



# **BLM MONTANA/DAKOTAS**

## *Dakotas Resource Advisory Council*

---

### **RAC MEETING MINUTES:**

**Spearfish, South Dakota: May 15, 2013**

***Spearfish Holiday Inn and Convention Center***

#### **Attending RAC Members:**

##### **Category I**

(\* denotes new RAC member)

Andrea Stomberg\*

Drew Combs\*

Chance Davis

Bruce Bowman

##### **Category II**

Donald Nelson

Ellen Reddick

Kevin Forrester\*

Martin Marchello

##### **Category III**

Jace DeCory

Tobias Stroh

Vernon Bleich\*

##### **Not in Attendance:**

Michael Watson

Jarrold Johnson

Frank Kartch

#### **Attending BLM/U.S. Forest Service staff:**

Rick Rymerson, BLM North Dakota Field Office

Marian Atkins, BLM South Dakota Field Office

Mark Goeden, USFS - Bismarck

Kim Borberly, BLM South Dakota Field Office

Mark Jacobsen, BLM Eastern Montana – Dakotas District

**Attending Public:** Norm Edwards

The meeting started at 8:00 a.m. with housekeeping items, ground rules, and agenda; introduction of new members, standing members and staff. Mark Jacobsen conducted a RAC mini-training session that included an orientation to the RAC's scope and purpose in advising the BLM and the RAC's roles and responsibilities.

### **South Dakota Field Office briefing:**

An RMP PowerPoint was presented by Marian Atkins; the Draft Plan is to be released June 14 with scoping meetings in Belle Fourche (7/8), Sturgis (7/9), Rapid City (7/11), Buffalo (7/19) and Pierre (7/23). All meetings will be from 4-6 pm. A Final Plan should be out in the summer of 2014.

### **North Dakota Field Office briefing:**

Rick Rymerson: Greater Sage Grouse Amendment was discussed with handouts Maps/Info passed around.

### **Public Comment Period**

One public person in attendance: Mr. Norm Edwards commented on what the effects of development were on the clean water act and if this was addressed in the South Dakota RMP. He had nothing to present to the council and will direct other questions on the RMP to the South Dakota Field Office.

### **RAC Member briefings:**

#### **Ellen Reddick:**

Ellen reported on the grazing coalition invite to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) scoping meeting. NFWF is trying to develop a business plan for grasslands in Montana and South Dakota; some areas in Colorado, Wyoming and Nebraska. Agencies including federal, tribal, and local can apply for over a quarter of a million dollars to improve wildlife habitat on grasslands which can help ranchers.

Planning priorities were identified as Prairie dogs, black footed ferrets, swift fox, pronghorn antelope, grassland birds and invasive species. Prairie dogs towns and ferrets were discussed for the majority of the meeting. There is a grant program list for invasive weeds available until June 17. There is some funding for Agriculture tourism grants. A NFWF business plan is coming out soon, in about a week. The western half of South Dakota and some areas of Eastern Wyoming are a focus of the plan.

Ellen was visiting with some from the grazing association and they have issues with the NFWF plan and want more information about raptors. The Grassland Coalition made up a grazing stick with four sides that is used to help discuss grazing management –Ellen has entire box at house, once you are trained to use them the RAC may have some. More training may be held in June; would like the SDFO involved.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Association can be invited to come and speak to the RAC. Treasured Landscape proposal is important to know where all the players are within the

discussion; would be nice to know what the BLM's agenda is on the big picture – birds, prairie dogs, pronghorn, and swift fox.

**Donald Nelson:**

Spoke on the Oil and Gas permitting process; compared federal to private; private landowners can get it done in very little time but for the BLM it takes forever. Many Legislative Issues; legislation is voting against the public; school related issues. The drought is worst in South Dakota and North Dakota is sitting a little better but needs rain. Discussed water issues; water is being used for fracking; the state is giving away water. A report was put out on the gone for good website (WORC.org). The USGS says it would take several years to restock the water. Should recycle the water; they (industry) use the water from the lake. Discussed a water recycling related news article in the paper. Water is way more important than oil. The technology exists to see that the water coming up from fracking is better than the water before the fracking was done. Should take the water, use the water then put it back into the lake after fracking. Or companies could recycle fracking water by filtering the water that comes back out, and then take it to the next frack job so the majority of the water is reused but this is more expensive because of the transportation.

