

**Resource Advisory Council Meeting  
Buffalo Field Office  
August 21 ~ 23, 2013**

Wyoming State Director – Don Simpson

Wyoming Associate State Director – Mary Jo Rugwell

Wyoming Deputy State Directors (DSD) – Larry Claypool, minerals and lands; Buddy Green, resource policy and management

Facilitator – Mark Storzer, district manager (DM), High Desert District, Rock Springs, Wyo.

Host/Logistics – Duane Spencer, field manager (FM), Buffalo Field Office (BFO), Buffalo,

Wyo.; Stephanie Connolly, DM, High Plains District, Casper, Wyo.

Minutes – Robin Morrison, staff assistant, High Plains District

Resource Advisory Council (RAC) members:

Name	City	Interest represented	Term Expires	Present	Notes
John Corra	Cheyenne	Energy/Minerals	2016	Y	
Penny Bellah	Buffalo	Energy/Minerals	2015	Y	
Marilyn Mackey	Gillette	Federal Grazing	2014	Y	chair
Don Hartley	Rock Springs	Archaeological/Historical	2016	Y	
Marshall Dominick	Cody	Wild Horses	2015	Y	
Walt Gasson	Cheyenne	Environmental	2014	N	
Doug Thompson	Lander	Elected Official	2016	N	Called in for NEPA discussion
Brenda Schladweiler	Gillette	Elected Official	2016	Y	
Kevin Stowe	Casper	Public-at-large	2015	Y	
Tom Clayson	Casper	Public-at-large	2014	Y	

**Aug. 21, 2013** - Please see attachments for daily attendance sign-in sheets

- **Welcome Remarks – Director Simpson and Chairwoman Mackey**
- **Welcoming remarks by facilitator**
  - Introduced Christian Venhuizen, public affairs specialist and new RAC coordinator.
  - No new RAC members at this time.
- **Buffalo Field Office overview – Duane Spencer, FM**
  - Includes Johnson, Campbell and Sheridan counties, roughly 7.8 million acres (4.3 million acres of federal land)
  - Approximately 80 employees in the field office
  - Draft environmental impact statement for Buffalo Resource Management Plan (RMP) released for public comment through Sept. 26 and hosted public meetings this week in Gillette, Sheridan and Kaycee; final will be out next spring and the record of decision (ROD) out by June 2014; anticipating a large number of comments.
  - Sage-grouse population down 70-80 percent; hired a project manager and a shared position with U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service to work on habitat restoration
  - Surface Use Environmental Compliance Inspection and enforcement – critical job
  - Ground water monitoring program is important
  - Processing applications for permit to drill is the biggest program in the field office

- **Wyoming Uranium (PowerPoint) – Larry Claypool, DSD**
  - According to the Wyoming Energy Journal, Wyoming uranium mining is booming and Wyoming leads the nation in uranium production.
    - 1.7 million pounds produced in 2012
    - 2.1 million pounds production capacity with two new mines
    - 10 companies in Wyoming
    - Wyoming has 40 percent of U.S. uranium deposits
  - Uses for uranium include:
    - nuclear reactors, military use, light bulbs, medical purposes, agriculture, food processing, manufacturing, radioactive tracers, geology, archaeology, paleontology, art world, smoke detectors, and glass
  
- **Cultural and Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP) – Buck Damone, Buffalo Field Office archaeologist (*Simpson requests RAC advise on topic*)**
  - Pumpkin Buttes highest elevation is over 6,000 feet
  - No public access, surrounded by private surface (management challenge)
  - Lots of history with archaeology and prehistoric evidence
  - Development interests include oil, gas and uranium (minerals leased before cultural sites identified)
  - Multiple tribes want no development on or around the buttes and to extend buffer boundaries further out
  - Need plan to protect those areas and to address issues of concern with Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the tribes
  - Tribes want to do their own inventories of the cultural sites, concern about how to provide tribes access to the site
  - Land owners are expressing serious concerns with access across their land for consulting archaeologist
  - BLM Wyoming has concerns about damage to the site from overuse; what if there was increased public access?
  - Park Service is rewriting a new bulletin for the TCP
  - BLM Wyoming needs to define a TCP (general definition)
  - Uranerz Energy Corporation (uranium mining) conducted cultural survey, BLM should use work already completed
  - Mike Thomas, Uranerz's vice president of regulatory affairs, attending as a member of the public, interjects his company's stance into the discussion, allowed to address the RAC

