

## Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 24, 2009

Caliente Youth Center, US Highway 93 North,

Caliente, Nevada

### Resource Advisory Council members present and category represented:

Dr. John E. Hiatt, Chairperson	Wildlife	Category 2
Mauricia Baca	Environment	Category 2
Douglas "Stretch" Baker	Transportation and ROW	Category 1
Don "Skip" Canfield	State Agency Representative	Category 3
Julie Von Tobel Gleason	Wild Horse and Burro	Category 2
Greg Seymour	Archaeology/Historic	Category 2
Ed Higbee	Ranching/Grazing	Category 1
Claire Toomey	Permitted Recreation	Category 1
Elise McAllister	Dispersed Recreation	Category 2

### Resource Advisory Council members absent and category represented:

Tim Carlson	Mineral Development	Category 1
Gracian Uhalde	Ranching/Grazing	Category 1
Kenny Anderson	Native American	Category 3
Joni Eastley	Elected Official	Category 3
Steven Mellington, vice-Chairperson	Public at Large	Category 3
Dr. Peter Starkweather	Academic/UNLV	Category 3

### Bureau of Land Management (BLM) representatives present:

Mary Jo Rugwell	BLM Manager, Southern Nevada District Office
Angie Lara	BLM Associate Manager, Southern Nevada District Office
John Ruhs, Designated Federal Official	BLM Manager, Ely District Office
Michael Herder	BLM District Associate Manager, Ely District Office
Tom Seley	BLM Manager, Tonopah Field Office
Mary d'Aversa	BLM Manager, Ely Schell Field Office
Victoria Barr	BLM Manager, Caliente Field Office
Steve Tryon	BLM Assistant District Manager, SNPLMA
Libby White	BLM SNPLMA Program Manager (Land Acquisitions)
David Wood	BLM SNPLMA Program Manager (Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, Hazardous Fuels & Wildfire Prevention)
Robert Wandel	BLM SNPLMA Program Manager (Conservation Initiatives and HSMCP)
Gregory Helseth	BLM Renewable Energy Project Manager, Pahrump Field Office
Chris Hanefeld	BLM Ely District Public Affairs Specialist
Michele Pointel	BLM Administrative Assistant, Tonopah Field Office

**Public**

Brad Hardenbrook

**Represented Interest**

Nevada Division of Wildlife

A copy of each attachment is listed in the text of or at the end of these minutes and is also on file with the official copy of the minutes in the Ely Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Persons desiring to review said minutes should contact Chris Hanefeld, Public Affairs Specialist, at (775) 289-1842.

8:10 a.m. Dr. John Hiatt, Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council (MOSO RAC) chairperson, called the meeting to order and conducted introductions.

8:12 a.m. Housekeeping, *Chris Hanefeld, RAC Coordinator*

Chris covered arrangements, cost of the meal, and travel vouchers.

8:15 a.m. Public Comment, *John Hiatt, RAC Chairperson*

No members of the Public were present.

Review and Approve Minutes from February 2009 RAC Meeting, John Hiatt, RAC Chairperson

The minutes will be reviewed following the meeting and approved at the next meeting of the Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council (RAC).

8:15 a.m. District and Field Manager's Reports, *Thomas Seley, Manager, Tonopah Field Office, Mary Jo Rugwell, Manager, Southern Nevada District, John Ruhs, Manager, Ely District (Attachments 1-3)*

John Ruhs asked for comments from anyone on any of the reports.

A discussion ensued regarding off-highway vehicle (OHV) races.

Dust is a big issue in OHV racing. The political environment doesn't permit reducing the number of events or changing them drastically. Mary Jo Rugwell noted that the earth's surface takes a long time to recover from disturbance. Ideas brought up were that of holding races on a similar course to lessen impact on the land and of holding meetings for the county and stakeholders to talk over issues. Having a BLM manager present during races keeps the atmosphere over the race at a higher standard of conduct. Greg Seymour and Mary Jo Rugwell briefly discussed the usefulness of fencing off areas during races: Greg found it to have helped during the Best in the Desert race, and Mary Jo said that they don't seem to help unless people stay on the course. Two meetings ago, the idea had been proposed of having the BLM offices meet together to develop a

similar process for the races; this was brought up as an action still needed to be pursued.

