

BLM Wyoming Resource Advisory Council
March 28-29, 2012

Wednesday, March 28

8:00 a.m.	Welcome	Don Simpson, State Director Chris Aimone, Interim Chair
8:15 a.m.	Rawlins Field Office Overview	Dennis Carpenter, Field Manager
8:45 a.m.	Break	
9:00 a.m.	University of Wyoming Panel – <i>What's Happening: Projects, Research & Opportunities</i>	
	▪ College of Agriculture and Natural Resources	Frank Galey, Dean
	▪ College of Law	Steve Easton, Dean
	▪ School of Energy Resources	Mark Northam, Director
	▪ Helga Otto Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources & the Ruckelshaus Institute	Indy Burke
10:30 a.m.	Break	
11:00 a.m.	NEPA Followup Project Management	Tom Clayson

Notes from January 2012 RAC meeting regarding Project Management

- *Walt George handed out **The Environmental Impact Statement Process** sheet to everyone. Gave a presentation on the EIS process steps and went over some of the issues.*
 - **Some issues to address:**
 - *Size of the documents*
 - *Important to address all the issues*
 - *Identify prospective land use plan amendments*
 - *Work on issues between draft & final*
 - *Take public comments on final EIS*
 - *Respond to comments and prepare the ROD*

- *Paul Ulrich discussed why it takes so long to get to the ROD and suggestions for what may be done about speeding the process.*
 - **Some causes of delays in project approvals are:**
 - *BLM priorities and regulations changes*
 - *NGO litigation and protests*
 - *Increased interest and participation by cooperating agencies*
 - *Tribal consultations*
 - *Sage-grouse management*
 - *BLM budget and reductions in staffing*
 - *EPA ratings of draft EISs*
 - **Some recommendations are:**
 - *Get back to reasonable time frames (2-3 yrs.)*

- Educate the public about the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process; manage expectations
- Agency develop memoranda of understanding, clearly articulate expectations and priorities
- Early in the process, operator presents recommended innovative mitigation; BLM provide best management practices (BMPs) for proponents
- Develop a comprehensive communications strategy and have continuing dialogue with all segments of the affected communities; involve them in the entire process
- Hire industry funded agency staff to augment BLM and cooperating agencies
- Encourage the use of objective and experienced BLM project managers and third party consultants in leading project level EIS efforts.

Noon Lunch

1:00 p.m. NEPA Followup Doug Thompson
Marilyn Mackey

a. Cooperating Agency - develop guidelines for Cooperating Agency/lead agency interaction

Notes from January 2012 RAC meeting regarding Cooperating Agencies:

- Temple discussed the legal basis and regulations within the cooperating agencies and the government.
- Chris discussed how BLM incorporates the cooperating agencies and how we have seen and increasing interest. BLM Wyoming boasts some of the best cooperating agency participation in the nation. When we start a project/plan we go to the cooperating agency to see if they would like to participate. If so, we plan a one day workshop/training. The local cooperating agencies provide a lot of good information and help us make better decisions.
- Jerimiah discussed the States' perception on cooperation and coordination should be to interact with other agencies. Our responsibility to the public and the environmental groups prior to release of the documents. At the State level maybe make staff available and make ID teams. Federal agencies could do a better job on the timelines to participate. The Governor wants to move forward with the energy projects and it is critical that we have updated plans available. The Governor is also concerned about the delay in processing EISs.
- Doug discussed how county commissioners use the Cooperating Agency Desk Guide to know the rules and play by them. Respect, understanding and inclusion are some things to make better relationships. Some issues that have come up reference page 29 of the Desk Guide under MOUs define relationships and the level of participation to work together throughout the process. We have ID teams, core teams, management teams but these are not helpful in relationship building. Be open and transparent. Joe did a good job on the posting information to the web and everyone needs to follow through, take ownership and work together to support decisions. The RAC could recommend some ideas to Don.
- Marilyn stated the BLM helped them understand the process and they did take into consideration the cooperator comments. The length of time beginning to end and the notice of intent for scoping need more information to the public by press releases or radio.

2:30 p.m. Break

2:45 p.m. NEPA Followup
b. Plan Implementation

Notes from January 2012 RAC meeting regarding Plan Implementation:

- *Joe Meyer addressed the Casper RMP which covers most of Natrona County and some Converse, Goshen and Platte Counties. From start to finish our RMP took around 4 ½ years to complete. Implementation is where the management work starts. The record of decision (ROD) is updated and on the webpage.*
- *Steve Dondero added the adaptive management and project level implementation components. We need to ask what projects we want to get done this year and adapt to that project scale.*
- *Kathleen Lacko addressed the matrix accomplishments year to year; amendments update the plan.*

Things to look at:

- *Amount of web use*
- *What we want to accomplish on the ground*
- *Split estate issues*
- *Land status for private, BLM, state*
- *Show complete picture to the public*
- *Implementation in all offices*
- *Goal is for everyone to engage at the implementation stage as well as planning*

4:15 p.m. NEPA Wrap up

5:00 p.m. Adjourn

Thursday, March 29

8:00 a.m. NEPA Followup Walt Gasson

Communication/Outreach Ideas
What BLM currently does
Ideas for future

Notes from January 2012 RAC meeting regarding Communication/Outreach Ideas

❖ **Process**

- *More education*
 - *Upfront before Scoping*
 - *Cooperator role*
- *Adequate time for document review*
 - *Staged reviews*
- *Public transparency*
 - *Use cooperating agency to promote and educate public*
 - *Cooperators serve as touch points*
 - *State and cooperator could play a larger role in education and outreach*
- *Make all stages transparent – including implementation*
 - *BLM Wyoming address enhanced cooperating agency work*
 - *Pursue opportunities for improved State and local cooperator participation*
- *Improve opportunities with focused cooperator discussions*
 - *Use BLM offices for process meetings to “demystify” BLM*
- *Track comments thru to implementation*

❖ **Education**

- *Multimedia*

- *Social media*
- *National Training Center*
- *RAC in Wyoming is a positive*
- *NEPA takes too long in a culture with no attention span. Tell three times, three ways before you get their attention*
- *Use all the tools available to us*
- *Youth component – engage youth*

9:30 a.m. Break

9:45 a.m.	Reclamation and Restoration Wrap-up Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative Wyoming Reclamation and Restoration Center Current BLM WO projects Update on fertilization Ideas?	Mary Thoman, WLCI Chair Pete Stahl, Prof. of Soil Science John Tanaka, UW Dept. Head
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Noon Working Lunch

1:00 p.m. Public Comment Period

1:30 p.m. Brainstorming

2:30 p.m. Adjourn