# EASTERN MONTANA RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING BLM Montana State Office, Billings, Montana October 30, 2003

Attendance

RAC: Betty Aye, Howard Boggess, Colby Branch, Mack Cole, John Ensign, John Gibson,

Becky Kallevig, Robert Lubbers, Neta Old Elk, David Smith, Marty Ulrich.

BLM: David McIlnay, Sandy Brooks, Mark Jacobsen, Mary Apple, Rebecca Makor.

#### Field Manager Updates

#### Sandy Brooks, BiFO -

- The Billings Field Office continues to fine tune the OHV Travel Management Plan. This includes
  working with the public to determine the best way to proceed, although not many public
  comments received. The proposed areas to begin with are Shepard, Pryor Mountains, Horsethief
  and Acton. The proposals will go to the State Director for approval to move forward.
- A contractor has been established for the Horsethief Area and treatment of the first 300 acres will
  be started soon. The purpose of the treatment is to reduce hazardous fuels thereby protecting
  homes in the area.
- Pompey's Interpretive Center is moving ahead. The exhibits contractor has been hired and the construction contract is ready to be advertised. It looks like ground may be broke in the spring.
- Testing should begin in the next month for the wind energy project. A temporary tower will be
  put up to see if there is enough wind in the area to support the project. Testing will take
  approximately one year.
- Seven wild horses were removed from the Pryor Mountains during the last roundup. These horses will be shipped to Nebraska and adopted via internet.
- R.L.F. Bighorn Properties, LLC (Bighorn Properties) and their agent Rocky Mountain Timberlands continues to pursue a road right-of-way in the Grove Creek area, across four segments of public land to provide access to 426 20-acre lots created in the mid-1970's--- before current subdivision laws were enacted. The developer can reach about 60 percent of the parcels without a right-of-way granted from the BLM and has already begun to improve roads on the private lands. The development may have considerable impact on wildlife and grazing and the Grove Creek Block Management Area would eventually be eliminated. The area is also culturally and historically rich with Native American artifacts and sites. The development abuts a high risk wildfire area on the east face of the Beartooth Mountains. Sandy will keep the RAC informed regarding this topic.
- Robert Lubbers gave a brief summary on the shooting range situation. A sub-committee was
  previously formed. Members of this sub-committee are Bill Kennedy, John Gibson, and Marty
  Ulrich and Robert Lubbers. The major problems of various shooting ranges and public lands
  being used for target practice are littering, vandalism, shooting where there are no backdrops, etc.
  The sub-committee has recruited information and ideas from various other entities such as the Rod
  and Gun Club, but has come to no concrete solutions.
- Some ideas that have been brought up include developing a self-policing plan or getting people to aid in a self-policing plan, the possibility of making 17-Mile an open range and limiting other sites. The sub-committee does not want to see the shooting ranges closed down, and will continue

to work with others to come up with options to resolve this issue. John Gibson noted the issue has been put in the Billings Rod and Gun Club newsletter, asking the membership for ideas.

#### David McIlnay, MCFO -

- David noted that 85 wells in 15 different locations have been approved. There are two other applications for Plan of Development on the BLM MCFO web site. These applications are for 8 wells (4 private/4 public) and 14 exploratory wells.
- Hanging Woman Creek could be in the path of future development. BLM has not received an application for development, however, because the drainage is controlled by two major landowners, BLM felt we should attempt to develop a Coordinated Resource Management Plan (David would like to get all stakeholders together to figure out workable solutions for CBNG development). There were approximately 40 people in the facilitated discussions in Sheridan, Wyoming. There were people from diversified areas and agencies. It was a good meeting. Another meeting is scheduled for November 18<sup>th</sup> in Sheridan. David will expand the mailing list to include the RAC members.
- It was a very busy fire season. The Missouri Breaks Complex Fire consisted of four fires that burned together and burned approximately 130,000 acres BLM/private land. The Miles City office has been meeting with the people in the Jordan area to determine how to make things better for all concerned. It has been an enormous learning process. There were also three fires in the Ashland area which formed the Eastern Montana Complex. Timber sale plans are being developed for two of these fire areas.
- The Resource Management Plan is also scheduled to start in 2004. The MCFO has drafted a preplan which will go to the state office for review. After the state office review it will be sent to the RAC for their review.
- OHV letters went out for public input and the county commissioners have been briefed regarding signing, education process, etc. We will provide the SD our priority areas for Travel Management planning by December 15
- A thescelosaurus fossil that was found and removed from public land by an unauthorized person (subsequently recovered) has now been preserved for public viewing. A cast of the dinosaur and a display case was constructed by The Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman for the BLM and is currently displayed in the Miles City Field Office lobby.

