 2010

- I understand that the current management contract's structure creates a disincentive for BLM to allow the current barn management to fill the empty stalls. However, the contractor's proposal which was accepted by the government is based on a guarantee of only 15 stalls. Additionally, the bulk of the contractor's expenses are fixed (e.g. labor). The terms of the contract require the contractor to be able to cover all fixed costs, plus the per stall variable cost over 15 stalls to remain profitable. As an alternative to building a 20 stall barn, not renewing the management contract, and eliminating public boarding, BLM could repair the current barn and propose a contract modification to the contractor that would request a lower per stall payment in consideration for increasing the minimum number of guaranteed stalls from 15 to 25 or 30.

- I also believe that the government is acting in bad faith with the contract, in that with only a few months after the award BLM began a contracting process to build a barn which would not meet the minimum stalls promised in the contract, despite awarding a one-year contract with four one-year options. While understanding that it is the government's right to not exercise options, it seem disingenuous to award this type of contract, thereby creating the expectation from the contractor that this is a multi-year effort, with no intention of exercising the options.

Public Comment
BLM Meadowood Equestrian Facilities and Scoping

•Jeanne Binder

December 14, 2010

7877 Grammer Lane
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

In June 2004, BLM issued the Meadowood Special Recreation Area (SRMA) Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Assessment. The plan authorizes activities for the Meadowood (SRMA) over the subsequent four year period. In the absence of new plan, this is the only public document available that reflects BLM's vision and future plans for the Meadowood SRMA. This plan clearly states the private horse boarding will be authorized along with other horse related programs. The 2004 plan specifically states that by allowing private boarding operation to continue at Meadowood, BLM is benefiting the Northern Virginia equestrian community by increasing boarding opportunities in a "highly urbanized area with scarce boarding resources." It is worth noting that the numbers of boarding facilities in this area have continued to decrease since this report was published. The plan indicates that the number of boarders may be decreased through attrition to provide room for Equestrian Partners. This has already been done to include a therapeutic riding program and a public lesson program. While much of the BLM's improvement at the Meadowood SRMA appears to be consistent the 2004 plan (e.g. the implementation of an environmental education program, and trail development), BLM action with regard to multi-use equestrian facility does not appear to be consistent with the plan. While I understand that there may be some delay in implementing aspects of this plan due to funding, and some minor variation in the implementation, BLM's currently suspended 'proposed action' to replace the current 46 stall multi-use equestrian facility with a 20 stall facility and effectively ending the private boarding program clearly demonstrates a total disregard for the 2004 plan when it comes to continuing private boarding as an equestrian activity at Meadowood. In addition, BLM has made no effort to follow through on other equestrian concerns. The plan called for the development of a manure composting system; to date there is no manure composting system or indication that one will be implemented. The plan states that BLM would fertilize, seed and cross-fence pastures for a rotational grazing program to mitigate environmental impacts. BLM has not fertilized or seeded the pastures since acquiring the property. While they have installed new fencing to reduce the size of the pasture and create a riparian buffer in some areas, they did not cross-fence the pastures to allow for better management and rotational grazing. In fact, it appears that reduction of pasture size, failure to fertilize and seed the pastures, and the failure to cross-fence has made it impossible to manage the pasture in accordance with the 2004 plan and has resulted in the accelerated deterioration of the remaining pasture. The plan also includes the construction of an outdoor ring that could be used for wild horse and burro adoptions, educational programs such as 4-H and pony club, day shows, training clinics, and outside public use, but not for larger horse shows and events for the general equestrian public. Despite, strong support from the local community for a ring in the mustang field area, no ring has been planned or built.

BLM's Division of Architecture and Engineering Services published a report of Alternatives for Arena/Stable Rehabilitation, Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area in April 2008. Despite the "suspended procurement" watermark on the document posted by BLM on their website, this plan does not include an alternative for the 20 stall barn that is the current suspended procurement. Based on this, it appears that BLM chose not to pursue any of the alternatives proposed in this report, and developed another alternative. The report outlines the following corrective actions: installation of fire suppression or detectors (the report indicates the existing structure can handle the additional weight); replacement of lighting with efficient, weather proof lighting; replacement of the power panel with a correctly sized panel; replacing electrical conduit and fixtures with water/weatherproof runs and fixtures; updating restrooms to include ADA compliance; replacing the automatic watering system; and installation of additional bracing for trusses and joists. The report also notes that the roof leaks and addresses it in its alternatives. I strongly believe that if a decision is made to repair vice replace the current facility, that the roof must be repaired to prevent future deterioration. The report offers four alternatives to address the condition of the current structure: two to repair; one to modify; and one to replace. Repair Alternative 1-A is more desirable because it addresses the roof. At the November 16, 2010 Public Meeting, BLM indicated that they did not have sufficient funds for this alternative. Keeping the 25% contingency intact, BLM could de-scope this alternative to get within the \$875,000 budget (provided at the meeting) by deferring replacement of the automatic waterers, and not adding windows. The waterers and windows are nice to have, but not necessary. The waterers could be replaced with future deferred maintenance funding. Modification Alternative 2 does not address the roof. If the cost of the roof repair is added to this alternative, it appears to be less desirable than repair Alternative 1-A. Finally, BLM does not currently have sufficient funds for the alternative to replace the 46 stall facility with an equivalent 46 stall facility. If BLM determines that replacement with an equivalent facility is the best long range alternative and they cannot obtain the additional funding required in the short term, then they should consider proceeding with Alternative 1-A, and follow their departmental processes for planning and budgeting for the construction of a new facility that is equivalent or better than the current facility to meet the future vision for the multi-use equestrian facility. The authors also suggest turning all the buildings in the complex over to the equestrian facility concessioner /contractor and moving the administrative offices elsewhere (e.g. mustang field area). This desire to separate the administrative offices was also express by BLM at the November 16, 2010 Public Meeting.

The December 3, 2010 Horse Barn Assessment prepared by POZ Environmental, LLC (under contract from BLM) based on their November 29, 2011 inspection of the facility to assess health and safety hazards concluded with no immediate risk to safety or health identified. This assessment outlines the current conditions of the facility, identifies some concerns, and recommends further action. With the notable exception of the trusses ability to support a fire suppression system, this report seems to be generally consistent with the April 2008 report prepared by BLM. They do identify an immediate need to repair one truss. They also recommend installation of ground fault circuit breakers. Within the report there are several critical unsupported statements regarding shortcuts and a lack of consideration for safety in the construction the facility. While I respect the professional credentials of these engineers, it is not clear on what basis these statements are made. As written, the statements appear to be somewhat subjective and are not quantified. Is POZ Engineering alleging that the structure was

not built to the local codes and regulations in place for such structures back in 1976, or are they merely noting that this facility does not meet current standards? The report also states that "as time progresses, the maintenance of this structure is expected to be costly and inappropriate." The report offers no finding of fact or business case analysis to reach this conclusion nor an explanation of the terminology 'inappropriate.' Any position on the 'appropriateness' of maintaining the current facility should include consideration of the June 2004 Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Assessment. Based on the 2004 plan's discussion of boarding and equestrian activities, a determination needs to be made whether to completely repair and maintain the facility or to perform minimal repairs while a new equivalent or larger/improved facility is constructed.

In the absence of a more current, publicly-vetted plan, BLM decisions regarding the future of the multi-use equestrian facility should remain consistent with the 2004 plan. Based on this information and the other documents provided on BLM's website. I recommend the following:

- At a minimum, the current facility should be repaired, have deficiencies addressed, and be properly maintained. If a determination based on facts and a business case analysis concludes that long term repair and maintenance of the facility is not economical, then BLM should make the repairs necessary (e.g. roof, ground fault circuits, and truss repair) to the existing structure pending its replacement with a new facility that has at least the same number of stalls, same sized indoor riding, and same amenities.
- Cross-fence pastures to allow for better pasture management and rotational grazing. Work with contractor and SRP holders to improve pasture allocation and management to ensure their long-term health.
- Fertilize and reseed the pastures.
- Implement a manure composting system.
- Integrate practical environmental systems and practices at the multi-use equestrian facility. Perhaps this site could be a demonstration site that provides good ideas for regional farm owners to observe in action and possibly take home and implement.
- Build an outdoor ring, or better yet, a covered or indoor ring in the Mustang Field area that can be used for equestrian and other activities (e.g. dog agility) per the 2004 Plan. This location takes advantage of existing trailer and overflow parking areas.
- Plan and budget for the relocation of the administrative offices. The Mustang Field area is one possibility, especially if the wild horse and burro facility is constructed. Another potential location is the current administrative building located off Belmont Road. BLM might want to consider expanding that facility to accommodate more offices and to provide improved facilities for the Environmental Education Program.



Corinne Conner

07/29/2011 10:21 AM

To "ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov"
<ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Equestrian Facility Use

To Whom It May Concern:

Central and Northern Virginia, as well as Southern Maryland are steeped in equestrian culture and tradition. As the demand for land in Fairfax County continues to push back the amount of space available for recreational use, horse enthusiasts are finding fewer places to keep their equine partners and access public lands for sport and pleasure.

It is in our community's best interest to keep The Stables at Meadowood a multi-use facility available for public lessons, therapeutic riding and boarding for members of the community. In addition, current restrictions to the facility should be lifted so that other horse owners have access to rings for schooling, lessons with private instructors and clinics.

It is important that the Bureau of Land Management repair the existing facility to address the existing structural deficiencies, update the electrical system, install proper ventilation and improve accessibility for people with limited mobility.

In the future, through generating revenue, private donations and other types of fund raising it is possible to expand the facility to create a separate covered and lit riding arena and to provide additional stall space. This will increase the amount of space available for riding so that contractors, concessionaires and other businesses are able to expand for greater profitability.

While considering this position, please remember it is in everyone's best interest to support BLM's mission to provide greater access to public lands, including the equestrian facility at Meadowood.

Thank You,
Corinne M. Conner

Sent from my iPad



[REDACTED]
07/29/2011 11:50 AM

To ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Comment - Please do not publish or disclose identity of commentator

Subj: Comment - Please do not publish or disclose identity of commentator

PLEASE DO NOT DISCLOSE THE IDENTITY OF THIS CONTRIBUTOR

To: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

There could be a missing voice to this comment process. In November of 2010 I attended a BLM community meeting where I witnessed the verbal abuse of hard working and dedicated U.S. Government employees. The audience appeared to be "crazy with anger" and it was frightening for me witness. At the time I felt that this irrational anger was possibly politically based hatred of environmentalists boiling over and lashing out at these local managers who were so vulnerable. The point I wish to makes is that because of fears of retaliation from militant horse owners, The BLM is probably missing comments from those who would support the managers of Meadowood's past actions.

I feel that the U.S. Government does not have the responsibility to provide private horse stalls to the powerful in a community. The Bureau of Land Management may chose to continue the private boarding of horses because private horse owners bring more resources to the BLM mission than they cost, but this was probably NOT the case at Meadowood after witnessing the anti-environmental backlash at the November meeting. The horse owners were more likely preventing managers from carrying out the stated policies and even the mission of the Bureau at Meadowood because of their hostility to environmental concerns.

A few years ago I attended a "Friends of Meadowood" meeting where Earth Sangha was giving a presentation of their program to plant native plants at Meadowood. In my opinion this was cutting edge environmental stewardship and the management at Meadowood were due AWARDS, not criticism. Further, I was told by another public lands manager that Jeff McCuster was a "trail building genius." And, Meadowood's management's good influence extended beyond the boundaries of Meadowood. It is my opinion that we on Mason Neck were robbed of this outstanding management team who had even educated the managers at the adjacent Pohick Bay Regional Park on building horse trails with the least degrading environmental impact.

I wish for you to keep my identity off the Internet for fear of retribution from others in the local community who I must live beside long after this process is complete.

Thank you
[REDACTED]



07/29/2011 12:11 PM

To ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Comment to Scoping process

To: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

Please see attached. [REDACTED] Attached are the comments of CEDS and Richard Klein. In the attachment he mentions "The Friends . . ." but there is no "Friends" group - I was affiliated with a "Friends of" group when we worked together some years ago but the group no longer exists.

The Web site for his company includes a short biography on Mr. Klein. Here is the link to his background information:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Thank you
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE SERVICES

Richard D. Klein, President
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

July 19, 2011

E. Lynn Burkett, Manager
Bureau of Land Management
United States Department of Interior
Lower Potomac Field Station
10406 Gunston Road
Lorton, Virginia 22079

Dear Ms. Burkett:

The United States Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administers the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). BLM is studying options for upgrading the barn/arena building and 48-acres of associated pastures/paddocks.

[REDACTED] The Meadowood facilities provide many important benefits to the residents of Mason Neck, the equestrian community, and the many inner city youth who would not otherwise experience the joy horses can provide. Following are specific opportunities critical to continuing to reap the benefits of Meadowood, but without jeopardizing the fragile environmental resources which make Mason Neck such a special place.

HORSE STOCKING LIMIT

The assessment must begin by identifying how many horses can be accommodated without causing an undue impact to fragile environmental resources. Various guidelines have been established with regard to stocking rates. For example, in *Agricultural Management Practices for Commercial Equine Operations*¹, Rutgers University recommends the following limits on pasture use:

¹ *Agricultural Management Practices for Commercial Equine Operations* is available online at: <http://esc.rutgers.edu/downloads/e296a.pdf>

<i>One Horse Per...</i>	<i>If daily turn-out time is...</i>
Half-acre	less than three hours
One acre	three - eight hours
One and one-half acres	eight - twelve hours
Two or more acres	unlimited

However, the stocking rates given in the preceding table are intended to maintain 70% or higher vegetative cover on pastures. The Friends do not believe that 70% is an appropriate standard. Given the highly-erodible soils, steep slopes, and sediment-sensitive waters of Mason Neck, the stocking limit should be established to maintain 100% vegetative cover.

Fortunately this standard is already being achieved on the two pastures (fields) presently in use at Meadowood. These are the 19- and 11.5-acre pastures shown in the map on the next page of these comments. Both pastures have a very thick, 100% vegetative cover. The scoping document should include an element requiring a determination of appropriate stocking rates to maintain 100%, lush vegetative cover. A similar stocking rate should be developed for paddock areas as well.

ONSITE SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM

The second paragraph on page three of *Alternatives for Arena/Stable Rehabilitation Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area Lorton, VA*² states that as of 2008 the septic system serving the barn/arena was not working. If this is still the case then essentially raw sewage is being released into the environment.

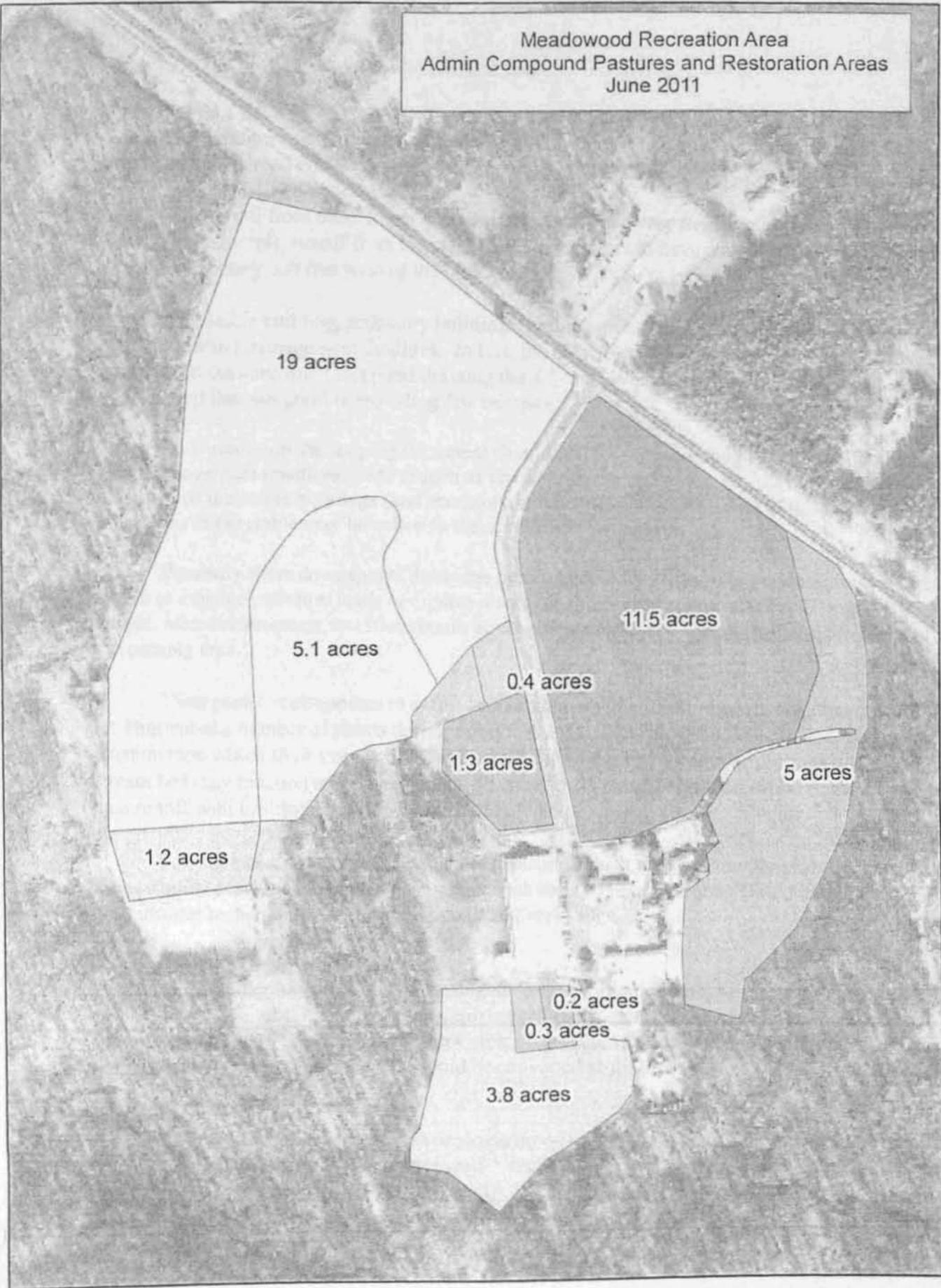
BLM should replace the failing system with a state-of-the-art facility. A reasonably priced system can reduce the normal 60 milligram per liter (mg/l) nitrogen content of wastewater to 4 mg/l.

MANURE MANAGEMENT

It appears that horse manure is presently being stored in dumpsters and roll-offs, some of which lack a cover or roof. As a result, large quantities of organic matter could be washed into Thompson Creek during major storm events. The scoping document should include an element to identify an environmentally responsive approach for manure management at Meadowood.

² *Alternatives for Arena/Stable Rehabilitation Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area Lorton, VA* is available at: http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/es/es_media_library/alternatives_for_stable_Par.27863.File.dat/Alternatives%20for%20Stable%20Rehab%202008.pdf

Meadowood Recreation Area
Admin Compound Pastures and Restoration Areas
June 2011



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

The stable building covers an area of about 25,000 square feet. The other buildings, parking areas and access road double or triple this impervious area.

The runoff from these impervious surface is having a very negative impact on Thompson Creek. For example, runoff from the stable building appears to have caused a large gully to form along the tributary 200 feet west of the building.

The stable building, accessory buildings, parking areas and the access road all appear to lack stormwater management facilities. In fact, the only stormwater facility serving the area seems to be the very small wet pond draining the 5.1- and 19-acre fields (aka Field #2). It appears that this wet pond is providing few benefits.

At a minimum the scoping document should call for consideration of highly-effective Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as dry wells at the end of the 10 - 12 downspouts on each side of the stable buildings (and accessory buildings). Soil survey data indicates that conditions at the stable may be suited to these infiltration measures.

