

Jack Morrow Hills Work Group Meeting Summary  
November 3, 2009  
10:00 a.m – 12:00 p.m.  
Conference Call/ Netmeeting

Attendees:

Bernie Weynand, Acting Field Manager, RSFO, BLM  
Marty Griffith, Multi-Resource Manger, WY SO, BLM  
Robert Price, Rangeland Management Specialist, RSFO, BLM  
Trisha Cartmell, Petroleum Engineer, RSFO, BLM  
Colleen Sievers, Archeologist, RSFO, BLM  
Alicia Orona Giles, Range Clerk, RSFO, BLM  
Sandy DaRif, Field Representative, Senator Barrasso's Office  
Steve Furtney, Governor Freundethal's Office  
Chris Wichmann, WY Dept of Agriculture  
Mary Thoman, Sweetwater County Conservation District  
Kimberlee Foster, JMH Project Lead, RSFO, BLM

Greeting/Introductions:

Bernie Weynand started the meeting by introducing Kimberlee Foster as the new Planning & Environmental Coordinator for the Rock Springs Field Office. Ms Foster will be replacing Katherine Lloyd as the Jack Morrow Hills (JMH) Project Lead.

Recap of Last Meeting and Reference Packet Materials:

A reference packet of data presented at the last Work Group meeting (July 30, 2009) was prepared and hard copies were mailed to all participants. An electronic copy of the data packet will be placed on the Jack Morrow Hills website. A brief review of materials included in the packet was conducted.

- The first section of the packet is the minutes from the July 30, 2009 meeting. Each of the following sections contains handouts and additional materials provided for the various discussion topics. Each section is referenced within the minutes for convenience.
- Section 1 contains the Wild Horse population handout.
- Section 2 contains the Cultural data handouts.
- Section 3 is the Jack Morrow Hills Monitoring Summary.
- Section 4 is all of the Wildlife data, which contains about 40 pages of maps.
- Section 5 contains a summary of the Oil & Gas Activities (Trisha Cartmell will be providing an update to this data later in today's meeting).
- Section 6 contains information about Sage Grouse. The first couple of sheets are the handout from the last meeting. The remaining pages (titled Attachment B) were provided after the meeting by the Sweetwater County Conservation District.
- The final section, Section 7, contains a summary of the Recreation data.

### New Summary Maps (Core Areas, Management Areas):

At the last meeting, there was a discussion of what additional data the Work Group would like to have. There was a request for additional summary maps for the core areas/ management areas (see July 30, 2009 minutes); however, it was unclear what specific maps were needed. In an effort to help identify map needs, the Work Group reviewed existing available summary maps.

- Maps available on the Jack Morrow Hills website include all maps from the Record of Decision (ROD) and the Coordinated Activity Plan (CAP) and a few additional maps. ([http://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/wy/field-offices/rock\\_springs/jmhcap/rod.Par.63658.File.dat/01maps.pdf](http://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/wy/field-offices/rock_springs/jmhcap/rod.Par.63658.File.dat/01maps.pdf))
  - The first map is the 'JMH Land Status ACECs and Other Management Areas'. This map identifies the Core Areas identified in the JMH CAP document (based on Elk, not related to sage grouse habitat). This map also identifies special management areas, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs), land ownership, and roads/highways.
  - The second map is the 'Implementation Areas' map that identifies the Implementation Areas 1, 2, and 3 that are referenced in the JMH CAP. The map also contains the WSAs and land ownership.
  - The remaining 23 maps on the web are the referenced maps in the JMH CAP and ROD.
- Additional summary maps related to sage grouse and other habitats can be found in the data packet from the July 30, 2009 meeting.

The group discussed available maps and determined that no additional maps are needed at this time; however, future maps will be generated as needed.