#### SWL Discussion/Sage Grouse Discussion, proposal formulation

Becky Kallevig moved that the council members present develop and sign a letter to Director Kathleen Clark and State Director Marty Ott.

The RACs met together the previous day and the EMT RAC broke the SWL into five components/discussion points. They are:

- 1. Already a law (redundancies)
- 2. Reserve Common Allotments (issues)
- 3. Voluntary Allotment Restructure Unnecessary

- 4. Conservation Easements Omitted
- 5. Endangered Species Act Mitigation which was changed to Landscape Habitat Improvement (should be included as an option for implementation).

The council worked together, discussed the issues, drafted and signed the following letter:

October 30, 2003

Bureau of Land Management Kathleen Clarke, Director 5655 MIB 1620 L St NW Washington, DC 20036

Bureau of Land Management Marty Ott, State Director 5004 Southgate Drive Billings, MT 59101

Dear Director Clarke and Director Ott:

It is the consensus of the Eastern Montana RAC that the SWL Initiative not be a priority of the BLM. We feel the SWL concepts could be implemented under existing regulations and laws.

If the BLM continues with this initiative, we offer the following suggestion for each concept:

- 1. **Conservation Partnerships** We believe these can be implemented under existing laws (ILRMA).
- 2. **RCA** The RCA is not feasible in Montana at this time. However, as a concept, it has merit and should be considered, if necessary, in the future.
- 3. **Voluntary Allotment Restructure -** The allotment restructuring can be utilized under existing programs.
- 4. **Conservation Easement -** Before this concept was omitted, the RAC decided not to accept this concept because private property rights could be impacted. As a concept for conservation, it should be retained for future reference and discussion.
- 5. **Landscape Habitat Initiative -** Landscape Habitat Initiative by permittees is a viable concept (with mutually agreed upon incentives).

The Eastern Montana RAC supports the ongoing National BLM Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy. We recommend continuing coordination with cooperating agencies.

The following budget concerns are Eastern Montana RAC's top priorities: Natural Cultural Resource Law Enforcement, CBM, Resource & Development, and Land Use Planning, Sage Grouse, Recreation, Threatened and Endangered Species, and Public Education.

The Eastern Montana RAC appreciates the opportunity to participate in the formulation of these initiatives utilizing the four Cs – consultation, cooperation, communication and enhancing community-based conservation. However, because the Eastern Montana RAC only meets quarterly, it is imperative we be given ample time to study and respond to national issues presented before us, specifically SWL and fiscal budget 2006.

We want to continue our involvement and would appreciate a formal response from Director Kathleen Clarke.

Sincerely, (Signed by the attending members of the Eastern Montana RAC)

### Meeting Evaluation/Wrap-up, Next Mtg Dates, Agenda, etc.

The next meeting has been set for January 14 (evening social) & 15 (meeting), 2004. Tentative agenda items may include:

- CBNG overview, history, current status
- OHV progress update and travel planning priorities
- Billings shooting area sub-committee report
- Weatherman Draw/ACEC extension report, for action by RAC
- SWL Washington Office response letter
- Sage Grouse status report
- Post 2003 recreation/hunting season/Knowlton report
- MCFO RMP Revision Prep. Plan

# EASTERN MONTANA RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING Miles City, Montana

August 14, 2003

Attendance

RAC: Marian Hanson, Betty Aye, Becky Kallevig, Jack Bailey, Eldon Rice, Bucky Herringer,

Bill Kennedy, Bill Schwarzkoph, Marty Ulrich, Robert Lubbers, Neta Old Elk,

Absent: Jamie Byrne, Dave Smith, and John Ensign

BLM: David McIlnay, Sandy Brooks, Eddie Bateson, Mark Jacobsen, Mary

Apple, Twinkle Thompson, Rebecca Makor.

#### **National RAC Meeting Update**

Robert Lubbers thanked the RAC for sending him to a very informative meeting in Washington DC. Robert had handouts available for those interested and gave a short report on the events that transpired. Twinkle confirmed the next National RAC meeting would take place in the west.