Presently these downspouts discharge onto splash blocks then onto pervious areas with no BMPs to manage pollution loads or erosive discharges before the runoff reaches Thompson Creek. Microbioretention facilities should be considered along the access road and the edges of the parking area.³

Thompson Creek appears to suffer from extremely low flows. In fact, the stream was intermittent at a number of points during a July 17, 2011 site visit. This is likely due to natural phenomenon which limit storage of infiltrated rainfall in the soil column or portions of the stream bed may function as "losing" areas. In either case, managing Meadowood impervious area runoff with infiltrating BMPs would certainly help.

Consideration should also be given to measures which improve the permeability and water storage capacity compacted pasture/paddock soils. These measures would increase groundwater recharge then inflow to Thompson Creek.

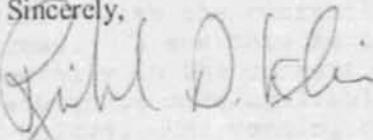
REFORESTATION

Forest can go a long ways towards mitigating the impact of impervious surfaces and other sources of aquatic resource impact. Maximizing reforestation is particularly important given the lack of groundwater inflow to Thompson Creek. The scoping document should call for identification of additional areas that could be converted to forest.

³ Microbioretention facilities drain no more then one-half acre, but are otherwise the same as conventional bioretention facilities, such as that described at: vwrrc.vt.edu/swc/april_22_2010_update/DCR_BMP_Spec_No_9_BIORETENTION_FinalDraft_v1-8_04132010.htm

Should you require any additional information regarding these comments, please contact me at Rklein@ceds.org or 410-654-3021.

Sincerely,



Richard D. Klein





07/29/2011 01:32 PM

To es_meadowood@es.blm.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Meadowood Equestrian Center

I am writing to support the renovation of the existing Meadowood barn and facility with the currently budgeted funding which would not require a NEPA process. I see this as the most reasonable use of the facility and funds, especially in the current economic situation where additional funds are not likely to be made available and any unnecessary step in the process adds cost and delays. The vending or contractor status should be changed to remove the requirement that no new horses be added after attrition. Such a requirement is destructive to any business and changes the nature of the facility. Meadowood provides significant service to the community, including the clients of therapeutic riding. It needs to remain as is or to expand to meet demand.

Fairfax County is in the process of significant urbanization. The loss of land and facilities that are suitable for horses is an increasing problem. Horses have always been a part of the county heritage and citizens have counted upon Meadowood as one of the last remaining large facilities. It was anticipated that BLM would honor that expectation.

Jean Voss
President Clifton Horse Society
Board Member, Fairfax4Horses



[REDACTED]
07/29/2011 03:44 PM

To ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Meadowood public input request

Dear BLM leadership,

As a brief background, our family has lived on Mason Neck since 2007, and we love having the Meadowood property so close to us. Our daughter currently takes riding lessons at Meadowood through CAS Company, and we as a family regularly use the walking trails through the property. Meadowood is a very valuable natural asset in an increasingly congested area, and we want to see it continue to serve both the equestrian community and the general public.

To support this goal, we urge the BLM to repair the existing barn as soon as possible instead of tearing it down and building a new one. It makes no economic sense to spend more money to build a smaller facility, especially since the barn can be brought up to IBC standards with existing funds. Since the BLM is concerned that it costs more to run the equestrian facility than it is currently making, we feel it's important to immediately increase the number of horses boarded at Meadowood to the barn's maximum capacity; there is simply no good reason not to. The increased revenue will give Meadowood positive cash flow. Also, the boarders and their horses bring money into the Lorton community through their patronage of grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants, etc. We would also like to encourage the BLM to allow the current contractor to manage the equestrian facilities as a business, which would accomplish the BLM's stated goal of not having to manage it. It would also be a better use of tax payer money.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our opinion regarding this matter.

Mark & Sally Poulsen
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Kathleen Kearns

~~kkearns@es.blm.gov~~

>

07/29/2011 04:41 PM

To es_meadowood@es.blm.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Barn

Hello,

I am a volunteer at Simple Changes. I have been volunteering there almost every Saturday that they have had lessons for almost the last three years and help out also during the week on occasion. I have seen how important their program is to the many riders I have observed and have seen how helpful the program is for the riders' progress. Volunteering also provides benefits to the volunteers as it provides an opportunity to help others and enjoy the wonderful Meadowood location. I attended the November 16, 2010 and June 28, 2011 BLM-Meadowood Scoping meetings and am aware of the equestrian facility alternatives being considered. I strongly recommend that whatever alternative is selected, that it allows for continued, un-interrupted Simple Changes operations at Meadowood as this is essential for the continued progress of each of the participating individuals. Continued Simple Changes operations will also help mitigate the risk that an individual's progress may regress if they need to be out of the program for any length of time.

The Simple Changes community -- including clients, their families, volunteers, and donors -- is delighted to be a part of Meadowood. We are grateful that BLM lets us use the barn and property. Services provided by Simple Changes are critical to local individuals with disabilities and necessary to the community at large -- as evidenced by Simple Changes' three year waiting list. We feel strongly that any barn structure -- new or refurbished -- needs to be safe for horses and humans. Simple Changes needs to continue operations at the facility during any construction or renovation process. Therapeutic riding is the only form of exercise for many of the clients and offers true public use. Any individual with a disability can get on the waiting list to ride Simple Changes' horses.

We would like to see a long-term plan for Simple Changes continued use of the facility -- so that this process does not need to be repeated in the near future. As therapeutic riding is part of the long-range plan for the property, supporters would like assurance that Simple Changes can continue to offer their valuable and necessary services to individuals with disabilities regardless of what entity is operating the facility.

Thanks for your Consideration,

Kathleen Kearns

~~788-101-8888~~



07/29/2011 04:54 PM

To ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Comments - Meadowood

Lower Potomac Field Station
BLM scoping comments July 2011.docx

1080F Gunston Blvd
Lorton, VA 22079

Thank you for the BLM's "scoping" meeting recently held in Lorton, VA to provide comments on the BLM plan for the Meadowood study. The following represents some of my comments. In addition to these comments and other made in writing, I have made verbal comments as well at the past and upcoming meetings held by BLM.

First, I am more than concerned that local BLM employees are taking steps to limit or delay the process of public participation and BLM's stated commitment to change its practices revolutionarily and heavily-needed ways at Meadowood over the next years. Local BLM employees are making up their mind and making decisions with no consultation or adherence to the studies, regulations, and policies developed by those either elected by the American people or authorized by the US Senate at political appointments.

At the past two, heavily attended meetings (attended by the majority of the public) that to anyone's credit support the repair of the stable for public housing, local BLM not only ignored the public outcry, but tried to undermine and disrupt the process and remake it into a BLM-led exercise. Local BLM employees have broad ideas and goals, with the effect of wasting and diverting the time and money of a great deal of earnest and diligent members of the local public. I believe the local BLM employees' failure to inform the public of its own repetitive plans for repeated implementation of Meadowood and the resulting scope of the BLM/215 land use decision for Meadowood, even though it was in fact the public's request about the status of the study, will be a major concern for the public. I think it is important for the public that as part of the local planning process, BLM at least release a draft report regarding its views on repeated implementation of Meadowood.

Shellyn McCaffrey

~~1234567890~~
~~Alameda VA 22314~~

July 28, 2011

Lower Potomac Field Station
Bureau of Land Management
10406 Gunston Road
Lorton, VA 22079

Pursuant to the BLM's "scoping" meeting recently held in response to public demand that BLM repair the Meadowood stables, the following represents some of my comments. In addition to these comments and others made in writing, I have made verbal comments as well at the past two meeting held by BLM. .

First, I am more than chagrined that local BLM continues to take steps as late as today to thwart the process of public consultation and BLM's verbal commitment to change its secretive, exclusionary, and heavy-handed ways at Meadowood over past years. Local BLM continues to make *ad hoc* land and facility use decisions with no foundation or adherence to the statues, regulations, and policies developed by those either elected by the American people or confirmed by the US Senate as political appointees.

At the past two, heavily-attended meetings intended by the majority of the public there to express ardent support for repair of the stable for public boarding, local BLM not only ignored the public outcry, but tried to dominate and suppress the process and remake it into a BLM-led exercise regarding non-germane broad ideals and goals, with the effect of wasting and diverting the precious time and goodwill of earnest and decent members of the taxpaying public. I believe one low point was local BLM's failure to inform the public of its own secretive plans for capital improvements at Meadowood and the maturing status of the RMP/EIS land use process for Meadowood, even though a member of the public asked specifically about the status of the vast public support for boarding expressed during the scoping meetings of the RMP/EIS held in 2008. That would have been a good time, I think, for local BLM to tell the public that as part of that formal ongoing process, BLM will soon release a draft report regarding its views of recreation activities at Meadowood going forward.

Public boarding should continue and should be supported by BLM

As I said at the most recent meeting, the case for public boarding is well supported financially and economically, and is clearly beneficial to the local community and the most popular and justifiable recreation activity that will *ever* occur at Meadowood, given the number of superior parks competing for the public's use in the immediate vicinity.

Especially in the current days of deficits and debt, it seems to me that federal employees are implicitly bound to identify and support avenues for reducing costs to the American taxpayer of all federal activities. Indeed, this was the foundation for the US Congress enacting a law some years ago allowing federal agencies to assess recreation fees.

Eliminating public boarding is not only financially and economically imprudent, but also contrary to this congressional intent. Indeed, it seems to me that local BLM should be proud to be managing among the most successful examples nationwide of recreation cost recovery -- yet local BLM is instead determined to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. The Field Office seems bent on ushering in an unprecedented period of subsidizing recreation activities by demolishing a valuable existing stable and eliminating revenue-generating public boarding -- while burdening the American taxpayer with the costs of a new stable and arena and the future public subsidization of recreation previously enabled by the recreation fees of boarders.

There seems to be a lack of BLM interest in the public at Meadowood

Moreover, local BLM claims to be engaged in a quest for how to "engage the public" at Meadowood when it is clear to me, that local BLM actually desires to nestle into the property, seclude itself, and flee the public at all costs. Not only does local BLM not engage with the significant horse-supporting public, largely boarders, evident at the facility every day, it has failed in virtually every objective it set for itself for supporting the Special Recreation Area as expressed in past public exercises and documents produced at great expense to the American taxpayer. Why seek to set new goals, when local BLM hasn't attempted those it previously committed to do? For example, what happened to the promise of involving a local university in managing the pastures? Or the (never attempted) plan to compost manure for the public? How about the maps for the trails? Mustang education?

Alternatively, persons serving the visiting public at-large who visit Meadowood and having superior intimate knowledge about the "public" needs, habits, and desires for Meadowood *are the boarders*. At this late date, despite the requirements of the federal recreation fee law and regulations, local BLM has erected no information about the equestrian recreation activities at the site, recreation fees paid, or how those fees are used. Indeed, there still aren't even any simple Xeroxed maps available for the public. It is boarders who are the *de facto* ambassadors for the park, not BLM. One could easily infer that BLM's objective is to remove boarders so that

the majority of recreation activities at Meadowood will cease and local BLM can be left alone in peace and contemplation.

Repair the stable immediately as promised, restore pastures for boarding horses, and allow boarding to continue or return the fees.

As a boarder, I am hereby requesting again in the strongest possible terms that local BLM either repair the stable roof immediately as promised or refund recreation fees paid by boarders. Not only am I frustrated that BLM has not repaired the roof as promised,, I am concerned that local BLM deceived the interagency committee that voted to recommend approval of increasing the recreation fee for boarders from \$625 to \$700 for the purpose of roof and other repairs.

- I believe that by regulation, the interagency committee before which BLM appeared regarding the fee increase had no statutory or regulatory authority to affect fees where contractors are involved, yet BLM failed to reveal that a federal contractor manages the stables.
- Further, to the best of my knowledge, BLM did not inform the committee that a multi-tiered recreation fee structure exists at Meadowood, whereby two commercial users (lesson program and therapeutic riding) are given superior access to the recreation facilities, yet charged far lower fees, subsidized in effect by boarders.
- Local BLM completely ignored the condition upon which the committee agreed to recommend approval. Local BLM even seconded that committee's Motion to require the BLM Field Office to inform boarders and post notices regarding exactly how the fees would be used in maintenance at the stable.
- In fact the Recreation Fee statute and regulations *require public signage stating the amounts of recreation fees at federal sites*. What has been the alternative foundation for local BLM keeping this information a secret?

It is my intention to make additional comments at a later date.

Sincerely,

/s/



Carol Ackerman

07/29/2011 11:06 PM

To es_meadowood@es.blm.gov

cc

bcc

Subject BARN !!!

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing you with regard to the plight of the boarders at The Sables at Meadowood. I have been boarding my horse there for only one year, but must say that the sense of uncertainty that prevails at the stable is truly disconcerting !! It is a beautiful facility, and the management by CAS and Allison Mills is truly exemplary. The love of horses, nature and the physical surroundings could not be more palpable. Why is it that the BLM cannot understand that this very public facility and community want nothing more than to be left to enjoy each and every day without the threat and dread of a very contentious bureaucracy interfering with a remarkable facility??

My recommendation to the BLM with regard to Meadowood is :

- 1) Repair the existing structure ASAP, and stop stalling to prevent this progress !!*
- 2) Allow the horses to remain on the property while repairs are being completed. Moving the horses for the duration of the project would be detrimental to the horses' well being and create a chaotic situation for the boarders.*
- 3) Permit the CAS Company (Allison Mills) to run the facility with the understanding that the stable should permit new boarders to fill the empty stalls. There is a very lengthy wait list that needs to be addressed.*

Please act responsibly.

*Sincerely,
Carol Ackerman*



"Jack Lautenschlager"

07/29/2011 05:54 PM

To "es_meadowood@es.blm.gov."@mail3.blm.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Meadowood Stables

Please keep the boarding facility at Meadowood open to public boarding. There is a need in this part of the county for boarding (around 30-35 stalls), as well as therapeutic riding and a general lesson program. It is understood that the existing barn has problems which should be renovated in a timely manner (sooner rather than later, weather permitting- spring to fall? Horses could be field boarded with temporary shelters), and that these problems include new roofing (more translucent panels could reduce electric costs as well as several large ceiling fans along the center of the arena to help with ventilation), electrical renovation, as well as creating larger restrooms with handicapped access, and stabilization of beams and some trusses. Repairing the footing in the existing arena is a must - excavating to the base level and repairing holes and replacing the existing footing or adding to it. Pastures need attention in the form of proper seeding and care returning many of the excluded areas back to pasture to attain the 40 acres once used (small amount when compared to the 760 acres used for other activities). The operation of the "business" of boarding and lessons could be trusted entirely to a concessionaire/contractor/barn manager for everyday operation including the collection of all board, accepting new boarders, pasture maintenance & collection of fees to be charged to those who use the barn for outside activities (including outsider ring use and the Caisson training. These fees could be used to maintain the barn and its environs. The checking of current Coggins of all visiting horses, as required by Virginia law, would also fall under this manager. BLM could turn their attention to the additional 760 acres and step out of the operation of the barn.

These are just a few thoughts on the matter. I hope you will take them under serious consideration.

Thank you,

Linda Lautenschlager, boarder of The Stables at Meadowood



winmail.dat



ELynn Burkett/WO/BLM/DOI
07/29/2011 09:06 AM

To John Reffit/ESO/ES/BLM/DOI@BLM
cc
bcc

Subject Fw: Comments regarding the BLM Meadowood Barn, Lorton,
Virginia

Please add to the comments for the record.
"If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging"

Will Rogers

E.Lynn Burkett
Bureau of Land Management
Lower Potomac Field Manager
(w) 703-339-3461
NFWF Liaison and Natl.CCS Coordinator
(w) 202-912-7203
(c) 202-468-4110

----- Forwarded by ELynn Burkett/WO/BLM/DOI on 07/29/2011 09:05 AM -----



"Hanson, Marcia E."
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
07/28/2011 05:38 PM

To <eburkett@blm.gov>
cc "Lynn Taylor" [Redacted],
[Redacted], "Devlin, Michael"
[Redacted],
"Hyland, Gerald W." [Redacted],
[Redacted],
[Redacted],
[Redacted]
Subject Comments regarding the BLM Meadowood Barn, Lorton,
Virginia

Good Evening E.Lynn,

The signatories of the attached letter and document are hereby submitted for comment regarding the BLM Meadowood Barn located on Mason Neck in Lorton, Virginia.

Because I do not have Dr. John Lyon's e-mail address, if you could E.Lynn, please forward this e-mail along with the attachments onto Dr. John Lyon and of course onto others who may have an interest in this very important issue.

Every consideration you can give to these comments will be greatly appreciated by all.

This office will also send you and Dr. Lyon a hard copy of the documents by close of business on Friday, July 29, 2011.

If you have any question, please let either Supervisor Hyland or Brett Kenney know.

Thank you.



Gerald W. "Gerry" Hyland
Board of Supervisors, Mt. Vernon District
2511 Parkers Lane
Alexandria, VA 22306

Telephone (703) 780-7518

Fax: (703) 780-1491

July 28, 2011

Ms. E. Lynn Burkett
Meadowood Field Station Manager
Bureau of Land Management
10406 Gunston Road
Lorton, VA 22079

Dr. John Lyon
Eastern States Director
Bureau of Land Management
7450 Boston Boulevard
Springfield, VA 22153

Dear Dr. Lyon and Ms. Burkett:

In the past year, large numbers of Mason Neck residents and area taxpayers have come together once again to support continuing public horse boarding and equestrian use of the Stables at Meadowood at Meadowood Special Recreation Area (Meadowood) located in Lorton, Virginia. The November 2010 and June 2011 BLM public meetings, along with the public comment and input surrounding them, unambiguously and overwhelming supported one thing: promptly repair the barn at Meadowood and continue public boarding. Elected representatives at the federal, state and local levels, as well as community groups have come forward to urge the BLM to promptly repair the barn and continue boarding. In fact, the community has turned out in increasingly large numbers to support continuation of boarding about every 12 to 18 months since the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) assumed management of Meadowood in 2001 as the BLM has threatened to end boarding regularly and often. Meadowood however, has operated as a public boarding facility for over 35 years. Throughout the years, regardless of Meadowood's ownership, one thing has remained constant: the public wants and needs a public horse boarding facility at Meadowood.

To that end, we urge the Bureau of Land Management to:

- ▲ Repair the Barn Now. First, as is required by federal accounting standards, we urge that BLM use the approximate \$900,000 in deferred maintenance money to repair the existing barn. The horses stabled at Meadowood should remain on the property during the period of repair.
- ▲ Commit to Boarding. Second, we ask that BLM affirm an ongoing and long-term commitment to boarding at Meadowood and allow the vacant stalls to be filled with boarders from the lengthy public waiting list. It is not productive to continually debate, year after year, the fate of boarding at Meadowood. Please

commit now to long-term use of the stables for boarding. A commitment to boarding also **requires restoring the pastures to their previous size** and maintaining the pastures in accordance with BLM's 2004 Integrated Activity Plan.

- ▲ No More Delay. Third, we ask that there be **no further delay** in repairing the barn, affirming BLM's commitment to boarding and filling the vacant stalls with boarders. Much of the repair that now is needed results from or has been exacerbated by BLM's delay. Further, the uncertainty surrounding the future of the barn has damaged the public's trust and confidence in BLM, resulted in negative economic consequences to the operators of the stable, lesson and therapeutic riding program and diminished economic opportunity in the greater Lorton Community. Enough is enough. It is past time for normal operations at Meadowood to resume. Proceed with the repair now.
- ▲ Allow the BLM Contractor to Operate the Barn as a Business. Fourth, we ask that you allow the barn to operate as a business. Converting to a concession as BLM proposed likely would require further delay and a greater scope of repair than that contemplated using the deferred maintenance funding. The current barn management contract could be converted to a lease or amended to allow the incumbent contractor to wholly assume responsibility for managing the 40-acre equestrian property and its users, thereby meeting BLM's stated goal of getting out of the barn management business.