### Update on Oil/Gas Production in JMH Area:

In reference to Section 5 in the data packet from the July 30, 2009 meeting, there have been a few updates to the previous handout:

- Table at bottom of first page of handout (lease suspension data) contains info about the 'Treasure' and 'Gold Coast' units.
  - Under 'Treasure', where it states '1 well to be recompleted' (far right of table) that well is now plugged.
  - Under 'Gold Coast', where it states '2 wells to be plugged' (far right of table), both wells were plugged.

These wells are currently plugged, but are not abandoned until after reclamation is closed and an abandonment notice is issued.

- Table on the second page of the handout within the 'Leases within the WSAs' section, the third entry states 'WYW20937, Alkali Gulch WSA...HBP Treasure #1 well'. The current status on that well is now pending. They have a 60-day letter for lease termination and have no other wells holding that lease.
- On the last page of the handout, under 'Current', the graphic needs to be updated to reflect the 3 newly plugged wells. The RSFO currently has 35 active oil/gas wells in the

JMH area with the above changes. The graphic states 38 for 2009, which should be updated to 35.

Also at the July 30, 2009 meeting, several members requested production information for the wells within JMH. Out of the 35 active wells, data was readily available for 27 of those wells and is presented in the attached spreadsheet. These 27 wells mostly represent 4 units: Steamboat Mountain, Nitchie Gulch, Rim Rock, and Buccaneer. Overall, the trend is downward and some of these wells are at the extent of the life of the well. At this time, all of these wells are producing. The remaining 8 wells are also producing; however, data is still being gathered for them. All 35 wells will be accounted in the final spreadsheet that is sent with the minutes.

In reference to the lease suspensions that were terminated in July: all those leases will return to their original lease term and time will start counting down for those terms. At this time, the RSFO has had no new interest, APDs, or Notice of Staking in the JMH area since the July suspension termination.

#### JMH CAP Implementation Matrix:

The BLM Wyoming State Office has developed a template matrix for all Resource Management Plan (RMP) implementation plans in conjunction with guidance from the Washington Office. The JMH CAP is an amendment to the existing Green River RMP, and will therefore have an implementation matrix created. A draft implementation matrix is being developed using the previously identified 'task list' that the Work Group created at previous meetings. The previous task list is basically a list of 184 activities for implementing the decisions outlined in the JMH CAP. Note that some of the items listed in the task list are monitoring activities, some are research related, and some are routine maintenance activities. The differences between types of activities will become clear as the matrix is completed. Additionally, similar tasks may be combined and/or split apart into separate items in an effort to capture the activities under the different types of resources and CAP decisions; therefore, the completed matrix will most likely contain a total different from the original 184 items. Although confusing at first, the following descriptions and a review of the drafted matrix should help clarify the activities identified for implementing the JMH CAP. The drafted implementation matrix is attached and contains the following template categories (listed as columns in the spreadsheet matrix):

- RMP Resource Topic. A list generated by the Washington Office for this first category includes: Natural Resources, Heritage Resources, Energy and Minerals, Forest and Forage, Recreation, and Direct Community Service. Each activity in the previous task list has been assigned to one of these six topics.
- Strategic Outcome. A list of pre-identified outcomes within each resource topic category to maintain consistency with the state office template. For example, under the Natural Resources topic, the Strategic Outcome should be related to either 'Landscape/Watershed Outcomes' or 'Biological Communities'. Under Heritage Resources, the strategic outcomes should be 'Cultural/Paleontological Resources' or 'Other Heritage Resources'. For Energy and Minerals, strategic outcomes are either 'Energy' or 'Minerals' related; for Forest and Forage, strategic outcomes are either 'Forest' or 'Forage'; for Recreation topics, strategic outcomes are either 'Provide Structure Recreation', 'Provide Unstructured Recreation' or 'Enhance Understanding & Awareness'. The final resource

topic is Direct Community Service, which can have 'Travel Management', 'Enhance Land Use', or 'Protect Lives & Property' as strategic outcomes. Due to the nature of the type of activity, more than one strategic outcome may apply and so the best fit outcome has been identified in the matrix.