#### Field Manager Updates

David McIlnay, MCFO – The Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Plan Admendment and EIS are complete and a Record of Decision has been issued. The Montana Board of Oil and Gas has given the thumbs up to proceed. MT DEQ has also issued their Record of Decision. There are currently three lawsuits pending with no date as to when the preliminary hearings will be. The BLM will continue to proceed unless an injunction is issued to stop. It is the BLM's goal to ensure that steps are taken to do the job right.

Fidelity Company filed an application for drilling. It was reviewed and sent back with deficiencies. They are planning to begin drilling in mid-September. All parties will be working closely with and involving landowners. This is a good opportunity to pull together a pilot group, which would consist of landowners, environmentalists, BLM, Industrial representatives, etc. The intent of this pilot group would be to have issues from all sides heard and come up with a win-win solution for all. If it works well, sub-groups could be created. There is a tentative meeting scheduled for September 24, 2003 in Sheridan, WY to set up a format.

The BLM is working on getting a management direction and ideas from the public regarding the Glendive OHV area. The Knowlton project is complete.

There have been some drought/over-grazing issues with permittees. One in particular may end up going to an IBLA hearing.

Sandy Brooks, BiFO – There was a 25% personnel turnover in Sandy's office since January. There are currently five new employees in the Billings Field Office. They are: Eddie Bateson, Asst. Field Mgr.; Glade Hadden, Archeologist; Casey Boechler, Natural Resource Management Specialist; Joan Burns, Resource Assistant; Lynn Anderson, Recreation Planner.

Stage II fire restrictions are in effect across the Billings Field Office Area. Vehicle use has been restricted in a couple of OHV areas due to high grass and homes in the vicinity. The Hubbell fire is winding down. It is currently at 34,000 acres and should be contained by the end of the day.

Immuno-contraception darting continues on wild horses in the Pryor Mountains. The horses targeted are 1and 2-year-olds and 13-year-olds and older. There will be a gather of 10-12 bachelor horses in September. The project is being cost-shared with the Natl. Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service. A number of horses have been lost due to natural causes.

Visitation to Pompey's Pillar has increased by 7% this season due to the Lewis and Clark commemoration. The Interpretive Center is on track and will go out for bids this fall. The hope is to break ground in the spring. There will also be a new center built at Fort Benton at the old water plant on Front Street.

The Environmental Assessment has been sent in for the Horse Thief Project. The comment period ends August 20, 2003. A dozen comments have been received so far – all of them positive.

The Shepard OHV area is temporarily closed due to fire restrictions. A landowner has a pending lawsuit due mostly to noise complaints. So far the judge has been favorable to the BLM. There is also an emergency shooting closure in place until September 30, 2003. Sandy requested a sub-group to work on this issue and to help keep the public informed.

Robert Lubbers moved to set up a sub-group. The motion was seconded by Bill Kennedy and passed by the committee. The sub-group will be: Bill Schwarzkoph, Bill Kennedy, Robert Lubbers, and Marty Ulrich. There will be new RAC members in September who may be interested in serving on the sub-group as well. Bill Kennedy suggested calling the Bureau of Reclamation to see if they are interested, as well as someone from the local rod and gun club.

The Citizens Watch group has been successful. The renovation of Penn's Cabin at the top of the Pryor Mountains has been completed and it has re-opened.

#### Weatherman Draw – (Glade Hadden)

Glade gave a presentation on Weatherman Draw beginning with its controversial history. It is a 15,000-acre area south of Bridger. 2,400 of the 15,000 acres were inventoried and 31 new archeological sites were discovered. 63 percent of those archeological sites are eligible for the National Register. In terms of drilling, it has been proposed to double the ACEC area from 4000 acres to 8000 acres. Another possibility is to withdraw the entire area and open leasing on old sites with no surface occupancy until the RMP revision is complete which is proposed to begin in 2005. It was requested that the Carbon County Commissioners be involved. There was discussion on funding. Glade has applied for funding but it is on a yearly basis with no guarantee of continuance. A suggestion was to go to the oil companies for funding. The sub-committee will draft a resolution to Washington DC to continue the funding for Weatherman Draw in order to expand the ACEC and to expedite the project. A copy of the draft will be brought to the next meeting for review.

#### **Appreciation Gifts**

Sandy and David presented appreciation gifts to RAC members whose terms are up. These members have committed to and provided a valuable resource to BLM and the public. They are as follows: Eldon Rice, Bill Schwarzkoph, Bill Kennedy, John Ensign, and Bucky Herringer.

