

**Bureau of Land Management – Wyoming
Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Meeting**

**Sept. 24, 2014
1 p.m.
National Historic Trails Interpretive
Center, Casper, WY**

Facilitator: Christian Venhuizen

Meeting Recorder: Jennifer Fleuret

RAC Members:

| Name | City | Interest Represented | Term Expires | Present |
|---------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| John Corra | Cheyenne | Energy/Minerals | 2016 | N |
| Penny Bellah | Buffalo | Energy/Minerals | 2015 | Y |
| Don Hartley | Rock Springs | Archaeological/Historical | 2016 | Y |
| Marshall Dominick | Cody | Wild Horses | 2015 | Y |
| Doug Thompson | Lander | Elected Official | 2016 | N |
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| Julia Stuble | Lander | Environmental Organizations | 2017 | Y |

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| Don Simpson | Wyoming State Director | Wyoming State Office | Y |
| Mary Jo Rugwell | Wyoming Associate State Director | Wyoming State Office | Y |
| Larry Claypool | Deputy State Director – Minerals | Wyoming State Office | Y |
| Buddy Green | Deputy State Director – Resources | Wyoming State Office | Y |
| Mark Storzer | District Manager | High Desert District | N |
| Stephanie Connolly | District Manager | High Plains District | Y |
| Steve Dondero | District Manager | Wind River/Big Horn District | Y |
| Kristen Lenhardt | Chief of Communications | Wyoming State Office | Y |

Agenda Item: Welcome

Presenter: Don Simpson, State Director, Wyoming State Office (WYSO)

Introduction:

- Two new members (Julia Stuble and Truman Julian) and one returning member (Marilyn Mackey) were welcomed
- Three important things that the RAC needs to be thinking about:
 - Regional mitigation, especially with regards to sage grouse
 - RAC position paper on transparency in the NEPA process and the role of cooperating agencies
 - Implementation of the Lander Resource Management Plan (RMP)
 - First RMP to incorporate the implementation of regional mitigation, sage grouse management, trails management, and master leasing plans

Agenda Item: NHTIC Overview

Presenter: April Rabuck, Acting Director, National Historic Trails Interpretive Center (NHTIC)

The NHTIC is in its 12th year and came about through a partnership between the BLM and a non-profit trails foundation. It is located near four Congressionally designated trails that cross through the area, which include the Oregon, California, Pony Express, and Mormon Pioneer trails.

Agenda Item: Casper Field Office Overview

Presenter: Rhen Etzelmiller, Assistant Field Manager for Resources; Kathleen Lacko, Assistant Field Manager for Minerals and Lands; Mike Robinson, Project Manager, Casper Field Office; Al Elser, Associate District Manager for Solids, High Plains District

- 47 employees managing 11.1 million acres
- High Plains District is an Energy Pilot Office
- Resources Division:
 - North Platte River Special Recreation Management Area
 - Development of eight public access points through a combination of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding and fee collections, and land acquisition through partnerships with local landowners
 - Bates Hole Management Area
 - Includes 375,000 acres with two Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), 28 sage grouse leks, sensitive soils, roadless areas and big game habitat
 - Travel management plan required by RMP ROD for the area
 - Implemented vegetation treatments for cheatgrass and juniper control, erosion control on and restoration of Bolton Creek
 - 440 miles of designated National Historic Trails; 115 miles of historic trails in the field office
- Minerals and Lands Division:
 - Uranium:
 - Cameco Smith/Highland *in situ* recovery (ISR) mine is the largest ISR mine in the U.S.; encompasses 35,000 acres of split estate
 - Oil and gas:
 - Converse County Oil and Gas Development Project, Casper Field Office:
 - Group of operators propose development of up to 5,000 wells over 10 years, on 1,500 new well pads, with 1-16 wells per well pad using year-round drilling
 - Project area is 1.5 million acres; 6 percent is BLM surface, 4 percent is U.S. Forest Service (USFS) surface; remainder surface is state and private
 - 64 percent is federal minerals
 - Scoping ended on June 30, 2014, and identified the following issues: Split estate concerns, impacts to socioeconomics, water, air quality, transportation and traffic and wildlife
 - Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is currently in development; anticipated for summer 2016 with Final EIS (FEIS) in 2017 and Record of Decision (ROD) for December 2017

