

Carrizo Plain National Monument Advisory Committee

MINUTES OF MAY 22, 2004 MEETING

Meeting opened at 10:30 am by Neil Havlik, Advisory Committee Chairperson.

Members of Advisory Committee present:

- Neil Havlik
- Ellen Cypher
- Bob Binnewies
- Bill Vanherweg
- Kirk Brettschneider
- Michael Khus-Zarate
- Dale Kuhnle

Kern County Supervisor Ray Watson and San Luis Obispo Supervisor Mike Ryan were absent.

Marlene Braun, Monument Manager, introduced the members of the Advisory Committee and invited the visitors, managing partners and staff present to introduce themselves. Also, Marlene made a special introduction of the new San Luis Obispo County Supervisor-elect Jim Patterson, who will be replacing Mike Ryan.

There was discussion of the Agenda for the day and familiarization of the Mission & Vision Statement of the Carrizo Plain National Monument.

Don Maruska, Facilitator, stated that the purpose of the Advisory Committee was to advise the Field Manager of the Bakersfield Field Office.

Marlene – Introduction of New Bakersfield BLM Field Manager - Introduced the new Field Manager, Ron Huntsinger. Ron spoke about his background and then discussed his proposals and expectation regarding the CPNM Resource Management Plan.

General Overview

The following items were discussed;

- Weather on the Monument – Precipitation for the Monument – 10 years of data from Remote Area Weather Site (RAWS) site. Average precipitation is 9.7” (this includes the year of El Nino with 23” – 1997/98). If you look at recorded history of precipitation for Bakersfield since 1890 the average is closer to 6” a year.
- Vehicle Counts – Utilizing traffic counters at four locations on the Monument the total recorded traffic was approximately 40,000 vehicles crossing the counters in 2003.
- Visitor Center – From December until May 2004 there were approximately 3,500 visitors to the Goodwin Education Center. When looking at the visitor logs for the past six years, the greatest number of Education Center visitors came from the Central Coast area, Northern California, and Southern California, respectively.
- Volunteer Support –From October of 2003 until May 2004 there have been over 4,000 hours donated by volunteer groups and individuals. This represents a savings of about \$60,000 in government salary. The Monument is grateful for and will rely on the continued support of these groups.

- Procedural steps taken so far to get where we are in the RMP Planning process
- Went over four sets of Alternatives regarding access, wilderness, cultural site management and grazing.

Ron Huntsinger – RMP/Next Steps – The new expectations of distribution of the Draft RMP and then the final are as follows:

- Draft RMP goes to the printer late summer.
- Distributed to existing mail list by fall with a comment period lasting 60 days.
- Projected final RMP is early 2005

Current delay is because the BLM's Washington Office (WO) is reviewing grazing alternatives and how they will be presented in the RMP.

There was a lot of discussion between the public, AC members, managing partners and Ron H. about the upcoming review with the WO. There were concerns about the purpose of the review and what changes might occur as a result. Ron explained that the purpose of the review is strictly to brief the WO regarding grazing and to make sure everyone was on the same page. He assured those present that there would not be any "big surprises" as an outcome of the meeting.

Access/Designation of Routes

Alternative 1 –

- Represents current usage

Alternative 2 -

- Reduces open routes by 20 miles.
- Increases routes for administrative uses only.
- Closes some routes because of safety and habitat protection.

Discussion: There was much discussion about usable routes being increased and others becoming closed in Alternative 2.

Neil Havlik - stated that the AC deliberated this issue in October and suggested the following:

- Established standards for allocated routes included in RMP.
- Reduce redundant routes.

Marlene – This could be completed in activity Plan following the RMP.

Neil & AC agreed

Ellen C. – AC – Felt that there was confusion and discrepancies in presentation of Alt. 1 and 2. Marlene explained the discrepancies and Neil H. and Ellen C. want a better explanation placed in the RMP.