As you know, the community overwhelmingly supports using the barn deferred maintenance to promptly repair the barn, fill the empty stalls with boarders and keep Meadowood open for public boarding. As evidence of this strong support, we have attached:

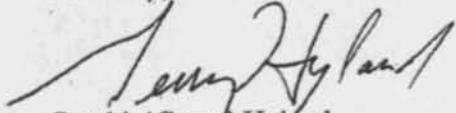
Letters of Support from:

Congressman Gerald Connolly and Congressman Jim Moran;
The South County Federation, representing approximately 10,000 residents;
The Mason Neck Citizens Association, representing approximately 862 residents;
and
The South County Chamber of Commerce

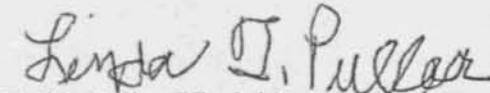
We also have attached a Petition signed by hundreds of public citizens, all supporting the repair of the existing barn and resumption of full-scale boarding.

We ask that you hear the voices of the public and act now to repair the barn and continue boarding. We thank you for the opportunity to share our findings and views with the BLM regarding the future of the barn and equestrian facility at Meadowood. Detailed comments and supporting facts follow below.

Sincerely,



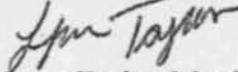
Gerald, 'Gerry' Hyland
Mount Vernon District Supervisor



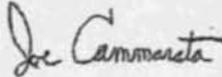
Toddy Puller, Virginia's 36th Senate
District
Commonwealth of Virginia



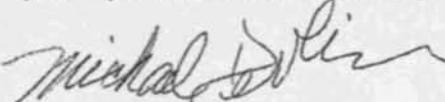
Anna Gibson, Meadowood Boarder



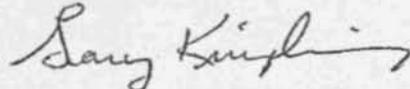
Lynn Taylor, Meadowood Boarder



Joseph Cammarata, Attorney
Mason Neck Resident



Michael Devlin, President
Mason Neck Citizens Association



Gary Knipping, Neighbor of
Meadowood

CC: Congressman Gerald Connolly
Congressman Jim Moran

Attachment 1: Comments of Senator Toddy Puller, Supervisor Gerry Hyland and
Community Representatives, dated July 28, 2011

Attachment 2: Letter to Dr. John Lyon, State Director, Eastern States Office, BLM,
from Congressman Gerald Connolly and Congressman Jim Moran, dated July 7, 2011

Attachment 3: Letter to Supervisor Gerry Hyland from Peter Dickinson, President,
South County Federation. Dated July 25, 2011.

Attachment 4: Letter to Supervisor Gerry Hyland from Tim Rizer, Chairman South
County Chamber of Commerce, dated July 25, 2011

Attachment 5: Letter to Supervisor Gerry Hyland, from Michael Devlin, President,
Mason Neck Citizens Association, dated July 21, 2011

Attachment 6: Petition Supporting Repair of the Barn and Resumption of Full-Scale
Boarding

COMMENTS OF SIGNATORIES DATED JULY 28, 2011

Background

Meadowood is comprised of 800 acres in Lorton, Virginia. In 2001, ownership of Meadowood transferred to the federal government as part of a three-way land swap involving the District of Columbia's Correctional Center, located in Lorton. This transfer required the approval of Fairfax County and of Congress. In appropriating funds for Meadowood, Congress entrusted the BLM with managing the property for "public use and recreation."¹

The equestrian facility at Meadowood occupies a scant 40 of the 800 acres and is comprised of a 45-stall horse stable, indoor and outdoor riding arena, outbuildings, a shed row of six stalls currently used as storage for BLM canoes and equipment and pastures. The equestrian facility has been open for public boarding of horses for over 35 years, including during the 10 years of BLM's stewardship of the property. In addition to the public boarding use, two other public uses operate at the equestrian facility: a therapeutic riding program and a lesson program.²

A long public waiting list for stalls always exists at Meadowood, with between 25 and 30 members of the public willing to wait to pay the highest boarding fee in the region. Despite this long list of would-be public boarders, since July 2010, as part of its plan to end boarding, BLM has not allowed the barn manager to fill empty stalls with boarders.³ As a result, there are 20 vacant stalls, some of which BLM is using to store surplus furniture.

BLM Intended to End Boarding Without Public Notice or Comment

In the summer and fall of 2010, BLM planned to end boarding by improperly using deferred maintenance money to construct a new, smaller barn and close the existing barn. BLM planned that the new barn would only have room to accommodate the therapy and riding lesson program horses. BLM made the decision to end boarding, evict the boarders, raze the existing barn and construct a new barn without *any* public notice or comment or environmental assessment. Just prior to awarding the construction contract, news of the BLM's secret plan began to leak out. Because the plan violated many federal laws, including the Administrative Procedure Act and Government in the Sunshine Act's requirement for public notice and comment, local community leaders demanded a public

¹ See Sec. 11201(g)(6)(B) of the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997 as amended by Congress in the Appropriations Budget for Fiscal Year 2002.

² Public boarders pay \$700/month/stall boarding fee. The therapeutic and lesson programs pay approximately \$144/stall/month plus 3% of lesson income. Presently there are 20 boarders, 6 horses in the therapeutic riding program and 4 horses in the lesson program. Boarders and lesson participants are the only daily public users at Meadowood who pay fees to use the property.

³ BLM has continued to allow the lesson and therapy programs to bring in additional horses.

hearing on the BLM's backroom maneuvering and pushed for public involvement in the planning process.⁴

The November 16, 2010 Public Meeting: Overwhelming Support for Boarding

On November 16, 2010, Fairfax County Supervisor Gerry Hyland convened a public meeting to shine the light of day on BLM's plans. Hundreds of supporters of public boarding and representatives from Congressman Gerald Connolly's and Congressman Jim Moran's offices attended the meeting. Members of the public shared their concerns with the BLM's plans and voiced their lack of trust in the BLM as steward of Meadowood. Following this meeting, a 45-day public comment period was opened and a community position paper was crafted for use by the BLM.⁵ Input was overwhelming: repair the barn and restore boarding to full scale at Meadowood.

Three Engineering Reports Concluded that the Barn is Repairable

Following that meeting, the BLM terminated the small barn construction procurement. Despite knowing in 2008 that the barn roof needed replacement and having the maintenance funding to pay for a roof replacement, BLM chose not to replace the roof and then claimed in 2010 that, largely because of water damage from the leaky roof, the barn was unsafe. After the November 16th meeting, three safety analyses of the barn were undertaken. All three analyses concluded that the barn is repairable.⁶ Although Supervisor Hyland, Congressional offices, the community and boarders continued to advocate for repair of the barn, a year has passed since the public's discovery of the BLM's plan to end boarding, yet no repair has begun nor appears ready to commence.

The June 28, 2011 Public Meeting: More Tricks and Support for Boarding

On June 28, 2011, a second public meeting was convened by Supervisor Hyland and the BLM, again with hundreds of supporters of public boarding and Congressional representatives in attendance. Inexplicably, although the meeting was NOT a land use planning meeting, BLM solicited comment on land uses and asked the public to be "creative" in their thinking and responses.⁷

⁴ At the time of the discovery of these actions the BLM planned to pave a large portion of one pasture and erect the new barn on top of an aquifer. Indeed, it was the core sampling requested by the three final contract bidders that alerted the public to BLM's plans.

⁵ Unlike most federal agencies, BLM did not post on its website the public comments received in response to their solicitation of comments at the November 16th meeting despite requests to do so. A FOIA request for the public comments produced no dissenting opinions; commenters supported continuing boarding.

⁶ The Fairfax County engineering assessment as well as the two assessments performed by BLM's contractor POZ Environmental LLC are posted on the BLM Eastern States website at <http://www.blm.gov/es/st/en/prog/recreation.html>.

⁷ See http://www.blm.gov/es/st/en/info/newsroom/2011/June6-15-2011_notice_of.html. See also, Lorton Patch, *What Will Happen to the Barn at Meadowood?* (June 30, 2011)

At this meeting, BLM presented three options for Meadowood:

1. Repair the existing barn using approximately \$900,000 in barn deferred maintenance money;
2. Build a new multi-use facility that could be used for non-equestrian and equestrian events⁸
3. Close the barn and shut down public use of the equestrian facility.⁹

The Issuance of the July 25th the BLM "#2 Op Ed"

Just five days before the comment period was to close, BLM selectively issued a "Meadowood Minute #2 Op Ed" piece by email blast to portions of the Mason Neck community.¹⁰ It is highly unusual and improper for a government agency to issue an opinion piece during a public comment period, particularly one that reaches conclusions and seeks to manipulate public opinion.¹¹ This Op Ed piece was unusual in other ways, too. First, it contained a conclusion that the barn could not be repaired which, of course, is completely contrary to the conclusions reached in the three separate engineering reports regarding the safety of the barn, including the two reports BLM paid for.¹² Second, it included selective facts woven loosely together to convey a false impression that boarding has not been, and cannot be, self-supporting.¹³ Third, it falsely implied that

<http://lorton.patch.com/articles/what-will-happen-to-the-barn-at-meadowood> ; Lorton Valley Star, *Map for Failure Can be Avoided* (June 30, 2011) <http://www.lortonvalleystar.com/Content1/Inside.html>.

- ⁸ BLM identified no funding source for this option. As discussed below, the only funding source available is barn deferred maintenance money and federal accounting standards limit the use of deferred maintenance money to performing the maintenance due to be performed, but deferred.
- ⁹ As discussed below, in violation of the Government in the Sunshine Act, the BLM improperly previewed this 3rd option with the Army long before sharing it with the public at the June 28th meeting. BLM's private discussions with the Army resulted in the Army offering at the public meeting to take control of the property.
- ¹⁰ With only three days remaining in the comment period, the BLM forwarded the "Op Ed" to boarders.
- ¹¹ It is a violation of the Administrative Procedures Act for an agency to attempt to manipulate public opinion during the comment process to elicit the desired opinion that it later can base its decision-making upon. The comment process is meant to elicit public views and information to educate and inform the agency's decision-making process. The agency should not, as the BLM appears to already have done again, have already determined the outcome.
- ¹² See Op Ed at page 3 ("The level of the systems in need of rehabilitation is to the point of full reconstruction.")
- ¹³ See Op Ed at pages 1 and 2.

the approximate \$900,000 in deferred maintenance money derived solely from the BLM's budget and not from escrowed boarding fees.¹⁴

Regarding revenue generation, the BLM's own documents show that boarding has been and can be self-supporting. In the 2008 Fee Increase Proposal, the BLM clearly stated that boarding had been generating revenue and was, at the time of the Proposal, generating revenue, although that revenue had declined to \$1,392 due to increases in costs. In the Fee Increase Proposal, the BLM sought to raise boarding fees to \$700/month/horse to enable the BLM to set aside at least \$131/month/horse or \$80,000 per year to pay for necessary "major deferred maintenance repairs (roof, lubing, etc.) outside of normal daily maintenance." Three years later, however, despite the escrowing of almost \$200,000 of boarders' money from those higher fees, those repairs have not been made.¹⁵

As for the modest \$4,500 the BLM claims it spends annually on electricity, water and trash removal at Meadowood, the BLM neglects to inform that the barn manager requested, but the BLM declined, to prorate those fees among user groups. Of course, as the BLM knows, the boarders are far from the only contributor to those expenses. Indeed, the BLM staff and the BLM contractors like Earth Sangha are using electricity and water, as is the U.S. Army's caisson units which train at Meadowood, free of charge. Thus, the \$4,500 (a) could be prorated among fee paying user groups; (b) is attributable to many users other than just the boarders; e.g., the lesson and therapeutic riding programs, the BLM and its staff, the Army and its horses and the BLM contractors like Earth Sangha and the visiting public and (c) as compared with the over \$1 million in taxpayer dollars flowing to various groups to build trails, trace the Washington Rochambeau Route and plant (and replant) trees, is inconsequential.

In early 2010, after the BLM decided to end boarding without public notice and comment and without any authority to do so in its own 2004 Integrated Activity Plan, the BLM contracted to hire a barn manager to preside over a dying boarding venture. In that contract, the BLM elected to subsidize the amounts paid to the barn manager rather than allow the manager to make money by filling the empty stalls with boarders and return excess revenue to the BLM as was past practice. The BLM claims it cannot now modify the financial terms of that contract.¹⁶ This is untrue. Were the BLM to change its 2010 decision to end boarding, under federal contracting standards, the changed decision

¹⁴ See Op Ed at page 3 ("When the BLM needs to replace or repair a constructed asset, the office .. submits a" request for "inclusion into the BLM 5 year plan for deferred maintenance and capital improvement." "The original request for deferred maintenance funding at Meadowood was granted for about \$700,000.")

¹⁵ At the June 28th meeting, BLM said that they had the approximate \$900,000 in deferred maintenance funding, of which \$700,000 came from the BLM budget, leaving \$200,000 raised from boarders as a result of the fee increase.

¹⁶ Op Ed at 2.

would constitute a *change in circumstance* which would be sufficient to trigger a modification of the barn management contract. The barn manager has indicated a willingness to execute such a modification, but the BLM has declined to do so. Make no mistake, however, regardless of the statements in the #2 Op Ed, boarding has been and can be again the only excess revenue generating activity occurring at Meadowood.

Analysis

The Only Issue: How to Spend the Approximate \$900,000 in Barn Deferred Maintenance Funds

It is against this backdrop of ongoing BLM delay and past malfeasance that we now comment on what actions BLM should undertake at Meadowood. It is important that our comments be placed in proper context. The **only** issue before the BLM is how to spend the approximate \$900,000 of deferred maintenance money, up to \$250,000 of which was raised from boarders. Federal accounting standards require that deferred maintenance funds be used for repair of the facility -- here the barn -- from which the maintenance has been deferred unless the facility is irreparable. The engineering reports all attest that the barn is repairable and can be repaired for the approximate \$900,000. Thus, it is not consistent with federal accounting standards to spend the approximate \$900,000 on anything other than the repair of the barn.

Federal Accounting Standards Require that Deferred Maintenance Funds be Used for Repair of the Existing Barn and Not for Construction of a New Facility or Funding of New Activities

Although the BLM asked the public at the June 28th meeting to think creatively about what uses they would like to see at Meadowood, the approximate \$900,000 of barn deferred maintenance money was the only funding source identified to pay for any of the uses. This request for broad comment on alternative land uses was inappropriate, misleading and unfortunate because this was not a land use planning meeting and federal accounting standards could not be clearer that deferred maintenance money cannot be used to fund new activities at the barn. Federal Accounting Standard No. 6 defines deferred maintenance as maintenance that was not performed when it should have been or was scheduled to be performed and therefore was put off or delayed for a future period.¹⁷ Under FASAB No. 6, deferred maintenance **excludes activities aimed at expanding the capacity of an asset or otherwise upgrading it to serve needs different from those originally intended.** Thus, the deferred maintenance money can lawfully be used to repair the repairable barn, but not to build a new barn. It can be used to continue the existing activities of boarding and therapy and riding lessons, but cannot be used to enable new activities like the flower or dog shows the BLM gave as examples of new creative uses. In this manner, it was inappropriate for the BLM to ask for comments on new uses as part of a discussion of how to spend deferred maintenance money.

¹⁷ See FASAB No. 6 (1996).

Solicitation of broader land use comments would be appropriate in a land use planning process, a separate and distinct process from the one in which we are currently engaged.

The Public Supports, Wants and Needs a Boarding Stable at Meadowood

Meadowood has played a valuable role in Fairfax County as a public boarding facility for over 35 years. Since the construction of the stable, there always has been and is now a long public waiting list for vacant stalls. Since the BLM began its stewardship of the property 10 years ago, the public has strongly and repeatedly supported boarding as a use at Meadowood. Indeed, while the number of boarders has dwindled to a scant 20 due to the BLM's refusal to allow vacant stalls to be filled by boarders, each and every time the BLM seeks public comment, hundreds of voices are raised to support public boarding. Hundreds have attended the BLM's 2002, 2004, 2008, 2010 and 2011 "public scoping" meetings to support boarding, hundreds have signed petitions and forwarded comments. Elected representatives including Fairfax County Supervisor Hyland, Congressman Gerald Connolly and Congressman Jim Moran have joined their voices with boarders in support of repair of the barn and continuation of public boarding at Meadowood.¹⁸ Other community groups like the Mason Neck Civic Association, the South County Federation, and the South County Chamber of Commerce, have memorialized their support of the continuation of boarding at Meadowood and these documents are attached hereto. Clearly, the public has spoken and wants a public boarding stable to be an integral part of Meadowood's future as it has been an integral part of its past. The only question is whether BLM is listening.

BLM Does Not Have the Authority to End a Long-Standing Public Use Without a Plan Contemplating Such an Action Formulated After Public Participation in the Planning Process

Under the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976, as amended, the BLM's own Land Use Planning Guidelines, and the BLM's Recreation Work Plan, the BLM is required to seek public participation in its land use planning process and then to follow the plan created from that process.¹⁹ No such planning process or public participation has occurred with respect to cessation of public boarding. Local, onsite the BLM staff previously claimed that the 2008 environmental impact and resource management planning meetings somehow constituted this public process.²⁰ That process, however,

¹⁸ See Letter from Congressman Gerald Connolly and Congressman Jim Moran to Dr. John Lyon, Eastern States Director, dated July 7, 2011.

¹⁹ See Exhibit 5 for the pertinent excerpts from the BLM's Land Use Planning Manual. In the BLM's Unified Strategy to Implement the BLM's Prioritization, Recreation and Visitor Services Work plan (Purple Book), the BLM embraces the use of a "customer driven approach to identify visitor and community resident desires for recreation experiences and quality of life beneficial outcomes." As the BLM well knows and as the letters from elected officials and community groups attest, there is overwhelming public and community support for continuing public boarding at Meadowood both for recreation and quality of life beneficial outcomes.

²⁰ Thus far, no Resource Management Plan has been issued following the 2008 scoping meetings. At this point, the comments submitted in 2008 are too old to form the basis of any new Plan. A new comment process would have to be commenced and a new public record created to legally justify the issuance

resulted in the BLM committing to build bike trails and shore up areas of erosion at Meadowood, but no decision or public documentation emerged regarding elimination of public boarding. In fact, a review of the public documentation relating to the 2008 process finds no mention of public boarding in the planning documents.²¹ During the 2008 scoping process, the BLM reaffirmed its commitment to public boarding. Also, the 2008 process was completed prior to the onset of the financial crisis in 2009, which means the public has had no opportunity to provide input on the economic impact of ending public boarding and the revenue stream that public boarders generate on the South Fairfax County economy.

The 2004 Plan permits reducing the number of boarded horses to accommodate other public uses like the therapeutic and lesson programs, but does **not** permit elimination of public boarding or the constructive elimination of public boarding by reducing through attrition the number of public boarders to a *de minimis* amount. In short, under federal land management law, its own land use and recreation guidelines, the BLM does not have the authority to end public boarding on its own initiative and without public participation in the decision-making process. While the BLM has solicited comments through July 29th, 2011, it really is unclear what the BLM is seeking comment on. Certainly, the invitation at the public meeting to dream about the possibility of flower and dog shows when the only apparent issue on the table is how to spend the approximate \$900,000 in barn deferred maintenance money does not make it appear that the BLM is soliciting comment on whether or not to end boarding as a use.

Boarding Facilities are Scarce: Public Boarding at Meadowood Fills a Valuable and Valued Public Need

While Northern Virginia has a long and illustrative equestrian past, urbanization, the current economic decline and high property taxes have forced many privately-owned farms out of business.²² Hundreds of farms have closed and been developed over the past two decades and scores have closed for business since the onset of the financial crisis in

and adoption of a Plan. Further, there has been no new Integrated Activity Plan since 2004. In the 2004 Integrated Activity Management Plan, the Plan presently governing all activities at Meadowood, the BLM reaffirmed its support of public boarding, as it also does in its more recent 2009 and 2010 Eastern States Annual Reports. In the absence of a valid adopted Integrated Activity Plan authorizing the ending of boarding as a use at Meadowood, the BLM cannot lawfully do so.