- Short term disturbance (includes project development, construction, drilling) is estimated at 54,000 acres; long term disturbance (following interim reclamation, for the life of the project) is 21,000 acres
- Moneta Divide Oil and Gas Development Project, Casper and Lander Field Offices:
 - Encana and Burlington Resources propose to drill 4,250 wells through a combination of vertical and directionally drilled wells over a 15-year development period
 - 83 percent BLM minerals; short term disturbance of 27,000 acres
 - Programmatic DEIS anticipated for cooperator review in October 2014 and to public January 2015
 - Existing development in the project area was analyzed as the reasonably foreseeable development in the RMP; each well pad has an individual Environmental Assessment (EA) attached to it
- Greater Crossbow Oil and Gas Project, Buffalo Field Office
 - Proposal by EOG Resources for 1,500 oil and gas wells over 10 years, on 100 well pads, with year-round drilling using vertical, directional and horizontal drilling techniques
 - No BLM surface ownership, but 60 percent federal minerals
 - Programmatic level EIS with site-specific NEPA completed at the Application for Permit to Drill (APD) stage
- Coal:
 - Powder River Basin (PRB) is the largest coal producing region in the world; over 374 million tons produced in 2013
 - West Antelope II South Coal Lease Modification currently ongoing
 - 857 acres containing 15.7 million tons of coal to be added to the existing lease at the Antelope Mine
 - EA completed in March 2014; Decision Record signed August 2014; was immediately appealed by environmental organizations
 - 2013 and 2014, Wyoming did not offer any coal leases for bid
 - this is due to market conditions, regulatory uncertainty, competition with oil and gas
 - In 2007, almost 50 percent of electricity in the U.S. was generated by coal, now down to less than 40 percent, due to competition with natural gas
 - International demand has increased by 4 percent per year, mostly in Asia
 - Demand in China, South Korea, and Japan; most coal burned in Asia is sourced from Asia and Australia
 - Proposed clean coal requirements are likely to bankrupt older plants in the Appalachian regions that do not have the capital to invest in new technology; industry does not believe it possible to meet the clean coal requirements in the near future which will continue to shift the market towards natural gas

Agenda Item: 43 Code of Federal Regulations Subpart 3809 Working Group Update

Presenter: Larry Claypool

- 3809 Working Group met June 12, 2014, and consisted of John Cache (UR-Energy, Uranium), Dale Nuttal (Wyo-Ben), Mark Storzer, Steve Dondero, Joe Meyer (acting ADM, High Plains District), Larry Claypool, George Varhalmi (Geologist, BLM Wyoming State Office), and Jonathon Downing (Executive Director of the Wyoming Mine Association), and DEQ-Lands Quality Division (LQD) representative
- Identified six areas for streamlining potential:
 - Pre-scoping meetings for Plans of Operations;
 - Improve coordination and communication between the BLM and DEQ-Land Quality Division (LQD);
 - Improve Federal Register notice process;
 - Clarify the Section 106 Process for Operators;
 - Refine NEPA documents to include only necessary information;
 - Training for BLM, Operators, and DEQ on 3809 permitting process.
- George Varhalmi and Larry Claypool are working on developing strategies to address these six areas; comments from the group are due the week of Sept. 29, 2014, and, once the strategies are finalized, the RAC will receive a report
- The formulation of the Working Group has already improved communications with the DEQ-LQD

| Action Items | Person(s) Responsible | Deadline |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Provide finalized strategies to the RAC | Larry Claypool | Meeting following finalization |

Agenda Item: Deputy State Director Reports

Presenters: Buddy Green; Larry Claypool

Resources Report:

- Wild Horse and Burro Program:
 - In Fiscal Year (FY) 2014, Congress allocated \$78 million towards the Wild Horse and Burro Program; FY 2015 budget request from BLM is \$79 million
 - Current short term holding has 16,000 animals, long term holding has 31,000 animals; total capacity is 52,000 nationally
 - Currently have 40,815 out on the range right now and national Appropriate Management Level (AML) is 27,000
 - FY 2014 saw 1,710 adoptions nationwide
- Sage grouse planning effort :
 - Lander RMP signed in June; first RMP to have implementation in the context of adaptive management
 - Big Horn Basin and Buffalo RMPs, as well as the 9-plan amendments, are continuing to incorporate the recommended conservation measures; should be finalized later this year
- Planning 2.0:
 - BLM's effort to have a more dynamic and efficient way to develop our RMPs; concentrating on three things to improve:

- Responding to environmental and social change more rapidly
 - Implement a more cooperative and collaborative planning process
 - Plan across landscapes and at multiple scales
- Two live-streamed (www.blm.gov/live/) public listening sessions will be held to provide an overview of the effort as well as group discussion on methods to improve the planning process
 - Denver, Oct. 1, 1-5 p.m. MDT
 - Sacramento, Oct. 7, 1-5 p.m. PDT

Minerals and Lands:

- Leasing:
 - BLM Wyoming administers 15,595 oil and gas leases on 10.7 million acres
 - Last year issued 430 leases, more than any other BLM state
 - For the August 2014 sale, BLM nominated eight parcels for lease, located outside of core area with minimal resource conflicts; generated over \$5 million
 - Will be continuing to do this in the future.
- Bonding:
 - Under current regulations, have three levels of bonding:
 - Lease, \$10,000
 - Statewide, \$25,000
 - Nationwide: \$150,000
 - Initial bonding regulations were not designed to cover plugging and reclamation; it was a good faith effort to give operators an incentive to be compliant with regulations
 - Revised bonding instruction memorandum came out July 2014
 - Allows the BLM to review and raise bonds depending on operator compliance history, number of wells, well depth, etc.
- Wyoming Pipeline Corridor Initiative:
 - Wyoming Pipeline Authority applied to the BLM for the Governor's Pipeline Initiative, which would include 24 pipeline segments, 1,983 miles in length, 1,150 of which would be on federal lands; right-of-way (ROW) width would be 200-300 feet and main purpose would be to provide CO₂ to mature fields for enhanced oil recovery
 - Potentially reduce ROW processing times through the completion of an EIS, sequester carbon, increase oil production, focus development in existing fields, generate royalties and create jobs

Agenda Item: District Manager Reports

Presenters: Caleb Hiner, Planning and Environmental Coordinator/Resource Advisor, High Desert District; Stephanie Connelly; Steve Dondero

High Desert District:

- Ongoing wild horse gather, removing the Great Divide Basin herd from the checkerboard; should be complete within the next couple of weeks
- Rock Springs RMP revision is on hold until the 9-plan amendments are complete; continuing to do the comprehensive trails and travel management inventories

High Plains District:

- Coordinated multiple tours with representatives from the Washington Office
 - Included oil and gas, uranium, and coal

Wind River/Big Horn Basin District:

- Hosted the 3809 working group meeting; continue to work with operators through the 3809 permitting process including the density and disturbance calculation tool for sage grouse, cultural concerns related to area of potential effect, and visual resource management.
- Big Horn Basin RMP is anticipated for late 2014 or early 2015

**Bureau of Land Management – Wyoming
Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Meeting**

**Sept. 25, 2014
8 a.m.
Field Trip (Pathfinder Ranch) and
meeting (National Historic Trails
Interpretive Center, Casper, WY)**

Facilitator: Christian Venhuizen

Meeting Recorder: Jennifer Fleuret

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Field Trip Minutes

The group visited several locations that demonstrated the extent of BLM recreation areas along the North Platte River that were achieved through local partnerships and purchases. These included boat access areas, tent, and RV camping and trapping routes. Key to these site visits was understanding the extent of integration that has occurred through partnerships and cooperation with local landowners.

The group also visited the Pathfinder Ranch, which has become prominent in discussions regarding conservation banking, with particular focus on sage grouse. The Pathfinder Ranch is currently an entirely privately held and funded organization that is seeking cooperation from the State of Wyoming, adjacent private landowners and the BLM to develop successful conservation banking to offset impacts to sage grouse from other development around the state.

Agenda Item: Regional Mitigation briefing and panel

Presenters and panel discussion: Ryan Lance, Attorney, Crowell and Moring LLP; Jennifer Morton, Wildlife Biologist, WYSO; Bob Budd, Executive Director, Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resources Trust; Bill Ostheimer, Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist, Buffalo Field Office; Caleb Hiner; Buddy Green.

Question for the RAC: As the BLM explores regional mitigation opportunities, what thoughts and ideas do you have regarding possible regional mitigation for air, water, cultural, wildlife, or other programs?