Social Issues are a concern; the amount of building that's going on, we hope they don't over build – the man camps will be gone which will help assist with the social issues. With coal bed methane issues in Wyoming, what is the BLM policy? Lots of leases exclude coal bed methane. Don thanked the RAC for addressing the bonding issues a couple of meetings ago; believes the bonding issue is going forward; needs to be updated since it is so outdated.

**Housekeeping items :**

Motion to accept and seconded regarding minutes from the last meeting; discussed having the next meeting again in Bowman, N.D. in September.

**RAC Member Briefings Continued:**

**Vernon Bleich:**

Vernon provided information and discussion on Bighorn sheep and domestic sheep management; discussed how important it is to keep these sheep separated. Other major concerns were habitat fragmentation; that land management agencies need to be engaged; North Dakota habitat has not been an issue but it is becoming one, just a little different than in other areas. Discussion as to if BLM consider fencing as contributing to fragmentation.

Wild sheep can easily jump wire fences; the danger occurs if they get a horn hooked; fenced highways could be an issue for the sheep. The group discussed private land fencing concerns; how a best solution would be for a State biologist to sit down with the land owner and describe issues; domestic sheep range within a 15 km/ 9 mile buffer zone surrounding Bighorn sheep habitat- which has been advocated by some professional organizations. A good approach is to talk to landowners. Discussed how

Bighorn sheep advocates should encourage the BLM to swap lands with other landowners and mineral rights holders to benefit wild sheep.

**Jace DeCory:**

Jace reported that ceremonies were held on April 18 and 19 in the Black Hills and tribal members were there to give thanks and pray; several tribes were able to come up with the money to purchase a tract of traditional land - Pe' sla. Many traditionalists think Native Americans should not have to buy back the land that they consider that they already own; never thought would see the day that the land could be bought. Discussed how students went to sites and made connections; also went to Bear Butte.

Jace discussed how all the sacred sites have certain types of activities that go on through the year and how accessibility can be a problem sometimes. Inyan Kaga is one site in Wyoming that you have to talk to the surrounding land owners before going to. Stones were collected there for our inipi (sweat lodge) ceremonies. The site is also associated with child birth and motherhood. The spirits were happy they (BHSU students) were there. At Devils Tower, the students were told that at one time the people did have the Sundance Ceremony there. The class walked around Mato Tipila (Devils Tower) and shared stories on the importance of this sacred site and how they (the old ones) got up there on the top to pray.

Discussed how oil activity is around Bear Butte but not real close (which is good) – the wells that were close were not given a permit by the State of South Dakota. In Nebraska, the people are having a non-violent protest about the Keystone XL pipeline. Native and non-native people would like not to see a pipeline going across their lands. Water is the first medicine – it is used in their prayers and medicine which needs to be protected along with the lands

Jace said she really likes it when Mark sends around BLM news clips so you can see what's going on; such as the refinery ground breaking at Ft Berthold. Some people are against it because of environmental concerns – some relatives that do and do not have oil; Social issues are a concern due to the oil development. Discussion on whether Bighorn sheep are as important to the tribes in the Western Dakotas; not as important as they are to other tribes. Keystone pipeline doesn't affect South Dakota BLM lands – just access road to pumping station. Thunder Butte issues are in National Geographic Magazine.

**Kevin Forrester:**

Kevin is a new member and said he was impressed with the discussions. There are many issues in Sturgis with needing to expand but having federal lands on three sides, it is difficult. He will be trying to designate the existing trails within the travel management planning processes of the BLM and USFS and knows that some of these trails will go away.

With the help of volunteers, the government will not have to work so hard on clean-up projects. Super important to develop trail heads, marking and mapping trail heads. The

Fort Meade area is wonderful for hunting, has many types of wildlife which makes it very diverse, for long term benefit. Winter recreation in South Dakota has not been addressed before – sledding is done a lot at Fort Meade and some isolated trails in the Deadwood area, which has seen some clearing out from the Grizzly Gulch fire.

Responsible agencies need to make sure that their gates and access points are maintained. Last summer some of the BLM gates were wired shut due to latches being broke. Grazing leasees wire gates and then a recreation person gets frustrated when they have to take a wire off and then they leave the gates open.