Advisory Committee voted to support Alternative 2 (unanimously) with following additions:

- **Establish standards for route closures, clarifying maintained vs. non-maintained routes.**
- **Where possible reduce redundant or unnecessary routes.**

Cultural Site Alternatives

- There was discussion of the existing three alternatives that were introduced at the last Advisory Committee meeting.

- **Alternative 1** – Painted Rock open to self-guided access July 16th-February 29th with an estimated 18 guided tours during March 1st through July 15th when the Rock is closed to public access.
- **Alternative 2** – Painted Rock would be open to self-guided access during the same time period as Alternative 1 however a Recreation Use Permit would be required. Permit application available at the Goodwin Education Center, Bakersfield BLM Field Office, and at times in the Painted Rock Parking Lot. (Maximum of 5 individuals per permit) There will be monitoring of self-guided access permit. If significant noncompliance, permit system could be discontinued.
- **Alternative 3** – Painted Rock would be closed to self-guided access year round. There would be an increase of guided tours to an estimated 25 per year.

Discussion was as follows:

1. Monitoring of site should increase no matter what alternative is selected.
 2. Self-guided Tour Permits: Where will they get them and how do they fill them out? Where do they turn them in? Will there be a usage record? Will there be a charge? (Alt.2)
 3. How will Native American usage be impacted with these Alternatives?
 4. Questions regarding the enforcement of self-permitting are a concern.
 5. Questions regarding availability of manpower to monitor and enforce illegal usage.
 6. Native American Advisory Committee willing to deny their own people access if it would protect the site. If the site can't be properly protected and enforced, close it! Alternative 3 has the Native American support.
 7. Closure will bring imposition and upset to visiting public.
 8. If Alternative 3 is chosen can BLM provide better interpretation of Painted Rock to appease public who can't go to the site?
- **Marlene** - mentioned that the Painted Rock site is in the process of being nominated as a National Historic Landmark.
Ann McMahan-TNC – Does National Historic Landmark status increase funding?
Marlene – No. However if we receive Landmark status we will be eligible to apply for additional grants.

The Advisory Committee voted 6-1 to support Alternative 3 with the following recommendations:

- **Close site except for tours unless and until adequate enforcement is available to broaden access.**
- **Add an interpretive kiosk at the Education Center.**

Wilderness

- **Marlene** – Two areas were being considered as new Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's) at the last Advisory Committee meeting. This was proposed and there was a court ruling that did away with ability to propose new WSA's. (Utah vs. Norton) There were 80 existing WSA's before 1993 and nothing added since. It has been stated that the only way these areas can be included is to state in the Management Plan how these areas will be managed. They must be described as "lands having wilderness characteristics".

Everything is being determined through Land Use Plans.

Suitability – Not done anymore

Release – Can only be done through Congress.

- **Don Maruska** – “Does the AC still agree in consensus that these same two proposed areas continue to be managed to preserve wilderness characteristics?”

After discussion the AC voted unanimously to support the new language with a recommendation.

- **The Advisory Committee recommends management of the Caliente and Temblor sites to preserve wilderness characteristics (e.g., protect from new routes and other development) because of unique ecology.**

Grazing Alternatives

Marlene – reiterated the four Grazing Alternatives discussed in October at the last AC meeting. Basically, Alternative 1 is existing allotments as they are today. Alternative 2 has only slight changes, the restriction of grazing in three pastures with important cultural sites and the opening of the Fault Pasture to grazing. Alternative 3 would convert Traditional allotments to Free-Use and include the changes from Alt. 2. Alternative 4 is no grazing on the Monument and other vegetation treatments could be necessary

Alternative 3 was supported at the last meeting – Traditional leases would be cancelled after 6 years and would become available for free use permits.

- **Marlene** – Primarily this would mostly affect only two traditional leases since together they graze 96% of the land involved.

Alternative 3A was suggested: Same as Alt. 3 except that instead of canceling the five leases we allow them to voluntarily turn over their leases to Free Grazing. If the lessees do not turn over their leases we are back at Alt. 2.