Conservation Banking and the Pathfinder Ranches (Ryan Lance):

- Conservation banking is a site or suite of sites containing natural resource values that are conserved or managed in perpetuity, and used to offset impacts occurring elsewhere
 - Requires certainty on two key fronts:
 - Durability - consistent management on adjacent lands, including private, state, and federal lands because wildlife are mobile
 - Credit usage - can the credits be brokered to offset impacts?
 - Not a new concept; is used elsewhere for other species protected under the Endangered Species Act
 - Attractive to landowners because it allows conservation to be implemented within a market framework where habitat is a benefit and not a liability; market would also determine the value of the credit
 - Attractive to land managers because the bank does not only protect one species or one habitat; helps to protect other values
 - Will fail if the surrounding land management is not consistent with management on the bank, and if credits cannot be used to offset impacts
- Pathfinder Area Ranches:
 - Encompasses 900,000 acres
 - Has functional sage grouse habitat, which includes lekking, breeding, late-summer brood rearing and wintering
 - Habitat for all the parts of the sage grouse life cycle is required before the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will consider it an effective conservation area
- Pathfinder is proposing a perpetual conservation strategy that would provide the certainty of protection; the sage grouse population base would be protected and would ensure that the sage grouse would propagate into the future
 - Seeking cooperation and collaboration with the federal agencies to successfully implement the conservation bank
 - Currently, credit is available on the fee acreage; state acreage is in the planning process; and requesting federal agency cooperation
 - Proposed purchase of credits in perpetuity that would offset impacts from projects elsewhere
 - Goal is to allow operators to buy credits or the option of a credit on the Pathfinder Ranch to offset impacts elsewhere that cannot be avoided, minimized, or mitigated onsite

Regional and Compensatory Mitigation (Jennifer Morton):

- BLM Guidance on Regional Mitigation:
 - Draft Regional Mitigation Handbook (MS 1794) published June 2013, is currently being revised to incorporate comments received on the draft
 - Secretarial Order No. 3330: Improving Mitigation Policies and Practices, October 2013
 - Department of the Interior (DOI) currently developing a strategy to incorporate improved mitigation policies and practices
 - Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) mitigation hierarchy would still be required:
 - Avoid the impact, minimize the impact, then mitigate the impact
- Regional mitigation may be warranted:
 - Depending on the statutory, regulatory, and/or policy level of importance
 - Depending on the goals and objectives of the RMP for that area
- Not every NEPA document with residual impacts warrants compensatory mitigation; should ideally benefit several resource values and not just one
- Regional mitigation strategies:
 - Pre-identify optimal sites for protection
 - Pre-identify the types of projects that may be necessary
 - Pre-identify a method for placing a value on residual impacts
 - Do not have to complete NEPA; however, once strategy is ready to implemented, NEPA must be completed prior to implementation
- Ideally, regional mitigation would occur in areas where we will achieve the highest conservation benefit and the most durability
- Compensatory mitigation options:
 - Buying credits from an existing mitigation/conservation bank or credit exchange
 - Contributing to an existing mitigation or conservation fund
 - Authorized-user conducted mitigation projects
- How do we calculate impact and appropriate mitigation costs?
 - No single answer, varies by resource; possibly can develop a formula that would equate an impact to a mitigation
- Next steps for regional/compensatory mitigation
 - Finalize regional mitigation manual
 - Engage partners
 - Development of regional mitigation strategies for sage grouse
 - Identify other regional compensatory mitigation strategy needs and begin strategy development
 - What other resources need regional mitigation strategies?
 - What mitigation avenues are open?
- Current regional mitigation efforts in Wyoming:
 - Wyoming BLM Regional Mitigation Team
 - Habitat Equivalency Analysis
 - A method to determine the amount of compensatory restoration required to provide services that are equivalent to the interim loss of natural resource services
 - Possible tool for large transmission lines
 - Conservation Bank Review Team

**Discussion: What is the metric that should be used to determine how much the impact is worth?
How much should a credit be worth, and how much impact should a credit mitigate?**