John Hiatt believes that having a meeting with the stakeholders will be the start of the process. He also stated that there will be political opposition in this area. He shared that recent research shows that dust in the western United States has increased; an increased melting rate of snow is attributed to the amount of dust on its surface.

Claire Toomey brought out the aspect of continued use of race routes by local individuals following a race. Permitted recreation groups are concerned about this.

Including OHV policy in resource management plans (RMPs) was addressed by John Ruhs, Mary Jo Rugwell, John Hiatt, and Tom Seley. As some of the RMPs are currently undergoing revision, it is a good opportunity to address the dust issues.

Tom Seley talked about the Best in the Desert Las Vegas to Reno course that Tonopah Field Office is currently involved in. He said that both pre- and post-race course evaluations are being/will be conducted. Over time, silty soils will need additional fill to reclaim the road. He said that permittees are notified during the initial phases of planning so they can be involved with the process.

8:42 a.m. BLM Update RE: RAC Dark Sky Lighting Comments, *John Ruhs, Designated Federal Officer*

The BLM Nevada state director received the correspondence from the MOSO RAC regarding the Dark Sky Lighting comments. They are working on formalizing policy. A response is expected within 30 days.

There was a brief discussion that the dark skies resource should be valued and that there will be enormous opportunities in the future saving light with energy issues.

8:47 a.m. BLM Update RE: Inter-district consistency for processing of Special Recreation Permits, *BLM District/Field Managers*

John Ruhs said that if the three districts of the MOSO RAC can create consistent policy, the next step would be to go for a statewide policy. Mary Jo Rugwell said that recreation planners of the three districts are working on setting up a meeting.

Bonding and reclamation process were discussed. Don "Skip" Canfield inquired about bonding/permitting issues. Mauricia Baca asked if there is ease of bond

consistency issues for the different states, and John Ruhs answered that it is very disparate between the states. John Hiatt asked if there are reclamation standards for recreation permits. John Ruhs told him that one has to look at each specific program. There isn't any policy in federal law that gives the BLM authority to make policy.

Doug "Stretch" Baker said that from his experience of having done many road reclamation projects, he knows that the cost of seed is extremely high.

Watering down race courses as an option was brought forth by John Hiatt. Tom Seley offered that it can be difficult to water down the roads on longer race courses. John Ruhs questioned whether or not it's appropriate to use water for watering down the roads to diminish the dust impact on the environment.

Claire Toomey stated that casual users can create an almost-equal amount of damage to the land. When she has previously inquired about this, she has been told that BLM doesn't have any jurisdiction over casual users. Lack of signage often results in a communication breakdown between the BLM's preference for treatment of an area and the conduct of the casual user enjoying it.

9:10 a.m. BLM Ely District Travel Management Planning Processes, *John Ruhs, Manager, Ely District*

Mike Herder passed around a notebook that is used in the Ely District for their travel management planning. They went through a lengthy process to determine how they would process travel management. They solicited advice on race route formation from the county and the Northeast RAC. They are developing an advisory committee that is sanctioned by White Pine County and comprised of both county and local government individuals. They developed their own process which covers OHV races from start to finish. They want to balance public access with resource protection, and their form reflects this. An adequate inventory of routes is needed, and questions such as "Should the race route stay open?" and "Should the routing be changed?" need to be addressed. They are pleased with the support that they've received from the RAC.

John Hiatt asked what kind of response has the public given to this process. Mike replied that the response consists of both polarized viewpoints and people wanting to solve problems.

John Ruhs said that better recordkeeping and needing to associate environmental analysis documents with road races were important. As there is good support from both the county and the city, John felt that issues will be less than they have been in the past.

Mike Herder said that having an advisory board removes pressure off of the BLM. He said that routes are examined in detail and assessed following a race event.