**Andrea Stomberg:**

Discussed what might be done to make the coal leasing process smoother and if there a need for more discussion. The BLM staff clarified that time frames are driven by the analysis, staffing; that the North Dakota Petroleum Council has an MOU to hire term employees. There is no geologist in the NDFO, so the support comes from the District office and State Office. Question posed: Can the RAC recommend and support a Geologist for the NDFO? Andrea may work on a support letter and the RAC could discuss at next meeting. Clarification was offered that employees can be funded by another entity as shown by the North Dakota Petroleum Council support of mineral office staff to help in permit processing.

**Tobias Stroh:**

Discussed the Schnell Recreation Area: Quoted an old White and Black study from Sydney: that 49% of reduction in herbage production comes from a lack of nitrogen and not only from a lack of water. We typically have abundant organic nitrogen in our prairie soils; the key is building up the rhizosphere which converts the organic nitrogen to mineral nitrogen which is available to the plants.

The Schnell Recreation Area is slow to recover from the 13 years of non-grazing. Toby provided a chart (passed around) that shows the increase in rhizosphere mass with the grazing activity. The scientist that is conducting the study on Schnell, Dr. Manske, has indicated that it takes a minimum of 85% of NRCS stocking rate to adequately stimulate the rhizosphere and reduce shading-- thus providing the sunlight that the native plants need. Schnell Recreation area is NOT overgrazed, if anything it is under grazed.

He also commented that invasion by trees should not be a problem on healthy grasslands; that a healthy rangeland with a good rhizosphere and roots would decrease some of the saline seeps that occur.

**Bruce Bowman:**

Bruce discussed how BLM money is wasted on wild horses; to house them, bring in new blood lines, etc. The BLM should be focusing on hiring employees, not on wild horses. It cost lots of money to house a horse. The BLM should say this waste has got to stop; as taxpayers the money should be sent to something like coal development instead of horses. The U.S. is the only country that doesn't want to slaughter horses; this is a humane way to take care of unwanted horses; you don't think twice about

taking a cow to the slaughter. How do we let judges dictate how to manage the horses? The RAC should talk to our Congressman about these issues. Congress needs to change the law.

**Chance Davis:**

Chance elaborated on how the people on the ground, making a living from the land are the people who make the best land management decisions; when you try to manage with rules and regulations Washington just makes it worse. Need to keep this in mind; how the decisions are made; when we look to Washington for a solution to problems there seems to be more problems. BLM land exchanges are a wonderful thought, it would be nice to hash it out in a room just as this but in reality it's not going to happen.

**USFS/BLM Manager Briefings:**

**Mark Goeden (U.S. Forest Service):**

Mark briefed on the USFS jurisdictional area includes the Dakota Prairie Grasslands; most of the lands are in North Dakota. The Little Missouri is the largest of the National Grasslands administered by the Dakota Prairie Grasslands (DPG) but there are three other National Grasslands in North and South Dakota under our administration. The USFS is starting a supplemental EIS on oil and gas leasing on a portion of the Little Missouri and are getting lots of questions on the original EIS; need to look at air quality and water quality. USFS is hoping to have a draft out this fall; Elkhorn Unit has not been incorporated into the Land and the Resource Management Plan for the DPG but plan on incorporating it in a supplement to the current plan; no firm dates yet.

USFS is doing some plan implementation – Northwest Sheyenne draft should be out by this fall, and the Pasture 2, 10 and 11 EA should be out this winter; dealing with the losses of the landowners due to the escaped prescribed fire on the Grand River National Grasslands. The Maah Daah Hey Trail is on the Little Missouri National Grassland; trying to do a dedication on the new portion of the trail south of Medora. USFS is trying to negotiate a new office lease in Watford City; current building is very old and needs to be replaced or remodeled. There are many position vacancies occurring out of the Watford City Office due to the high cost of living and the loss of employees to private industry recruitment. USFS does not have the workforce to do what needs to get done. USFS in Dickinson has the same problem with vacancies. Regarding Greater Sage Grouse; USFS is planning to tier off of the BLM Sage Grouse Amendment Plan.