- Credits:
 - Operators would purchase a credit in perpetuity; could not be resold; would be inflation-proof; and could be bought as an “option” for use against some future disturbance
 - Theoretically, industry could propose to destroy the largest core area in the state and purchase credit to mitigate; however, cost of credit could be prohibitive
- Core area is a form of regional mitigation that is already in place
 - Example: There was no way to mitigate on site in the Powder River Basin; but core area has ensured that the species is being protected
- Stacking of protections
 - Other species and resources may benefit from sage grouse protections
 - However, credits may not be available for more than one species
 - Multiple species protections would increase the value of the area, could make the credit more valuable and thus more expensive
 - Could make it more attractive for the BLM to change management in a particular area, to create an area of off-site mitigation; if there would be the result of benefits to multiple species and multiple resources
 - Not sure the science is robust enough for the BLM to figure out areas that would benefit from this type of management (i.e. would have to combine all these values: species richness, rarity, unique habitat types, riparian areas, cultural values, recreation values, and consider the economic potential of those areas
- Need cooperation from all players from the outset, which includes the EPA and the FWS
- Need public cooperation – mitigation onsite is much more palatable than mitigation 100 miles away
 - Education and transparency regarding implementation of compensatory mitigation

Questions generated by the discussion:

- Could credit be moved to another project once restoration of original impact was completed?
- Should the credit be for perpetuity? The state only guarantees 75 years; isn't this more prudent seeing as how we don't know what forever looks like?
- How should credits be quantified?
 - Example: A reservoir in the desert may be more valuable than the same size reservoir in the temperate rainforest – sage grouse habitat in some areas of the state may be more valuable than the same habitat in other parts of the state – how should this be quantified?
 - Connectivity to other populations? Breeding success? What part of the habitat should be maintained? What function needs protection?
- How effective is regional mitigation vs. local mitigation?
- How do you figure out the value of one population or habitat in a particular area vs. a population or habitat in another area?
 - Example: Should we really be trying to mitigate in Gillette for an impact that occurred over near Pinedale? The population in one area may not be commensurate with the population in another area
- Per BLM designation of a special management area: we do not know enough about wildlife life cycles to make this determination
 - Does the BLM have a mechanism for managing lands around a conservation bank consistent with management of the conservation bank lands?

- How do you combine other resource values? Also, do you focus on species richness, or rarity of a single species?
- Would this violate the multiple use mandate?
- Should this be proposed at the land use planning or project level?
 - Would this require RMP amendments? Short of a National Monument, perpetuity on federal lands is difficult to envision
- What is the benefit to the public lands?
- What should the mitigation be? If we don't know the mitigation, how can we assign value to credits and impacts?

| Action Items | Person(s) Responsible | Deadline |
|---|-----------------------|--|
| Add regional mitigation to upcoming meeting agendas | Christian Venhuizen | Continuing |
| Brief BLM Manual Section 1794 | Jennifer Morton | Meeting following document publication |

Agenda Item: The role of the cooperating agency

Panel Discussion: Phil Lowe, Solicitor, DOI; Richard VanderVoet, Lander Field Office Manager; Caleb Hiner; Steve Dondero

Question for the RAC: The State Director received the RAC's position paper on transparency, could the RAC discuss the role of a cooperating agency in a more transparent environment?

Keys to the discussion:

- Cooperating agencies:
 - Are invited to participate in land use planning and project level EISs when they have jurisdiction by law or possess special expertise that would assist the BLM in developing alternatives and making a decision per CEQ regulations.
 - Can include other federal agencies, state agencies, local governments, technical experts
 - Enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that details the responsibilities of a cooperating agency and those of the BLM
 - Requires commitment, work and time
 - Are offered an invitation and do not have to accept
 - Participation should be based on whether you have the ability to participate and have something to offer
 - However, much more influence on trajectory of project if a cooperating agency from the beginning
 - Still have legal recourse if the decision is not amenable to cooperating agencies' goals and objectives
- Are privy to information that may be pre-decisional
 - That is, information that is being used to help formulate a decision and should not be shared with the public
 - If pre-decisional information is shared with a few people outside the cooperating agency, then those people have an advantage and access to different information than the rest of the public
 - It is not the cooperator's role to share information outside the group, but rather to bring information and expertise to the BLM in order to assist with the NEPA