²¹

See, e.g., http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/es/jackson_field_office/planning/planning_pdf_scoping.Par.54345.File.dat/SE_States_press20release_Consolidated.pdf; http://www.blm.gov/es/st/en/fo/Jackson_Home_Page/planning/southeastern_rmp/planning_process.html; [http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/es/meadowood/recreation.Par.49570.File.dat/project%20plan3-
ea.pdf](http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/es/meadowood/recreation.Par.49570.File.dat/project%20plan3-
ea.pdf); http://www.blm.gov/es/st/en/info/nepa/about_nepa.html.

²² In 2008, the BLM recognized in its 2008 Fee Increase Proposal that “[t]here is a scarcity of horse boarding operations in the northern Virginia region...” at p.40. This statement is even more true today. Since 2008, many more local boarding farms have shuttered for good.

2008. Because of economic pressures and urbanization, there are very few remaining boarding farms in Northern Virginia and the number of potential boarders outweighs the number of boarding slots available at these farms. Because of this, there are long waiting lists for vacancies at even less reputable boarding facilities. And, it can take years for a prospective boarder's name to float to the top of a waiting list. For example, at Rock Creek Stables, a National Park Service-owned boarding and trail riding facility in Washington, D.C., the current wait time on their public waiting list is about five years. Clearly, there remains considerable demand, but little or no supply of boarding options in the Northern Virginia region. Because of this, Meadowood has long filled and should continue to fill a valuable public need for a horse boarding facility in Northern Virginia.

Public Boarding at Meadowood Brings Jobs and Revenue to the Local Economy

The public boarders and lesson and therapy riders at Meadowood are the largest and only daily users of the Meadowood Special Recreation Area.²³ They bring with them leasers, friends and family. The riding lesson program gives at least 35 lessons per week and the therapy riding program at least as many. As a result, the equestrian users at Meadowood infuse significant amounts of capital into the local region. BLM's stable operator, CAS Company, employs seven stable workers to care for the public boarders' horses. Public boarders purchase hay, feed, feed supplements, horse tack and other riding equipment and supplies from local suppliers. Public boarders regularly retain the services of 10 farriers, 5 veterinarians, 4 equine dentists, 7 instructors/trainers and numerous other equine service providers, each of which is a small, local business. Public boarders buy groceries at local stores, including 7-11, Bloom and Shoppers Food Warehouse; they purchase gas and car and trailer repairs at local service stations and at Lorton Auto and Trailer Repair; they eat at local restaurants such as McDonald's, Roy Rogers, the Polo Grill, Fireside Grill, Vinny's, the Pohick Bay Golf Course snack bar and other establishments – all to the tune of hundreds of thousands of dollars spent by this group in and around the Lorton area and up and down the Richmond Highway corridor.

Because of the scarcity of boarding facilities in the Northern Virginia area and the long waiting lists for vacancies at those facilities, it is unlikely that many of the Meadowood boarders will be able to remain in the Fairfax County area or even in Northern Virginia if the BLM ends boarding at Meadowood. This means that the local farriers, veterinarians and other service providers will not retain this business as these boarders will be forced to either sell their horses or relocate them to outlying areas in Maryland or Central Virginia and beyond. For small businesses like farriers and vets and horse trainers, time is money – they can ill afford to spend hours in transit to shoe or vaccinate a single horse now stabled in Warrenton, Virginia or Prince George's County, Maryland. And, for a small community like Lorton, the loss of the Meadowood stable jobs and the loss of the public boarders' business at the local restaurants and other establishments also will have a long-

²³ Boarders and their leasers, friends and families will not show up in any Meadowood usage statistics as local BLM staff will not allow them to be counted and included as "users" of Meadowood.

term deleterious effect on the local economy, made all the more painful by these difficult economic times.

Boarders Should Benefit from the Repairs Funded in Part by Boarders from Higher Boarding Fees

In 2008, BLM solicited public comment on raising boarding fees from \$625 to a whopping \$700 per month per horse to enable the BLM "to make necessary improvements to the facilities" and specifically to "repair the stables," including major deferred maintenance repairs (roof and plumbing) outside of the normal daily maintenance performed by the contractor."²⁴

Under federal law, boarding fees are treated as recreation fees and increases in recreation fees require a public notice and comment process, the recommendation of the Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (RRAC) and ultimately, the approval of the Secretary of the Interior. Boarders did not oppose the fee increase, even sending a representative in support to the RRAC meeting, all in reliance on the BLM's written statements and verbal assurances that the fee increase would benefit boarders because it would enable necessary repairs to be made and boarding to continue. The BLM amassed close to \$250,000 in repair fees paid in by boarders after the boarding fee increase.²⁵ In sum, based on the recreation fee increase public record, **it would amount to actionable fraud if the BLM used the boarders' money to build a new barn or repair the existing barn and then excluded boarders as users.**

The NEPA Process is Not Required for Repair of Existing Barn

At the June 28th public meeting, the BLM preliminarily concluded that the National Environmental Policy Act requires that an environmental assessment and scoping process be completed before the barn roof can be replaced. This is not a correct interpretation of NEPA, and further, the BLM's interpretation is inconsistent with its past interpretations of NEPA. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, NEPA requires that an agency undertake an environmental assessment of "the impact of and alternatives to **major federal actions significantly affecting the environment.**"²⁶ Roof replacement, as the BLM concluded when it replaced its own office roof, hardly constitutes a "major federal action significantly affecting the environment."

²⁴ See Recreation Resource Advisory Committee Fee Increase Proposal, Meadowood Special Recreation Area, http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/rrac/documents/final_meadow.pdf at 40 and 41.

²⁵ Although BLM says some of the boarder's money was spent on other repairs like the purchase of a hot water heater, much of the money remains as part of the approximate \$900,000 deferred maintenance funding.

²⁶ See National Environmental Policy Act Basic Information; (7/4/2011) <http://www.epa.gov/occaerth/basic/nepa.html> at 1.

A conclusion that a NEPA environmental assessment would be required prior to replacing the barn roof would be inconsistent with the BLM's past NEPA determinations. For example, the BLM concluded that no NEPA or environmental assessment process was required prior to:

- ▲ deciding in the summer of 2010 to raze the existing barn, end boarding, evict the boarders and build a new smaller barn on a different site;
- ▲ determining last fall to close and raze the existing barn and construct the new smaller barn for the use by the therapy and lesson programs;
- ▲ replacing the roof and windows and fully renovating their Meadowood field station office;
- ▲ reclaiming over 10 acres of pasture;
- ▲ tearing down houses and other buildings at Meadowood; and
- ▲ pouring asphalt over green space near the stable.

Most significantly, the BLM engaged in neither the public planning or NEPA process prior to engaging Earth Sangha²⁷ to reconfigure the land and forest the open spaces, pastures and meadows. For months, the BLM used heavy earth moving equipment to forever change the topography of five acres of former pasture land to create Earth Sangha's wet meadow "Ecological Display Site" and "Vernal Pond." This reconfiguration changed the landscape and runoff patterns, created a wet meadow where none existed before and dramatically increased the local mosquito and gnat populations with all the attendant health risks such insect proliferation brings -- yet absolutely no public environmental assessment or public planning process preceded the BLM's or Earth Sangha's actions. Similarly, no environmental assessment was made prior to Earth Sangha's efforts to kill large swaths of meadow grass with tarps (which has mainly led to the proliferation of mold). No environmental assessment or public planning process occurred prior to Earth Sangha's efforts to forest the scant meadow space at Meadowood or replant the already forested forests. No environmental assessment was made prior to Earth Sangha's erection of thousands of wood and metal posts and green plastic tubes that populate large portions of the Meadowood landscape.²⁸ Further, public input was not sought prior to hiring Earth Sangha and many might have questioned whether it makes sense to spend \$100,000 of taxpayer money to forest meadows or reforest the forests.

²⁷ According to its website, Earth Sangha is "a Buddhist environmental nonprofit engaged in ecological restoration (primarily reforestation)." See <http://www.earthsangha.org/texts/fiveprecepts.pdf>.

²⁸ These tubes frequently trap birds and are a hazard to deer and other native species.

Yet despite this, the BLM thinks the NEPA process is required to replace a barn roof. Sadly, this view sounds like a continuation of the all too familiar delay tactics that have been the hallmark of the BLM's management at Meadowood.

Horses Should Remain At Meadowood during the Repair

The barn repair could and should be completed prior to the onset of inclement winter weather. Completing the repair during summer and fall months would enable the horses stabled at Meadowood to "field board" during the period of repair. Should the repair extend into winter months, inexpensive temporary stalls and even a temporary indoor arena to accommodate the therapeutic riding program could be erected to enable the horses to remain onsite.²⁹ As the BLM knows, there are not 30 temporary or permanent boarding slots available in the VA/DC/MD metropolitan area so unless the Army is going to make room for the Meadowood horses at their facilities at Fort Belvoir or Fort Myer,³⁰ realistically, there isn't an alternative stabling option for the Meadowood horses during the repair.

Favored Contractor: Prior to the recent arrival of a new Meadowood field station manager and a new BLM Eastern States Director, cronyism, favoritism and secret agendas were the hallmark of the BLM's management at Meadowood. As mentioned above, the BLM's contractor, Earth Sangha continues its tax payer-funded efforts to reforest the meadows and even replant the forests without any public input into or environmental assessment of their wide sweeping plans. In a few short years, Earth Sangha's plans at Meadowood resulted in a 20 percent reduction in pasture space, permanently changed the topography and stormwater run off patterns, interfered with the natural selection and regrowth of already existing grasses and trees and caused an explosion in the mosquito and gnat populations following rains. They are also being paid to plant (and replant) large numbers of trees in the 760 acres of property outside of the equestrian use area.

Violation of the Public Notice and Comment Process: While the rest of the public, including boarders, had to wait until the June 28th meeting to learn of the BLM's options for the equestrian facility, the BLM previewed these options with the Army well in advance of the public meeting. As a result, the Army had ample time prior to the meeting to obtain the necessary approvals from high ranking officers to authorize Chief Warrant Officer Steven Abernethy to stand and present the Army's offer to take control of the

²⁹ Some current users of the Meadowood barn have advocated for construction of a new facility to enable a seamless transition from the current barn and indoor arena to a new facility in hopes of sidestepping the issue of how to maintain the existing businesses/programs during the period of barn repair.

³⁰ See <http://www.militarystables.com/id164.html> for photos of the luxurious new Fort Myer caisson stable and <http://www.militarystables.com/id166.html> for photos of the new state-of-the-art caisson stable and training facility at Fort Belvoir.

equestrian facility at Meadowood for the Army's caisson horses.³¹ Given that this would involve the acquisition of real estate and reassignment of troops to another property, approvals would have been necessary from the Department of the Army as well as the two-star general overseeing the Washington DC area. Obtaining such approval would take a considerable amount of time. This previewing and favoring of one interested group over others is unfair and indicative of continued favoritism and failure to abide by applicable federal laws.

Training and Stabling of Caisson Horses at Meadowood is not a Lawful Use

In its appropriating legislation, Congress entrusted the BLM with managing Meadowood for "public use and recreation." Despite the clear intent of Congress, the BLM continues to allow the Army caisson horses to train at Meadowood. The training of caisson horses at Meadowood (and the past stabling) does not constitute "public use and recreation" and is not a lawful use that can be conducted at Meadowood. Further, in 2001, the Army expressed interest in acquiring ownership of Meadowood, but the Army was not selected by Fairfax County or Congress to assume control of the land. The mere passage of time and cozy relationship with the BLM is not sufficient for the Army to now achieve ownership of this land indirectly when it could not achieve such ownership directly at the time of the land swap. For the Army to use Meadowood or to own Meadowood would require an act of Congress and approval by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Taxpayers have already spent over a whopping **\$11 million** to build and refurbish the Old Guard Army Caisson training and stabling facilities at Fort Myer³² and Fort Belvoir³³ and additional expensive renovations are planned. It is surprising that after this extraordinary outlay of taxpayer funds to construct luxurious, state-of-the-art facilities that the Army chooses to train in the Meadowood indoor arena. And, when the Army trains, the only fee paying users of Meadowood – the boarders, lesson and therapy programs – are barred from using the facility. While the Army displaces the fee paying users, it pays no fees to use the facility. Although the Army's usage further degrades the footing in the arena, the upkeep of the arena is paid for by the boarders.

³¹ See Lorton Patch, What Will Happen to the Barn at Meadowood (June 30, 2011) <http://lorton.patch.com/articles/what-will-happen-to-the-barn-at-meadowood>.

³² Two contracts totaling over \$11 million were issued to renovate the Ft. Myer caisson stables. One contract was for \$3.4 million and a second issued costing \$5.1 million for a total of \$8.6 million. See *Ft. Myer Renovation of Historical Stable Building 236*, <http://www.motirservices.com/divisions/construction/ft-myer/> and *Ft. Myer Army Base Historic Renovation of Stable Buildings 223 & 224* <http://www.motirservices.com/divisions/construction/ft-myer-historic-buildings/> (7/17/2011).

³³ The contract issued for the construction and renovation of the Fort Belvoir caisson equestrian facility was in the amount of \$2.25 million. See *ASI Company Profile and Capability Statement 2011* (May 3, 2011) <http://www.asiservices.com/download/ASI%20Capability%20Statement%204-30.pdf>.

In sum, the Army should not be using Meadowood. To even consider transferring Meadowood to the Army after the Army has spent over \$11 million taxpayer dollars on building and refurbishing equestrian facilities for the caisson horses is offensive. But the fact that the Army wants to use the 35-year old, unrepaired Meadowood indoor arena rather than their own multi-million dollar, state-of-the-art equestrian complexes belies the BLM's claims at the November 16th public meeting that the Meadowood barn is antiquated, outmoded and at the end of its useful life.

Restore the Reclaimed Pastures: Stop Shrinking and Shifting Pastures

Although the equestrian facility at Meadowood occupies a mere 40 of the 800 acres, the BLM has been shrinking the pastures and has not maintained the pastures in a manner required by its 2004 Integrated Activity Management Plan. Meadowood ceded over five acres of prime pasture to Earth Sangha for creation of the "Ecological Display Site" which showcases Earth Sangha's wet meadow building skills, perhaps to help Earth Sangha secure other customers.³⁴ Another four acres of pasture previously used by the therapeutic lesson horses was turned over to Earth Sangha for "reforestation." In this pasture, the BLM also used American Recovery Act funding to construct a Trail-to-Nowhere which runs right down the middle of the pasture. The trail work stopped well over a year ago. The once lovely pasture is now an overgrown eyesore, populated with a trail disappearing under a carpet of weeds and winding through a sea of unsightly metal and wooden stakes and green Earth Sangha plastic tree tubes before ending abruptly. The Trail-to-Nowhere is a classic example of BLM's poor intentions as this trail easily could have been located on the side of the pasture or in the woods outside the pasture fence, and allowed the trail and pasture to usefully coexist. Now, the land is unused by anyone.

As for pasture maintenance, the BLM has not done any during its 10 years of stewardship. The 2004 Integrated Activity Plan required the BLM to regularly reseed, drag, cross fence and rotate pastures to preserve the quality of the pasture and reduce any erosion or runoff from the pastures.³⁵ Not only has the BLM not done any pasture maintenance, its continual shrinking of pastures makes even rotation difficult to achieve by the barn management contractor.

The BLM should restore, at their expense, the reclaimed pasture or designate additional acreage to be used as pasture. Doing so would be consistent with the 2004 Meadowood Integrated Activity Plan which contemplates **doubling** pasture acreage.

³⁴ See <http://earthsangha.org/dcs/mwmap.html>. In 2010, Earth Sangha also planted 195 seedlings on the 5 acres of former pasture, of which 5 survived. Earth Sangha has now replanted seedlings on this site. In general, the mortality rate for Earth Sangha's seedlings planted at Meadowood is amazingly high.

³⁵ See Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area Integrated Activity Management Plan/Environmental Assessment (June 2004) at 15, 26, 27 and 31. <http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/es/meadowood/recreation.Par.55534.File.dat/Meadowood%20SRMA%20IAMP%20EA%20June%202004.pdf> Indeed, the Plan contemplates "doubling pasture acreage," rather than shrinking and reforesting pasture acreage. Plan at 26.

Relocate or Fence Off Administrative Office Space Rather Than End Boarding.

The BLM states that one of its goals is to separate their administrative area from the public stable areas. This can be accomplished without moving the 50 stall, multi-use barn. There are only seven BLM employees at Meadowood while hundreds of public citizens – boarders, leasers, veterinarians, farriers, food suppliers, therapeutic and riding lesson instructors and riders visit the barn each week. It would make no sense to relocate the barn and its public users to accommodate the privacy needs of the seven BLM's public servants. There are several offices and outbuildings which could serve as alternative on-site office space. At the Gunston Road facility, the BLM offices can be relocated to the other BLM's house which is not near the barn or; the BLM employees could be relocated to their commodious Belmont Road or Springfield offices. Alternatively, the BLM offices and parking areas could be clearly demarcated from the barn. Indeed, the BLM already has exclusive use of one parking area and their equipment could easily be moved to the now-vacant trailer storage lot.

Take the BLM Out of Barn Management.

The BLM has frequently cited its desire to get out of the barn management business. While the 20-year concession for boarding operations suggested by the BLM would be highly desirable for long-term users of the property like boarders, the current planning documents and the condition of the facilities, even when repaired, make a concession something to work toward rather than something immediately realizable. The BLM could, however, allow the contractor they selected through a competitive process a mere 18 months ago to manage the equestrian facility as it should be managed – like a business.³⁶ The current contractor could manage the equestrian facility for the three and a half years of renewable terms remaining on the contract. This would accomplish the BLM's stated goal of getting them out of the barn management business while meeting a significant, oft-stated and broadly supported public demand for increased boarding and continued equestrian usage at Meadowood.

Conclusion

There is tremendous public support and demand for a public boarding facility at Meadowood. There also is sufficient deferred maintenance funding, raised in part from boarders, to accomplish the repair of the existing barn. BLM should promptly:

- ▲ repair the barn,
- ▲ restore the pastures to their previous size,

³⁶ For no explicable reason, the BLM has inserted itself into the daily operation of the barn. For example, rather than letting the small, woman-owned business run the facility fully consistent with the contract, the BLM preempts scheduled arena usage by fee-paying lesson and other riders to accommodate Caisson training sessions. The BLM also has prevented the barn manager from enforcing state legal requirements by precluding the legally required presentation and review of negative Coggins certificates for the visiting Caisson horses.

- ▲ maintain the pastures in accordance with the 2004 Integrated Activities Management Plan,
- ▲ permit the horses stabled at Meadowood to remain onsite during the period of repair, and
- ▲ allow vacant stalls to be filled with boarded horses from the lengthy public waiting list for stalls.

In so doing, the BLM could begin repairing the public trust that its past actions have so badly damaged, and the Meadowood barn could continue to fill a valuable public need.

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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 7, 2011

Dr. John Lyon
State Director, Eastern States Office
Bureau of Land Management
7450 Boston Blvd
Springfield, VA 22153

Dear Dr. Lyon,

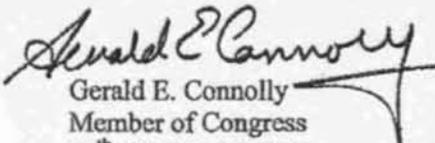
Congratulations and welcome to the Virginia Branch of the Bureau of Land Management. We are writing with respect to the Meadowood Equestrian Facilities. We had previously been working with your predecessors to elicit an appropriate outcome in determining the future of this site. Ensuring the safety and future viability of this facility is a project with tremendous public support, and we look forward to continue working with the Bureau of Land Management to realize this important goal.

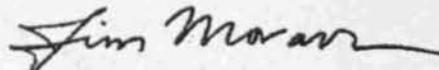
We congratulate you for vigorously pursuing public input regarding this project. BLM is currently engaged in the NEPA process, the first step of which is public scoping. We are heartened by BLM's repeated assurance to carry out the communities' wishes. Based on a meeting with E. Lynn Burkett at Fairfax County Supervisor Gerry Hyland's office, it is our understanding that available funds are sufficient to complete POZ Environmental, LLC's Alternative 1 with available deferred maintenance funds while still being able to cover some of the additional costs within Alternative 1A.