Open discussion on all Alternatives was as follows:

- Regarding no grazing, what would the impact be on ecosystems and T&E species? (Alternative 4)
- Alternative 3 would allow greater flexibility to use grazing as a management tool.
- Some disagreed with reintroduction of grazing the Fault Pasture.
- San Luis Obispo Chapter of the Sierra Club supports Alt.3.
- State Director has final decision on Alternatives. He can choose one or even add a new one.
- Instead of converting to Free-Use can we just cancel all use?

Neil Havlik – AC – Do we still support Alt.3? There was a unanimous “yes” answered.

Bob Binnewies – AC – If there is a legal impediment to Alt.3, can the Committee be notified of the legal impediment, what it is and what the legal basis is, before we meet again?

Ron Huntsinger – BLM Field Manager –Discussion of preferred Alternatives or suggested changes would go forward to next AC meeting.

Advisory Committee would like a “synopsis” of upcoming review with Washington Office regarding the Management Plan.

The AC recommends maximizing flexibility for management for plant and animal species by supporting Alternative 3.

Public Comments

Sue Harvey – Public - Supports Grazing Alt.3. She does not support opening Fault Pasture to grazing. If the Fault Pasture is used by sheep, the entire free-use area could be used. Unless there is someone there to better monitor sheep use, this will continue.

Pilulaw Khus-Zarate – Public and member of the Native American Advisory Committee (NAAC) for the Monument – She wanted to express her appreciation to the Committee members, the managing partners, and the public for participating in this meeting. She appreciates the strong support given to the NAAC’s recommendation to go with Cultural Alternative 3 regarding managing Painted Rock. It is nice to see BLM move toward a smaller management style instead of global decisions across the board. Pilulaw said, “I speak for myself, not the NAAC.

Eric Greening – Public – Thanks to Pilulaw for her words, the AC for their advocacy of resource protection, and management for listening, and learning with humility. Everyone needs to move toward an attitude of humility. When Europeans came to California they could not see our microcosms of species. Agricultural uses supported non-native species. Europeans couldn’t see their disruptions. Grazing is an experiment. BLM is not wading in with answers it is wading in with questions. BLM needs to measure all differences for management of all species, not just residual dry matter. Let’s not be single minded as to what we are managing for.

Coralie McMillan - Public – She supports controlled grazing, or even no grazing. Going back to “hoof action” is not the answer.

Mark Fletcher – Public – He is an upland bird hunter and has several memberships, both in conservation groups and sportsmen’s groups. Thank you for allowing me to use this wonderful place.

Irv McMillan – I appreciate hunting but feel it may interfere with others uses. He stated that roads are a significant element that must be addressed as usage increases. Is there a decision as to what types of wheeled vehicles can be used? He suggests that if a 2-wheel drive vehicle can not go up it, it should be closed.

Marlene - Non-street vehicle usage can only be on open routes.

Irv (con’t) – I know there are established routes that do not appear on the map.

Marlene – Invited Irv to assist BLM in documenting these routes.

Sara Christie – Public and member of San Luis Obispo Chapter of Sierra Club – I support the following:

- Decisions to support cultural or Native American issues
- Closure of any routes
- Grazing that supports resource use only – not traditional use.

San Luis Obispo Chapter of Sierra Club supports Alt. 3 – Grazing Alternatives.

She was very impressed with the sincerity of the Advisory Committee and would like to see interaction of Advisory Committee with Washington Office reviewers.

Deb Hillyard – CDF&G –

- Relationship between land owners and managing partners is working out.
- Would like to bring to the table CDF&G issues regarding habitat.
- Would like to bring into focus the “Mission & Vision Statement” of the Monument.

- Grazing Alternative 3 best supports the “Mission & Vision Statement”. If there are legal impediments I would hope other ways will be found to accomplish the same thing. Grazing for other than resource reasons should end.

Peter Douglas – public (other hat: Executive Director of California Coastal Commission) See Attachment 1 for written comments.

