

BLM Nevada Tri-RAC Meeting Transcript February 7, 2014 Elko, Nevada  
Segment 5: Individual RAC Reports, Meeting Closeout

>> If we could get everybody in their seats we will go ahead and get started.

>> Good morning, everybody, and welcome back to the Tri RAC here in Elko.

Hope everybody was up early enough and got your Tri RAC sessions out of the way so we can continue on and get you out of here early and hopefully avoid the bad weather.

I guess just as a reminder, as we're going around the table later on, make sure you have a microphone in front of you and it's pointing at you while you're talking.

It's not so much for the folks in the room.

It's for the people we have listening in online since they're broadcasting again live today.

We've got the individual RAC breakouts out of the way.

You're back in the room.

We'll start with the report outs from the RACs and which RAC would like to go first?

All right.

We have an eager volunteer.

>> Good morning, everyone.

Laurie Carson, the Northeastern Great Basin RAC.

This is for this coming year.

Our themes are the rangeland health, and underneath will be the greater sage grouse and the drought effects, including fuels and fire.

Then number two would be the Wild Horse and Burro Program.

This also coincides with BLM's priorities.

Then also with our other meeting we'll go ahead and we're going to include principles, being proactive.

Once the FEIS comes out in the ROD, we're going to be looking forward as far as education and how our let's see.

Let me get this right.

I should have had more notes.

Those are our themes.

We'll go to the meeting and our field trips.

We're having an optional field trip, for those in the areas, if they've never seen the strutting and being able to go to a lek and that's kind of an option for those who have not seen one.

May 15th will be our first meeting and this is habitat.

What we're going to do is this coincides with our range health theme, and that will also go into Sage grouse habitat and horses, the drought.

So we will take a good look at that and just really have our feet to the ground with this.

August 28th we're going to do another field trip, and that will be the Tuscarora loop and that will also be habitat.

So we're going to get a good look, and with that knowledge that we're going to gain from our BLM individuals, this will help us really focus so that when we come into October 16th, by that time and we're not a hundred percent sure, and this also depends on whether or not we're going to have the Tri RAC in November like we've had in the past.

By this time we should have the FEIS out and then I think a little later the ROD will be out and then we will be able to hopefully have real good discussion how we're going to be proactive, how we can get education out there to help the community.

This is going to be a whole new world when this takes place.

Administratively we're going to talk about some of this, and this involves some of our own group, how do we handle our subgroups?

Is it good?

Is it too much work?

If we have a subgroup, make sure that the reason that there is a subgroup, that we follow through on it.

A big key will be also being forward looking.

Instead of having any kind of a knee jerk reaction, we want to know where with BLM that we can be proactive, that we can look down the road and be sure being as forward seeing as we can be.

And this one, it's a letter goes out, and if it's a consensus letter, is everybody on board with that?

And if they're not, identifying that to have an example, we had a resolution that was brought forward.

I think that we had three that were not part of that consensus.

When that resolution goes out, do we identify there were three members that did not want this?

So how is their viewpoint captured so that we don't just run roughshod over them, so to speak, and maybe that's too strong a word, but to just make them part of it.

I don't know, is there anything else?

Done.

>> I actually was sitting in on some of the other break out groups and the discussion of consensus did come up, so maybe that's something the RAC chairs can talk about or email about during the year to figure out how they want to deal with those issues.

>> [inaudible] a couple items here from our group as we transition into the new year.

We want to recollect

>> Would you identify yourself.

>> Sorry Jeff White.

I think I'm interim chair or whatever status we're in for Northeastern Great Basin RAC.

Wanted to express thanks to Lesli Ellis Wouters for her work as the RAC coordinator over the years.

Really appreciate that.

And yesterday and today Jackie has been diligently taking notes and, again, thank you very much for that help.

>> Any other comments from the Northeast RAC?

Okay.

Who wants to go next?

>> Debbie Lassiter, Sierra Front RAC.

I guess we will say up front thanks to all our Carson City and Winnemucca BLM, Lisa Ross for putting everything together for us and making sense of our gibberish during the year, making us look good.

With our plans for the year, we went through I mean, the issues are the issues.

We're looking at also some right of way process and looking at the renewals and also maybe some consistency between different districts as far as stipulations and things like that.

So we've had some discussions in that area.

Looking at landscape scale projects, you know, the rehab, the fuels, wildlife.

Definitely an important factor.

Grazing renewals is something that we looked at last year.

We had a subgroup.

And now we've received a letter back, and also with the state group that's working, so that particular group well, the group is not going to form again this year, but the RAC as a whole will take a look at what's happened during the year.

The obvious Sage grouse.

So we'll continue our sage grouse subgroup and look at the particular outcomes that that group would actually accomplish.

Obviously a lot going on with the updates but also when the implementation comes in, and then it's obviously a lot of things to do.

Wild horse and burro, that's been a subgroup and it would continue to be a subgroup with obviously a lot of things going on there as well.

And with the letter on the resolution yesterday, that's a great suggestion as far as having the voice heard of people who didn't vote for that.

So I'll be drafting up a letter for everybody to take a look at so that it's not just in the record, but that we can actually have a letter with the different chairs.