**Aug. 22, 2013** - Please see attachments for attendance sign-in sheets

- **Mackey announcements**
  - Reminder to turn in hotel and mileage receipts to Venhuizen
  - Reminder to the public audience that discussions are open to RAC members only and public comments will be heard the morning of Aug. 23
- **Follow-up on priorities brainstorming list**

- There are multiple issues to consider and to remember the dedication to multiple use of land
- Invited Jessica from UW Collaboration to attend a RAC meeting.
- Discussed issues for later prioritization:
  - Uranium: cultural and agency coordination issues
  - Renewable (energy): bird plan, take permit and Chokecherry issues
  - Oil and gas: fracking and ground water issues
  - Coal and trona: shipping overseas, markets, leasing process issues
  - Other energy related topics: sage-grouse habitats, air quality modeling, regional haze, nonattainment issues
  - Governor's energy strategy: governmental coordination issues
  - Sagebrush restoration/Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative: Powder River Basin Restoration issues
  - Watershed management: baseline water issue and climate change issues
  - Changing landscapes: (no comments)
  - Forestry issues, including beetle kills: (no comments)
  - Fire ecology: (no comments)
  - Energy infrastructure: power line and sage grouse habitat issues
  - Rangeland health: rangeland health standards and adaptive management issues
  - Vegetation management and habitat enhancement: (no comments)
  - Expedite decision making (at BLM Wyoming): process improvement issues
  - Budget concerns: declining budget, process improvement and budget priorities issues
  - Partnerships and coalitions: awareness, opportunities, maintaining and enhancing relationships with local governments
  - BLM Wyoming priorities: begin by identifying mandated and non-mandated priorities, what should we stop working on
  - Proactive versus reactive: RAC members and BLM forecast issues or areas of concern
  - Agency connectivity and interaction: (reference issues already identified, no additional comments)
  - Planning process: (reference issues already identified, no additional comments)
  - Cooperating agencies: (reference issues already identified), sage-grouse implementation issues
  - Public education: need to develop partnerships, issues with public (includes some Wyoming populace and outside of the state) not understanding western issues
  - Native seed availability: (reference issues already identified, no additional comments)
  - Improving relationships with the University of Wyoming (UW): establish and maintain a RAC relationship with UW, educate students on BLM roles, develop partnerships with UW, use UW as a resource, conduct a RAC meeting annually at UW

- Invasive species and chemical control: (reference issues already identified, no additional comments)
  - Identifying lessons learned: (reference issues already identified) UW also has a list of lessons learned from previous projects
  - Use of native and non-native species: (reference issues already identified, no additional comments)
  - Adaptive management: is challenging in practice
  - Pipeline standards: access and overlap with historic trails, consolidate ROWs, what is successful reclamation, standards differ between different offices/agencies
  - Offsite mitigation and banking: mitigation bank for sage-grouse and visual resources with urgency
- \*\*\*Remainder of topics and prioritization tabled until Aug. 23\*\*\*
- **NEPA Cooperating Agency – Doug Thompson joined by phone, briefed on Subcommittee on Federal Planning Transparency findings and recommendations (see attachment for report)**
  - Handout on the Subcommittee on Federal Planning Transparency
  - Wyoming State Office will verify legalities of the recommendations with the solicitor’s office and report back to the RAC
  - All recommendations are based upon the current meeting schedule and not intended to create new meetings
  - Recommendations for pre-scoping to allow cooperating agencies and public to have an understanding of facts, issues and the process
  - Concerns by BLM/RAC as to why this would help: would this increase attendance at meetings, how to avoid debates from erupting out of “questions”
  - Cooperating agencies need to know what they can talk to their constituents about
  - Question of how to increase participation in a process that has effects for 20 years or more
  - There may be other ways to increase public participation and understanding of the process...WSO needs to identify possible alternatives
  - Give agency better understanding on issues of concern
    - Three points for recommendations to be enacted
      - Cooperating agencies and the public
      - Range of alternatives
      - After comments – how will agency respond
    - Biggest complaint is a public perception that their comments are not read or heard
    - Need to do a better job of editing document and look at legal sideboards
  - Discuss at next meeting and subcommittee will finish the final document
  - Subcommittee recommendations to RAC to give more specific recommendations
  - Could try to pilot on an EIS to see if it works
  - **Sept. 30, 2013**, Green to get back to chairwoman with legal sideboards
- **Working lunch/Motorized Recreation Issues - Panel**
  - **J.R. Riggins**, Casper: focused on recreation trails and off-highway vehicle (OHV) stickers for state lands; worked with Eve Bennett ,BLM Casper FO, on travel