Ann McMahon – The Nature Conservancy – I am representing people who 15 years ago met with the BLM, ranchers and local land owners whose vision was greater than anything they could have imagined. I hope that in 15 more years there will still be an area for people to come together and discuss and protect. Thanks to all of you.

Bob Stafford – CDF&G – He supports Grazing Alternative 3 because it supports the Monument’s mission & vision statement.

Pilulaw Khus-Zarate – She would like to recommend that the BLM consider creating a space for someone who has academic training and knowledge of indigenous people. Many indigenous people are completing higher education and should be considered for a position like this.

Don Dollar – Public – See Attachment 2 for written comments.

Marlene – Thanked everyone for their comments.

Life After the RMP

Don Maruska - What is some of the involvement the AC would like to have in regards to implementation?

Neil H. – Feels it important to continue with planning process. What role would we have in review of public comment?

Kirk Brettschneider – AC – It is important that the AC sends their statement/comment to encompass consensus of view during the comment period. We should meet during this period.

Neil H. – Approval of this plan will actually be a starting date for new ways to support management of the Monument.

There was open discussion if the AC could sponsor a public meeting and if it could be combined with one of the BLM’s official public meetings.

Decision – The AC will attempt to meet here at the Washburn Administrative site or at the Carrisa School at the last of the 3 BLM Public Meetings. (The date will be determined at a later time.)

Closing Remarks

Kirk B. – I particularly liked today’s format and meeting location.

Mike K.Z. – I agree with Kirk regarding the format and location. Also, I appreciate the support of the NAAC and preservation of cultural issues. I appreciate everyone’s comments.

Dale Kuhnle – Everyone really wants the same results but just have different philosophical opinions. I am finding that BLM is more my friend than the general public.

Ellen C. – It is great that everyone has come together and that the public, management staff, and AC are coming together.

Neil H. – There is an interesting book, Seven States in California. The Carrizo Plain is listed in the Central Coast section. It refers to the early days, including proposals for solar energy, lots in California Valley and how everything started going backwards in time in 1980. I think we have “modern history” that needs to be interpreted. That is something I would like to see happen.

Ron Huntsinger – I appreciate all conversations and discussions that will help produce the final management plan that we are looking forward to. Thank you all for your sincere efforts in supporting this endeavor.

Meeting adjourned – 4:30 pm

Next Meeting date was to be determined.

Neil Havlik, Committee Chair, submitted written recommendations regarding this meeting. See Attachment 3.

Attachment 1 – Peter Douglas, public.

My name is Peter Douglas and I am here in my capacity as private citizen.

In my other life I am the Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission.

I have worked with BLM for more than 30 years – mostly in common cause but at times at odds. I think the achievement of which I am most proud is the collaborative work we did to implement strong conservation measures for the King Range in Humboldt County. Today the Lost Coast (as it is popularly known) is the crown jewel of BLM's holdings in California.

It is my fervent hope that someday soon we can look at the Carrizo Plain National Monument and the impact of the Management Plan you are working to compete with the same level of pride.

Initially, I want to express my deep appreciation as a citizen to those of you on this Advisory Committee for your dedication, commitment and sacrifice to service in the public interest. I know well how much it takes – how much you have to give up to serve in this advisory capacity. Thank you!

Though I don't live in this area, I came to this hearing because I care very much about what happens to the Carrizo Plain.

I identified with and left a part of my heart in the Carrizo long before I set foot on the ground here. For years, just knowing this piece of remote geography is there sparked my imagination and forged a bond between it and my spirit. Then when I came to this place and saw it I was completely hooked.

Fortunately, the Carrizo Plain is now a National Monument – a place of national significance. Managing National Monuments is a new role for BLM. The kind of Management Plan you adopt and implement for the CPNM will be a measure of whether BLM is a worthy steward of this public trust.