I'll send it to you guys, and whoever ends up being the south, so that we can make sure it's what everybody wants to see.

Drought, you see the star by it.

I mean, everything is about drought.

It all comes back to everything.

Sage grouse, wild horse and burro, grazing.

You know, it's everything.

So what we thought was getting out on field trips would really be a key.

I mean, it always is, but really now seeing what's out on the ground, and Bernadette with the Carson City district had a great idea as far as getting out looking at some key areas not with just RAC but other public, stakeholders.

So we actually have that incorporated into one of our meetings this year.

So I think that's fantastic.

Travel management plans, we have Carson City and Winnemucca working on those.

That's another focus.

Take a look at that and kind of decide what our actions would be at that point when we see what's going on.

So the two meetings.

We'd be looking at would be Carson City in May, looking at May 1st and 2nd, and that would be looking at those areas, you know, those key areas, kind of focusing in on the landscape scale and the drought, and then our exciting one, Burning Man.

It's hard to ignore it's the largest dispersed recreation activity around, and so we're going to take a look at that from the BLM perspective.

I know that from my perspective I've seen how Burning Man puts the infrastructure together but I think this would be a great one to see the steps that BLM takes and what they do on the ground not just for enforcement but also for the Leave No Trace.

And then everyone will get a chance to see what it looked like before.

I think most of us have seen it after.

Also, going out to a mine expansion as well, kind of on the way.

And that was our plans.

>> [inaudible]

>> August 28th.

28, 29, is that right?

Yeah.

Okay.

Thanks.

>> And Southern Nevada, do you guys have a mic back there?

>> Southern MOSO and southern chair for last year.

We have no quorum, so still acting.

Just to touch base on a few things we did last year, we had a very active subcommittee on recreation and planning, with meetings that actually went into December for some subcommittee meetings.

Those two subcommittees will be continued for this year.

And our main focus this year will be on the RMP for Southern Nevada.

We have our meeting set for the year, we're going to do three RAC meetings, March 13th, which is just about five weeks away, so we're going to have to be hustling on that one, July 17th and September 18th, and the first two meetings are kind of set to work around what's going on with the RMP.

The RMP draft is set to be rereleased mid may.

We are also going to do subcommittee meetings the day prior to each of the three RAC meetings, rec. and planning on March 12th, planning only on July 16th, and rec. and planning again on September 17th.

We're also going to have two additional planning meetings, one around the first of June after the draft document comes out, and then one at the end of the month prior to the two day set of meetings.

We're going to make available VTC to all our meetings.

We did that last year due to some budget constraints and that worked out very well for us.

Tonapah, Ely and/or Caliente depending on where the meeting is and we're going to do the first two meetings in Las Vegas and the third meeting in September will be in Ely with a possible field trip on the day before.

The September meeting, once we get through the planning process, topics will be energy, wild horse and burro, and then we're also going to address the state Federal land transfer and see where that group is at that time.

Some of the other things that we talked about yesterday, we started out last year with two members short, vacancies.

Lost another in July due to a retirement and illness and some surgeries have weakened us to start this year off.

So we talked about improving communication between the meetings, between the RAC members, brainstorm that and came up with some ideas, and also we're going to address the possibility of doing an annual report from each seat to the RAC throughout the year.

That's all I have for now.

Any questions?

>> All right, thank you very much.

I guess the one thing that came up from the Northeast RAC was a recommendation to hold the Tri RAC meeting in November, and so I guess we'd kind of have to get an idea of if people would be open to that idea.

>> Where is Erica?

I think the question is: what's the likelihood we can get the nomination approved?

To me I think that's the control, I think, because it certainly has been an impact that we haven't had them for this one, and so I would maybe ask Erica what the probability of that might be.

>> Well, really, the controlling factor, from what we can tell, is the number of calls for nominations to fill vacancies on the RAC.

If we just do one call and keep it at that and live with whatever vacancies we have, we should be able to do a November meeting.

So it's a trade off with want to fill every RAC's spot by multiple calls, we can be pretty certain we will not be able to make a November meeting.

>> Okay.

I guess going forward with that, can we see a show of hands how many people would want to try for a November Tri RAC meeting in 2014?

Some of you keep putting your hands up and taking them down.

It appears that a majority, though, would like to try for a November Tri RAC meeting.

So we'll work on setting the dates for those.

>> I have a quick question.

Here it is it's February and the nominations are still haven't taken place yet.

What I wondered about, is it possible, and I don't know how this could be done, those RACs that didn't get much response from the first call, the first call has already gone out as of today, so hopefully, you know, if we can encourage people to please respond.

If they're not interested or if they are interested.

To help that process along.

And is it possible that those that are ready that already are filled like have their nominations in, does everybody have to wait, or can some of them be done?

Can different RACs rather than one being held up for everybody

>> We submitted them separate, but it appears they did get lumped.

I don't know if that's an answer.

We tried to move them separate.

I think they get lumped.

>> [inaudible] areas that were having difficulty with our connections throughout the states with our RACs, if we knew that, maybe we could suggest those people we have connections with put in for nominations.