Considering that more than 200 petitions were presented at the last meeting alone by the boarders, families and community members expressing their deep desire to move forward with the deferred maintenance funds to refurbish the barn, we would encourage you to make preparations to expeditiously begin repairs of the existing structure. As the footprint of the structure will remain the same, we are hopeful that an environmental impact study will not be necessary. We would also like to convey the sentiments of many of our constituents regarding offering additional stalls for boarders under the management of Allison Mills as well as with Simple Changes.

We appreciate your desire to strictly adhere to the public input process and would like to request a detailed timeline for necessary maintenance to be completed. As we only have until late 2012 to have this project completed, we are sure you appreciate the need to move quickly in all aspects of this project. Again, thank you for your commitment in maintaining Meadowood for public use and recreation purposes.

Sincerely,


Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress
11th District, Virginia


James P. Moran
Member of Congress
8th District, Virginia



South County
F E D E R A T I O N

July 25, 2011

Supervisor Gerry Hyland
Mount Vernon Government Center
2511 Parkers Lane
Alexandria, VA 22306

Dear Supervisor Hyland:

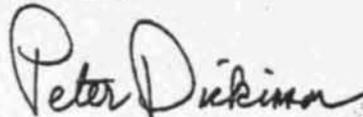
On behalf of the South County Federation (SCF), an umbrella organization of homeowner, civic and community organizations representing the interests of more than 10,000 residents of southeast Fairfax County, I am writing to express our strong support for maintaining the stables at Meadowood at their present level of operations.

As you know, Meadowood is one of a series of connected parks that provide a network of trails for horse back riding, however Meadowood is the only one with a history of stabling horses. In the past year there has been increasing concern that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), who acquired the facility in 2001, intends to reduce horse stabling operations at Meadowood and eventually close the facility. The SCF strongly opposed a recent proposal to replace the stables with a smaller structure that could have endangered its financial viability and served as a pretext for eventually closing the facility outright.

Supervisor Hyland, as you know well, the transformation of the Lorton and South County community over the past decade has been a remarkable accomplishment, one that all of Fairfax County can be proud of. With your leadership, and that of many others in Fairfax County and in Congress, we have been able to add new and preserve existing historical, cultural and environmental resources in this part of the County. Meadowood stables has been and remains a truly unique asset valued by thousands of residents throughout the County.

For these reasons, we urge you to do all that you can to protect and preserve the horse stabling operations at Meadowood at their present level. Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do to improve the lives of the residents of Lorton and South County.

Sincerely,



Peter Dickinson, President
South County Federation

P.O. Box 442, Lorton, Virginia 22199



SOUTH FAIRFAX
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Benefiting Commerce and Community

July 25, 2011

To: Supervisor Gerry Hyland
Mount Vernon Governmental Center
2511 Parkers Lane
Alexandria, VA 22306

Dear Gerry,

The local businessmen and women of Fairfax County who constitute the South County Chamber of Commerce wish to state our very strong support for continued operation of the horse stable at the Bureau of Land Management's Meadowood facility, at the same level that has been customary in the past. We believe the horse boarding operation brings substantial benefits, both direct and indirect, not only to local businesses but also to the broader Mason Neck community.

Direct benefits include jobs created by the horse boarders—we understand that they employ seven farriers, six trainers, three equine dentists, several vets, a massage therapist and other service providers. In addition, the many people who come to ride the horses will typically patronize restaurants, supermarkets, and other local business establishments. These people include not only the boarders—and the five to seven weekly visits that most of them make—but also about 35 riding students and about 15 lessees and other riders who enjoy the 22 boarded horses.

Special mention should also be made of Simple Changes, the dedicated non-profit organization that utilizes the stable. It employs three people and provides a unique service—therapeutic horse rides for children with disabilities.

Indirect benefits include bringing more attention to Mason Neck and contributing to its image as a natural, rural, scenic and undeveloped oasis for all of the residents of the DC metropolitan area that has become increasingly urbanized over the years. Both permanent residents and visitors are delighted by the sight of horses grazing and running about on Meadowood's green fields, and one often sees cars stopped by the side of Gunston Road, as their occupant's stand by the fence to watch or photograph the horses.

Tim Rizer

Chairman,
South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce



Mason Neck Citizens Association

P.O. Box 612, Lorton, VA 22199

July 21, 2011

To: Supervisor Gerry Hyland
Mount Vernon Government Center
2511 Parkers Lane
Alexandria, VA 22306

Dear Gerry,

The Board of Directors of the Mason Neck Citizens Association—the only organization representing the interests of all of the 839 postal addresses on Mason Neck—wishes to express its strong and unanimous support for continued horse boarding at Meadowood at the same level that has been customary since the Bureau of Land Management acquired the facility in 2001. We believe continued operation of the horse barn was an integral part of the agreement that transferred the former Lynch property to BLM.

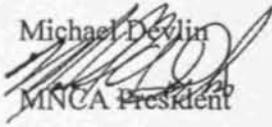
We note that at the well-attended June 30 Public Scoping Meeting, as at the similar meeting last November, there was a great outpouring of public support for maintaining the boarding arrangement that has existed since 2001.

With this in mind, the MNCA Board strongly endorses two specific measures, the first of which is particularly urgent:

- The existing contract should be immediately modified so that boarders who leave can be replaced. We find it illogical and counter-productive that there are at present a number of vacant stalls in the existing barn while a greater number of potential borders sit on a waiting list.
- With the physical shortcomings of the existing barn now established by engineering studies, BLM should move expeditiously to repair, or repair by replacement, the existing barn to provide a safe, structurally sound, and environment-friendly structure, with at least the same boarding capacity as the current structure..

Additionally, we encourage solicitation of further estimates of the costs of repair, or repair by replacement, as members of the Board who are real estate professionals have heard from some of their contacts that the cost could be substantially below the figures currently being cited.

In conclusion, please accept our sincere thanks for your 20 years of public service as Mount Vernon Supervisor and for your ongoing support of the Mason Neck community.

Michael Devlin

MNCA President

Gary Knipling

11807 Harley Road

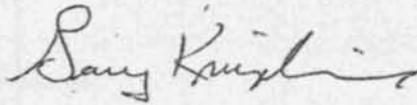
Mason Neck, VA 22079

July 28, 2011

To: Ms. E. Lynn Burkett, Meadowood Field Station Manager

To: Dr. John Lyon, Eastern States Director

I am in favor of all aspects regarding the continuation of public boarding and supportive of the current barn being repaired/improved. I understand the reason for the Earth Sangha plantings has been to improve stormwater runoff. The "Trail-to-Nowhere" will eventually be an integral part of the inter-connecting Mason Neck trail system.



Gary Knipling

Save Meadowood

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Dear Bureau of Land Management,

Please use the funds you have on hand to repair the stables at Meadowood and resume full-scale public boarding at the facility. The 40 acre equestrian facility serves as the public face for the larger 800-acre recreation area. Boarders contribute more than a million dollars to the surrounding community and help sustain the entire property. Please act without delay to allow boarding to return to 2008 levels and to repair the facility as promised in the boarder fee increase of 2008.

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obesity.

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Name: Barbara Draughon on Jun 20, 2011
Comments:

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Name: Joan Ernst on Jun 20, 2011
Comments: Save Meadowood

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Name: Anna Gibson on Jun 20, 2011
Comments: This barn works for the community, the environment and the the public. Keep it open, re;pair the barn and restore public boarding at Meadowood!

3

Name: Marcia House on Jun 20, 2011
Comments: That BLM has collected all this money but not used it for its intended purpose is fraud. It is especially fradulent that fees have been charged to the few remaining boarders with the purpose of allegedly repairing the barn, but the barn has been allowed to deteriorate without repair. At \$700/month, boarding horses would pay for itself and for repairs if only BLM would allow new boarders to rent stalls at Meadowood. This whole thing is outrageous! BLM needs to be held accountable!!

4

Name: Julie Miller on Jun 20, 2011
Comments:

5

Name: Joanne Contessa on Jun 20, 2011
Comments: If it's a barn, save it! Too many going by the wayside these days.

6

Name: *Anonymous* on Jun 21, 2011
Comments:

7

Name: Laura York on Jun 21, 2011
Comments: Meadowood will always and forever be a part of Mason Neck. To take this from the community, would be taking away the heart and soul of it. It, being a diverse and welcoming group of individuals, looking only to improve the lives of those in the area.

8

Name: Stephen Larson on Jun 21, 2011
Comments:

9

Name: Kristi Klepper on Jun 21, 2011
Comments: Please keep the stables open, its a great place for family to come and see the animals along with lessons and boarding for the public.

10

Name: Lynn Taylor on Jun 21, 2011

Comments: Please continue boarding as a use at Meadowood. Meadowood has a long and proud equestrian history and continues to serve a valued public purpose. There are many equestrians on the waiting list hoping to bring a horse in to Meadowood and boarding options in Northern Virginia are becoming scarcer each year. Please use the deferred maintenance funds (\$250,000 of which was raised from boarding fees) to repair the barn and allow the empty stalls to be filled. Boarding has been and can be again a profit center for BLM. As is, boarders pay the highest public user/recreation fee at Meadowood and equestrians (boarders, lesson and therapy riders) are the only members of the public paying ANY user fee at Meadowood.

Name: Sherry Rogers on Jun 21, 2011 12
Comments:

Name: Lindsey Dulo on Jun 21, 2011 13
Comments:

Name: Gail Sztanko on Jun 21, 2011 14
Comments:

Name: *Anonymous* on Jun 21, 2011 15
Comments: I agree with this request to maintain the current facility.

Name: Lenore And Joseph Geremia on Jun 21, 2011 16
Comments: Please go ahead with this project.

Name: Denise Crank on Jun 21, 2011 17
Comments: I do not board at Meadowood but, as far as I know the boarders are the public and there is a huge demand for this wonderful facility! Please please do not stop public boarding, Simple Changes or the riding school.

Name: Ray Halvatgis on Jun 21, 2011 18
Comments: Please keep public boarding at Meadowood.

Name: *Anonymous* on Jun 21, 2011 19
Comments: It would be a real shame to let this barn "go" ~ there are so few true farms left in the area ... please do what you can to make this barn a thriving success and good for the whole area!!

Name: Kristen Wylie on Jun 21, 2011 20
Comments:

Name: Marlena E. Ralph on Jun 21, 2011 21
Comments:

Name: Michelle Martin on Jun 21, 2011 22
Comments: The Bureau of Land Management has a responsibility to the public to repair the facility and to make available to boarders the currently vacant stalls.

Name: Susie N. LaCava on Jun 21, 2011 23
Comments:

Name: Karen L Jones on Jun 21, 2011 24
Comments: Please keep these stable going at Meadowood!! Horseback riding is a very important part of many peoples lives and can help young people develop a love tfor the outdoors and being in nature. In this time of childhood obesity and inactivity we need to keep as many active pasttimes available. And this also applies to adults

Name: James And Edith Halvatgis on Jun 21, 2011

Comments: As a Kentuckian and in the Thoroughbred Industry, it is imperative that public boarding facilities remain open for the local communities and the horse industry. Please keep public boarding at Meadowood.

Name: Clair Maher on Jun 21, 2011 26
Comments: Meadowood is a great community filled with many amazing people and horses. I thoroughly enjoyed boarding my horse there as well as working there. Please use the funds you have to help rebuild and continue this amazing equestrian center. It is a very important place for horse enthusiasts and for the local community.

Name: Claire Firebaugh on Jun 21, 2011 27
Comments:

Name: Anonymous on Jun 21, 2011 28
Comments: There is so much development and so few areas for horses. This is horse country and Mason Neck is horse all the way, always dependent on Meadowood. What about the supporting feed stores, hay suppliers, farriers, riders, trainers, vets, blanket repairs, sales, etc... There is a community around this barn. Please keep up the barn, there is a whole yard of life there. I don't know about board costs and so on for full board. Change it to a rough board facility.

Name: Diana York on Jun 21, 2011 29
Comments:

Name: Deanna Zagin on Jun 21, 2011 30
Comments:

Name: Anonymous on Jun 21, 2011 31
Comments:

Name: John Mernah on Jun 21, 2011 32
Comments:

Name: Carol Ackerman on Jun 21, 2011 33
Comments:

Name: Jill A. Deming on Jun 21, 2011 34
Comments:

Name: Allison Mills on Jun 21, 2011 35
Comments: Dear BLM, Please keep Meadowood open and functioning as a full scale boarding barn. Our community and economy need it!!

Name: Steve Ackerman on Jun 21, 2011 36
Comments:

Name: Carlton Jenkins on Jun 21, 2011 37
Comments:

Name: Mary Jerrell on Jun 21, 2011 38
Comments:

Name: Diane Pires on Jun 21, 2011 39
Comments: Too few boarding stables and riding establishments due to excessive development. Please help save one.

Name: Cyrus Taylor on Jun 21, 2011 40
Comments:

- Name:** Virginia White Hergenroeder on Jun 22, 2011 41
Comments:
- Name:** Sherri Brooks on Jun 22, 2011 42
Comments:
- Name:** Marti Jones on Jun 22, 2011 43
Comments:
- Name:** Terri Balog on Jun 22, 2011 44
Comments: It would be a shame to see this lovely and useful facility fall into further derepair and misuse - please help to bring it back to the it's full usefulness for both the boarders and the community!
- Name:** Marci Burke on Jun 22, 2011 45
Comments: Please repair Meadowood. Thank you.
- Name:** Jon Rossow on Jun 22, 2011 46
Comments: Please keep this stable open!
- Name:** Melissa Grasso on Jun 22, 2011 47
Comments:
- Name:** Theresa Gibson on Jun 22, 2011 48
Comments:
- Name:** Barbara Bonner on Jun 22, 2011 49
Comments: Please use the funds you have on hand to repair the stables at Meadowood and resume full -scale public boarding at the facility. The 40 acre equestrian facility serves as the public face for the larger 800-acre recreation area. Boarders contribute more than a million dollars to the surrounding community and help sustain the entire property. Please act without delay to allow boarding to return to 2008 levels and to repair the facility as promised in the boarder fee increase of 2008.
- Name:** Donald Harris on Jun 22, 2011 50
Comments: Money well spent. It generates additional funds for the area.

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Name: Laura Flemings on Jun 22, 2011
Comments:

51

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Name: Gabriel Heaberlin on Jun 22, 2011
Comments: Save it.. Great place

52

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www.MY

Name: Jen Robertson on Jun 22, 2011
Comments:

53

Name: Susan Harris on Jun 22, 2011
Comments:

54

Name: Anonymous on Jun 22, 2011
Comments:

55

Name: Marianne Filice on Jun 22, 2011
Comments:

56

Name: Andra Clapsaddle on Jun 22, 2011
Comments: Please keep Meadowood open for public boarding!

57

Name: Valerie Castro on Jun 22, 2011
Comments:

58

Name: Robert Burke on Jun 22, 2011
Comments: Dear BLM, Please restore the public boarding and repair the facility. I am disappointed that you have not already taken this action. Sincerely, Robert R. Burke

59

Name: Patricia Brady on Jun 22, 2011
Comments:

60

Name: Tina Haddad on Jun 22, 2011
Comments:

61

Name: Anonymous on Jun 22, 2011
Comments:

62

Name: Tiffany on Jun 22, 2011

Comments: Support your local farms. We have to cherish them. Their aren't many left around here!

Name: Alan Moore on Jun 22, 2011
Comments: Please maintain this important part of our community. 64

Name: Tamara Richards on Jun 22, 2011
Comments: PLEASE KEEP MEADOWWOOD OPEN. IT IS AN AMAZING FACILITY AND SO IMPORTANT TO OUR COMMUNITY. 65

Name: Maria Lukowsky on Jun 22, 2011
Comments: 66

Name: Celeste Allen on Jun 22, 2011
Comments: 67

Name: Jessica on Jun 22, 2011
Comments: 68

Name: Sahar Arsala on Jun 22, 2011
Comments: Samll businesses make a contribution, when given the opportunity! 69

Name: Cynthia Hutchison on Jun 22, 2011
Comments: 70

Name: Eric Zagin on Jun 23, 2011
Comments: 71

Name: Rebecca Brown Thompson on Jun 23, 2011
Comments: We have lost so much open space and horse property in the County in recent decades. Can't we preserve the little we have left? 72

Name: Rebecca Brown Thompson on Jun 23, 2011
Comments: We have lost so much open space and horse property in the County in recent decades. Can't we preserve the little we have left? 73

Name: Nina Phillips on Jun 23, 2011
Comments: 74

Name: Emily Schwartzman on Jun 23, 2011
Comments: 75

Name: Gary Schneider on Jun 23, 2011
Comments: Please keep Meadowood open to public boarding. 76

Name: Nancy Mink Schneider on Jun 23, 2011
Comments: Please keep Meadowood open to public boarding! 77

Name: Robin Schwartzman on Jun 23, 2011
Comments: 78

Name: James Lebo on Jun 23, 2011
Comments: 79

Name: Caren Zagin on Jun 23, 2011
Comments: 80

- Name:** Joan Modzelewski on Jun 23, 2011 81
Comments: We need to keep the barn for the many people and their relatives and friends who board horses there and use the beautiful riding trails. Horses are an essential part of Virginia's history and BLM should be respectful of that. It was they agreed to do when they were given that land to manage several years ago. Let's hold them to their promise.

- Name:** Alison Thompson on Jun 24, 2011 82
Comments: There are fewer and fewer choices for equestrians in eastern Fairfax County. Please act quickly to save this facility.

- Name:** Colleen Coccia on Jun 24, 2011 83
Comments:

- Name:** Corinne Conner on Jun 24, 2011 84
Comments:

- Name:** Anita Hammen on Jun 24, 2011 85
Comments: When something is needed and is important, it should always be available.

- Name:** John Fulginiti on Jun 24, 2011 86
Comments:

- Name:** Jeff Stewart on Jun 24, 2011 87
Comments: I agree that this facility should be repaired and not scaled down.

- Name:** Rakesh Patel on Jun 24, 2011 88
Comments:

- Name:** *Anonymous* on Jun 24, 2011 89
Comments: Save the Barn!

- Name:** Linda Staples on Jun 24, 2011 90
Comments:

- Name:** Kaye Weathers on Jun 24, 2011 91
Comments:

- Name:** Tom Wilt on Jun 24, 2011 92
Comments: No new money, just what you have already! Please!

- Name:** Tasha Allen on Jun 24, 2011 93
Comments:

- Name:** Carmen Mullins on Jun 24, 2011 94
Comments: This is a critical part of the community!

- Name:** Pamela Bodager on Jun 25, 2011 95
Comments: Please, please repair the stables. Broken promises should not happen. I drive past Meadowood every day and marvel at its beauty. This facility is a treasure we cannot lose.

- Name:** Catherine Tehan on Jun 25, 2011 96
Comments: Dear Bureau of Land Management, Please use the funds you have on hand to repair the stables at Meadowood and resume full-scale public boarding at the facility. The 40 acre equestrian facility serves as the public face for the larger 800-acre recreation area. Boarders contribute more than a million dollars to the surrounding community and help sustain the entire property. Please act without delay to allow boarding to return to 2008 levels and to repair the facility as promised in the boarder fee increase of 2008.