# Coal/Oil Energy Presentation – (Bill Schwarzkoph)

Bill gave a detailed dissertation on Montana coal mining. There are currently seven mines in Montana. Bill is a safety/health inspector and he reviewed the importance of inspections at the mines and showed a comprehensive slide presentation.

#### **SWL Discussion**

Bill McIlvain explained that the Sustaining Working Landscape initiative (SWL) was brought about for a number of reasons, some of which are:

- To encourage better working arrangements between the Bureau and ranchers.
- To get voluntary concepts between ranchers and other users.
- To promote partnerships on the ground floor.

Twinkle explained that Kathleen Clarke recognizes that a partnership between the BLM and ranchers is important in order to keep a viable economy going and she is looking for ways to get these partnerships started. She is asking for comments on the policy material by November 1, 2003.

There were concerns from the RAC members, such as:

- Is this a roll back to the 1934 Taylor Grazing Act?
- What will the ranchers be expected to do in return for help?
- Why is the policy drafted and comments asked for --after the fact? The RAC would like to be more involved in the development of policy.
- Why is this new way of doing business necessary?
- Is this a back door for NGO's?
- The Resource Common Allotment will need some attention. It works better in larger public land states such as Idaho. BLM doesn't have the necessary resources at this time. Bill McIlvain noted the price would be set at the current rate and based on who has the greater need. The intent is not to reward bad practices. The Endangered Species Act would come into play in terms of time and place. Livestock and the target species may not be good grazing partners, and the livestock could be moved to an adjacent allotment. It is not determined whether or not the landowner would earn credits for moving livestock for endangered species purposes.
- Funding and resources would have to be found to do the job.
- Do managers have the resources and/or the authority to make necessary decisions or does this need to be added to the policy?

There are many issues to resolve and the RAC requested Twinkle check with Kathleen Clarke to see if the November 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for comments could be extended.

#### **Public Comment Period -- The following persons spoke during the available time:**

Ken Nickels was seeking assistance on a conflict concerning grazing issues between his family members. David McIlnay gave Mr. Nickels his business card and said he would look into it.

Dyrck Van Hyning is a food broker with concerns regarding the Federal grazing policies.

Mary Jones, spokesperson for Friends of the Missouri Breaks, expressed concerns regarding SWL. Her organization would like to be a part of the decision making process and requested that more information be sent to her.

Ron Moody is an officer of the Montana Wildlife Federation expressed concerns and gave comments regarding SWL.

John Gibson expressed concerns and gave comments regarding SWL.

#### **OHV Update – (David Squires)**

There is a new OHV brochure out that discusses the new travel restrictions. The OHV decisions became effect June 27, 2003 and included:

- 5.8 million acres changed from an "open" to a "limited" designation
- Cross-country travel is no longer allowed
- Exceptions for permittees/lessees
- Exceptions for camping up to 300' from roads and trails
- A BLM follow up on site specific travel planning (Phase 2)

The implementation will take place in two phases:

**Phase I** will consist of installing portal regulatory signs that tell the public to stay on existing roads and trails.

**Phase II** will consist of road inventory and making decisions on specific roads and trails – open, closed, or some type of restriction.

Areas have been split into *three* categories: high priority (2 yrs), moderate priority (5 yrs), and low priority (no specific time frame).

A letter was sent on August 13, 2003 to permittees highlighting the main points of the OHV Record of Decision. Permittees can call the BLM MCFO if they have areas that need to be signed. Directives will be in the Montana 2003 hunting regulations and on all BLM maps sold. Any feedback or comments may be directed to David Squires in Miles City or Eddie Bateson in Billings.

#### **RAC OHV Discussion/Recommendation Period**

It was the concensus of the RAC that more time is needed to study the SWL document. A sub-committee may be formed in order to formulate and generate comments by the November 1 deadline. Again, Twinkle will request a new deadline. It was recommended that a joint meeting with the other RACs be set up.

#### Meeting Evaluation/Wrap-up, Next Mtg Dates, Agenda, etc.

The next meeting was tentatively set for October 22 and 23, 2003. If a joint RAC meeting can be set up, it will take place in Billings, MT on the 22<sup>nd</sup> (being reserved for individual RAC meetings), with the joint MT RAC meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

If a joint meeting cannot be set up, then the E. MT RAC will proceed with their own meeting: the social will be the  $22^{nd}$  with the regular meeting held on the  $23^{rd}$  at the Crow Reservation.