Greg Seymour inquired as to the level of knowledge that the public has about the races. Mike Herder concurred that yes, people go into the field to look at the routes. He said that any new routes would undergo environmental analysis before proceeding with a new race. The package would be given to the manager, and then the field office would review it as an interdisciplinary team. Public scoping meetings would be held for the environmental analysis documents.

John Hiatt asked Mary Jo Rugwell if she thought this process would work in Las Vegas. She replied that due to the size of the city, a smaller area within the valley would need to be focused upon in order for it to be effective.

Posting of signs was discussed as a method of enforcing rules.

John Hiatt called for additional questions; there were none.

9:26 a.m.      Grazing Permit Renewal Process—Conflicts between livestock, wild horses and wildlife, *John Ruhs, Manager, Ely District*

John Ruhs stated that he would like to include this on the next meeting agenda.

John Hiatt asked how the BLM is dealing with increased resource demand. John Ruhs replied that BLM identifies on the ground where the resources are, and makes decisions based upon the needs and availability of funding. Tom Seley said that it is a very challenging time for the wild horse and burro (WH&B) program as the population is increasing and BLM doesn't have the needed tools to manage the animals.

9:32 a.m.      RAC Subgroup Updates:

- Wild Horse and Burro

As Julie von Tobel Gleason states it, "Too many horses, not enough money."

It is a priority to protect rangeland health to help horses. They should be gathered as needed and euthanized if unable to find adequate grazing. It is important to continue gathering horses. At present, more money is being spent on longer holding of horses as compared to the funding being directed back into the range.

The following activities can be pursued as ways to eliminate excess horse population: working with Mustang Heritage to increase adoptions, working with volunteer groups/implementing virtual adoption, and forming assistance agreements with horse advocate groups.

John Hiatt stated that the slaughterhouses in the United States have been shut down. Legislation has been introduced which would prohibit the transportation of horses.

Pickens' wife proposed to take all horses in long-term holding, but there are challenges with her proposal.

Ed Higbee said that prior to 1971 wild horses were on the range. He pondered an arrangement between the government and the rancher to manage horse care: the rancher would manage them, and the government would periodically monitor their status.

The public relations aspect was highlighted as an issue to handle wisely. Many people have an idealistic view of wild horses and don't understand some of the stark realities of their life on the range.

John Ruhs brainstormed that a draft of a BLM strategy could be drawn and proposed this coming Fall at the Tri-RAC.

In Nevada, the RACs and the BLM are working together. Education of the public is a key factor in the process. Julie von Tobel Gleason is impressed by the outreach being done. She said that the horse adoption program would be a great plan. John Ruhs emphasized the importance of the educational component.

Tom Seley said that horses don't have natural predators as do most species. Claire Toomey concurred, adding that horses have taken over some elk and deer areas. She stated that she would like to see greater awareness of the virtual adoption program. With the present economy, more instances of domestic horses being turned out with the wild ones are occurring. This can prove difficult for the domestic horse when their former owners do not remove the horseshoes from their hooves prior to turning them out into the wild.

- Off-Highway Vehicle

John Hiatt deferred discussion on this topic as he was not sure if the subcommittee had met.

- Renewable Energy

The decision was made to incorporate this topic into the next session.

9:55 a.m. BREAK

10:08 a.m. Renewable Energy, *BLM District/Field Managers (Attachments 4 and 5)*

#### Oil & Gas

There has been oil production in Nevada since 1954. In FY08, 8 plans of development (PODs) were approved, 315 parcels were leased, and the 42 existing wells produced 9,800 barrels per well per year.

#### Geothermal

Most of the geothermal plants are located in northwestern Nevada. Two additional plants will be starting up soon. There are 18 geothermal unit agreements.

The last geothermal lease sale was in 2008, and the next sale will take place in July 2009. In 2008, sixty-eight permission to drill permit applications were received and 58 were approved.

Two BLM office locations have been identified as renewable energy locations – Tonopah and Las Vegas.

#### Wind

BLM has approved 42 applications for wind monitoring.

#### Solar

We're at the beginning of the development of solar energy; it is a supplemental energy at this point. John Hiatt stated that he felt that both wind and solar energies would stay supplemental until some of the present obstacles affecting them are dealt with.