management; encourage districts to ask for money to help with trails; let everyone know once you designate an area; need better and more maps.

- **Colin Betzler**, Sheridan County Land Trust: Have added four miles of trails and working with trail development; need to get the word out for access and education; focus is on partnerships with BLM to partner with Sheridan Land Trust and landowners to put plans together.
  - **Kyle Lash**, Wyoming Game and Fish game warden, Kaycee, Wyo. – Every hunter owns an all-terrain vehicle; we need to get together with landowners and BLM to establish rules; we do have issues with folks going into the winter range areas after they close.
  - **Ken Lacko**, BLM ranger for BFO/NFO – Issues center around off-road vehicles (ORVs); trails, permits for ORVs. Need to work on better education for the public as we all have different regulations and all have to work together.
- **Land Acquisition Process – Randy Sorenson, realty specialist, Casper Field Office**
    - Sorenson reviewed PowerPoint on Realty and Land Tenure Adjustments
      - Public domain lands began with a total of 1.9 billion acres and started a land office
      - Disposed of one billion acres through Homestead and other disposal authorities.
      - Land tenure tools – land sales, Recreation and Public Purposes Act, exchanges and purchases. Partners are critical to the process.
      - All require appraisals to conduct fair market value, land surveyed and title commitment.
      - NEPA prepared for each document
      - Survey to make sure no hazmat sites on property
      - Wildlife resources, timber, mineral potential evaluated
      - Land exchanges are preferred method
    - Action Plan involves
      - Planning, recreation opportunities, involve partners, establish a vision, and complete NEPA.
- **Welch Ranch (PowerPoint) – Amber Haverlock, realty specialist, and Allison Barnes, outdoor recreation planner, Buffalo Field Office**
    - Acquired through an equal value land exchange in conformance with RMP.
    - Resources are non-motorized recreation, wildlife, water rights, coal seam fire is active, health and safety, historic properties, vegetation management, grazing; outdoor classroom for environmental education on active golden eagle and osprey nests, breeding birds, prairie dog town, turkeys and mule deer.
    - Management issues/challenges are –
      - Resource conflicts and public perception of acquisition
      - BLM involvement in Tongue River Corridor protection
      - Determine best use of water rights and farming agreement
      - Protecting public health and safety
      - Areas of sensitive resources

- RMP Revision –
  - Proposed special recreation management area (SRMA) and area of critical environmental concern (ACEC) (Alternative B and D)
  - Alternative B analyzed closure of riparian to livestock grazing
  - Subsequent site-specific