RAC members will be informed as soon as possible, once a determination from the state office is reached as to whether or not a combined MT RAC meeting will be conducted.

# EASTERN MONTANA RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING Miles City, Montana April 11, 2003

**Attendance** 

RAC: Marian Hanson, Betty Aye, Jamie Byrne, Becky Kallevig, Jack Bailey, Dave

Smith, Eldon Rice, John Ensign, Bill Kennedy, Bill Schwarzkoph, Marty Ulrich,

Robert Lubbers,

Absent: Neta Old Elk, Bucky Herringer, Harold Cottet (resigned)

BLM: David McIlnay, Sandy Brooks, David Jaynes, Mark Jacobsen, Shane Findlay,

Sheila Mcnee, Brad Sauer, Phil Gill, Mary Bloom, Chuck Laakso, Linda Reder,

Barb Hamburg

#### Field Manager Updates

<u>Sandy Brooks, BiFO – Passed around an annual work plan the Alaska RAC had developed. At the Nov. National RAC meeting there had been discussion to have all RACs complete similar plans.</u>

Robert will be representing our RAC at the next National meeting April 22-23.

Our new State Director, Marty Ott, is on board now. Jerry Meredith, our new Associate SD will be starting in late April.

Sandy will begin her detail to the Washington Office (WO) as the Deputy Assistant Director for Renewable Resources and Planning, April 21 for 5 weeks. The new BiFO Assistant FM, Eddie Bateson, will be filling in for Sandy in the interim.

Construction on the Pompey's Pillar Interpretation Center should begin late this year and be completed by May 2005. Plans are beginning for a National Signatory event in July 2006, the bicentennial of Clark's signature. Clark Day this year is July 26-27 and will include living history exhibits, floats, buffalo burgers, etc. This annual family event continues to grow each year.

Recently received a proposal from the Yellowstone Audubon Society to build an Audubon Center at the Four Dances Natural Area.

Are still working through the lawsuit filed against BLM on the Ah Nei OHV area. Increases in both development and OHV use has led to conflicts. We are increasing our monitoring of the area and are working with Billings Motorcycle Club and FWP to enforce hours and other policies. We are also implementing upgrades to the area such as vault toilets to grow each year.

The 3-State OHV EIS is still in protest resolution pending resolution of a protest from the State of ND.

Plan to continue fertility control on 1-2 year-olds and the older mares on the Pryor Mountain herd. Last year was the first year we did immuno-contraception on the herd. 17 Mares were given the booster and only one became pregnant. Implementation has very minimal impact on the animals as it can be remotely administered in the field. This gives the younger mares a chance to mature before becoming pregnant.

Have received a proposal for wind energy development south of Billings. The proposed development is on public, private and state lands. There are existing roads, but the development would entail new lines, either overhead or underground.

Have completed 234 of 400 assessments for Standards and Guidelines. Hope to complete 50 more this year.

Have completed seeding rehab from the Red Waffle fire in the Pryors last summer. The FS has closed some of the roads.

<u>Dave McIlnay, MCFO – Held a three-day Community Based Partnership workshop. We had a lot of public participation.</u>

We anticipate the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Coal Bed Methane EIS to be signed soon. However we will continue to very engaged in planning processes. We will begin Water Management Plans and are also planning for a Resource Management Plan revision.

Recently published the third in a series of the Yellowstone River Floater's Guide; for the portion of the river from Captain Clark's fishing access east to Forsyth.

We are working with DNRC to acquire 160 acres at the confluence of the Powder and Yellowstone rivers. We would like to manage this area for historical, resource, and public use purposes.

#### Range/Grazing Update (Shane Findlay)

Shane discussed BLM's landscape efforts and passed out literature entitled "Sustaining Working Landscapes on Federal Lands". A Policy Development Team, consisting of Shane Findley, Todd Yeager and Pam Wall of the Miles City Field Office and Wendy Favinger of the Montana State Office, has been formed to work on the "Sustaining Working Landscapes" (SWL) Initiative.

The intent of the SWL is to enhance BLM grazing permit management to enable new partnerships and conservation opportunities; to develop policy and tools that provide for resource conservation needs, and meet ecological outcomes and sustain ranching; and promote broad-based citizen stewardship.