Claire Toomey mused aloud about having solar panels on the tops of homes, as is done in Hawaii. John Hiatt said that it could be done, but there are factors influencing the choice to this point of, in general, not doing so: regulated utility companies not being willing to give up their monopoly and having to give a one-to-one credit for each solar panel that a customer has hooked up to the grid.

- Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for Geothermal Leasing in the Western United States

The PEIS for geothermal leasing doesn't address specific sites. John Ruhs said that one of the goals is to have overall consistency in process.

- West-wide Energy Corridor

John Ruhs said that clarification is still being sought on some identified areas of inconsistency in the West-wide Energy Corridor. Mary Jo Rugwell said that in the Southern Nevada District the corridor was located on the Desert National Wildlife Refuge. It stopped on the southern tip as they weren't sure how to get it through the area, so there is a gap.

- Biomass Utilization, *Gregory Helseth, BLM Renewable Energy Project Manager, Pahrump Field Office*

John Ruhs said that there are 6 stewardship contracts, of which 4 are specifically for fire, 1 is for support of the school's Smith Valley Stewardship Project, and the last one is in process. There continues to be discussion regarding a portable generating unit in eastern Nevada. Individuals hauling timber could possibly saturate the market quickly.

Mary Jo Rugwell said that the Southern NV District will hire some employees for the RECO.

BLM has 16 solar and 4 wind applications. Of the wind projects, one is in the process of having its environmental impact statement (EIS) done; the rest are at the plan of development stage. There are proponents interested in the fast track (2010 stimulus package). BLM is working with local and state groups, and has monthly meetings with NV Energy. BLM is working toward uniformity in projects and standards.

Water is a key issue with solar energy processes. Some proponents are considering molten salt technology: salt is heated up which allows energy production to continue after the sun has set.

Greg Seymour inquired if projects are examined individually or cumulatively and if each project goes through the EIS process. Greg Helseth replied that projects are considered individually (site specific); also, they are considered overall (cumulatively) because they're intertwined with the whole environment.

While some proponents are electing to utilize photovoltaic processes, photovoltaic requires a much greater land area and eliminates the molten salt option.

Mary Jo Rugwell said that preparing a regional EIS has been discussed. Single EIS's are better as they are site specific. It is not yet decided if an original EIS would supplement a programmatic EIS. It is not known who would pay for it...perhaps companies would pay a portion... The Amargosa Valley is a closed water basin and the process in this setting is being discussed. Amargosa Valley's water is over-allocated and there is a fish in the area that needs to be considered.

Elise McAllister asked if the molten salt takes longer to heat up in the morning. Greg Helseth replied that it must be maintained at a specific temperature or it will solidify in the pipes.

Mixed use plants include photovoltaic and gas use plants. By having both processes available at the same site, consistent energy is able to be produced. Photovoltaic keeps the power even, avoiding spikes on the line.

On Nellis Air Force Base, the military wants to be involved with the renewable energy projects because their operations and communications are affected by them. Tom Seley said that the military is concerned whether or not the technologies are compatible with their jet flights.

Julie von Tobel Gleason asked how BLM would know if an area on the military base contained an undisclosed archaeological site needing protection. Mary Jo Rugwell said that a cultural specialist would review the area and will coordinate closely with the military. Greg Helseth said that the entire area of an application must be inventoried.

Ingress and egress points are being identified as well as considering plant species, wildlife, etc. Companies have specialists to look at these factors, and BLM verifies their information.

John Hiatt brought up the point that fragmentation of developed areas affects wildlife migration patterns. Mary Jo Rugwell said that a regional EIS is valuable for addressing this factor.

Mauricia Baca asked about the order in which applications are considered. The processing of applications is still being developed. At one point, BLM tried to place a hold on receiving applications in order to be able to solidify the process.

Mauricia Baca asked how BLM envisions the MOSO RAC helping with the renewable energy process. John Ruhs said that the RAC could ask for information and be involved with the processes.

John Hiatt asked if setting up a demonstration project has been considered. John Ruhs replied that that is a great idea; he also said that politics would be a factor in the matter.