**Rick Rymerson (North Dakota Field Office Manager):**

The NDFO has hired many new positions, to include term employees, PET's, etc. Using the Three-R's (recruit, retention, relocation) to get new employees on board – trying bonuses as well for some positions. Trying to get other federal agencies on board to assist; such as with work load, housing, etc. Pipeline corridors have been suggested for the BLM to incorporate, but the problem is limited by land.

**Marian Atkins (South Dakota Field Office Manager):**

The Land Use Plan release is scheduled. One item in the plan is to possibly use exchanges to consolidate public lands. The impacts due to the sequester have affected operations such as travel, hiring of seasonal employees, amount of fuels treatment to be done, and decrease in range monitoring. Fort Meade will not be grazed this year due to lack of grass. National Public Lands Day will be cleaning up Home stake Powerhouses near Mickelson Trail and snowmobile trails. Other activities in South Dakota include dealing with oil & gas reform, Power Tech in-situ uranium mine, recreation on Fort Meade, fuel treatments on Fort Meade, Kids Fishing Day events – Iron Creek, Belle Fourche Reservoir and Harding County and a new building. There is no new information on the site for the new BLM building.

Questions were raised by the RAC concerning how the in-situ uranium mining happens and how to ensure the containment of the uranium. Discussion ensued on how the field is set up so that water is taken out of the center of the grouping of wells. The oxygenated solution is placed into the formation and the pressure gradient ensures the oxygenated water picks up the uranium and then pulled out of the center well. There are monitoring wells on the outside of these well groupings to ensure none of the mining solution leaves the area.

Next meeting dates were confirmed for Sept. 25, 2013 in Bowman, North Dakota and the meeting was closed at 4:45 p.m.

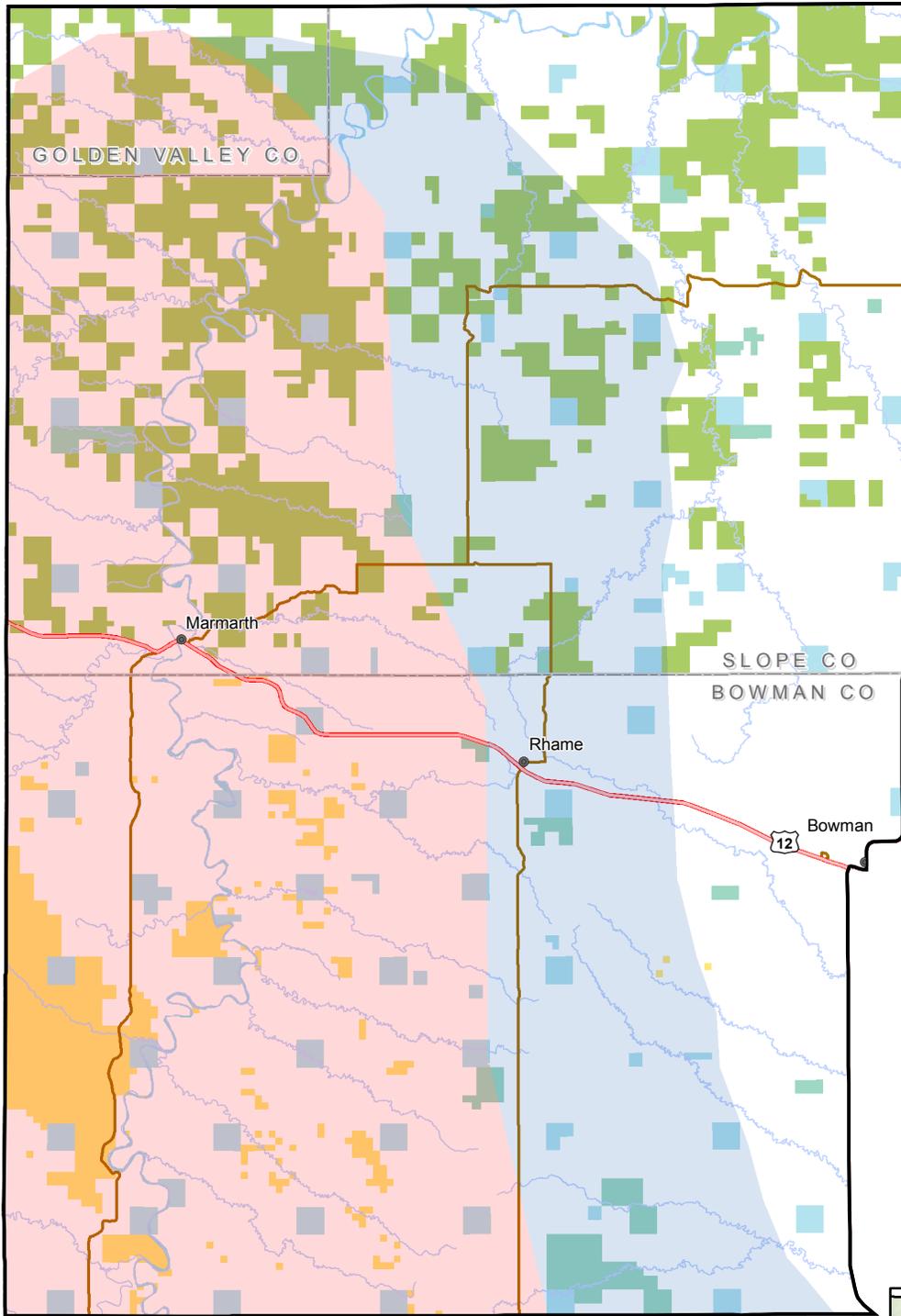
Solid fuel issue briefing  
BLM Montana-Dakota's RAC  
May, 2013