So if somebody could just send out an email giving us a heads up which areas are having difficulties, maybe we can connect within our own areas.

>> And I've talked with several of the coordinators here over the past couple of days, and we're going to schedule a call for the coordinators and DFOs to talk about the nomination process and how to fill vacancies or advertise for vacancies and then they will be able to engage with current members to hopefully get those filled.

Any other questions on the nomination process?

>> What's the due date for the first call?

>> I'd have to look.

I know it came out the other day.

Typically it's a six week window.

So I would guess sometime in March, late March, early April.

Okay.

Going back to the issue of the next Tri RAC meeting, we have to decide on a location.

It was obviously in Elko this year.

It was in Reno last year.

So would we like to propose

Do you have something to add, Raul?

>> [inaudible]

>> Any recommendations or suggestions?

>> [inaudible]

>> Hold on.

Microphone.

>> I belong to a couple other groups and we meet in Tonapah all the time because it's equally hard for everyone.

It's almost equidistant.

It's kind of a cute you can look at the old mining stuff.

Does the RAC ever consider going there.

There's nothing to do once you're there but at least it's equally difficult for the travel

[chuckling]

No disrespect.

>> Yes, sir?

>> Actually, I think Tonapah would be a great idea, but my fear is you would be distracted because there's so many other things to do there.

[chuckling]

>> I go to the big cities for the Harbor Freight.

And you don't have the Harbor Freight

>> We've had two votes for Tonapah so far.

Do we want to see a show of hands

>> We can go to Vegas.

>> Or Las Vegas?

So a show of hands, how many people want to hold the Tri RAC in Las Vegas?

>> What are we voting on?

>> Vegas.

>> The vote is for the location of the next Tri RAC in Las Vegas.

All right.

Is there an agreement a majority team to be in favor of Las Vegas?

Okay.

The next Tri RAC will be in the Las Vegas area.

We'll pick a date later.

We'll look at November as a potential month.

The next item on the agenda is kind of a wrap up and roundtable session.

I don't know if you prefer to start with the RAC members, Amy, and then work our way around to you?

All right.

We'll just start over here with the Northeast.

Just if you have any comments or anything for the wrap up and just continue to pass the microphones and we'll work our way around the room.

>> I just want to say thank you to our Elko counterparts that put on our little get together last night.

I appreciate it, and I believe that the camaraderie is very important.

[applause]

>> Are we capturing the speed at which the microphone is being passed around the room?

Can you keep up with it?

>> I just have to say thanks to everybody, and I appreciate Amy and Raul taking the time to help the RACs to figure out how to be most effective, and that really carried to Bernadette and Vic and everybody.

It helped us a lot in order to get our strategy together, and we felt like it was really a good meeting.

So thanks.

[applause]

>> That's a record setting pace.

We're ready if we host the Olympics.

You have the torch handoff down pat.

A couple things from me, I appreciate everyone making time for this.

I know you all have busy lives and have a lot going on and fact that you volunteer to participate in this effort and that the journeys to get here, I really, really appreciate it.

I've just been reminded again of how fortunate I am and the BLM Nevada organization is to have folks like you and the passion and the commitment and the creativity that you bring to help us solve very challenging issues.

Once again, I am very, very impressed and feel blessed to have such folks advising us.

I'd also like to thank the folks from Elko who hosted last night's reception.

I think it is a really wonderful opportunity to get together informally and it seemed like everyone was really enjoying it and I certainly enjoyed it.

So thank you very much.

I thought that was a nice and gracious touch.

Thank you all for the Elko contingent for that.

I have to say as I heard you all talk about the priorities for the year, they definitely are right on in terms of the challenges that we will be facing over the year, and so I certainly look forward to the recommendations and council that you will provide.

These are really difficult issues, and we need as many brains working on them as possible, and I think that the diversity of opinions and views that the RACs bring can really help us find things, looking at things a different way and coming up with different solutions.

Because these are things we haven't solved yet.

So it's going to take a different perspective and you all bring those very different perspectives.

So I am looking forward to hearing from you this year.

I do appreciate that the MOSO RAC is really focused on the Resource Management Planning efforts and I would ask the other RACs, because I didn't hear the other RACs talk about it, to spend some time thinking about how you might best engage in those Resource Management Planning efforts that we have going on across the state.

As I said, they really are kind of the blueprint for what multiple use management looks like on the public's lands for decades to come.

So I'd ask you in your meetings this year to spend time thinking about how can that best work.

And I know the northwest RAC has a lot of experience with the Winnemucca RMP.

So I would ask you to think about that, because I didn't hear it from the other RACs besides MOSO.

I really appreciate that you all are willing to tackle some of these tough issues, and I look forward to hearing what you all come up with during the course of the year.

If at any time I can be of any assistance, please let me know.

You all know where I'm at and how to contact me and I think Raul and I would be happy to continue to engage with you over the course of the year to help identify those areas where we really think we can use this great mind trust the best.

>> All right.

That's all the items we had on the agenda, then, so I thank you all for coming and look forward to assisting with the RACs in the future.

[applause]

Do we need a motion to adjourn or are you guys just going to... all right.