The highest priority of the Plan should be protection, preservation and restoration of the CPNM's cultural and natural resources for the benefit of current and future generations. The public's interest must come first and private use for profit of these public lands should become a closed chapter in the history of the Carrizo. Leasing, other than for wildlife management, has served its purpose. The damage has been done. Now it is time to allow habitat and wildlife to recover as part of a long-term strategy to restore the biological diversity and historic richness of this unique geography of near and distant beauty.

As population continues to grow and new development swallows habitat everywhere, places like the Carrizo become ever more precious as a national treasure in a disappearing landscape. As the CPNM recovers its natural vitality and diversity, the word will spread. People will come from afar to see it, to feel it, to listen to the voices in the silence of the land, and to experience its solitary beauty – its mystery, magic and majesty.

And those who come to touch gently the power of this landscape will give thanks in their hearts to you who had the vision and the courage to preserve this place for posterity. This Management Plan will be your legacy to generations yet to come. Let it be worthy of their unborn hope.

I agree with the Chair that as an Advisory Committee, you should make the strongest recommendation you can to protect, preserve and restore the CPNM's natural and cultural resources. Leave the worrying of lawyers and machinations of politicians to others.

I appeal to you to be as conservative as you can in good conscience be to conserve the natural and cultural richness of this place as vigorously and effectively as possible. As you look to the future, learn from the past.

These concluding thoughts are for the BLM decision makers in the room: Listen to your Advisory Board. Be bold and eschew pusillanimity!

Thank you for this opportunity to express my views.

Comments on Draft Management Plan

Resource Advisory Committee Meeting - May 22, 2004

In all considerations of the management of Carrizo Plains NM I feel it is very important to remember the big picture purposes of the National Monument.

“Full of natural splendor and rich in human history, the majestic grasslands and stark ridges in the Carrizo Plain National Monument contain **exceptional** objects of scientific and historic interest. Since the mid-1800s, large portions of the grasslands that once spanned the entire four hundred mile expanse of California’s nearby San Joaquin Valley and other valleys in the vicinity have been eliminated by extensive land conversion to agricultural, industrial, and urban land uses. The Carrizo Plain National Monument, which is dramatically bisected by the San Andreas Fault zone, is the largest undeveloped remnant of this ecosystem, providing crucial habitat for the long-term conservation of the many endemic plant and animal species that still inhabit the area”.

“Despite past human use, the size, isolation, and relatively undeveloped nature of the area make it ideal for long-term conservation of the dwindling flora and fauna characteristics of the San Joaquin Valley region”.

“The Secretary of the Interior shall manage the monument through the Bureau of Land Management, pursuant to applicable legal authorities, to implement the purposes of this proclamation”.

1. Access

Motorized access should be very restricted including ranching and administrative purposes.

Signing - go with positive signing; only sign routes that are open.

Close and rehab old routes/ways/roads. Seasonal closures.

“The Secretary of the Interior shall prepare a management plan that addresses the actions, including road closures or travel restrictions, necessary to protect the objects identified in this proclamation”

“For the purpose of protecting the objects identified above, the Secretary shall prohibit all motorized and mechanized vehicle use off road, except for emergency or authorized administrative purposes”.

2. Cultural Sites Management

Give cultural sites strong protection, including closures to be proactive in long term protection of these sites. Limited, guided or supervised tours or opening times may be appropriate.

“In addition to its geologic and biological wealth, the area is rich in human history. Archaeologists theorize that humans have occupied the Carrizo Plain National Monument area since the Paleo Indian Period (circa 11,000 to 9,000 B.C.). Bedrock mortar milling features, village middens, and elaborate pictographs are the primary manifestations of prehistoric occupation. Some of these, such as the Painted Rock and Sulphur Springs rock art sites, are recognized as world class. European expeditions through the area, date back to the late 1700s, with settlement beginning in the 1850s. Livestock ranching, farming, and mining

activities in the last century and a half are evidenced by numerous artifacts and historic ranch properties within the area.