Mary Jo Rugwell said that the effect of solar development will be lasting.

11:30 a.m. Ely Resource Management Plan (RMP) Implementation, *John Ruhs, Manager, Ely District (Attachment 6)*

The handout (see Attachment 6) shows the 5-year timeline of the RMP plan of action. Dr. Hiatt said he will review the handout before making any comments.

11:32 a.m. Battle Mountain Resource Management Plan, *Thomas Seley, Manager, Tonopah Field Office (Attachment 7)*

There is an team working on the Battle Mountain RMP. The target goal is to complete the Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS) by June 1<sup>st</sup>. A no action alternative will be identified. Global Information System (GIS) layers need to be confirmed. BLM desires for the RAC to actively participate in creation of the RMP.

John Hiatt called for questions or comments. There were none.

11:35 a.m. LUNCH

1:17 p.m. Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 10, *Steve Tryon, Assistant District Manager, Southern Nevada District (Attachments 8-9)*

Ed Higbee states for the record that SNPLMA has done some great things for Lincoln County!

Program Trends

At this point in time, more land has been acquired than sold. Land sales have declined dramatically. Income comes from sales and interest.

One of SNPLMA Division's goals is to complete and/or terminate projects that aren't moving forward. Some projects are completed but not closed. This can occur for various reasons: sometimes, SNPLMA Division's requests to close out projects are not responded to; sometimes, projects expire and the agency fails to submit time extensions, terminations, or final reimbursements; many projects are

expiring in 2009, which may require additional time extensions; and, some projects are expiring in 2009 that have already received one or multiple time extensions. They are looking into setting up projects for a five-year life span as the standard.

Some of the SNPLMA projects were discussed, including the progress being made in the Lake Tahoe Basin, and the land values and construction costs decreasing.

1:45 p.m. Conservation Initiatives, *Robert Wandel, BLM SNPLMA Program Manager (Conservation Initiatives and MSHCP)*

Some of the FY2008 accomplishments were highlighted, including the invasive weed removal and habitat restoration, the interagency OHV strategy, and the completed project of improving visitor safety and conserving biological and cultural resources at abandoned mine sites.

The Conservation Initiative priorities for round 10 were discussed:

1. The White Pine County Wilderness Restoration and Implementation
2. Cultural Resource Survey and Site Mitigation in the Red Rock Canyon NCA
3. Investigating and Interpreting Anasazi Ruins on the Virgin River near Mesquite, Nevada
4. USFS & NDOW White Pine County Cave Resources Assessment (A cave management plan needs to be developed. NDOW is being removed from the title and language of the project as it isn't an eligible entity under SNPLMA.)
5. Recreation Stewardship Pilot Program and Logandale Trails System Implementation
6. Support of the Virgin River Conservation Management Strategy
7. Spring Mountains Inventory and Monitoring Strategy Implementation
8. Survival and Habitat Requirements of Bighorn Sheep on the Desert National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)
9. Mesquite and Acacia Woodland Restoration for Lake Mead NRA

Questions?

John Hiatt asked for some financial particulars on one of the projects. Ed Higbee asked about monies being available to Lincoln County per year for archaeological expenses. He was told that that particular funding came through the Lincoln County Lands Act (LCLA), not SNPLMA.

1:58 p.m. Capital Improvements, *Robert Wandel, BLM SNPLMA Program Manager (Conservation Initiatives and MSHCP)*

FY2008 accomplishments were covered, including the fact that most of the Round 1-3 projects are completed or closed out, that 18 projects have been completed or closed out within the past 9 months, that the completion percentage for Capital Improvement Program is at 40%, and that the majority of Round 8 and 9 projects have initiated work plans and requested initial funding transfers.

The Capital Improvements priorities were discussed:

1. Bradford Spring Channel Restoration (FWS)
2. Provide Campground Improvements that Increase Visitor Access to Great Basin National Park (NPS)
3. Red Rock Portal System Signage (BLM)
4. Hoover Dam Interpretive & Safety Enhancements (BOR)
5. Procure, Install and Test Remote Weather Station (NPS)
7. Historic Building Preservation and Bunkhouse Construction (USFS)

Questions?

