

RAC/RecRAC Conference Call Meeting Minutes  
June 23, 2015  
BLM-Utah State Office Monument Conf Room  
440 W. 200 S., Suite 500  
Salt Lake City, UT

RAC members in attendance: Brian Merrill, Dan McClendon, Chad Baker, Porter Teegarden  
Jim Allison, Rick Ellis, Steve Burr, Bill Cox, Bill Hopkin, Cimarron Chacon, Willie Grayeyes

RAC members not in attendance: Callee Butcher, Steve Slater

BLM employees in attendance: Jenna Whitlock, Pam Jarnecke, Cory Roegner, Kyle Voyles,  
Ray Kelsey, JuLee Palette, Bekee Hotze, Ashley Losey, Michael Knight, Graydon Bascom,  
Mike Nelson, Skye Sieber, Sherry Foot, Lance Porter, Aaron Curtis

Forest Service employees in attendance: Joanna Wilson, Kristy Groves, Ryan Buerkle

Members of the public: David Brown (public), Julie Applegate (St. George News)

Welcome and introductions of members took place. Jim Allison was elected Chairman and  
Steve Burr as vice chair.

**What's Happening in BLM-Utah: Jenna Whitlock, Actg. State Director**

-Planning efforts – Moab Master Leasing Plan draft EIS will be out soon; St. George soon out in  
draft; Cedar City Resource Management Plan is further out; and the Salt Lake Field Office  
Eastern Lake Mountains Target Shooting Plan Amendment planning process has begun.

National efforts

-The final rule hydraulic fracturing was issued in April—goes into effect tomorrow (6/24). Its  
intention is to protect ground water.

-MOU with state in O/G management

-O/G – WO issuing proposed rule – venting/flaring. Conserve what is being flared to both  
conserve resource and not flaring methane into atmosphere. The current regs, found in the Notice  
of Lessee and Operators are outdated. They were written in 1979, and the industry and  
technology it uses have changed. GAO and OIG identified the current regulations as deficient for  
a number of reasons. DOI and BLM are undertaking an outreach to begin dialogue with tribal  
and state governments.

-WO stepdown guidance for hydraulic fracturing – send to RAC when final.

-Two major projects out of the Basin – double number of wells. Monument Butte EIS Newfield  
– final EIS later this year, 5,750 wells from 1078 to 3250 pads depending on which alternative is

selected. Air quality issue. Chapita Wells – will be in draft later this summer. Covers 2808 wells from 151 to 233 new pads depending on alternatives selected.

-Coal – Coal sale on Flat Canyon LBA project on Manti-LaSal. BLM leases subsurface. Existing company, Canyon Fuels, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bowie Resources, submitted the only bid. Lease cannot be issued for at least a month--until DOJ does anti-trust review.

-Alton Coal – there are sage grouse/air quality issues. Supplemental EIS issued last week. Commitments made by company for major mitigation component. Mine is 20+ miles from park. Truck traffic was a concern. Public meetings will be occurring.

-Greens Hollow LBA- will do lease sale later this summer--FS/BLM. On Manti LaSal (Sufco Mine)

-Final EISs issued on sage grouse – amend all of BLM’s LUPs to put in regulatory mechanisms to conserve habitat to avoid listing of bird. Protest period/governor’s consistency review coming up (concurrent timing).

-State plans/Federal plans/Fire --fire and invasives assessment tool (FIAT) - for Sage Grouse. Resilient landscape funding has been sent from the DOI to Utah for on-the-ground work.

-Rec Fee sequestration. Money sequestered has been returned (FY 14). Ongoing process. FY15 funds sequestered. 1% of \$3.2 mil. of BLM. We can spend only 15% on indirect expenses. These are being sequestered at 1% across BLM. FS is starting to be sequestered. Congressional decision.

-Permanent appt. for Utah State Director was advertised in March. WO concluded to readvertise position. May be another few months until the position is filled.

-Public lands initiative eastern Utah – field staff involved to some extent. BLM provides info when requested. Until bill is weighed on, BLM can’t take a position. Engaged at all levels of organization.

-Goblin State Park and BLM Swell area – Congressman Bishop’s bill may have an effort to expand the state’s holdings within the area. Concerns of dispersed recreation in area. Early proposals were to expand the state-owned land and acquire a little more land. Larger area would stay in Federal ownership. Partnership with state. SRMA in Price office.