- Can ask for clarification on the meaning of certain things outside the group
 - For example, educate themselves on master leasing plans, and ask technical questions regarding such; this is not sharing information but rather educating oneself on the project
 - Can discuss various ideas with the public, such as the proposed action, the concept of a Master Leasing Plan, trails management, and then take suggestions back to the BLM
- There is a difference between public meetings and cooperating agency meetings
 - In Wyoming, the presence of county commissioners does not automatically make the meetings public
- More information can be found here:
 - The BLM cooperating agency handbook is available here: http://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/wo/Planning_and_Renewable_Resources/N_EPS.Par.93370.File.dat/BLM_DeskGuide_CA_Relationships.pdf
 - Alternative Dispute Resolution guidance available here: http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/planning/adr/training_and_resources/BLM_AD_R_Publications.html

The RAC’s position paper provided recommendations on enhancing the cooperating agency and public’s roles in the planning process:

- Increase public participation and communication
 - Invite public and cooperating agencies to the same meetings; possible to have a public meeting in the morning and a cooperating agency meeting in the afternoon
- BLM Wyoming will incorporate recommendations from the RAC’s position paper into the next revision of the Instruction Memorandum that guides the BLM Wyoming staff on how to manage cooperating agency processes and meetings. This will be available for the RAC at the next meeting.

| Action Items | Person(s) Responsible | Deadline |
|---|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Revise Instruction Memorandum providing guidance on public information and the NEPA process. Incorporate recommendations from the RAC position paper. | Kristen Lenhardt and Buddy Green | Jan. 26, 2015 |
| Add the subject of transparency in NEPA and the role of cooperating agencies to the next agenda | Christian Venhuizen | December 2014 |

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Agenda Item: Implementation of the Lander RMP ROD as it relates to adaptive management and Greater Sage-Grouse

Presenters and panel discussion: Buddy Green, Caleb Hiner, Richard VanderVoet

Question for the RAC: What feedback do you have regarding the implementation of the ROD as it relates to adaptive management and sage grouse habitat?

Key to the discussion:

- Lander RMP:
 - Encompasses 2.5 million acres of federal surface, 2.8 million acres of federal mineral estate
 - First sage grouse related planning effort; other resources in the Lander Field Office include four National Historic Trails, one National Scenic Trail, 99 percent of the field

- office is sage grouse habitat and 70 percent is core habitat; uranium, oil, and gas resources, recreation, tourism; designated eight ACECs
 - Also includes the first Master Leasing Plan and three designated development areas
- RMP implementation will require adaptive management strategies in support of the population management objectives for sage grouse set by the State of Wyoming
- RMP Implementation and Adaptive Management:
 - Will be coordinated through partnership with Implementation Team that includes the WGFD, individual project proponents, partners, and other stakeholders
 - will incorporate Best Available Science
 - Information is available on RMP website: <http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/lander.html>
- Lander RMP is first instance of the BLM incorporating adaptive management into the Land Use Planning process
 - Will be developing a statewide adaptive management plan for greater sage-grouse
 - Major projects within sage grouse core will also have adaptive management strategies developed
 - Eventual goal will be to have everyone in the state doing the same thing and working together; monitoring consistent indicators; and coordinated regional mitigation effort
- Fundamentals of Adaptive Management:
 - Implement an action and monitor the impact of the action on identified resources
 - Example: Well pad impacts on mule deer
 - Establish thresholds/triggers that, if exceeded or met, would indicate the need for mitigation and/or a change in management
 - Soft trigger: something we could not predict, possibly the loss of an entire lek due to a fire, an anomaly in the data and indicates the need to take a closer look at the data
 - Could be one lek destroyed because of a fire, reduced the population but is not indicative of overall species decline
 - Hard trigger: monitoring data show that population objectives statewide are not being met, perhaps a 60 percent decline in population that indicates the need for more immediate action
 - If two of three triggers are met (i.e. if population and lek attendance decline, but habitat is the same) would be a hard trigger
 - Project level triggers would be considered soft; but if multiple project level triggers were met then would be considered a hard trigger
 - The goal would be such that you would never hit the hard trigger – you would take corrective action if soft triggers are met to avoid hitting the hard trigger
 - Implement mitigation or change in management if triggers met
 - Continue monitoring to determine effectiveness of mitigation and/or change in management
 - Adaptive management strategies can be developed, and once they are implemented, will require a NEPA analysis if this has not already been done in the LUP
 - Do not want to be in a box by analyzing all potential management prescriptions in the RMP because our management ideas now will be very different from management ideas in 15 years; what is appropriate now may not be appropriate in the future
- Indicators have not yet been identified for project level, but at the LUP level will be population and habitat