- Plan Outcome. Again, a pre-identified list of outcomes to choose from and correlate for each listed activity. For some activities within the JMH CAP, the pre-identified plan outcomes are not feasible and have been modified to better fit the CAP decisions. For example, under the Energy and Minerals Resource Topic a related activity must first be assigned a Strategic Outcome (explained above) of either 'Energy' or 'Mineral'. If 'Energy' was chosen, then the Plan Outcomes could be a choice of 'oil/gas', 'coal', 'oil shale', 'renewable energy', or 'energy right of way'. And, if 'Mineral' was chosen as the Strategic Outcome, then the Plan Outcome choices are 'Mineral 1' or 'Mineral 2'. Obviously, these template categories needed to be further defined to be consistent with the type of decisions within the JMH CAP, particularly with regard to leasing restrictions. The JMH Plan is set up to allow or disallow saleable minerals, leasable minerals, and locatable minerals for various areas; therefore, these terms have been defined as Plan Outcomes for Energy and Minerals related activities.
- Strategies to Accomplish Outcomes. Again, these entries come from a pre-identified list in the State Office template matrix: 'Collect & Analyze Information', 'Complete Plans', 'Manage Resources & Facilities', 'Manage Uses', 'Provide Direct Services', 'Monitor Effectiveness' or 'Partnership/Community Relations'.
- RMP Resource. Type of resource related to the activity. This category is much more specific than the 'RMP Resource Topic' pre-identified list of 6 resources.
- RMP Decision. This category is to correlate each of the various 'Projects to Implement Strategies' (tasks/activities) to a specific decision within the JMH CAP document.
- Projects to Implement Strategies. Identified tasks/activities that will be implemented (drafted from existing JMH CAP 'Task List')
- Where. General geographic location of the activity.
- Priority within Program. A determination about the task/activity priority in relation to the related RMP Resource Topic Program.
- Priority within RSFO. A determination about the task/activity priority in relation to the overall field office work plan.
- RSFO Point of Contact. An individual within the field office that is responsible for implementing and/or monitoring the task/activity.
- Magnitude. A general estimate of the scope of the task in relation to time and funds (how much cost for how much work)
- PEs. BLM Program Element Code used for tracking funds, personnel time, etc.
- Cross Reference. Will be used to generally correlate related activities by RMP resource (suggested to also tie to PE code and/or sub-activity)
- FYxx Planned. A quantifiable goal for each of at least 3 fiscal years budget (current FY and 2 out years).
- FYxx Met. A quantifiable tracking of goals met during a particular fiscal year.
- All FY Planned Totals. A sum of planned goals for identified fiscal years.
- All FY Met Totals. A sum of met goals for identified fiscal years.
- % Complete. The percentage of met goals compared to planned total goals.

The Implementation Matrix is intended to help track the implementation of the JMH CAP decisions. Although it is quite extensive with details that often seem unrelated, all categories are designed to assist in tracking and monitoring progress of the various projects/activities identified in the planning document.

Next steps for matrix: the Work Group will be reviewing the drafted matrix and will discuss various entries at the next meeting in January 2010. A major task will be to help identify both the Priority and Magnitude of the various activities listed in the matrix.

Questions/Comments/Next Meeting Items for Discussion:

A request was made to have further discussion on the Transportation Plan that was addressed in the JMH CAP. More information and detail will be available for discussion/review at the next meeting.

A general follow-up regarding prioritization of allotments and recent assessments is needed. To date, no schedule for monitoring the allotments has been set.

The next Work Group meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 13, 2010 at 10:00 AM. The meeting will be both a conference call and a Netmeeting; however, technical assistance on the Netmeeting capabilities is needed to ensure all can access the website. Other potential formats will be researched by the RSFO to determine the best solution for remote access meetings. Details about the format will be sent with the minutes and agenda for the next meeting.