**BLM-Utah Planning Efforts: Pam Jarnecke (handout provided upon request)**

Gunnison Sage-grouse Range-wide Plan Amendment and EIS

Estimated timeframes: Public review of Draft EIS/Plan Amendments Fall 2015 – 90-day public comment period

PRMP/FEIS Fall 2016 – protest period/governor’s consistency review

ROD early 2017

Draft RMP Beaver Dam Wash and Red Cliffs NCAs and Draft RMP Amendment St. George FO  
Estimated timeframes: Publication of NOA to initiate 90-day public comment period summer 2015

PRMP/EIS early 2016

Issue RODs (3) June 2016

GSENM Livestock Grazing Amendment

Estimated timeframes: Draft EIS/RMP Amendment anticipated to be released for 90-day public comment period spring 2016

FEIS spring 2017

ROD summer 2017

Moab Master Leasing Plan

Estimated timeframes: Draft EIS/RMP Amendments/MLP anticipated to be released for 90-day public comment period summer 2015

FEIS/PRMP/MLP spring 2016

ROD summer 2016

BLM/FS Utah Greater Sage-Grouse Proposed Plan Amendments/Final EIS

Estimated timeframes: Final EIS is undergoing a 30-day protest period and a 60-day governor's consistency review that will end on July 29, 2015

Cedar City Draft Resource Management Plan

Estimated timeframes: Draft RMP/Draft EIS fall 2015

PRMP/FEIS fall 2016

ROD early 2017

**FLREA Overview:** Cory Roegner, BLM/Joanna Wilson, FS (handout provided upon request)

Provides agencies with the authority to collect recreation fees through Sept. 2016

Establishes criteria on where recreation fees can be collected

Identifies eligible and ineligible expenditures of recreation fee revenues

Requires the reinvestment of the majority of fees collected back to the site of collection

Created the interagency America the Beautiful – The National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass

Requires public outreach before agencies make changes to recreation fees

Established Recreation RACs and defines their role

The RecRAC can only make recommendations on a recreation fee proposal if 1) it is approved by the majority of the committee; and 2) if general public support for the recommendation has been documented.

**Fee Presentations:** Kyle Voyles, St. George FO (BLM); Ray Kelsey, Salt Lake FO (BLM); and Kristy Groves, Forest Service)

Baker Dam Recreation Dam Area Proposal

Expanded Amenity Site, from \$5 to \$12

Standard Amenity Site, from \$2 to \$5

Motion: Business plan for fee increase proposals – Steve Burr

Seconded: Bill Cox

Fees Approved: Yes

Salt Lake Field Office Campgrounds Proposal

Simpson Springs, from \$5 to \$15; Group Fees, from \$0 to \$60

Clover Springs, from \$6 to \$12; Group Fees, from \$20 to \$45

Little Creek, from \$0 to \$12; Group Fees, from \$0 to \$60

Comment – consider adding a day use fee

Motion: Business plans for fee increase proposals – Steve Burr

Seconded: Bill Hopkin

Fees Approved: Yes

Forest Service Proposals

Moon Lake Guard Station, \$60

Rock Creek Cabin, \$100

Yellowstone Guard Station, \$80

Paradise Guard Station, from \$25 to \$40

Trout Creek Guard Station, from \$35 to \$60

Colton Guard Station, from \$40 to \$60

Carters Military Yurt, from \$30 to \$50

Grizzly Ridge Yurt, from \$30 to \$50

Limber Flag Yurt, from \$30 to \$50

Moon Lake Campground, from \$10 to \$20

Double Site, from \$20 to \$32

Moon Lake Group Campground, from \$50 to \$100

Motion: Business plans for fee increase proposals – Steve Burr

Seconded: Brian Merrill

Fees Approved: Yes

**BLM Draft Connecting with Utah Communities Strategy: Cory Roegner (BLM)**

Asking for the RACs feedback and participation in review of draft strategy document (handout provided upon request).

RAC will review document individually. Cory will send out electronically, comment form, and the deadline dates. Timeframe – receive input within 2 next months.

Other partners to enlist feedback:

Chad Booth/AYL and/or County Seat

Utah Assn of Counties

Association of Governments  
Local governments of Native American community

**Public Comment: Jim Allison, RAC Chairman**

No comments provided by public

**Fee Approvals: Cory Roegner and Steve Burr**

(See approvals – under Fee Presentation Section)

**Target Shooting Plan Amendment – Salt Lake Field Office Eastern Lake Mountains:**

Bekee Hotze/JuLee Pallett (BLM)

Info sharing (handout provided upon request)

Timeline:

FRN published: 6/12/15

Public scoping: June-Aug. 2015

Cooperating agencies meeting: 7/28/15

Consulting parties meeting: 7/29/15

Public scoping meetings: 8/4-5/15

Draft plan amendment/EA: Fall/Winter 2015

Draft public comment period: Winter 2015

Proposed plan amendment/EA: Spring 2016

Protest period/governor's review: Summer 2016

Final solution in place by 12/15/16

Opportunities and Challenges:

Safe target shooting sites

Other recreation experiences

Wildlife habitat

Outdoor cultural resource museum

**Wrap Up**

Next meeting topics:

Policy of wilderness character inventory – not quite ready

GSENM Grazing EIS presentation

MLP Cedar Mesa Initiatives

SE planning efforts field tour – Blanding/Monticello Field Tour- 2-day meeting (early Sept) Sept 9-10.

Richfield Litigation

Moab MLP

Public lands initiative.

Recreation fee proposals

Meeting Adjourned 4:15.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_/s/ Jim Allison\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Allison, RAC Chairman

Date: \_\_ 6/30/15 \_\_\_\_\_