Questions generated by the discussion:

- What should the indicators be at the project level?
- What are the triggers, both soft and hard, at both the project level and land use planning level?
- What is the mitigation?
 - Should we identify mitigation first, and then the triggers?
- How can the Lander RMP implement adaptive management at the statewide level?
- How can adaptive management and NEPA work together?
- What is the appropriate soft trigger response?
- When should NEPA be completed?
- Should the RAC make a recommendation to the BLM that it will function as a group that will annually monitor soft and hard triggers, and mitigation?
- How can adaptive management remain flexible and nimble and respond to new issues?
 - Especially when NEPA must be completed?
- Can the RAC be provided with some ideas of potential indicators, mitigation, and soft and hard triggers?

| Action Items | Person(s) Responsible | Deadline |
|--|-----------------------|---------------|
| Place adaptive management and sage grouse on agenda for next meeting: discuss potential indicators, mitigation, and triggers | Christian Venhuizen | December 2014 |
| SGIT members who are also on the RAC to share information regarding potential indicators, mitigation, and triggers | SGIT/RAC members | Next meeting |

Agenda Item: Old Business

- Wild Horse position paper may need to be reissued to reinforce the intent of the position paper
 - Don Hartley and Marshall Dominick will examine the paper and determine if it needs to be reissued
- Topic Priority List should be looked at in detail once new members have joined the RAC in April

Agenda Item: New Business

- Next meetings:
 - Laramie with University of Wyoming in late January/early February
 - Potentially visit wild horse eco-sanctuary
 - Potentially schedule discussion with enhanced oil recovery specialists
 - Wind River/Big Horn Basin District in Cody, late April or May
- The RAC appreciated the discussion-type forum of this meeting; encouraged the BLM to continue organizing discussion panels and provoking thoughtful discussion
- Brenda Schladweiler as a departing member was thanked for her service.



Bureau of Land Management Wyoming Resource Advisory Council

Location: Casper, WY (National Historic Trails Interpretive Center)

Date: Sept. 24, 2014 Time: 1pm

1

MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

(PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)

| NAME | AFFILIATION | CONTACT INFORMATION (Optional) This document will be attached to the meeting minutes and posted as a public record. |
|-------------------|---------------|--|
| Don Simpson | BLM - WYSO | |
| May Jo Rugwell | BLM - WYSO | |
| Buddy Green | BLM - WYSO | |
| PHIL LOWE | DOI SOL. RMR | |
| Kristen Lenhardt | BLM - Wyso | |
| AL ELSER | BLM - HPDO | |
| Don Hartley | RAC - | |
| Kathy Brus | BLM - CFO | |
| Bill Bellah | KLS Eng. | |
| APRIL RABUCK | BLM NHTIC | |
| Rhea Etzel Miller | BLM - Casper | |
| Duane Spencer | BLM - Buffalo | |
| Mike Robinson | BLM - CFO | |
| KATHLEEN LACKO | BLM - CFO | |



Bureau of Land Management Wyoming Resource Advisory Council

Location: Casper, WY (NMTIC)

Date: Sept. 24 central Time: 1pm

MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

(PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)

| NAME | AFFILIATION | CONTACT INFORMATION (Optional) This document will be attached to the meeting minutes and posted as a public record. |
|---------------------|----------------|--|
| LESLIE ELSER | BLM-NPDD | |
| MARSHALL DOMINICK | RAC | |
| Marilyn Mackay | RAC | |
| CALEB HINER | BLM - HDD | |
| Truman Julian | RAC | |
| JUA STUBLE | RAC | |
| Stee Dondro | BLM - WRBBD | |
| Penny Bellou | RAC | |
| Kevin Stowe | RAC | |
| Jennifer Fleuret | BLM | |
| Doug Thompson | RAC | |
| Brandon Elkins | RIMBO/NRCS/BLM | brandon.elkins@wy.usda.gov |
| Marshall Dominick | RAC | |
| Christian Venhuizen | BLM | |



