

Approved Meeting Minutes
Sierra Front – Northwestern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council
November 20, 2009
 Elko, Nevada

I. RAC Attendance and Welcome

8:00 a.m., Friday, November 20, 2009 – meeting was called to order by Chairman Gebhardt with the following members of the RAC present:

Sierra Front – Northwestern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council

Council Member	Resource/Expertise	11/20
John Gebhardt - Chair	State Agency	X
Patricia Herzog – Vice Chair	Elected Official	
William Bennett	Transportation/ROWs	X
Rochanne Downs	Native Americans	
Michael Drews	Public-at-Large	X
Tim Dufurrena	Nevada Cattlemen	X
Charles Matton	Wild Horse and Burros	X
William Molini	Wildlife	X
Ernest Paine	Livestock	X
Will Roger Peterson	Recreation	X
Lee Turner	Environment	X
D. Craig Young	Archaeology	
Dennis Laybourn	Mining	X
Steven Siegel	Energy/Minerals	X
Tamzen Stringham	Academic	X

BLM Staff Present: Chris McAlear, Mark Struble, Gene Seidlitz, Lisa Ross

Public Present: None

John Gebhardt welcomed all.

John welcomed Mike Drews, Tim Dufurrena, Will Peterson, and Craig Young back and welcomed Tamzen Stringham as a new member to the RAC.

II. Summary of Motions Other Than to Approve Minutes

1. Tim made the motion that John Gebhardt will remain the chair. The motion was seconded and passed.
2. Charles made the motion that Patty remain as vice chair. William seconded the motion and it was passed.

3. Will made the motion that the RAC support the four stimulus projects on the Winnemucca District. William seconded and the motion passed.

III. Summary of Action Assignments

1. The WH&B sub-committee will draft a letter to Ron Wenker in support of Secretary Salazar's proposal and present it at the spring RAC meeting. Any ideas from the RAC should be included in the letter. It was discussed to approach the idea of lifting the slaughter ban-unrestricted ownership.

IV. Minutes from the Meeting in Carson City, July 2009

William made the motion that the minutes for the July meeting be approved. The motion was seconded and passed.

V. RAC Subcommittee Reports

WH&B

Chuck Matton – A proposal was received from the Wine Cup Ranch to Elko BLM for a WH preserve. Elko County Commission voted not to have preserves in Elko County. BLM regulations and the 1971 WH&B Act are that wild horses cannot occupy an area they haven't been before.

Chuck stated the report from Alan shows that BLM was listening when we had National WH&B meetings. With Salazar's initiative there will be better control on numbers. Allotments may need to be purchased to make preserves and visitors can visit the horses.

Lee stated we need to look at the WH&B as a vast loss of Bio Diversity. The reality is horses are going to be here, so which areas do we want destroyed.

Gene asked how DM's can keep the RAC informed. Nevada has a high chance of "treasured herds" It was discussed the "treasured herd" concept needs to be well managed and kept to AML.

Black Rock Subcommittee

Will Roger Peterson - The 16 members met in Gerlach in September and looked at the three stimulus projects. They went on field trips to the road improvement project and the Administrative site in Gerlach.

The next Black Rock subcommittee meeting will be December 12 in Reno.

DM Reports

Chris – DM Report – The Fire season was slow with only two fires, and one SEAT lost. Staffing will be moved from Minden for fuels management projects. Stimulus projects include American Flats which is removal of safety hazards and reclamation. Part of the building may be saved. Other projects include, the Carson Woodland project, Indian Creek Recreation Area and Curtz Lake Trail. A cultural resource inventory is in progress for Stillwater projects. Cold Springs Pony Express. Completed in 2009 were 21 riparian enclosures. 205 horses were removed in the Garfield Flat roundup. 1550 horses are at Snow's Facility in Fallon and will be removed in January because the contract is up. The wild horse prison training has been a success. Concerning range management at the Sierra Front the Stillwater has had no appeals. The Comstock Energy project should be completed by the end of November. *It was discussed that RACs should think about rather it is better to scatter the wind farms or keep them together.* Q1 funded work on trail signing and trail rehabilitation has been completed. Interpretive and trail work is continuing in Carson Valley. Cultural resource work has been done with 45 steward site volunteers. Hidden Cave volunteer work continues and has been very successful with high dept videotaping and leading the tours. A successful Public Lands Day with a clean up at Truckee Meadows.

Gene Seidlitz – On October 22, an open house was held for the Blue Mountain power plant and it is now up and going. Because of the high price of gold, there is a lot of mine work going on with Sandman, Newmont, and Florida Canyon mine. An outside contractor has been hired for the Coeur Rochester EA. Tetra Tech is a contractor in Pershing County. Lands and Realty has acquired 720 acres in the Black Rock for SMPLMA Round 11. There will be an offer for competitive bid soon on the land sale School House Butte. The comment period for the Ruby Pipeline has been extended 45 days. The due date is now December 7, with the release of a final EIS in January. Ron Wenker may sign and issue a ROW sometime in April. Extensive Native American consultation is ongoing. Wilderness Characteristic Inventory is currently being done on the preferred route and alternatives. The terms of cost for mitigation, the BLM is still negotiating with RUBY. The Final EIS will be issued January 9. Gene will keep everyone informed when FERC will be issuing the statement. The 2009 population for Burning Man was over 43,000. BLM is working with Burning Man on another five year permit under the cover of the same EA. BLM is working with Humboldt County on a ROW for Bike/Hike trail on Winnemucca Mtn. The Calico EA has received 7800 comments so far and is scheduled to start December 7th. The Tobin Gather, 376 horses were gathered and it was a success. A more aggressive effort will happen this year for grazing permit renewals. A bacteria is killing off cheat grass in some areas. The Winnemucca RMP is on schedule to issue the draft in early 2010. The RAC will receive the final RMP for comments. 2009 was a mild fire season. The Winnemucca District has four stimulus projects.

At the next RAC meeting there will be a site visit and report on Dumping in Washoe County.

Agenda for meetings in 2010

- Invite someone from USF&W come to a RAC meeting to talk about the April decision of listing the sage grouse.
- Grazing permits renewal process. How many have happened. How many have passed the ten year mark. This information should be included in the DM's report.
- Blue Mtn. Geo Thermal field trip.
- Stimulus project visits – Black Rock Stimulus Projects – meet in Gerlach for that trip. Could meet in Fernley.

The meeting in March will be between March 30-31– in Carson City. Comstock Field Trips, Virginia City and others.

The meeting on the Winnemucca District will be between July 13-14.

Suggestions that if there are active EIS/EA's have project leads report on them.

Accomplishments and Success-

Black Rock NCA Wilderness Area planning may be released in spring 2010. (One plan for all 10 Wilderness Areas). The subgroup will put on the agenda for the June 12th meeting.

XI. Adjournment

**Note: these minutes were adjusted to reflect the 2010 meeting dates of March 30-31 (Carson City) and July 13-14 (Winnemucca) and then approved by the RAC at their spring meeting (March 30-31, 2010) in Carson City, Nevada.