Name: Anonymous on Jun 25, 2011 Comments:	97
Name: Nicole Ball on Jun 25, 2011 Comments:	98
Name: Philippa LeVine on Jun 26, 2011 Comments:	99
Name: Philippa LeVine on Jun 26, 2011 Comments:	100

Signatures

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Name: Tommie Phelan on Jun 26, 2011 Comments:	101
Name: Nicole LeVine on Jun 26, 2011 Comments:	102
Name: Sue Ruth on Jun 27, 2011 Comments:	103
Name: Anne Pugh on Jun 27, 2011 Comments:	104
Name: Bill Frye on Jun 27, 2011 Comments:	105
Name: Ann Marie on Jun 27, 2011 Comments: As a resident of Meadowood for the past five years, I have come to know the importance of the Meadowood school to our community, and particularly to the sustainability of our local ambience. Meadowood's facilities, open and green spaces well supported.	106
Name: Chris O'Neil on Jun 27, 2011 Comments: Meadowood has served as the basis for my education and education of my children. It is a great school and I would like to see it continue to be a great school. I would like to see it continue to be a great school. I would like to see it continue to be a great school.	107
Name: David Olson on Jun 27, 2011 Comments: I have lived in Meadowood for over 20 years and have watched it grow from a small school to a great school. I would like to see it continue to be a great school. I would like to see it continue to be a great school. I would like to see it continue to be a great school.	108
Name: Anne LeVine on Jun 27, 2011 Comments: Meadowood is a great school and I would like to see it continue to be a great school. I would like to see it continue to be a great school. I would like to see it continue to be a great school.	109
Name: Angela on Jun 27, 2011 Comments: Meadowood is a great school and I would like to see it continue to be a great school. I would like to see it continue to be a great school. I would like to see it continue to be a great school.	110

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Name: Fettya Woodard on Jun 26, 2011
Comments:

101

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Name: Sandra Larson on Jun 26, 2011
Comments:

102

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Name: Sue Keith on Jun 27, 2011
Comments:

103

Name: Jenna Fryer on Jun 27, 2011
Comments:

104

Name: Brit Fryer on Jun 27, 2011
Comments:

105

Name: Ann Elise Sauer on Jun 27, 2011

106

Comments: As a resident of Mason Neck for the past five years, I have come to know the importance of the Meadowood stables to our community, and particularly to the sustainment of its unique ambience. Please keep the stables open and operating and well-supported.

Name: Shep Crow on Jun 27, 2011

107

Comments: BLM should allow the barn to be renovated and continue to be used as a horse boarding and therapeutic riding facility. It is of great economic value to the Lorton area and local community to maintain the services of Meadowood Farm. The South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce supports this position.

Name: Carol Oman Urban on Jun 27, 2011

108

Comments: I fully support the use of Meadowood as a full scale public horse boarding facility. An as a leasee of a horse at Meadowood, I certainly can attest to the financial support I and others provide to the local community. Meadowood is an asset worth supporting for both the community and the BLM.

Name: Sharon L. Bae on Jun 27, 2011

109

Comments: As a long time resident of the Mason Neck, I have enjoyed seeing the many horses grazing in the fields at Meadowood. With so few facilities in the county to accommodate equestrians and their mounts, I have felt privileged to be a part of this beautiful area which provides this valuable resource. Please continue to provide boarding and grazing facilities for these beautiful animals, so that they and their human friends can continue to enjoy this beautiful area.

Name: Anonymous on Jun 27, 2011

Comments: Please act without delay to allow boarding to return to 2008 levels and to repair the facility as promised in the boarder fee increase of 2008.

Name: Linda Dameron on Jun 27, 2011 111
Comments: Keep bording horses at Meadow Wood. It is so beautiful and peaceful to see them. It fits in with the surrounding area on Mason Neck.

Name: Holly Halvatgis on Jun 27, 2011 112
Comments:

Name: Monica A. Alonso on Jun 27, 2011 113
Comments:

Name: Stephanie King on Jun 27, 2011 114
Comments: I support the continuance of boarding of horses at Meadowood stables. I do not personally board horses, but have many friends and acquaintances that depend on the stables for their horses and their livelihoods. It is a source of both pride and pleasure to belong to a community so close to and dependent on the horses being boarded at the stables.

Name: Dana Hutson on Jun 27, 2011 115
Comments:

Name: Kimberly Campbell on Jun 27, 2011 116
Comments: Meadowood offers one of the only remaining horse boarding facilities for the citizens in Northern Virginia. Many barns have disappeared due to housing construction. Please support the public opinions that full scale public horse boarding should continue at Meadowood!

Name: Kevin & Christine Culhane on Jun 27, 2011 117
Comments: Not only do boarders contribute financially, but also help provide an important interface between BLM & the rest of the community. Likewise, the BLM has the opportunity to provide a great service to the community by continuing public boarding (as few good facilities remain!)

Name: Jennifer Felix on Jun 27, 2011 118
Comments: This is important to the entire community even those of us who do not board horses at the stables.

Name: Cora Pedrazzi on Jun 27, 2011 119
Comments:

Name: Joyce Cross on Jun 27, 2011 120
Comments:

Name: Linda MacDonald on Jun 27, 2011 121
Comments:

Name: Linda & Keith Sinrod on Jun 27, 2011 122
Comments: The beauty of the countryside driving down Gunston Road is greatly enhanced by the horses grazing at Meadowood. This enriches the life of the thousands of visitors to the many parks on Mason Neck.

Name: Mike And Mary Chapman on Jun 27, 2011 123
Comments: Yes! Repair the stables at Meadowood and resume full-scale public boarding at the facility.

Name: Terri Young on Jun 27, 2011 124
Comments: I own and operate a horse boarding facility and I understand the positive impact it has on the local community and the people it serves. Fairfax County has so few decent boarding options, especially in southern Fairfax. Please save horse boarding at Meadowood.

Name: Vincent J. Canale on Jun 27, 2011 125
Comments:

Name: Jennifer Halston on Jun 28, 2011 126
Comments: Wonderful family friendly public facility; we would love to see the repairs completed on the barn so we and our neighbors can enjoy this for years to come.

Name: Shelley Castle on Jun 28, 2011 127
Comments: Meadowood is a treasure the community, Virginia, and all the local equestrians that use it. Growing up in the area, I have slowly seen developers buy up and build on the many horse farms and barns in this area of NOVA. We believed that BLM taking over Meadowood would allow the facility to be protected and preserved. Fees were charged and collected to fix the barn. Please put the MANAGE back into the Bureau of Land Management.

Name: Donna Switzer on Jun 28, 2011 128
Comments: Please save Meadowood!! It's the only public boarding facility in the southern end of Fairfax County! It's great for local businesses in the surrounding area and is a great draw for the County! You must act now to fulfill the promises made to the Boarders when their fee increased in 2008! Don't let Meadowood become a victim to big business!! Let the residents enjoy the freedom to ride their horses in Fairfax County!

Name: Jennifer & Mark Megan on Jun 28, 2011 129
Comments:

Name: Melissa Monaghan on Jun 28, 2011 130
Comments: Horse boarding is good for our economy, our community and our way of life.

Name: Michael K. Halston on Jun 28, 2011 131
Comments: My family and I are Mason Neck resident who visit and ride the horses at Meadowood Stables. During the past two years I have become intimately aware of the issues that surround the operations at Meadowood Stables and BLM's management of the property as a whole. My family believes in the continued need for full scale boarding at Meadowood and is petitioning BLM to stop closing down these types of boarding facilities. Horse boarding is good for our economy, our community and our way of life!

Name: Jennifer L. Halston on Jun 28, 2011 132
Comments: My family and I are Mason Neck resident who visit and ride the horses at Meadowood Stables. During the past two years I have become intimately aware of the issues that surround the operations at Meadowood Stables and BLM's management of the property as a whole. My family believes in the continued need for full scale boarding at Meadowood and is petitioning BLM to stop closing down these types of boarding facilities. Horse boarding is good for our economy, our community and our way of life!

Name: Craig Miller on Jun 29, 2011 133
Comments:

Name: Janet Cole on Jun 29, 2011 134
Comments: Could not attend the meeting last night but would like to add my strong support to continuing and enhancing the equestrian activities at Meadowood. As a long time local resident, I believe that these facilities are a huge benefit to the greater community and actively support the mission of the BLM to both conserve, maintain, and provide public uses on this important property.

Name: Richard And Mary Kay Ryan on Jun 30, 2011 135
Comments:

Name: Hope Effross on Jun 30, 2011 136
Comments:

Name: Andrew Effross on Jun 30, 2011 137
Comments:

Name: Reese Effross on Jun 30, 2011 Comments:	138
Name: Daisy Moore on Jul 4, 2011 Comments:	139
Name: Doug Scheidt on Jul 5, 2011 Comments: Repair the barn and fill the empty stalls with boarders.	140
Name: Patricia Ellison on Jul 6, 2011 Comments: The quality of life in Northern Virginia continues to deteriorate, primarily due to over-development. We need, children need, safe harbor from the millions of wheels, technology, pollution in the area. In short, we need better stewards of our land, especially open and agricultural land. One need only look to other over-developed countries (say, Japan), or our own area to justify the cost/benefit. BLM has an opportunity to be the good stewards we need: this is not just about facilities for horse owners. Thank you for your consideration.	141
Name: Lara Bartl on Jul 6, 2011 Comments: Meadowood has been an important part of the equestrian community for many years. It is one of the few facilities left in Northern Virginia available for boarding. Please do the necessary repairs and allow boarding to continue at Meadowood.	142
Name: Rob Hartwell on Jul 6, 2011 Comments: I understand that budgets are very tight and safety is paramount, but please work with the local community to resume full-scale boarding and give us a chance to figure out how to contribute or assist in your efforts.	143
Name: Cathryn Julia Piscitelli on Jul 8, 2011 Comments:	144
Name: Meredith Piscitelli on Jul 8, 2011 Comments:	145
Name: Tonda Phalen on Jul 23, 2011 Comments: This rare and valuable asset must be saved.	146
Name: Lynn on Jul 23, 2011 Comments: Please restore boarding to MW. Fill the open stalls, and	147
Name: Olivia S. on Jul 23, 2011 Comments: Please repair the barn and resume boarding.	148
Name: Siobhan Johansson on Jul 23, 2011 Comments:	149
Name: William P Bock on Jul 23, 2011 Comments: Keep this facility as a fully functioning public boarding stable as planned as part of the transfer of the Meadowood property to BLM.	150

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Name: Cathy Brown on Jul 24, 2011
Comments: Need to keep Meadowood open!!!!

151

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Name: Cecilia Selbrede on Jul 24, 2011
Comments: It would be a shame to eliminate the ability to stable horses at Meadowood.

152

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Name: Nancy Scheidt on Jul 24, 2011
Comments: Save Meadowood. the skills my neice has learned there, as well as the care they provide for the horses, are invaluable. the owners and employees really care!

153

Name: Janet B Harris on Jul 24, 2011
Comments:

154

Name: Michele McDonald on Jul 24, 2011
Comments: Please repair the stables at Meadowood as they are an economic benefit to the community. Sincerely, Michele McDonald Alexandria VA

155

Name: Dana McNabb on Jul 25, 2011
Comments:

156

Name: Leslie Schumacher on Jul 25, 2011
Comments:

157

Name: Susan Ujka Larson on Jul 26, 2011
Comments:

158

Name: Dette Keany on Jul 26, 2011
Comments: Meadowoods is such an amazing place to ride and be a part of. My daughter loves to trail ride there. Please put the funds that are needed to keep it up and running. So many people rely on going there. It keeps teens out of trouble because they would rather be with there horses than running the roads doing things they shouldn't be doing. Do the right thing to keep Meadowoods up and running. Thank you very much, Dette Keany

159

Name: Denise Crank on Jul 26, 2011
Comments:

160

Name: Linda Lautenschlager on Jul 26, 2011
Comments:

161

Name: Robyn Magonigal on Jul 26, 2011

Comments: I have had horses at Meadowood for the past 26 years, I am a long time boarder and wish to remain here. It is close to my home and can not afford to move my horse further south, east, west or north.

163

Name: Catherine Taylor on Jul 27, 2011
Comments: Save Meadowood! Please!

Name: Dorris Taylor on Jul 27, 2011

Comments: BLM needs to be responsive to what the public wants: a repaired public boarding barn. Use the deferred maintenance money to repair the barn now and start filling the empty stalls with boarders.

164

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Corinne Conner

Corinne M. Conner

Kimberly Campbell

Kimberly Campbell

Allison Mills

Allison Mills

Shelley G McCaffrey

Carol F. Ackerman

Carol F. Ackerman

Robyn MEGONIGAL

Robyn MEGONIGAL

Linda M. Staples

Linda M. Staples

Lynn Taylor

Lynn Taylor

Linda M. Macdonald

Linda M. Macdonald

Anna M. Gibson

Anna M. Gibson

Jennifer Weston

Jennifer Weston

Carol E Kennedy

Carol E Kennedy

Kelsey R. Dugan

Kelsey R. Dugan

Deanna Zogin

Deanna Zogin

Eric Zogin

Eric Zogin

Olivia Scheidt

Olivia Scheidt

RECEIVED

Linda Lautenschlager
 Jayce Cross (by proxy)
 Robert Cross (by proxy)
 Susan Larson (by proxy)
 Mary Louise Kelley (by proxy)

... regarding this matter. ALM is currently engaged in
 ... We are bound by the M's repeated statements
 ... with E Lynn Baker at Fairfax County Supervising
 ... available funds are sufficient to complete PDZ
 ... delivered maintenance funds while still being able to cover
 ... the less meeting alone by the board, families and
 ... to move forward with the delivered maintenance funds to
 ... expediently begin repair of the country
 ... we are hopeful that ...
 ... of Allison Mills ... with Sandy Chang
 ...

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

RECEIVED

July 7, 2011

2011 JUL -9 A 12:57

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
EASTERN STATES OFFICE

Dr. John Lyon
State Director, Eastern States Office
Bureau of Land Management
7450 Boston Blvd
Springfield, VA 22153

Dear Dr. Lyon,

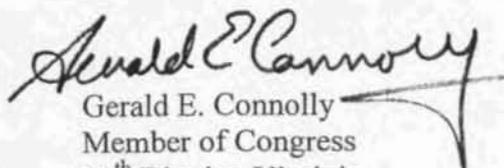
Congratulations and welcome to the Virginia Branch of the Bureau of Land Management. We are writing with respect to the Meadowood Equestrian Facilities. We had previously been working with your predecessors to elicit an appropriate outcome in determining the future of this site. Ensuring the safety and future viability of this facility is a project with tremendous public support, and we look forward to continue working with the Bureau of Land Management to realize this important goal.

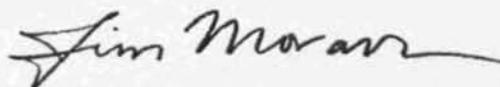
We congratulate you for vigorously pursuing public input regarding this project. BLM is currently engaged in the NEPA process, the first step of which is public scoping. We are heartened by BLM's repeated assurance to carry out the communities' wishes. Based on a meeting with E. Lynn Burkett at Fairfax County Supervisor Gerry Hyland's office, it is our understanding that available funds are sufficient to complete POZ Environmental, LLC's Alternative 1 with available deferred maintenance funds while still being able to cover some of the additional costs within Alternative 1A.

Considering that more than 200 petitions were presented at the last meeting alone by the boarders, families and community members expressing their deep desire to move forward with the deferred maintenance funds to refurbish the barn, we would encourage you to make preparations to expeditiously begin repairs of the existing structure. As the footprint of the structure will remain the same, we are hopeful that an environmental impact study will not be necessary. We would also like to convey the sentiments of many of our constituents regarding offering additional stalls for boarders under the management of Allison Mills as well as with Simple Changes.

We appreciate your desire to strictly adhere to the public input process and would like to request a detailed timeline for necessary maintenance to be completed. As we only have until late 2012 to have this project completed, we are sure you appreciate the need to move quickly in all aspects of this project. Again, thank you for your commitment in maintaining Meadowood for public use and recreation purposes.

Sincerely,


Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress
11th District, Virginia

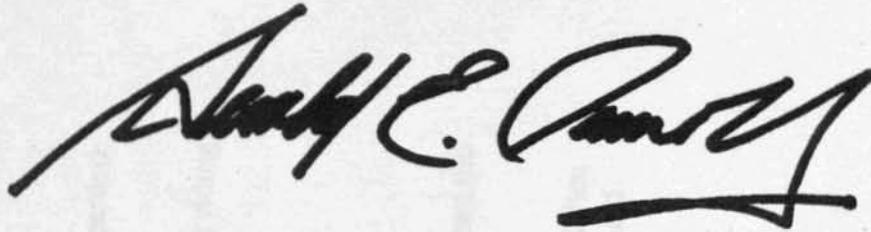

James P. Moran
Member of Congress
8th District, Virginia

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4611

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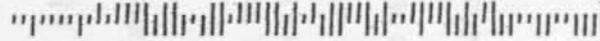


M.C.

Dr. John Lyon
State Director, Eastern States Office
Bureau of Land Management
7450 Boston Blvd
Springfield, VA 22153



EUXASP1 22153



July 21, 2011

E. Lynn Burkett
Lower Potomac Field Station, BLM
10406 Gunston Rd.
Lorton, VA 22079

Dr. John Lyon
Executive Director
Bureau of Land Management
7400 Sunrise Blvd
Springfield, VA 22151

Ms. Burkett,

I am writing to you to give recommendations for the Stables of Meadowood.
Here are my recommendations:

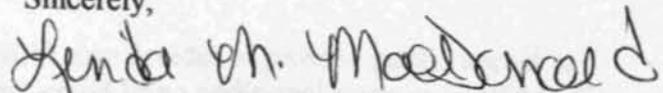
1. Repair the existing barn.
2. There is no need for the horses to leave the Meadowood property, they can be on field board.
3. Allow the contractor-CAS Company-to fill the empty stalls with publically boarded horses.
4. Maintain 36 stalls for public boarding, allocate the remaining 12 stalls for the riding lesson program, and the therapeutic riding.
5. Restore the pastures that have been downsized.

In the meeting you asked for ideas for the barn. I have a few:

1. Increase ventilation – add fans in the barn. Example-ceiling fans in the arena and the aisles.
2. Remove boards from the bottom of the stage, leave 4 boards at the bottom and then install lattice up to the seating area. This does not require much work and would tremendously improve ventilation.
3. Lighten the inside of the barn by adding more of the skylight panels in the roof.
4. For the future plan: provide a freestanding riding arena on the mustang parcel.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Linda M. MacDonald

July 28, 2011

Ms. E. Lynn Burkett
Meadowood Field Station Manager
Bureau of Land Management
10406 Gunston Road
Lorton, VA 22079

Dr. John Lyon
Eastern States Director
Bureau of Land Management
7450 Boston Blvd
Springfield, VA 22153

Re: Comments on Meadowood and FAQs

Dear Ms. Burkett and Dr. Lyon:

I am writing to share my views on the use of Meadowood and the equestrian facility and to comment on the Frequently Asked Questions posted to the BLM Eastern States website today.

Repair the Barn/Continue Boarding

Please use the deferred maintenance money to repair the existing barn and fill the empty stalls with boarded horses from the public waiting list. There aren't enough boarding facilities in the Northern Virginia area, and horses provide a valuable recreation use for all riders regardless of why they have chosen to ride. Given the paltry few boarders remaining in the barn because of BLM's attrition policy and refusal to allow boarders to fill empty stalls, the overwhelming community support is all the more indicative of the public's opinion that Meadowood should continue as a boarding facility. There is no place for the 30 Meadowood horses to go during the repair so provide a temporary shelter and allow them to remain onsite during the repair.

Frequently Asked Questions

The FAQs posted just one day before the end of the comment period should have been handed out at the June 28th public meeting so the public had ample opportunity to consider and comment on them. BLM makes decisions in the FAQs about uses but does so without the benefit of public comment.