Coal companies have been leasing federal coal in cooperation with the BLM in North Dakota for decades. Past experience has been that federal coal leases have required 18-24 months of permitting and administrative processing start to finish, a time frame that can be managed within normal mine planning and permitting.

Since about 2010 the process has become much more cumbersome, with time frames expected to be three to more years, involving sequential rather than concurrent reviews, and seeming to take a back seat to oil and gas leasing. Extended timeframes for leasing can result in forced abandonment of federal coal tracts, with resulting reductions in mineral royalties.

What are the policy changes that could be implemented to smooth the permitting process? How do coal and oil/gas leasing differ such that oil/gas leasing is faster? Could the leasing process be more closely defined and administrative time limits assigned? Are there regulatory changes that could be made to improve the work flow? The industry understands that BLM Dickinson is facing the same staffing issues as many Western ND employers, and that there may be an expectation of expediting oil and gas leases. However, coal extraction continues to be a significant economic activity, and electric customers throughout ND, SD and MT benefit from low cost energy from this coal.

There is some industry discussion about a possible moratorium on federal coal leasing- this would be very disruptive to existing operations. If this comes to pass, industry will rely on the emergency by-pass leasing allowed by existing regulations, and will rely on the continued availability of coal by this means.



**Legend**

BLM	Greater Sage-Grouse Distribution
Corp of Engineers	Sage-Grouse Preliminary Priority Habitat
Local Government	Planning Area Boundary
Private	County
Division of State Lands	Highway
State Fish and Wildlife	Primary Roads
US Fish and Wildlife Service	Streams
US Forest Service	
WATER	