❖ **Field Trip, Welch Ranch**

Aug. 23, 2013 – Please see attachment for attendance sign in sheets

- Public Comments –
  - **Julia Stuble, Wyoming Outdoor Council** –
    - Would like to thank you for efforts on the RAC.
    - Reiterated recommendations for Subcommittee on Federal Planning Transparency by Doug Thompson; was on the committee for that. Across the board agreement, diverse group that come together for recommendations to RAC.
    - Thompson did a great job, want to emphasize not trying to add burden and work to BLM employees.
  - **Ben Wudtke, Black Hills Forest Resource Association**
    - Forest in Wyoming needs help; BLM forestry is a critical key to provide help to these forests.
    - Here today to offer help, being pro-active on forestry is very important. Need to look at overall forest health. Fuels do play a role in it. Reinforced importance of forestry plans. It's important what we do now for the next 100 years.
- **Priority List – follow-up from yesterday**
  - Prioritize issues and identify top five issues to work on continued from Aug. 22:
    - Wild horses: update RAC letter with new information to include the consent decree and NAS report
    - Access and travel management: mapping issues (High Desert District including mapping in the RMP revision), goals developed for travel management plan (TMP), identifying access to public lands
    - Recreation: need to develop partnerships and identify volunteers
    - Historical and cultural: need to develop more partnership
  - **Top five priorities are:** (Please see attached list for full rankings)
    1. Wild Horses
    2. Off-site mitigation/banking
    3. Budgets
    4. Other (energy issues)
    5. Partnerships/Coalitions
- **Misc. Items:**
  - Buddy Green, DSD, will send RAC the Wild Horse Advisory Committee notes after their next meeting along with a copy of Consent Decree, National Science Academy (NSA) findings report, notes

- Mackey read a letter from RAC about wild horses. Hartley, Dominick and Clayson will work as a temporary sub-committee to review letter and new information. The council members will come to the next meeting prepared to discuss recommendations.
  - Venhuizen to work on next agenda items
  - Statewide update –Hartley to present a statewide update at next meeting for water management. Propose 10 mins. for Green River discussion that affects BLM.
  - Need an update at every meeting on sage-grouse
  - Have DSDs and DMs give updates on issues in their districts (10 mins. each)
  - Green gave sage-grouse update on Nine Plan and went over handout of RMP status/August
  - Check on RACs in other states working together
  - Logistics – snacks will be \$5.00 at each meeting. Mackey will provide a coffee pot
  - Venhuizen will bring the coffee, bottled water and snacks.
  - Terms ending at the end of March –Clayson, Mackey and Gasson
  - Future coordination of Sweetwater Conservancy briefing
  - Coordination of UW grad student studying standards as a possible briefing at November meeting
- **Next Meetings** – Nov 13-15 (tentative) in Laramie, Wyo.
    - Corra will provide Venhuizen coordination information for UW
    - Working dinner on Nov. 13 at 4 p.m. The late start accommodates RAC members participating in “A Landscape Discussion on Energy Law in Wyoming,” hosted by the University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources, <http://bit.ly/17Fa3dZ>
    - NEPA update
    - Department of Defense (DoD) mitigation instruction manual to RAC
  - Meeting in Worland or Cody – March 19-21 (tentative)
    - Lodging in Worland is a concern
- **Tasks** –
    - Green will send RAC the Wild Horse Advisory Committee notes after their next meeting along with a copy of Consent Decree, National Science Academy (NSA) findings report, notes
    - Green will ensure Wyoming State Office verifies legalities of the recommendations from the Subcommittee on Federal Planning Transparency with the solicitor’s office and report back to the RAC
      - Report should include alternatives or validations of recommendations
    - Future coordination of Sweetwater Conservancy briefing
    - Coordination of UW grad student studying standards as a possible briefing at November meeting
    - Hartley to present a statewide update at next meeting for water management.
    - Venhuizen to coordinate UW/Laramie meeting in November and Big Horn Basin meeting in March
    - Hartley, Dominick and Clayson begin temporary subcommittee on wild horses

- **State Directors closing remarks –**
  - Welcome Venhuizen as the new RAC coordinator
  - Thanks to Duane Spencer for hosting and field trip
  - Mark Storzer for facilitating
  - Thanks for everyone's time
  - Venhuizen will send out notes with due date and will do outreach for next agenda
  
