

Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council

Thursday, February 6, 2014

Tri-RAC, Elko Nevada

RAC Attendance

Jeff White	(1) Energy/Minerals
Tom Connolly	(1) Federal Grazing
Kevin Lee	(1) Transportation
Jack Prier	(2) Environmental
Julie Hughes	(2) Dispersed Recreation
David Pierce	(1) Energy/Minerals
David Meisner	(3) Academia
Larry Hylsop	(2) Environmental
Laurie Carson	(3) Elected Official
Tanya Reynolds	(3) Native American
Jeanne Nations (Only for morning of 2/6)	(2) Wild Horse & Burro

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Representatives Present:

Rosemary Thomas	District Manager – Ely
Doug Furtado	District Manager – Battle Mountain
Jill Silvey	District Manager – Elko
Lesli Ellis-Wouters	Public Affairs Officer – Elko
Jacky Anderson	Management and Program Specialist – Elko

Members of the Public Present: None

~ 2:30 p.m. Feb. 6

Meeting called to order

Jeff White

Change of Designated Federal Official from Doug Furtado to Rosemary Thomas

Election for Chair

Jeff White was nominated for Chair-all present agreed

Bill Wolf was nominated for Vice Chair

RAC members requested a list of terms of each member (DFO to organize)

Discussion on 2014 priorities:

Rangeland Health

Wild Horse and Burro

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Mineral Development

Discussion sub committees:

Northeast Nevada Wild Horse Eco Sanctuary

Battle Mountain Resource Management Plan

Sage Grouse EIS

Sequestration

Doug Furtado mentioned the State Office instituted a tracking system for Federal Register and correspondence so letters handled at the state office will not get lost and this will insure copies get to the secretary.

Expectations for good functional RAC

Jack Prier raised concerns on letter that was submitted by the NEGB RAC regarding Rangeland Health. The letter stated just the majority view and there were some who did not agree and their view was ignored in the letter. In the future we should capture all views and send them forward.

Some felt they were not informed prior to the meeting. It was stated to contact either Rosie or Doug anytime to answer your questions; they have staff who can also respond.

Sub groups may be beneficial, they need to be active.

RAC members need to participate in order to be effective. Once tasks are assigned, RAC members need to follow through.

If RAC members need assistance, they need to ask.

Economize where we can

RAC members proposed a monthly district manager report. Battle Mountain and Ely are both updated monthly and located on the web.

RAC members can get on mailing lists for the areas they are interested in. BLM is providing information but need to ensure they reaching out to the RAC members in their areas of expertise.

Don't have to update charter with everything we can have a working norm.

Can 3 RAC's support the state? Yes

Are we effective? Yes

Doug presented Nevada State priorities;

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1. Sage Grouse
2. Drought
3. Wild Horse and Burro

Proposed Themes for 2014 meetings

Wild Horse and Burro

Rangeland Health

- Drought
- Fire/Fuels

Sage Grouse

Minerals-Hard Rock/Oil and Gas

Administration

1. Consultation
2. Sub Groups
3. Minority View

Most important role of RAC

Working with your contacts to further the RAC's message

Take on a smaller number of priorities and do them well

Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Breakout Session - cont.

Feb. 7, 2014

There was a proposal submitted from the State Office regarding consolidating the three RACs. NEGB RAC members recommend keeping the existing three RACs due to the differences in each area of the state.

A suggestion was made to consolidate the District offices into one district for the state of Nevada, would save money on RMP, centralize opportunity to reorganize BLM.

BLM owes the RAC the truth, not just what is going good. We need to present problems and talk about them.

RACs assist with meeting standards and guidelines

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RAC members should meet face to face with designated federal official on issues and then they can take the message back out to the people.

What can we do to improve? More coordination, get the word out, improve outreach. Offer telephone conference line for those who are not able to attend.

Principles for 2014 Meetings

1. Forward Looking/Preventive
2. Administrative Refinement
3. Consultation
4. Sub Groups
5. Minority View/Consensus

Field Trips offer the best learning opportunity. Field trips planned for 2014

1. Optional-LEK counts, visit one in your area, usually in April and sponsored by the Northeast Nevada Stewardship Group or Nevada Department of Wildlife
2. May 15 – Grass Valley
Habitat – Grouse life stages
Rangeland Health – Drought effects
3. August 28 – Tuscarora
Rangeland Health – Drought effects
4. Propose Tri-RAC in November