December 3, 2012

# North Dakota Preliminary Sage-Grouse Habitat

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
 MONTANA/DAKOTAS

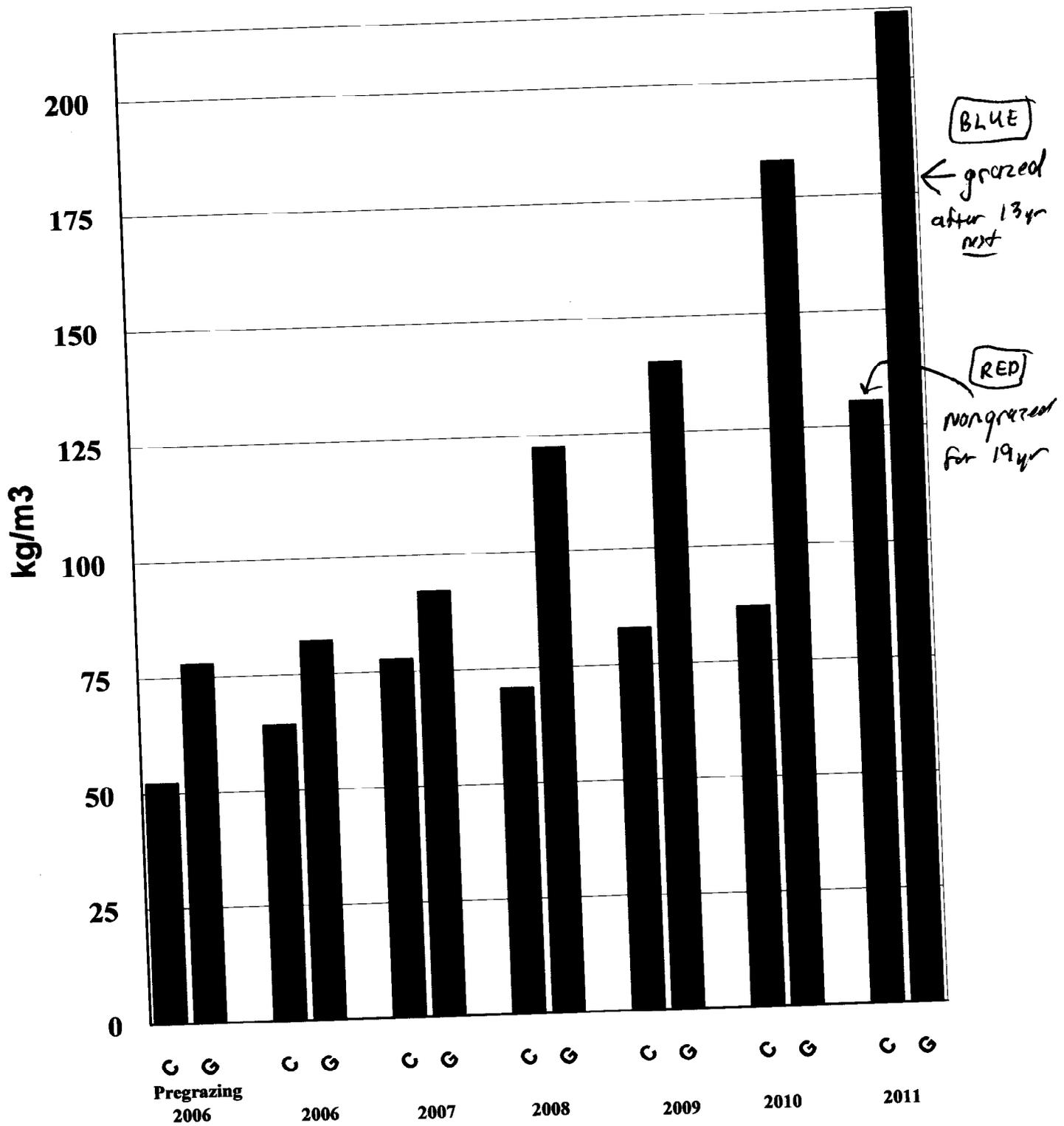


Figure 2. Rhizosphere weight (kg/m<sup>3</sup>) for the control pasture (red) and grazed pastures (blue) during six years of twice-over rotation management, 2006-2011.



# BLM MONTANA/DAKOTAS

## *Dakotas Resource Advisory Council*

---

### MEETING MINUTES:

### Spearfish, South Dakota: Sept. 25, 2013

### Bowman City Office, Bowman, N.D.

#### Attending:

- **BLM**
  - Mark Jacobsen, BLM RAC Coordinator
  - Marian Atkins, S.D. Field Office, Field Manager
  - Diane Friez, Eastern Montana/Dakotas District Manager
  - Amber McNaught, S.D. Field Office, Administrative Assistant
  - Rick Rymerson, N.D. Field Office, Field Manager
  - Tim Zachmeier, N.D. Field Office, Wildlife Biologist
  
- **Category 1**
  - Chance Davis
  - Bruce Bowman
  - Drew Combs
  
- **Category 2 -**
  - Martin Marchello
  - Kevin Forrester
  
- **Category 3**
  - Jace DeCory
  - Tobias Stroh

#### Mark Jacobsen opened the meeting at 9:12am with:

Housekeeping, ground rules and introductions were covered.

Outgoing RAC members were recognized: Jace DeCory, Tobias Stroh and Chance Davis

The BLM-Montana/Dakotas State Director Inquiry Questionnaire was discussed.