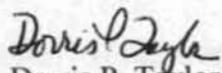
- **Caissons and Capitol Police Horses:** BLM does not have the legal authority to allow caisson or police horses to use Meadowood. BLM's authority is prescribed by Congress. Congress appointed BLM the steward of Meadowood farm and empowered BLM to manage Meadowood Farm for "public use and recreation." Stabling or training caisson or capitol police horses do not constitute "public use and recreation." BLM can't superimpose its own judgment for that of Congress. So, without an act of Congress, BLM cannot legally "provide pasture and facility use to the U.S. Army when needed" as the FAQ states. Simply put, BLM does not have the legal authority to provide the pasture and facility usage to the Army and saying that BLM does in an FAQ doesn't make it so. BLM is bounded by the terms of the law as written by Congress.
- **Barn Open to the Public:** In the FAQs, BLM also decides to provide public access to the indoor and outdoor arena which certainly could bring additional revenue to BLM. To make this work, BLM will need to establish procedures for the public use of the indoor

and outdoor arena. **First**, BLM needs to carefully **schedule** arena use. Currently, existing public equestrian SRP holders are conducting at least 70 riding and therapy lessons each and every week and the Army is unlawfully training caisson horses in the indoor arena. This use by multiple user groups often results in multiple lessons (sometimes 3 at a time) occurring at the same time in the arenas and leaves boarders to find riding times when lessons aren't occupying the arenas. To successfully add additional public riders will require careful scheduling of reservations during public riding times. **Second**, BLM must be mindful of **health** issues to protect visiting and stabled horses. All horses coming to Meadowood must comply with Virginia law which requires presentation of a current, valid negative Coggins certificate before entry to the property. While BLM has not enforced the law for the caisson horses, it cannot continue to violate this law. In fact, **all horses accessing the facility, including Mustangs for the auctions, should be required to meet the same current vaccination and Coggins standards that stabled horses must meet.** **Third**, safety rules will be required to ensure safe sharing of riding areas by lesson and therapy riders, boarders, leasers and public access riders. **Fourth**, BLM must obtain adequate **insurance to insure against injury/illness to stabled horses and other members of the public.** While Fairfax County's Frying Pan Park does not have boarded horses so their model won't be instructive in that manner, visitors are allowed to make reservations, pay a fee, present a negative Coggins and bring a horse to use the Frying Pan Park equestrian facility. BLM should evaluate the Frying Pan Park procedures prior to allowing access at Meadowood.

- **The "Pond":** The FAQ says that the pond existed prior to BLM creating it. This is absolutely not true. There was no pond before BLM staff used heavy machinery to dig out a pond. In fact, it took BLM about 6 months to create the pond. Similarly, there was no "wet meadow" before BLM staff created one by preventing rain water from flowing. The pond must comply with Fairfax County regulations regarding ponding of stagnant water to avoid the mosquito breeding that has occurred since creation of the pond. There really aren't any "amphibians" to curb the the mosquitoes.
- **Pasture Maintenance:** The FAQs state that "careful management of" "pastures is needed to minimize impacts to the watershed which have been occurring over many years..." BLM's 2004 Activity Plan requires BLM to maintain the pastures by reseeding, cross fencing, doubling pasture size and mowing. BLM has done none of this. If BLM is truly committed to "careful management of pastures," shouldn't BLM be following its own Plan and undertaken the standard pasture management that it requires?

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,


Dorris P. Taylor

Comments on Meadowood Barn: Undisclosed Conflicts of Interest

If BLM decides to use the deferred maintenance money to repair the barn (which is in fact the only legitimate use under federal accounting standards for deferred maintenance money), BLM says that the barn will not be usable for 6 to 8 months. During winter months and during inclement weather, Simple Changes, more than any other user, relies heavily on use of the indoor arena to continue operation of its therapy program. Thus, repair of the barn and the concomitant closing of the indoor arena to users during the period of repair, is not an optimal option for Simple Changes. Construction of a new barn, however, would enable Simple Changes to continue to use the indoor arena for its lessons until the new indoor arena was ready for use. In this manner, Simple Changes' operations would be seamless - there would be no interruption due to inclement weather during a period of barn repair.

To support this desired outcome - the construction of a new barn and arena and seamless transition from the old structure to the new -- at the June 28, 2010 meeting, Dr. Freckleton, a well regarded and popular vet at Meadowood stood and made an impassioned plea for a new barn emphasizing that the barn is dusty and, and a potential fire hazard. In opining, Dr. Freckleton, disclosed her fine credentials as vet of choice to many of the Meadowood boarders, but she did NOT disclose her inherent conflict of interest. She failed to disclose that she also is the life partner of Jenny Spain, Director of the Simple Changes therapy riding program.

While the barn is indeed dusty and all barns contain flammable materials, Dr. Freckleton knows that none of the horses in the barn has a respiratory ailment caused by dust from the arena. She knows that only one horse in the barn coughs and the cause of that cough, while perhaps at times exacerbated by the dust, is not caused by dust. She also knows from visiting so many barns in our area, that while all barns by definition are fire hazards and all horse owners fear barn fires, most barns in our area are older than Meadowood, in poorer repair than Meadowood and have electrical wiring that predates the wiring at Meadowood. Indeed the POZ report which prioritizes repairs based on safety considerations, lists the electrical wiring as the seventh most important safety fix to be made. Further, Ms. Spain has maintained the Simple Changes' horses at Meadowood for over six years. Dr. Freckleton is too good a vet to have stood idly by while Ms. Spain stabled the Simple Changes horses at Meadowood if the barn posed the serious threats to equine health and safety she suggested existed when she spoke at the meeting. Also, unlike the boarders and the lesson program operator, Simple Changes DOES at least appear to have other possible stabling and program location options as Dr. Freckleton and Ms. Spain reside on a horse farm where Simple Changes horses sometimes are stabled following hospitalization.

In short, while everyone would welcome a new comparably sized barn if money were no object and we recognize Dr. Freckleton's skill and reputation as a vet, in this instance, her actions to support construction of a new barn appear to have been influenced by her relationship with Ms. Spain and Ms. Spain's understandable desire to suffer as little disruption as possible to the operation of her therapy riding program.

Moore: In Support of Meadowood Stables

From: Leslie Moore [REDACTED]
Sent: Thu 7/28/11 11:01 AM
To: es_meadowood@es.blm.gov
Cc: Derek Moore [REDACTED]
Bcc: Allison Mills [REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Burkett,

We are writing to you in regards to the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area in Lorton, Virginia.

Our youngest daughter, Natalie, takes riding lessons at Meadowood under the guidance of Allison Mills (CAS Co.). What began with the constant begging for riding lessons from a six year old girl has become a wonderful Saturday afternoon for our entire family.

Natalie thoroughly enjoys her riding lessons with Allison. She has a natural love of horses and the riding lessons at Meadowood have been outstanding. Allison Mills teaches with command, compassion and a strong level of professionalism. Natalie has made wonderful progress in her lessons, but even more importantly she has gained confidence and discipline while enjoying riding. We were thrilled to find the riding lessons at Meadowood! We feel they provide a unique opportunity for Natalie and allow us to expose her to horses while not owning a horse ourselves.

We love being in the barn and seeing all the horses (and cats)! It's truly amazing to walk into the barn and see so many horses and learn their names and unique personalities. It adds to the riding lesson experience in that there are so many horses and you can see the owners taking care of them and going out for rides themselves. We've had the chance to speak with some of the boarders and they talk of their love of riding and how they started at a young age. They are good role models for Natalie and they explain the work involved in owning and caring for a horse.

Our entire family enjoys Meadowood and looks forward to our Saturday afternoons. We live in Alexandria, VA about a thirty minute drive from Meadowood in a townhouse with a tiny yard. Once we cross Route 1 onto Old Colchester Rd, we feel as if we have entered another world that reminds us of our roots in Texas. Our family has hiked many of the trails at Meadowood and fished at both Hidden Pond and Enchanted Pond. Meadowood has provided a setting that every member of our family enjoys and hiking has become a family activity that allows our girls to spend wonderful time with their father. Given the hectic, indoor and traffic-jammed lives that we live in Northern Virginia, Meadowood is a welcome respite for our family.

We hope that the Bureau of Land Management continues to make Meadowood and its wonderful stable and trail facilities open to the public and allow all families to enjoy a bit of nature at its finest.

Sincerely,

The Moore Family

Leslie and Derek Moore
Texas A&M - class of 1993

Katherine Moore - age 8

I like horse lessons Oh

and the horsees I ride. Also sometimes

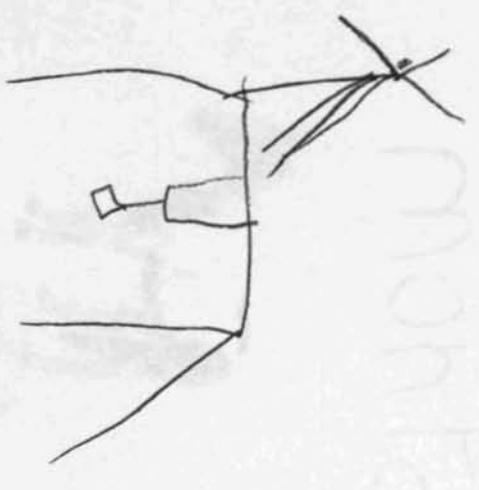
after I'm done with

horse lessons I go

fishing.

Love Natalie

Moore



Horses I like

DOC



POI.



CUPCAKE



MONTANA



COOKIE



Natalie

Dear Ms. Burkett,

July 18, 2011

I don't take riding lessons but I like to walk the trails and fishing while my sister Natalie has her lessons. When it gets too hot to go on the trails me and my dad explore the creeks. We don't have a pet at home so it is fun to see Fred the cat. We have fun family time at Meadowood!



Dear Ms. Burkett and Dr. Lynn

Sincerely,

Thomas Morse



Last writing to share my views on the use of Meadowood and the...
 Legated on the Frequently Asked Questions posted to the BLM Eastern...
 Regarding the BLM's Continued...
 Please use the defined...
 -all...
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 who...
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Frequently Asked Questions

The FAQ posted last...
 on June 28th...
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July 28, 2011

Ms. E. Lynn Burkett
Meadowood Field Station Manager
Bureau of Land Management
10406 Gunston Road
Lorton, VA 22079

Dr. John Lyon
Eastern States Director
Bureau of Land Management
7450 Boston Blvd
Springfield, VA 22153

Re: Comments on Meadowood and FAQs

Dear Ms. Burkett and Dr. Lyon:

I am writing to share my views on the use of Meadowood and the equestrian facility and to comment on the Frequently Asked Questions posted to the BLM Eastern States website today.

Repair the Barn/Continue Boarding

Please use the deferred maintenance money to repair the existing barn and fill the empty stalls with boarded horses from the public waiting list. There aren't enough boarding facilities in the Northern Virginia area, and horses provide a valuable recreation use for all riders regardless of why they have chosen to ride. Given the paltry few boarders remaining in the barn because of BLM's attrition policy and refusal to allow boarders to fill empty stalls, the overwhelming community support is all the more indicative of the public's opinion that Meadowood should continue as a boarding facility. There is no place for the 30 Meadowood horses to go during the repair so provide a temporary shelter and allow them to remain onsite during the repair.

Frequently Asked Questions

The FAQs posted just one day before the end of the comment period should have been handed out at the June 28th public meeting so the public had ample opportunity to consider and comment on them. BLM makes decisions in the FAQs about uses but does so without the benefit of public comment.

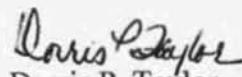
- **Caissons and Capitol Police Horses:** BLM does not have the legal authority to allow caisson or police horses to use Meadowood. BLM's authority is prescribed by Congress. Congress appointed BLM the steward of Meadowood farm and empowered BLM to manage Meadowood Farm for "public use and recreation." Stabling or training caisson or capitol police horses do not constitute "public use and recreation." BLM can't superimpose its own judgment for that of Congress. So, without an act of Congress, BLM cannot legally "provide pasture and facility use to the U.S. Army when needed" as the FAQ states. Simply put, BLM does not have the legal authority to provide the pasture and facility usage to the Army and saying that BLM does in an FAQ doesn't make it so. BLM is bounded by the terms of the law as written by Congress.
- **Barn Open to the Public:** In the FAQs, BLM also decides to provide public access to the indoor and outdoor arena which certainly could bring additional revenue to BLM. To make this work, BLM will need to establish procedures for the public use of the indoor

and outdoor arena. **First**, BLM needs to carefully **schedule** arena use. Currently, existing public equestrian SRP holders are conducting at least 70 riding and therapy lessons each and every week and the Army is unlawfully training caisson horses in the indoor arena. This use by multiple user groups often results in multiple lessons (sometimes 3 at a time) occurring at the same time in the arenas and leaves boarders to find riding times when lessons aren't occupying the arenas. To successfully add additional public riders will require careful scheduling of reservations during public riding times. **Second**, BLM must be mindful of **health** issues to protect visiting and stabled horses. All horses coming to Meadowood must comply with Virginia law which requires presentation of a current, valid negative Coggins certificate before entry to the property. While BLM has not enforced the law for the caisson horses, it cannot continue to violate this law. In fact, **all horses accessing the facility, including Mustangs for the auctions, should be required to meet the same current vaccination and Coggins standards that stabled horses must meet.** **Third**, safety rules will be required to ensure safe sharing of riding areas by lesson and therapy riders, boarders, leasers and public access riders. **Fourth**, BLM must obtain adequate **insurance to insure against injury/illness to stabled horses and other members of the public.** While Fairfax County's Frying Pan Park does not have boarded horses so their model won't be instructive in that manner, visitors are allowed to make reservations, pay a fee, present a negative Coggins and bring a horse to use the Frying Pan Park equestrian facility. BLM should evaluate the Frying Pan Park procedures prior to allowing access at Meadowood.

- **The "Pond"**: The FAQ says that the pond existed prior to BLM creating it. This is absolutely not true. There was no pond before BLM staff used heavy machinery to dig out a pond. In fact, it took BLM about 6 months to create the pond. Similarly, there was no "wet meadow" before BLM staff created one by preventing rain water from flowing. The pond must comply with Fairfax County regulations regarding ponding of stagnant water to avoid the mosquito breeding that has occurred since creation of the pond. There really aren't any "amphibians" to curb the the mosquitoes.
- **Pasture Maintenance**: The FAQs state that "careful management of" "pastures is needed to minimize impacts to the watershed which have been occurring over many years..." BLM's 2004 Activity Plan requires BLM to maintain the pastures by reseeding, cross fencing, doubling pasture size and mowing. BLM has done none of this. If BLM is truly committed to "careful management of pastures," shouldn't BLM be following its own Plan and undertaken the standard pasture management that it requires?

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,


Dorris P. Taylor



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

DAVID B. ALBO



FORTY-SECOND DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
COURTS OF JUSTICE (CHAIRMAN)
PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS
GENERAL LAWS

July 26, 2011

E Lynn Burkett
BLM Eastern States Office
7450 Boston Boulevard
Springfield, VA 22153

Dear Ms. Burkett,

I recently have been contacted by my constituents concerning the equestrian use and public boarding of the Stables at Meadowood. The Stables at Meadowood have been a wonderful asset to our community, and I know the citizens of Mason Neck would enjoy seeing them continue as such in the future.

The community is hoping for the BLM to repair and restore the conditions of the barn and pastures at Meadowood, as well as continuing the use of boarding horses.

There has been overwhelming support in the community for continued boarding for horses at Meadowood. This equine boarder facility incredibly important to all of the people who board, work, and live there, and it is also an exquisite gem in our community. Members of our community use The Stables at Meadowood as a place to not only work but also enjoy life. In addition to the community use, a therapeutic program uses the stables to provide a rewarding and excellent program. The boarders also bring in a great deal of revenue to Fairfax County which will be lost if the boarders are forced to relocate.

If I can be of any other assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,


David B. Albo



Mason Neck Citizens Association

P.O. Box 612, Lorton, VA 22199

July 7, 2011

To: E. Lynn Burkett
BLM-ES Lower Potomac Field Station Manager
10406 Gunston Road
Lorton, VA 22079

Dear Ms. Burkett,

The Board of Directors of the Mason Neck Citizens Association—the only organization representing the interests of all of the 839 postal addresses on Mason Neck—wishes to express its strong and unanimous support for continued horse boarding at Meadowood at the same level that has been customary since the Bureau of Land Management acquired the facility in 2001. We believe continued operation of the horse barn was an integral part of the agreement that transferred the former Lynch property to BLM.

We note that at the well-attended June 30 Public Scoping Meeting, as at the similar meeting last November, there was a great outpouring of public support for maintaining the boarding arrangement that has existed since 2001.

With this in mind, the MNCA Board strongly endorses two specific measures, the first of which is particularly urgent:

- The existing contract should be immediately modified so that boarders who leave can be replaced. We find it illogical and counter-productive that there are at present a number of vacant stalls in the existing barn while a greater number of potential borders sit on a waiting list.
- With the physical shortcomings of the existing barn now established by engineering studies, BLM should move expeditiously to repair, or repair by replacement, the existing barn to provide a safe, structurally sound, and environment-friendly structure, with at least the same boarding capacity as the current structure..

Additionally, we encourage solicitation of further estimates of the costs of repair, or repair by replacement, as members of the Board who are real estate professionals have heard from some of their contacts that the cost could be substantially below the figures currently being cited.

Michael Devlin



MNCA President



Date: Monday, June 27, 2011 11:24 PM

From: [Redacted]

To: ES_Meadowood@es.blm.gov

Subject: Support for Simple Changes at Meadowood

To: E. Lynn Burkett, BLM-ES Lower Potomac Field Station Manager

Attached is our statement for the record in support of continuing Simple Changes Therapeutic Riding Program at Meadowood. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our input as you decide on the future of these facilities. Simple Changes provides a critical and unique service to children with a range of disabilities, and we hope BLM will continue to provide facilities for their program at this location.

Very Respectfully,

William & Marilyn Corsetti
[Redacted]

 Support for Simple Changes at Meadowood Jun 11.doc

The wonderful staff that work at Meadowood... have a great, sustained program with a very knowledgeable and experienced staff who have demonstrated the ability to work with children having a wide range of disabilities... they are completely dedicated to the children they serve. So important, they provide this service at a cost that is affordable to families like us that have many other expenses raising a child or children with significant disabilities. It is clear to us that for Simple Changes, this is a "spirit of love" - a quality that is rarely found, absolutely essential, and impossible to specify and enforce in a contract. Regardless of the administrative issues that may arise at Meadowood, we urge the BLM to continue providing the necessary facilities for Simple Changes' therapeutic riding program and to minimize the disruption to the critical and unique service that is provided at this location.

William & Marilyn Corsetti
[Redacted]

STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD
MEADOWOOD EQUESTRIAN ACTIVITIES & SITE IMPROVEMENTS
JUNE 28, 2011

SUPPORT FOR SIMPLE CHANGES THERAPUTIC RIDING PROGRAM

We are again writing to express our support for continuation of the Simple Changes' therapeutic riding program at Meadowood Recreation Area. We are very fortunate that, after a significant waiting period, our daughter, who has significant disabilities, has been able to participate in this program. As a result of this critical therapy, she has been able to make amazing progress that we believe would not have been possible otherwise. We feel it is vital that the necessary facilities be available at Meadowood to accommodate this program, and to continue accessibility by the disabled to this federal property. There are so few activities and recreation facilities in the area that children with disabilities can take advantage of, and even fewer that offer the tremendous benefits of therapeutic riding. For our little girl, it is not merely recreation, but a unique, life sustaining treatment that is helping her not only to overcome her physical disabilities, but to boost her confidence and self esteem in a way that no other activity has been able to do. She loves to ride, and she needs to ride. The wonderful staff and volunteers of Simple Changes, and the stables at Meadowood, make all of that possible. They have a proven, established program with a very knowledgeable and experienced staff who have demonstrated the ability to work with children having a wide range of disabilities. And they are completely dedicated to the children they serve. As important, they provide this service at a cost that is affordable to families like us that have many other expenses raising a child or children with significant disabilities. It is clear to us that for Simple Changes, this is a "labor of love" – a quality that is rarely found, absolutely essential, and impossible to specify and enforce in a contract. Regardless of the administrative tool used to manage Meadowood, we urge the BLM to continue providing the necessary facilities for Simple Changes' therapeutic riding program and to minimize the disruption to the critical and unique service they provide at this location.

William & Marilyn Corsetti
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

July 20, 2011

To BLM

I am a boarder at Meadowood Stables. I am also a tax paying citizen and a member of the 'public'

Once again, I am petitioning you to:

1, Repair the barn now

You have the money, you have the studies, you have the need, you have made promises. Even your survey has indicated there is no other option for boarding within many hours drive that is comparable.