3. Wilderness Management

Any reasonable area with fairly high wilderness values should be added to wilderness to further protect a greatly diminished ecosystem.

“Despite past Since the mid-1800s, large portions of the grasslands that once spanned the entire four hundred mile expanse of California’s nearby San Joaquin Valley and other valleys in the vicinity have been eliminated by extensive land conversion to agricultural, industrial, and urban land uses. The Carrizo Plain National Monument, which is dramatically bisected by the San Andreas Fault zone, is the largest undeveloped remnant of this ecosystem, providing crucial habitat for the long-term conservation of the many endemic plant and animal species that still inhabit the area”. “Despite past human use, the size, isolation, and relatively undeveloped nature of the area make it ideal for long-term conservation of the dwindling flora and fauna characteristic of the San Joaquin Valley region”.

4. Vegetation Management

Reducing impacts to vegetation resources is a high priority. Native flora and fauna should have preference, not for only those species that are there now, but those that should be repatriated through a long term conservation plan to restore the ecosystem. The goal should be to have a fully functioning ecosystem that supports high native biodiversity.

Any **grazing should be very limited so as not to diminish natural resource values, biodiversity, native flora and fauna**. Any grazing should leave sufficient dry biomass at the end of the season, (especially in drought years), so that the vegetation trend is improving in quantity and quality.

“The monument offers a refuge for endangered, threatened, and rare animal species such as the San Joaquin kit fox, the California condor, the blunt-nosed leopard lizard, the giant kangaroo rat, the San Joaquin antelope squirrel, the longhorn fairy shrimp, and the vernal pool fairy shrimp. It supports important populations of pronghorn antelope and tule elk. The area is also **home** to many rare and sensitive plant species, including the California jewelflower, the Hoover’s woolly-star, the San Joaquin woolly-threads, the pale-yellow layia, the forked fiddleneck, the Carrizo peppergrass, the Lost Hills saltbush, the Temblor buckwheat, the recurved larkspur, and the Munz’s tidy-tips. Despite past human use, the size, isolation, and relatively undeveloped nature of the area make it ideal for long-term conservation of the dwindling flora and fauna characteristic of the San Joaquin Valley region.”

“The Carrizo Plain National Monument also encompasses Soda Lake, the largest remaining **natural alkali wetland** in southern California and the only closed basin within the coastal mountains. As its name suggests, Soda Lake concentrates salts as water is evaporated away, leaving white deposits of sulfates and carbonates. Despite this harsh environment, small plant and animal species are well adapted to the setting, which is also important to migratory birds. During the winter months the lake fills with water and teems with thousands of beautiful lesser sandhill cranes, long-billed curlews, and mountain plovers.”

Don Dollar, 2357 Banderola, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Attachment 3 – Neil Havlik’s recommendations

RE: Carrizo Plain Advisory Committee Recommendations on the Carrizo Plain National Monument Management Plan

Dear Mr. Huntsinger:

At its meeting of May 22, 2004, the Carrizo Plain Advisory Committee made several recommendations on the draft Carrizo Plain National Monument Management Plan. As chair of the Committee, I was requested to write to you regarding the background of those recommendations representing the view of the Committee, for the purpose of communicating this information to the group of planners from the BLM Washington office who will be reviewing the plan with you.

There were four major topics that the Committee addressed at the May 22 meeting: access and roads; protection of cultural sites; wilderness; and livestock grazing. In each of these topics, the Committee held considerable discussion and, in all but one of the topics, arrived at a unanimous recommendation. These are discussed further below.