- Recruitment seems to be a problem. Ideas to fix this were to inform the public what the BLM does and how it affects them.
- The RAC as a whole has good dynamics and felt they could speak out; never felt threatened; felt everyone was listened to and there is good cooperation. Expressed that meetings were well run and organized.
- RAC members felt a lack of direction and focus and would like the BLM to get them more involved, let them know how they can help.
- More emphasis should be given to Land Exchanges; maybe the RAC could take on more of that since the BLM isn't funded for it? RAC could mediate with all the cooperating parties and address issues raised by the public.

- The concern was raised that the members didn't get enough feedback on issues discussed during the meetings and are not aware of the end results.
- Interest was shown in using conference calls, forums, emails, etc. to keep in contact between meetings to keep members more engaged.
- Members agreed that being a RAC member was beneficial for the educational enlightenment, learning and sharing with other folks; both socially and professionally.
- Discussed possibly setting up "New Member" orientation or training. RAC members are not sure what the guidelines are; what they can and cannot do and what is allowed. Suggested short videos online to start and a meeting for new members before their first RAC meeting.
- Suggestions were made that it would be beneficial for specialists on each RAC to meet with other specialists in other districts.
- Discussed ideas to better advertise the BLM, RAC, and the meetings. RAC members could encourage the local papers to run the new releases, or do a personal interest story on a new member.
- The BLM "News Releases and Web Clips" are very much appreciated as it's easy for members to receive and forward information.
- Appreciation was expressed for carpooling to meetings.

## **BLM Presentations**

### **Marian Atkins:**

#### **Update on the Draft South Dakota Resource Management Plan (S.D. RMP)**

- Public meetings went well with good talking points, discussion and interaction between the public and BLM Field Specialists.
- Main interests were the Keystone Pipeline, the Powertech Uranium Mine, recreation at Fort Meade, Bighorn sheep relocation in the Exemption Area, abandoned U.S. Army Depot Hazmat issues, mountain lion habitat, prairie dog management, oil and gas potential areas, Sage Grouse, grazing and expanding the riparian/floodplain stipulations.
- Travel Management was discussed but will be completed in a separate project. Trail networks are a high priority.
- The public comment period ended on Sept. 11. Other agencies, including some Cooperating Agencies, should have their comments in shortly. Have received 47 comment letters or emails, with 30 substantive comments that require extra investigation and comments.

### **Tim Zachmeier:**

#### **North Dakota Great Sage-Grouse Draft RMP Amendment and EIS**

- Greater Sage-Grouse ND Documents can be found online at : <https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/planAndProjectSite.do?methodName=dispatchToPatternPage&currentPageId=48798>
- Cooperators are: the N.D. Game and Fish, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bowman (N.D.) County Commissioners, Bowman-Slope Conservation District.
- Key Issues include: Isolated, small populations, habitat fragmentation, energy infrastructure (Oil and Gas) development.
- Alternatives:
  - Delineating Priority and General habitat, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, reduced-grazing alternatives, required infrastructure design features.

- Key Differences – Oil and gas, other minerals, reduced-grazing, Rights-Of-Ways (wind).
- Next Steps:
  - Draft Notice of Availability – Sept 27, 2013
  - Open House in Bowman – Oct 22, 2013
  - Public Comment Period Ends – Jan. 13, 2014 (due to furlough)
  - Final EIS/Proposed Plan – Early summer 2014
  - ROD – Late Summer 2014

## **RAC Member Briefings**

### **Kevin Forrester**

- Concerned over the lack of budget or timeline given to the public on when the Travel Management of the S.D. RMP will commence. Concerned organizations want the BLM to use the 1996 plan and go forward with as much as possible with anything NEPA will allow.
- Marian acknowledged their concern and will include RAC members when developing the Travel Management Amendment which will commence as soon as the RMP has been forwarded on for approval and field specialists are available.
- Concern over tension between land owners and hunters was expressed. Some question as to right-of-way rights, trespassing and harassment.
- The BLM has requested that Kevin research the State Law for Hunter harassment and section line laws. Also to contact sportsman clubs and hunter groups to see if they would be willing talk with some land owners and come up with a compromise. It was also suggested that we engage outside groups such as the National Wild Turkey Federation to work with landowners to get access to small pieces of land that are land-locked by private.