The SWL concepts are:

- -- Conservation Partnerships
- -- Reserve Common Allotments (RCA)
- -- Voluntary Allotment Restructuring
- -- Conservation Easements
- -- Endangered Species Act Mitigation

There was a short discussion on Non-use. The non-use time frame is currently 3 years. Drought is not part of non-use.

Grazing Rules, Policies and Provisions - Scoping meetings were held in Billings, Reno, Albuquerque and Washington, D.C. Over 50 people attended the Billings meeting. The primary contention was locked gates on public land.

Becky Kallevig asked if any additional information had been provided to permittees and suggested sending out information to all permittees.

#### Horse Thief Project Update (Brad Sauer)

Brad briefed the RAC on the Horse Thief Fuel Reduction Project, which is part of the President's Healthy Forest Initiative. The project is a result of Congressional interest in the Healthy Forest Initiative.

Brad distributed a briefing paper on the project and also presented some maps showing the project area

It was suggested letters be sent to property owners for comments.

Currently, a full cultural survey (Class III – 100%) is being completed on the project area. There has been very little disagreement from landowners on the prescribed burn Project.

#### **Public Comment Period**

Clayton McCracken representing the Sierra Club Weatherman Draw Task Group provided three recommendations to the RAC. A Class III archaeological inventory of the area was done in the summer of 2002, during which a 15% sampling of parcels was undertaken for study. Disregarding insignificant findings, 16 archaeological campsites were found in the sample survey. The Sierra Club feels the entire area may contain significant archaeological sites

Recommendations by this group:

- Before any tracts of land are leased, conduct 100 % Class III Archaeological inventory of the area. Encourage Native Americans to be part of the survey teams;
- BLM continue to encourage and support a citizens watch group as the best way to provide protection for the area;
- Weatherman Draw ACEC boundaries be expanded to include all present known rock art sites

#### Fire Briefing (Phil Gill)

Phil handed out 2002 statistics and discussed some of the severity and drought predictions for the 2003 season. The heavy, woody fuels (1000 hour fuels) currently show moisture content of 12-15%, normally this time of year they would be 20%. We are preparing for another significant fire season, though what rain events occur over the next few months will really determine the severity of the season.

Becky Kallevig had a question on training locals for Red Card qualification. Phil listed qualifications and explained the Red Card process. BLM and DNRC are developing some guidance on how to support the fire program. The guidance will cover training, how to apply for BLM, AD, and Contract jobs, fitness requirements, etc... Currently there is a trend towards more contract firefighters. The best way to get qualified is to work through rural fire departments.

#### Oil & Gas EIS Update (Mary Bloom and Chuck Laakso)

The protest period for the Preliminary Final EIS ended February 18, 2002. We received 25 protest letters with standing and are working on responses. Provided the letters don't change the PFEIS, we anticipate the ROD will be out by the end of April.

We have a contract with Montana Bureau of Mines & Geology to drill monitoring wells. Wells were drilled at 6 locations previously and we expect the wells at the 5 remaining locations to be drilled by the end of June. The wells are being drilled in a variety of soil types (coal, sandstone, clinker, etc.). The wells are being used to monitor both water quality and quantity and will be monitored monthly.

#### Weatherman Draw Subcommittee Update

The subcommittee toured the area last December and continues to gather information and consider management options. The primary goal of the committee is to preserve, protect and conserve the site.

Their main concern is that there is no patrolling on the area. The first request from the committee is to ask for additional funding for a Citizen's Watch group and increased LE monitoring.

The second recommendation from the group is to consider extending the boundaries of the ACEC,

close the 'holes'.

#### Meeting Wrap-up

Robert Lubbers will sign an OHV letter of support. Each member will get a copy. Also, other RACs will receive a copy.

There are four open positions on the RAC, including the Cottet vacancy. Nominations need to be in by April 21.

## **Upcoming Agenda Items**

- CBM EIS Update Dave McIlnay asked the RAC to read the ROD and come up with suggestions and thoughts on implementation.
- Subcommittee Update on Weatherman Draw
- Grazing Status Update
- Knowlton Travel Plan (written update)
- Citizens Watch (written update)
- Sage Grouse (written update)
- National RAC Meeting Update Lubbers
- Bill Schwarzkoph RAC Message

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for August 13-14 in Billings/Roundup. We will try to schedule a field trip to the Horse Thief Project out of Roundup the afternoon of the 14<sup>th</sup>.