John Hiatt asked if the funding for the signs at the Red Rock Portal System include installation or procurement. Robert Wandel answered that it includes installation and funding for replacement signs. Julie von Tobel Gleason asked why funding for sign replacement wouldn't be done on an as-needed basis, instead of purchasing replacement signs along with the original signs.

Regarding phased projects, John Hiatt asked whether or not each phase is required to stand alone. Robert Wandel replied that yes, each phase must be self-contained so that it can be completed.

2:10 pm Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Projects (ENLRP), *David Wood, BLM SNPLMA Program Manager (Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, Hazardous Fuels & Wildfire Prevention) (Attachment 10)*

This is a new category; the first projects were approved in Round 8. All Round 8 projects are ongoing and most field work is scheduled for this summer (Steptoe Valley, Snake Valley, White River Valley).

The ENLRP priorities are as follows:

1. White River Valley Invasive Weeds: Inventory, Treatment, Restoration, and Education
2. Lowry Fuels Reduction Project
3. Ward Mountain Restoration
4. Soil Survey of Mt. Moriah and White Pine Range, Ely Ranger District, White Pine County

2:16 p.m. Hazardous Fuels Reduction, *David Wood, BLM SNPLMA Program Manager (Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, Hazardous Fuels & Wildfire Prevention) (Attachment 10)*

The FY2008 accomplishments include: Round 8 projects were all started, with fieldwork begun on the majority of them prior to the end of the 2008 field season; Round 9 projects are starting this year, with field work scheduled for this field season; and, the projected accomplishments should allow forwarded Round 10 projects to begin on the groundwork in 2010.

The Hazardous Fuels priorities are as follows:

1. State of Nevada Urban Lot Fuel Reduction Sensitive Areas/Stream Environment Zone
2. Implementation of the Carson Range 10 Year Plan
3. Arrowhawk and Jobs Peak – Phase 2 of 3
4. Lake Tahoe Urban Forest Restoration and Fuels Reduction, Phase 4 of 4
5. Lake Tahoe Basin Interagency Integrated Hazardous Fuels Reduction
6. Implementation of the Spring Mountain 10 Year Plan
7. Van Sickle Phase II Fuels Reduction Project
8. Carnelian Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Forest Health Restoration Project – Phase 1 of 3
10. Red Rock Fuel Break Treatments
11. Spooner Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Forest Health Restoration Project – Phase 1 of 3
12. Mt. Rose Tracts and Little Valley Fuels – Phase 1 of 3

Questions?

Dr. Hiatt asked about the size of the United States Forest Service (USFS) and State of Nevada undeveloped lots. The size varies from ¼ acre upward.

Ed Higbee inquired if the goal in fuel reduction is to protect against fires. David Wood replied that it involves lots of brushwork and old tree removal.

Elise McAllister asked if homeowners are required to maintain the lot once it's cleared. David Wood said that yes, they are. Homeowners can maintain their lots portion by portion; uninhabited lots would probably be maintained every 10 years or so. Awareness of the need for maintaining lots needs to be higher.

Responding to Elise McAllister's question of whether or not state funding is still given for fire safe issues, David Wood said that it is.

2:29 p.m. Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisitions, *Libby White, BLM SNPLMA Program Manager (Land Acquisitions) (Attachments 11-12)*

Some of the FY2008 highlights include acquiring 29,040 acres including the 17,173 acre Jaksick Parcels totaling \$64.86 million, and acquiring three conservation easements from Round 4 projects so far in FY2009 (670 acres are protected) totaling \$10.4 million.

The Land Acquisition priorities are as follows:

1. River Ranch Property
2. RLF Rock Creek Parcels
3. Winters Ranch Property
4. Coverston
5. Rosenlund Property
6. Bright Property
7. Cole Property
8. Collins Property
9. Catley Property
10. Mount Rose Wilderness Parcels
11. Long Property
12. Darling Property
13. Mack Ranch Conservation Easement
14. Hunewill Ranch Conservation Easement
15. Kingsbury Grade Property

Questions?