### **Marty Marchello**

- N.D. Chapter of Wildlife has a survey about oil industry effects on the economy. It can be found online at: <http://gf.nd.gov/specialty-publications/recommended-management-practices-reducing-oil-and-gas-impacts-wildlife>
- Expressed concern as to how fast the industry and infrastructure was growing and the large impact on the economy. Suggested that the BLM could help mediate between cooperating parties to help slow down production and make sure natural resources are not trampled on.

### **Jace DeCory**

- Will continue to network with her many contacts and resources and encourage them to get involved with the BLM and the RAC.
- She is very pleased with the progress she's made while on the RAC, with her contacts, and hopes to continue with that.

## **BLM Management Briefings**

### **Diane Friez, EMDD**

- This year's reduction ended up being around 7 percent. Sequestration is still going on and the BLM is still waiting for the FY 2014 budget. The NDFO will have the priority due to the oil boom. Employees are planning for a government shutdown and will be notified if they are furloughed, on call, or exempt.

- The BLM is expecting a 5.3 percent reduction in this year's budget. The BLM usually plans for 10 percent.
- The Miles City Field Office is reviewing the RMP public comments.
- Hosted the Secretary of Interior recently at the N.D. Field Office in Dickinson.
- The Bakken Federal Executive Group has been meeting to discuss Bakken area issues that affect area federal agencies. Washington representatives are working to streamline information sharing between agencies.
- The revised, draft Hydraulic Fracturing Rule was sent out for public comment. They are now working on 1.3 million comments.
- 2013 was a slow fire season and a lot of project work was completed by the seasonal fire fighters.

## **Marian Atkins, SDFO**

- The Dewy Burdock In-situ Uranium Mining proposal by Powertech has the BLM coordinating with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Tribal Consultation. The Final EIS should be out in the Oct. or Nov. timeframe.
- GCC Dacotah Cement has a major project for the application for a right-of-way for a covered conveyor belt to transport limestone. The Draft EIS was out in Jan. 2009. Tribal Consultation on this project will be extensive. The BLM will be working with a contractor to ensure that all cultural surveys are completed and recommendations provided to the State Historic Preservation Officer.
- Ponderosa Pine Insects – a recent inventory revealed high number of trees attacked by the Turpentine, Pine Engraver and Mountain Pine Beetles. The BLM is working with a local contractor that likes the blue wood for local sale.

### Fort Meade Area of Critical Environmental Concern activities:

- We (the BLM SDFO) are continuing with our goal of improving the forest health.
- We recently sold timber under two Stewardship contracts.
- We have received additional funds from National Wild Turkey Federation for the improvements of turkey habitat in the area.
- We have finished treatment of some ironwood stands to improve riparian health.
- Meade County has been working with us to do intensive inventory and treatment of weeds.
- This fall we will be working on the new bid package for grazing.
- The Back Country Byway had some additional work done to improve the surface of the road and ensure that the culverts allowed water to go underneath the road.
- National Public Lands Day was on Sept. 14 with project work to improve recreational gates along the Centennial Trail.
- We are continuing work with the Veterans Administration National Cemetery Division on the potential transfer of BLM land west of the cemetery to the Black Hills National Cemetery.
- S.D. Game, Fish and Parks are exploring the option of releasing Big Horn sheep in the "Grizzly Gulch Fire" area. This could affect up to 3,000 acres of BLM land around the town of Deadwood.
- The new BLM office building is still on hold.

## **Rick Rymerson, NDFO**

- One coal lease approved and one more is in progress.

- Oil and gas development: several pipelines going in.
- A coordination meeting is coming up to work to streamline development to eliminate duplication and get rid of some processing.
- Staffing - hired two new surface specialists and an oil and gas inspector.
- Discussed flaring concerns and associated environmental impacts
- NDFO is getting positive feedback of working with BLM. On pipeline projects and proposals the BLM gets involved even without BLM lands being involved --if more than one agency is involved.

**Closing remarks; next meeting date, agenda items:**

- Still waiting for the new RAC appointments to be made.
- Next meeting is to be in Bowman, N.D. Jan. 29.
- The RAC decided to consider additional meetings to follow in May and Sept.
- Once the new members are appointed, Mark will contact them and set up an introductory training meeting.
- He will also see if he can get some training put online.
- Kevin will be the stand in Co-Chair/SD representative to the State Director's RAC Chairs meeting in Oct.

Meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.