

Resource Advisory Council Meeting Agenda

August 4-5, 2011

August 4 – Field Tour, Woodruff, UT

August 5 – Business Meeting, BLM, Utah State Office, Salt Lake City, UT

Thursday, August 4, 2011

Meet at the Park-N-Ride, South Weber Road (Off Hwy 89, South Ogden - 3/8 mile south of I-84), for carpool instructions.

Leave for field tour of the Deseret Land and Livestock (DLL) Three Creeks Allotment, Woodruff, Utah.

Members in attendance: Frank White, Jim Allison, Ray Bloxham, Bryan Harris, John Malechek, Bill Hopkin, Ted Zimmerman, Dell LeFevre, Stu Sprouse

Members not attending: Fran Amendola, Lowell Braxton, Chuck Hawley, John Harja

BLM employees: Juan Palma, Sherry Foot, Blake Klinkner, Melinda Moffitt

Members of the public: Ben Gambino

Field Tour - View long-term and annual benefits to wildlife, livestock, water quality, and recreational opportunities of “time control” grazing. We looked at pastures where cattle currently graze; reviewed the 2011 grazing plan and map. Toured pastures grazed since April 1 and toured the south end of Three-Creeks allotment. A copy of the map and the grazing plan are available upon request.

Friday, August 5, 2011

Monument Conference Room

Bureau of Land Management

440 West 200 South, Suite 500

Salt Lake City, UT

Members in attendance: Fran Amendola, Jim Allison, Ray Bloxham, Bryan Harris, John Malechek, Bill Hopkin, Ted Zimmerman, Dell LeFevre, Stu Sprouse

Members not attending: John Harja, Frank White, Lowell Braxton, Chuck Hawley

BLM employees: Juan Palma, Sherry Foot, Blake Klinkner, Verlin Smith, Don Banks, Suzanne Garcia, Alan Bass, Larry Lichthardt, Dave Jeppesen

Members of the public: John Ruple, Evan Day, Jim Catlin

Welcome and Agenda Overview were given by Sherry Foot

Additional Discussion of Field Tour and Subgroup Report Vote

Gregg Simonds, Deseret Land and Livestock Manager and a member of Open Range Consulting (ORC), gave a presentation on the ecological, social, and economical values that can be created by the proposed grazing strategy (adaptive management on the sagebrush sea, balancing grazing use with rest, factors that determine the effect of grazing, determining the length of rest needed, rangeland monitoring, operating within the context of the conceptual framework). A copy of the powerpoint presentation is available upon request.

Subgroup Report Vote - as a result of May's RAC meeting, the subgroup suspended voting in support of the report until after the field tour was completed.

The motion to support the concept was made and Stu Sprouse accepted the motion; Fran Amendola seconded—vote accepted. A letter of support will be submitted to the State Director from the RAC Chairman.

RAC Travel Management Subgroup Report

Ray Bloxham-Subgroup Chairman

Draft Instruction Memorandum on the Statewide Travel Management Planning Policy - Report from RAC subgroup. The RAC subgroup was given a briefing from the BLM recreation staff on the Statewide Travel Management Planning Policy on June 28, 2011. The subgroup was then tasked with finding the pitfalls in the IM and report back to the RAC. Ray had received comments from the subgroup members and provided copies to each RAC member, State Director and Dave Jeppesen (Recreation Staff). Because the draft IM is considered “confidential” and for internal use only, members of the public did not receive copies. Each subgroup member presented his findings or made additional comments.

The State Director requested the RAC subgroup/RAC provide him with a final “mark-up” document by October. This document will be distributed to all BLM Utah managers.

Ray asked for the draft IM in a word document (as it was initially provided as a pdf).

Air Quality

Leonard Herr – Air Quality Specialist

Status update, resource development (powerpoint presentation available upon request)
Air resource management; national ambient air quality standards-“the NAAQS;” ozone formation; PM2.5 formation; 2010-11 Winter Ozone Monitoring Stations; Monitoring record-Jan through May 2010; air quality challenges; Utah BLM air resource management strategy; Utah air resource modeling goals and objectives; other air resource management efforts

Conference Call with BLM Director Abbey

Others on call: Jessica Wahl, Youth Program Specialist, Office of the Secy; Gail Adams, Director, DOI Intergovernmental Affairs and External Affairs; Twinkle Thompson-Seitts, Resource Advisory Council Manager

America's Great Outdoors Initiative and how the RAC can become involved. The Director welcomed everyone and expressed his appreciation for the Utah RAC's interest and willingness to get involved and support this important initiative. When the President launched the AGO Initiative last year, he did so with these four goals: To reconnect Americans with our nation's outdoors; to find innovative ways to conserve and restore America's Great Outdoors; to make the