2. Increase the number of publicly boarded horses to 30 immediately.

BLM's refusal to do so is another play to fail the facility by starving out a woman-owned business. The many public hearings you have had to indicate a strong support for this facility.

3. Allow the contractor to manage the equestrian facilities as a business, including pasture management, ring usage and scheduling and admitting new boarders and trainers. Take BLM out of the management of the property according to their expressed wishes.

Carol E Kennedy

Concession, Contract – Repair

There has been much discussion on the concession/contract issue. First, it is important to understand that to concession, the government would have to repair the facility so that it can be reasonably maintained by the concessionaire in a manner that would allow them to operate a successful business. This means that the footing in the ring, cross-fencing of the pastures and other exclusivity of use issues would have to be addressed before the property could be turned into a concession.

However, if these things were addressed, there is no reason the current contractor could not be converted to a concessionaire for the remainder of the company's selected renewal period. This would allow BLM the time to build their expertise in concessioning (they currently only have 16 concessions nationwide) while also ensuring an effective and smooth transition. The concession could then be bid at the end of the five year (three and a half years from now) renewal term.

Furthermore, the current contract could be operated very much like a concession if BLM would simply remove itself from interfering in day-to-day operations (i.e. inserting new users or giving priority to ring schedule, offering guidance to users on how they handle their horses, etc.). By using standard federal contract management practices, BLM would send any guidance or corrections on performance to the contracting office for the existing contract rather than being burdened themselves. By simply putting this work where it should have been all along, BLM's field station office can easily be free of this burden.

But this entire conversation comes back to the inescapable fact that BLM must repair the facility and do so now.

Repair the Facility Now:

The facility must be repaired now. Repairs have been promised since at least 2008 yet, rather than repairs, we get more scoping meetings. These meetings are remarkably similar: Three options, write your comments down for review by BLM. This process MUST have a different ending, else the boarding operation will continue to starve and equestrian usage – excepting the takeover of the facility by the Army – will end.

BLM needs to make the repairs promised in 2008 and return the barn to 2008 boarding and usage levels. It is what the public wants. It is what they have funding to do. And it is the only feasible way to move this forward.

Second, building a new barn and creating a new footprint should be a decision driven by a long-term vision for Meadowood and a great deal of planning. If a new barn is to be built, who will use it? Where will it be sited? How will it affect the offices, washrooms, trails, and other facilities of the property? It is important to remember that had the building contractors not insisted on core repairs from the front paddock before awarding their bids, construction contracts would have been awarded that placed the barn on top of an existing and well-located existing current users. This was a result of poor planning and improper process, not an oversight as by that happen again. We need to repair the barn we have now and then do a proper planning process to determine the right site, the right size, and the right users for the barn.

Finally, the environmental impacts of moving the footprint of the barn will take a great deal of study in and of themselves. Given the exaggerated barriers put in place as the trail projects displaced pasture – all in the name of protection from run-off – this study will require a lot of research and a lot of input from scientists from Parlex Consulting, as well as BLM and their local nonprofit partners. Given the close simulation of BLM and Earth Sangha, which takes an extremist position on invasive control (i.e. considering grazing animals invasive), this process will need to be very open and transparent. It will take years. Meanwhile, unless repaired, the barn will continue to deteriorate.

It is important to note that the primary threat to the electrical system cited by the engineering reports is water dripping on it, not the actual system. Indeed, in spite of Dr. Froelicher's secondary comment (sorry, Gerry – stole your pun here) about barn fires, the electrical system was ranked as the seventh highest priority by BLM's own engineering firm. Jeany Spala and Dr. Froelicher would certainly take the Simple Changes horses back to their own farm, where they keep their own horses and where Simple Changes also offers lessons, if they saw the system as a real risk.

New Barn, New Footprint: Not Now

First, the \$900,000 of funding on hand is classified by the US treasury as Deferred Maintenance money. It is intermingled with boarder fees that are also dedicated to maintenance. Under US law, funds dedicated to deferred maintenance may only be used for such maintenance and can only be used to replace a facility that is either costlier to repair than to rebuild or which presents an impediment that requires modification that would make it costlier to repair than maintain. This is not the case with the current barn. Replacement cost would be about \$2 million under the government contracting provisions (see Army's recent \$2.24 million 52 horse barn at Fort Belvoir). Repair can be fully funded with the \$900,000 on hand.

Second, building a new barn and creating a new footprint should be a decision driven by a long-term vision for Meadowood and a great deal of planning. If a new barn is to be built, who will use it? Where will it be sited? How will it effect the offices, pastures, trailheads and other facilities of the property? It is important to remember that had the bidding contractors not insisted on core samples from the front paddock before submitting their bids, a construction contract would have been awarded that placed the barn on top of an aquifer and which eliminated most current users. That was a result of poor planning and improper process. We cannot afford to let that happen again. We need to repair the barn we have now and then do a proper planning process to identify the right site, the right size and the right users for the barn.

Finally, the environmental impacts of moving the footprint of the barn will take a great deal of study in and of themselves. Given the exaggerated barriers put in place as the trail projects displaced pasture – all in the name of protection from run-off – this issue will require a lot of research and a lot of input from scientists from Fairfax County as well as BLM and their local nonprofit partners. Given the close affiliation of BLM and Earth Sangha, which takes an extremist position on invasives control (i.e. considers grazing animals invasives), this process will need to be very open and transparent. It will take years. Meanwhile, unless repaired, the barn will continue to deteriorate.

It is important to note that the primary threat to the electrical system cited by the engineering reports is water dripping on it, not the actual system. Indeed, in spite of Dr. Freckleton's incendiary comment (sorry, Gerry – stole your pun here) about barn fires, the electrical system was ranked as the seventh highest priority by BLM's own engineering firm. Jenny Spain and Dr. Freckleton would certainly take the Simple Changes horses back to their own farm, where they keep their own horses and where Simple Changes also offers lessons, if they saw the system as a real risk.

Monte Joyce Cross
930 North Paxton Street
Alexandria, VA 22304
703.370.0074
joyce_cross@comcast.net

July 24, 2011

Ms. E Lynn Burkett
Lower Potomac Field Station Manager
10406 Gunston Road
Lorton, VA 22079

Dear Ms. Burkett

This is in response to BLM's request for public comment at the Scoping Meeting on the Meadowood Equestrian Facilities on June 28, 2011.

Here is what I would like to have done:

1. Permit the current contractor to immediately begin boarding more horses so that she will remain solvent. Denying CAS Company the ability to board enough horses to remain economically viable is tantamount to causing the contractor to fail.
2. Repair the barn immediately. This has community support and the funds are available. Get it done.
3. Relocate the trail that was put in the lower east pasture to the woods and restore the pasture to horse turnout.
4. Plan a dream facility.

As I see it, BLM should do the short-term possible now and plan for the future in a reasonable fashion. The dream facility will take a lot of planning and funding - and time.

Meadowood is a good home for my horse and I want to keep him there. I stand ready to cooperate fully while the barn is being repaired - and want the horses to stay on the property during the repairs.

Sincerely,

Joyce Cross

Joyce Cross

July 19, 2011

Ms. E. Lynn Burkett
Lower Potomac Field Station Manager
BLM
10406 Gunston Road
Lorton, VA 22079

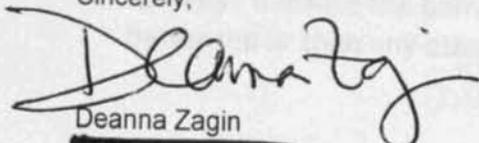
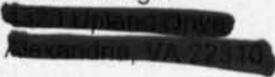
Dear Ms. Burkett:

Thank you for your time and the information you provided at the BLM Scoping Meeting regarding the Meadowood Equestrian Facility on June 28, 2011. Per your request for additional comments, I would like to see to following actions taken to preserve the Meadowood Equestrian Facility:

1. Repair the existing barn immediately. Allow the horses to remain on the property during this process.
2. Restore the pastures that were downsized, returning the area to the 40 acres dedicated to Equestrian use (originally there were 60 acres).
3. Allow the contractor, CAS, to fill the empty stalls with publically boarded horses - immediately.
4. Permanently maintain 36 stalls for public boarding at Meadowood.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Deanna Zagin


cc: Dr. John Lyon
Congressman James P. Moran
Congressman Gerald E. Connolly
Supervisor Gerry Hyland

The Impossible Dream: The funds you have can only be used for repair.

There have been many grand visions laid out for what Meadowood can be. Each of these steadfastly ignores the fact that there is no money to do them. The current money, if not used for repairing the current facility, must be returned to the US Treasury by September 1, 2012 if it is not used to repair the barn and the portion funded by boarder's fees (about \$280,000) must be returned to boarders if it is not used for the purposes (repair of the barn and the roof) laid out in the document seeking the increase, which was approved at the Cabinet level by the Secretary of the Interior in 2008.

7-19-11
Promises of an event facility for horse shows or a place suitable for flower and dog shows also disregard the fact the Frying Pan Park sits empty most days and many weekends and that there is not a demonstrated or widespread demand for such a facility. Conversely, hundreds of people consistently come out to support public boarding on the property and, as more barns in Fairfax County close, the demand for such boarding opportunities continues to rise.

Remember, there are 27 people on a waiting list – 27 voters, taxpayers and members of the public – who will gladly pay \$700 per month to bring their horse to the facility as it is. Why? Because the barn, while in need of some maintenance, is still nicer and in far better repair than any other barn in the area.

we will work with boarders. There are not many places to board in the area so we need to keep Meadowood open for boarding.

Alvin Smith

P.S. Please put a lightning rod on the barn. All barns need lightning rods.
Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area
Attn: E. Lynn Burkett, Lower Potomac Field Station Manager
10404 Dumfries Road
Lorton, VA 22079

BLUE MEADOWWOOD EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES

DATE: 7-19-11

ALL COMMENTS MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JULY 31, 2011

COMMENTS:

(Comments - Cont.)

7-19-11

Dear Ms. Burkett,

Please fix the barn and let the horses stay while you do the repairs. Please fill the empty stalls with boarders. There aren't many places to keep a horse so we need to keep Meadowood open for boarding.

Sincerely,

Olivia Scheidt

ps. Please put a lightning rod on the barn. All barns need lightning rods.

Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area
Attn: E Lynn Burkett, Lower Potomac Field Station Manager
10406 Gunston Road
Lorton, VA 22079

BLM—MEADOWOOD EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES
Scoping Meeting—June 28, 2011

If you desire feedback, please provide contact information. (E-mail, phone, U.S. mail, etc.)

**ALL COMMENTS MUST BE POSTMARKED NO
LATER THAN JULY 29, 2011**

COMMENTS:

I am writing regarding
the Stables at Meadowood.
In the interest of the community
you should:

1) Repair the barn without
any more beaurocratic
delay.

2) Allow the horses to
remain on the property
during repairs.

3) Reinstate full capacity
boarding - the wait list
is ridiculous while Allison
is trying to make ends
meet.

4) These delays are not in
the best interest of the
Public.

Contact Information:

Phone: 703-339-8009

Fax: 703-339-3479

E-mail: es_meadowood@es.blm.gov

Please respond?
Promptly

Sincerely,
Carol S.

Flick 



~~_____~~

As a business owner I believe that the person running the facility is being pushed into business failure by not letting her fill stalls.

A first order of business should be to allow her to fill the barn . . . people are on a waiting list and we should not make them wait.

Thank you for your Consideration Kelley Campbell

Contact Information:
Phone: 720-780-0070
Fax: 720-780-0070
Email: info@meadowoodequestrian.com



BLM—MEADOWOOD EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES

Scoping Meeting—June 28, 2011

COMMENTS:

Repair the barn and
maintain boarding.

Contact Information:

Phone: 703-339-8009

Fax: 703-339-3479

E-mail: es_meadowood@es.blm.gov



BLM—MEADOWOOD EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES

Scoping Meeting—June 28, 2011

COMMENTS:

I support a mixed use
barn facility whether new
or repaired. I feel strongly
that Simple Changes be
accommodated regardless of
the decision because the disabled
children and their parents need
Carolyn Hreazuck

Contact Information:

Phone: 703-339-8009

Fax: 703-339-3479

E-mail: es_meadowood@es.blm.gov



BLM - MEADOWOOD RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA
MAY 20 2011
(Comments - Cont.)

this facility as there is limited
availability presently and is
not getting better. I am
a parent of an autistic
child I feel strongly
about this especially since
legislation going forward with
Autism is for early intervention
and younger children which
doesn't help me or my teen
like Simple Changes does.

Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area
Attn: E Lynn Burkett, Lower Potomac Field Station Manager
10406 Gunston Road
Lorton, VA 22079

BLM—MEADOWOOD EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES

Scoping Meeting—June 28, 2011

COMMENTS: *The Meadowood equestrian facility*

must be open to the general public in

accordance with the existing MOU.

*2.) All renovation of the existing structure
or new construction must be in compliance
with National/Local Building Codes.*

*3.) Fees for boarding horses should be
economically cost effective to cover BLM's
expenses for maintenance and operation
of the entire equestrian facility.*

Contact Information:

Phone: 703-339-8009

Fax: 703-339-3479

E-mail: es_meadowood@es.blm.gov



(Comments - Cont.)

4.) Develop partnerships with other private and government agencies to assist in managing a mixed-use facility.

5.) INSURE all environmental/health/safety issues are addressed and implemented into the planning process.

Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area

Attn: E Lynn Burkett, Lower Potomac Field Station Manager

10406 Gunston Road

Lorton, VA 22079

BLM—MEADOWOOD EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES

Scoping Meeting—June 28, 2011

COMMENTS:

Important for BLM to set an example
that can be followed elsewhere.
The environment is important
today people suffer from
nature deficits disorder
and obesity.
Your facility can address these issues,
as well as ~~the importance of~~ the reciprocal riding.
I like the idea of this facility being
an example for others.

The outside of a horse is good for the
inside of a person.

Linda Byrre [REDACTED]
V.P. Fairfax 4Horses [REDACTED]

Contact Information:
Phone: 703-339-8009
Fax: 703-339-3479
E-mail: es_meadowood@es.blm.gov



Scoping Meeting—June 28, 2011

Gail Szanko
[REDACTED]

COMMENTS:

I board my mare nearby at Indian Springs on Gunston Road. I have ridden the trails at Meadowood for many years and hope to continue to do so. I have many friends who board at Meadowood and I want them to be able to continue to do so. I think the very best solution to

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(Comments - Cont.)

the current situation is the
BLUE direction. I was around
when the land swap occurred and
I believe I am correct in saying
the original agreement called for
an equestrian boarding facility
to be an ongoing part of the
property. My position is that this
original agreement ^{must} be honored. At
this time (moving forward is imperative)
the BLUE option is the only viable option

due to the limitations of funding. New
and improved would be great, but

Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area

Attn: E Lynn Burkett, Lower Potomac Field Station Manager

10406 Gunston Road

Lorton, VA 22079

*How can we justify
the funds needed when
our government is struggling to
decide on monetary cuts.*

Scoping Meeting—June 28, 2011

COMMENTS:

Please turn the
barn into a
Boarding and lesson
facility and
have simple changes
move to Park Service
Stalls. This will
enable the barn

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to make the best
return and maximize
public usage while
allowing simple
changes to be in
a separate wheel
chair accessible
facility, at the
park service stalls
(shed row by farmers
shed)

Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area
Attn: E Lynn Burkett, Lower Potomac Field Station Manager
10406 Gunston Road
Lorton, VA 22079

BLM—MEADOWOOD EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES

Scoping Meeting—June 28, 2011

If you desire feedback, please provide contact information. (E-mail, phone, U.S. mail, etc.)

ALL COMMENTS MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JULY 29, 2011

COMMENTS: BLUE

Build new separate boarding stables
to accommodate AT A MINIMUM 46 stalls
this allows these activities to CONT
without disturbance (important)
After the above facility is opened then
old barn can either be repaired OR
replaced with new clear SPAN ARENA
the plan ABOVE ALSO allows for all vacant
stalls to be leased AS transition will NOT
be disruptive. Find a way to fund gmp - ^{this} ^{community} ^{can be} ^{it}
Bottom line: all current activities should
be supported in a similar or greater capacity
in a safe facility.

JIM YORK

Contact Information:

Phone: 703-339-8009

Fax: 703-339-3479

E-mail: es_meadowood@es.blm.gov



Scoping Meeting—June 28, 2011

COMMENTS:

Repair the barn and retain all
present uses because the barn
provides a much needed public
service. The public wants and
needs a boarding facility because there
are few ~~left~~ remaining in the area.
The public also wants a therapy + lesson
program. Please no more delay!
Let's move forward now!

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E-mail: es_meadowood@es.blm.gov



Scoping Meeting—June 28, 2011

ALL COMMENTS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY
LATER THAN JUL 29, 2011

COMMENTS:

Repair existing facility with
money available.

Immediately allow empty
stalls to be used to allow
more boarder thus increasing
revenue and jobs

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BLM—MEADOWOOD EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES

Scoping Meeting—June 28, 2011

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**ALL COMMENTS MUST BE POSTMARKED NO
LATER THAN JULY 29, 2011**

COMMENTS:

Please return boarding
to 2009 levels to
increase public
recreation and returns
the ban to a
workable state
and a net gain
for the American tax
payer

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Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area
Equestrian Stables - Meeting 6/28/2011

If you desire feedback, please provide contact information. (E-mail, phone call, U.S. mail, etc.):

COMMENTS:

We need more public
wooded on Mass Neck
and in Fairfax City
Repair the lot

COMMENTS (Cont.):

and return it to
2008 boarder levels.

DOI BLM
Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area

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BLM—MEADOWOOD EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES
Scoping Meeting—June 28, 2011

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LATER THAN JULY 29, 2011**

COMMENTS:

*The bottom line is this. Whether a new
or old barn, the number of horses and
boarders needs to remain. If not grow.
Leave it to the public vote.*

*This is a great facility that the
government needs to support in its
current state.*

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Scoping Meeting—June 28, 2011

COMMENTS:

Repair THIS BARN ASAP

Rick Mills

Contact Information:

Phone: 703-339-8009

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E-mail: es_meadowood@es.blm.gov



It is very important to take
quick action so that we can
use the existing funds for a
contract by 2012.

Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area
Attn: E Lynn Burkett, Lower Potomac Field Station Manager
10406 Gunston Road
Lorton, VA 22079

(Comments - Cont.)

And if you tare it apart
you will b.e taring my
Dream apart and my heart
too. I Love the horses
and the people there.
Please Oh please
don't brack my heart!
Stop!!!

Sincerely,

Tara Noelle Whipper

Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area
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10406 Gunston Road
Lorton, VA 22079

Scoping Meeting—June 28, 2011

ALL COMMENTS MUST BE POSTMARKED NO
LATER THAN JULY 29, 2011

COMMENTS:

I love Cookie & Cupcake.

I feel proud and
happy that I get to
ride. I have seen flowers,
furtles, and birds on
trail rides

I would be sad if
I couldn't ride at
the Stables anymore.

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(as told by
Charlotte
age 5½)



BLM—MEADOWOOD EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES

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**ALL COMMENTS MUST BE POSTMARKED NO
LATER THAN JULY 29, 2011**

COMMENTS:

The government runs
subsidized boarding facilities
at many locations. Turn
Meadowood into a non-
subsidized facility like it
used to be. 46 boarding
40 acres managed for
horses = net gain for
US government.

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$$46 \times 700 = 32,200$$



$$32,200 \times 12 = 386,400 \text{ per-year for US Govt!}$$

BLM—MEADOWOOD EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES

Scoping Meeting—June 28, 2011

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**ALL COMMENTS MUST BE POSTMARKED NO
LATER THAN JULY 29, 2011**

COMMENTS:

Repair the barn and
turn it into a boarding
facility run by a
contractor managed by
BLM's contract officer
and ~~only~~ Move BLM
offices off the Meadowood
property to the Belmont
Road of Springfield office.

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