- **Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.**

Approved: Marilyn Mackey Date: 9/8/13  
RAC Chair



# Meeting Attendance

Purpose: RAC Meeting

Time: From: 8:00 a.m. To: 2:45 pm Date: 8-22-13

Name	Organization	Phone	Email address
Robin Morrison	HPD-BLM	307-261-7511	rmorriso@blm.gov
S Connolly	HPD-BLM	307-261-7771	sconnolly@blm.gov
P Bellch	Samson	307 680 2397	pbellch@samson.com
Marilyn Mackey	RAC	307-686-9091	mackeyranch1@ver.com
May Jo Ruqwell	BLM-WYSO	307-775-6001	mrugwell@blm.gov
Duane Spencer	BLM-BFL	687-1141	dspencer@blm.gov
MARK STORZER	BLM-HDD	352-0202	mstorzer@blm.gov
Philip Cavender	AUC-LLC	303-408-6683	pcavender@AUC-LLC.com
Don Handley	RAC	387-2428	-
Marshall Dominick	RAC	307 587-9449	-
Tom Clayson	RAC	307-262-1266	-
LESLEY ELSEY	NPD-BLM	307-261-7603	laelsey@blm.gov
JUSTIN WIC	Wyattson Center	307 352-7001	justw@wyattsoncenter.org
Kevin Stone	RAC	307 247 5592	Kevin@k2landco.com
JOHN CORRA	RAC	307-631-1512	johncorra@gsnml.com
M. Ice Thomas	Uranerz	307-265-8900	mthomas@uranerz.com
Dawn Kalkman	Uranerz	307-265-8900	dkalkman@uranerz.com
Chris Drey	Uranerz	307-265-8900	cdrey@uranerz.com
Chris Venkuter	BLM WYSO	307-775-6103	cvenkuter@blm.gov
Bruce Green	BLM WYSO	307-775-6113	brucegreen@blm.gov
Brenda Clayson	" "	307-775-6146	lclayson@blm.gov
Brenda Schladeviller	CCCD	307-689-3243	schlad@ver.com
Don Simpson	BLM	307-775-6001	dsimpson@BLM.gov
Brianna Straub	Senator Barrasso	307- <del>602</del> 6450	briannastraub@barrasso.senate.gov
KEN LACKO	BLM	307-261-7643	KLACKO@BLM.gov

# Meeting Attendance

Purpose: RAC meeting

Time: From: 8:00 am To: 11:30 am Date: 8-23-13

Name	Organization	Phone	Email address
Marilyn Mackey	RAC	307-686-9091	mackeyranch@verizon.com
Do-Ha-Ly	RAC	389 8028	_____
Mary Jo Ruqwell	WYSO - BLM	307-775-6001	mrugwell@blm.gov
Don Simpson	WYSO - BLM	"	dsimpson@blm.gov
MAKIC STORZER	BLM - HOD	307 352-0202	mstorzer@blm.gov
Jana Stueck	WYOMING OUTDOOR COUNCIL		
LESLEY ELSER	WY-BLM	307-261-7603	laelser@blm.gov
Kevin Stone	RAC	307 247 5592	Kevin@k2Landco.com
Robin Morrison	HPD - BLM	307-261-7511	rmorriso@blm.gov
Larry Claypool	WSD	" 307-5-6146	Lclaypool@blm.gov
Buddy Green	WYSO - BLM	307-775-6113	bugreen@blm.gov
Philip Cavender	AUC-LLC	307-468-6683	pravender@auc-llc.com
Penny Bellah	Samsen	307 680 2397	pbellah@samsen.com
Christina Wenkheim	WYSO - BLM	<del>307-671-4</del> <sup>775-6203</sup>	wenkheim@blm.gov
Brynda Schlodder	CCCD	307-689-3243	schlod@ucn.com
Marshall Hornmick	RAC	307 587-9449	_____
Ben Woltke	BAPRA	605-341-0875	bwoltke@phills.net
Dwane Spencer	BLM - BFO	307-684-1141	dspencer@blm.gov

# Public Comment Period

Name (Please sign in)  
Town/Organization

1) Julia Stuzle, Vya Outdoor Council

2) Ben Wudtke BHFRP - BLM public domain forest

3)

4)

5)