Federal government a more effective conservation partner; and to make a special effort to engage the young Americans in the conservation about the future of our country's conservation efforts. Over six million people visit the 23 million acres of BLM-managed public land in Utah every year. The BLM is a leader in partnering with communities to improve the quality of life, the environment, and local economies through Federal efforts and planning. The Grand County Trail Mix Committee is a partnership between the Grand County, BLM Moab Field Office, NPS, FS, and numerous local recreational clubs. The Trail Mix Committee has obtained over \$15 million in funding to develop hiking, equestrian, and mountain biking trails that are now connecting the citizens and visitors of Moab to the surrounding public lands. These kinds of projects are what we want to encourage, promote and facilitate. In Utah, the BLM issued over 670 Special Recreation Permits during 2010 to authorize a variety of commercial, competitive, and organized group activities across the state, which was the highest number of permits issued by any state where the BLM manages public lands. Examples of these activities include hunting and fishing guides and outfitters; motorcycle races; wilderness therapy trips for at-risk youth; and the annual Speed Week at the Bonneville Salt Flats. All of these activities not only expand and enhance recreational opportunities, but they also support local Utah economies by encouraging eco-tourism-based businesses to sustainably use our public lands. BLM Utah is currently employing over 50 youth across the state that are working on a diversity of projects including assisting with archaeological stewardship, installing trail signs, collaborating with paleontology researchers and partners, and developing websites for the public. I believe that the RAC is already supporting the goals of the AGO Initiative by forming a subgroup to review BLM Utah's draft Travel Management Planning Policy; offering assistance to help develop a BLM Utah Outdoor Recreation Strategy; and has been extended an invitation to attend BLM Utah's annual Outdoor Recreation Workshop to brainstorm some of the primary components the strategy should include. I encourage the RAC to actively participate in this effort, which will provide you with the opportunity to meet recreation specialists from across the state and hear more about the challenges and opportunities they are facing out on the ground. The Director thanked everyone for their time and participation. Asked for questions/comments.

Gail Adams mentioned that she was in SLC speaking with Utah's Governor about AGO—working to create accessible waterways; youth getting experiences out of doors and youth employment; working with the Outdoor Assn. to create campaigns in “getting outdoors;” visited every state, tourism offices; continues to meet with the Recreation Assn. to get greater and positive impact; and in the process of gathering more information to put into a report.

State Director Juan Palma re-emphasized the four goals that the Director mentioned (to reconnect Americans with our nation's outdoors; to find innovative ways to conserve and restore America's Great Outdoors; to make the Federal government a more effective conservation partner; and to make a special effort to engage the young Americans in the conservation about the future of our country's conservation efforts.). He encourages BLM Utah to continue to work with our youth and stakeholders and enhance partnerships.

Jessica Wahl – started the listening sessions of the AGO (21 cities hosted listening sessions for the youth). Young people want access to places and information. Youth need to know that there are jobs and programs available to them. Working with Let's Move Outside – outdoor recreational activities for mental/physical activities.

Bill Hopkin mentioned that there is a very good program called Ag in the Classrooms (Utah State University/USDA). Provides beginning rancher grazing seminars, bring in experts to talk about grazing management. Was asking how the BLM could become involved with this opportunity.

Fran Amendola asked what youth initiative materials are available in the schools? Jessica responded with: there is a recent partnership being developed with the Office of Education; there is information on the web; they are starting to have field trips; YouthGo.gov site (information on places to go, education resources, current job openings, employment programs); also have BLMers go to the classrooms to talk to students; make use of social media.

Grazing/Range Monitoring Concept

Verlin Smith/Alan Bass

Guidelines/protocol for grazing – (powerpoint presentation available upon request)
Monitoring – What is it?; Levels of inventorying, monitoring and assessing; Policy; Draft Utah Monitoring Manual; Purpose; Short and Long Term Monitoring; Other resource tools; Study plot diagram; Dimensions of frequency frame.

Public Comment

Bill Hopkin, Vice Chairman

Evan Day: Remote Sensing – If BLM could have access to the multi-sensing activities that the military has. Feels the RAC is moving in the right direction on travel management.

John Ruple: Travel management is critical. Understanding ownership of ROWs is critical and sensitive.

Jim Catlin: Comments submitted in writing (available upon request).

Schedule next meeting (date/location) and agenda topics: The next meetings will be conference calls, Sept 8; 3:00 – 4:30 (RAC Travel Management Subgroup) and Sept. 15, 11:00 – 12:30 (entire RAC). Telephone number will be provided at a later date. Topic of discussion: Draft IM Travel Management Planning Policy.

Juan invited the RAC to attend a screening of the “Boys of Bonneville” – racing on a ribbon of salt) at the Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center. There are only 10 passes available – first-come-first served basis.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30.

Approved: _____/s/_____
Bill Hopkin, Vice Chairman

Dated: _____8/17/11_____