John Hiatt asked about conservation easements. Libby White said that they're deeded in perpetuity.

Elise McAllister asked what FLTFA stands for. Libby White replied that it stands for the Federal Lands Transaction Facilitation Act and described what it covers.

Elise also asked if the Mack Ranch is to be recommended for funding. Libby White replied that any group can comment on any project being recommended for funding.

Ed Higbee voiced concern regarding buying land from private ownership. He wanted to know if there is a plan to maintain the properties once they are purchased. Libby White replied that acquiring agencies must provide a letter stating that they have the resources to follow through with an acquisition project.

Steve Tryon answered Ed Higbee's question that yes, once land is acquired by the government, it is taken off of the taxation rolls. Libby White said that lands taxed as agricultural lands tend to pay little in the way of property taxes, and so acquiring those lands can be a "win win" exchange for creating an area that local residents can enjoy. Often, the land being acquired is vacant, thus resulting in minimal impact.

3:06 p.m. Parks, Trails & Natural Areas, *Steve Tryon, BLM Assistant District Manager, SNPLMA*

FY2008 highlights include the SNPLMA Division receiving recognition from the Southwest Contractors Best of 2008 for its contribution to the development of Centennial Hills Regional Park.

The Parks, Trails & Natural Areas priorities are the following:

1. Duck Creek Stabilization Project Phase II
2. Mesquite Regional Park – Phase II
3. Camp Success Preservation and Enhancement – Phase I
4. River Mountains Loop Trail Safety and Educational Improvements
5. Doolittle Park Renovation – Phase I
6. Horseman’s Park – Phase II
7. Paradise Point Park
8. Boulder City Bootleg Canyon Park – Phase II
9. Lincoln County Fair and Rodeo Grounds – Phase II
10. Prentiss Walker Memorial Park Renovation

In general, the movement has gone from larger projects to smaller ones, and has begun to emphasize the “mature” areas of Southern Nevada – areas built in the ‘60s and ‘70s that need sprucing up.

Questions?

There was discussion on light pollution. Don “Skip” Canfield recalls being able to see lights in Alamo from a distance of 20 miles that affect the ambiance of the Pahranaagat Valley.

John Hiatt commented that once land is broken up and developed, you’ll never get back the lands. Some currently available properties are opportunities that won’t come our way again.

It was suggested that individuals send in comments on projects rather than the RAC send in a letter as the RAC won’t be meeting prior to the May 6<sup>th</sup> deadline, and there aren’t enough members present to adequately represent the RAC.

John Hiatt called for comments, questions, or suggestions. Dr. Hiatt asked John Ruhs if he had any final comments. Several members suggested they would like to do site visits of SNPLMA projects in the future.

John Ruhs stated that this is his last MOSO RAC meeting as he will be moving to Rock Springs, Wyoming, in June 2009.

3:37 p.m. Chris Hanefeld—Housekeeping

Chris reminded everyone to sign in on the Sign In sheet. He reminded anyone who hadn't yet paid for lunch that the cost was \$7.00. He covered logistics regarding lodging.

3:39 p.m. John Hiatt adjourned the meeting.

APPROVED BY:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Hiatt, Chair  
Mojave-Southern Great Basin  
Resource Advisory Council

- Minutes provided by Michele Pointel, BLM Tonopah Field Office -

Attachments:

1. Tonopah Field Office Field Manager's Report
2. Southern Nevada District Manager's Report
3. BLM Ely District Update
4. BLM Ely District Wind Energy Project Update
5. BLM Ely District Biomass (Stewardship Contract) Update
6. Ely District Resource Management Plan
7. Battle Mountain Resource Management Plan Revision Update
8. Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA)/Round 10 Preliminary Recommendation/Program Trends
9. Round 10 Preliminary Recommendation/Expenditure of the Special Account for the SNPLMA and Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA) – Round 6
10. Carson Front SNPLMA Hazardous Fuels Projects and Land Ownership
11. Map: Potential Properties for SNPLMA/FLTFA Acquisition in Calico Basin within the Red Rock Canyon NCA
12. Map: Long/Darling/Schulz Properties