

Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council

Thursday, September 12, 2013

Ely BLM Conference Room, Ely, Nevada

RAC Attendance

William Wolf, acting Chairman	(3) Public-At-Large
Jacob Carter	(1) Federal Grazing
Kevin Lee	(1) Transportation
Jack Prier	(2) Environmental
Julie Hughes	(2) Dispersed Recreation
David Pierce	(1) Energy/Minerals
Bruce Holmgren	() State Representative
David Meisner	(3) Academia

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Representatives Present:

Doug Furtado	District Manager – Battle Mountain
Jill Silvey	District Manager – Elko
Michael Herder	Associate District Manager – Ely
Paul Podborny	Schell Field Manager - Ely
Tom Warren	Operations Manager - Elko
Jill Moore	Egan Field Manager - Ely
Casey Johnson	Range Program Lead – Battle Mountain
Christopher McVicars	ESR program - Ely
Lesli Ellis-Wouters	Public Affairs Officer – Elko

Members of the Public Present: None

~ 9:30 AM

Meeting called to order	William Wolf
Minutes for previous meeting approved and seconded (June 27 th meeting)	William Wolf
Sage Grouse is entire agenda for this meeting due to public comment/ time constraints.	William Wolf

~ 9:35AM

Overview of possible alternatives associated with Sub-regional Sage-Grouse EIS Power-point presentation. (on file at Elko District) Emphasis on Chapter 2 EIS document and 6 alternatives.	Michael Herder
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~ 10:48AM

Fire History and Emergency Stabilization/Rehabilitation efforts Slide show presentation (on file at Elko District)	Tom Warren
Suggestion to add good seeding results to Nature Notes (Elko Daily Free Press) for public knowledge	Jack Prier

~ 11:30AM Working Lunch

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~ 11:35 AM Drought impacts Power-point Presentation (on file at Elko District) Casey Johnson
Discussion: Jack Prier, Doug Furtado, Jacob Carter, David Meisner, and William Wolf discuss drought and sage grouse habitat and listing. A WH&B program and drought discussion by Jack Prier, Doug Furtado, and Kevin Lee.

Western Watersheds encourages native species because they believe that this will encourage Sage Grouse leks per Mike Herder. Tom Warren doesn't believe this is true.

~ 12PM- 12:30PM Public Comment- no comments

~ 12:30 PM No quorum so no decisions can be made. We can suggest dates and vote by email.

Review of Action Items/RAC Recommendations

William Wolf/Doug Furtado

-Sub-committee function - to provide feedback to the agencies specifically on the proposed alternatives in the draft EIS.

-Sub-committee schedule-meet evenings (possibly 5pm start)-possible dates: Oct 28& 29; Nov 12 & 13, 25&26; Dec 9&10. (Lesli Ellis-Wouters will email DEIS and coordinate meeting dates).

-Subcommittee members need to prepare and bring questions or additional information for the first meeting so that objectives can be established.

Fourth meeting will be the final draft discussion and the two meetings in between will be the discussion on each of the drafts. Discussion with the Sierra Front will be ongoing with the subcommittee.

Second meeting might conclude with a joint recommendation.

Concerns over recommendations might not coincide with Sierra Front recommendations. It is important to stress our needs per Julie Hughes.

-Development of RAC comments prior to comment period closing- proposed due date January 3 for RAC recommendations.

Subcommittee: Jack Prier, William Wolf, Larry Hyslop, Tom Connelly, Kevin Lee, Julie Hughes, Jacob Carter, David Pierce, and Jeff White.

RAC can provide information on other aspects of the EIS per Mike Herder. Video conferencing can be made available. We should include WH&B in comments per Julie Hughes. Need a Point of Contact for sage grouse/EIS review process for subcommittee questions. Draft EIS will be available for public review and comments on October 11th. November 20th in Elko is the first public meeting.

90 day comment period ends January 9th. Send RAC comments directly to Amy Lueders.

~ 1:30 PM Meeting Adjourned. Thanks to the presenters, staff, and Lesli Ellis-Wouters for meeting statistics.