Access and Roads. Staff inventory reveals that there are over 600 miles of roads of various types within CPNM. This includes certain roads that may no longer be drivable; however, there are numerous roads that access water troughs, pumps, or other equipment. There are also many roads that appear duplicative. While the Committee recognized that providing reasonable vehicular access to the Monument is important, it also recognized that the road system as it stands invites abuse. Roads go off into the hills and end. People drive those roads, and try to keep going once they reach the end. The result is a gradual increase in such roads, which are or can be destructive to soils or sensitive resources, damaging to vegetation, unsafe and unsightly. For these reasons, it was the unanimous recommendation of the Committee that the thrust of the Plan be to reduce the overall road mileage within CPNM by consolidation of duplicative roads, stronger actions involving closure of unnecessary or unofficial roads, and closer management of administrative roads (including those simply accessing nearby infrastructure). This will still leave a large road system that will permit the interested public to visit many areas of the Monument, and would provide many opportunities for visitors to enjoy the relative solitude that is one of the most enjoyable features of the Monument.

Protection of Cultural Sites. This issue revolved primarily around the level and nature of continued public access to the Painted Rock. Painted Rock is sacred to the Chumash Nation, and is recognized as part of a National Historic District. The site receives supervised and unsupervised visitation during most of the year; the site is closed during the bird nesting season, generally from March 15 to June 15.

The staff proposal for the Painted Rocks was for a system of self-registration. Representatives from the Native American community spoke eloquently and adamantly that they believed that the current level of usage was leading to continued deterioration of the Painted Rocks site, and that only supervised visitation should be permitted. After considerable discussion, the Committee recommended, with one dissention, that the Plan honor the stated wishes of the Native American community and close the site to unsupervised visitation. The Committee also recommended that efforts be made to expand supervised visitation by whatever appropriate means could be found. The one person who dissented felt that self-registration would be adequate.

High levels of protection for other cultural sites within the Monument are called for in the plan and those were not a matter of contention.

Wilderness. In the course of the planning for CPNM, proposals for as many as five wilderness areas have been made by members of the public. State BLM staff have evaluated these proposals, and have determined that two of them, Caliente Mountain and a portion of the Temblor Range, qualified for consideration. During the planning period, however, the Department of the Interior has promulgated new rules regarding designation of Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs), such that, in effect, no new WSAs can be declared. The existing 24,680 acre Caliente WSA, however, is of long standing and remains as a valid WSA under the new rules. The Committee unanimously agreed that the plan include a recommendation to the Congress that the Caliente WSA and additional lands nearby, and the Temblor Range area possess wilderness characteristics that make them worthy of inclusion into the National Wilderness System and urge Congress to add them to the System. It was noted that both areas had many unique qualities, especially noting that the Temblor Range area consisted of habitat types that would not be found in any other unit of the National Wilderness System.

Livestock Grazing. The primary issue of livestock grazing involved the conversion of the so-called "traditional" grazing allotments to the so-called "free grazing" permits utilized in most of the Monument. The discussion of this issue involved many individual expressions about the use of livestock as a management tool, and the appropriateness of that tool in the Monument. After lengthy discussion, the Committee found that proclamation creating Carrizo Plain National Monument had the effect of changing the status of the public lands within it, withdrawing them for the general public domain because of their scenic, scientific, ecological, and recreational values, and directing that management of the Monument be governed by principles designed to enhance those values. Having the so-called "traditional" permits continue indefinitely was seen as inconsistent with the purposes of the Monument. For those reasons the Committee agreed unanimously that the use of livestock grazing within the Monument should be based upon the principles designed to enhance ecological values, and ALL allotments within the Monument (with the exception of the very small portions of existing allotments along the crest of the Temblor Range) should be converted to the "free use" allotments, either by a date certain, or at the time of renewal of the existing permits.

Committee members have all felt honored to serve, and have taken their appointments very seriously. The Committee represents a wide spectrum of interests and viewpoints, and as such is an important sounding board for the BLM in gauging public opinion about the plan. Our recommendations have not in all aspects been the same as those of staff. We believe that staff, the Bureau, and the Department would do well to give great weight to the deliberations and recommendations of the Committee, which were made in public session with input by the interested public, and which bear the mark of that input.

If I or other members of the Committee can be of further assistance as the plan goes forward into its final draft stages, please feel free to contact any of us.

Sincerely,

Neil Havlik, PhD.
Chair