Bureau of Land Management Wyoming Resource Advisory Council

Location: Casper, WY

Date: 9/25/14 Time: 1:00 pm

MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

(PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)

| NAME | AFFILIATION | CONTACT INFORMATION (Optional) This document will be attached to the meeting minutes and posted as a public record. |
|------------------|----------------|--|
| Mary Jo Rugwell | BLM - WYSO | |
| Don Simpson | BLM - WYSO | |
| Don Handley | RAC | |
| Steph Connolly | BLM - HPDO | |
| PHILIP LOWE | DOI - SA - RMR | |
| Marilyn Mackey | RAC | |
| Jenny Bellah | RAC | |
| Kathy Brus | BLM - CFO | |
| Larry Claypool | BLM - WSO | |
| Jesse Johnson | RAC | |
| Caleb Johnson | BLM - HDD | |
| Steve Donders | BLM - WRBBD | |
| Kevin Stone | BLM RAC | |
| Jennifer Fleuret | BLM | |



Bureau of Land Management Wyoming Resource Advisory Council

Location: Casper, WY

Date: Sept. 25, 2014 Time: 1pm

MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

(PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)

| NAME | AFFILIATION | CONTACT INFORMATION (Optional) This document will be attached to the meeting minutes and posted as a public record. |
|-------------------|------------------------|--|
| Mike Robinson | BLM CFO | |
| Duane Spencer | BLM-BFO | |
| Bill Ostheimer | BLM - Buffalo. | |
| RAY STOTT | BLM - HPDO | |
| LESLEY ELSEK | BLM-NPDO | |
| Rick Vander Voet | BLM - Lander | |
| Jenny Morton | BLM - WYSO | |
| Rhen Etzel Miller | BLM - Casper | |
| Gregory Cowan | WCCA | |
| Bob Budd | State of Wyoming | |
| KATHLEEN LACKO | BLM-CFO | |
| Tom Ryder | Sweetwater Conservancy | |
| Ryan Lance | Sweetwater Conservancy | |
| Buddy GREEN | BLM - WYSO | |



Bureau of Land Management Wyoming Resource Advisory Council

Location: Casper, WY
Date: Sept. 25, 2014 Time: 1pm

MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET (PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)

| NAME | AFFILIATION | CONTACT INFORMATION (Optional) This document will be attached to the meeting minutes and posted as a public record. |
|--------------------|-------------|--|
| Kristen Lenhardt | BLM | |
| Julia Sussie | RAC | |
| Brenda Schbdueler | RAC | |
| Christian Vanhuzen | BLM | |
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Bureau of Land Management Wyoming Resource Advisory Council

Location: Casper, WY (NMTIC)
Date: 9/26/14 Time: 08:00am

MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

(PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)

| NAME | AFFILIATION | CONTACT INFORMATION (Optional) This document will be attached to the meeting minutes and posted as a public record. |
|-------------------|-----------------|--|
| Kathy Bruce | BLM - CFO | |
| Duane Spencer | BLM - BFO | |
| Mary Jo Rugwell | BLM - WY50 | |
| Don Simpson | BLM - WY50 | |
| Marilyn Mackey | RAC | |
| Oglas S. Thomas | RAC | |
| Karin Stone | BLM PATZ | |
| Marshall Dominick | RAC | |
| Buddy Green | BLM - WY50 | |
| Fleming Bellall | RAC | |
| Dan Anthony | RAC | |
| PHIL LOWE | DOI - SOL - EMR | |
| Gregory Cowan | WCCA | |
| Rick Vander Voet | BLM Lander | |



Bureau of Land Management Wyoming Resource Advisory Council

Location: Casper, WY
Date: 9/26/14 Time: 8 am

MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

(PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)

| NAME | AFFILIATION | CONTACT INFORMATION (Optional) This document will be attached to the meeting minutes and posted as a public record. |
|---------------------|-------------|--|
| LESLEY ELSER | BLM NPDO | |
| Brenda Schbdueler | RAC | |
| Jua Stuse | RAC | |
| Kristen Lenhardt | BLM | |
| Jennifer Fleuret | BLM | |
| Steph Connolly | BLM HPD | |
| Junkin | RAC | |
| Caleb Aimer | BLM HOD | |
| Steve Donders | BLM-WRBB | |
| Christian Verkuizen | BLM | |
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