

Resource Advisory Council Meeting Minutes  
February 15, 2007  
Marriott Hotel, Bryce Conference Room  
Provo, Utah

RAC members in attendance: Carl Albrecht, Norm Carroll, Mike Jenkins, Ray Bloxham, Riley Cutler, Jerry Spangler, Gordon Topham, Drew Sitterud, Tom Clawson, Lynn Stevens, Manuel Morgan

RAC members not in attendance: Lowell Braxton, Ashley Korenblat, Fee Busby

BLM employees in attendance: Selma Sierra, Sherry Foot, Robin Fehlau, Suzanne Garcia, Russ von Koch, Maggie Wyatt, Jim Crisp, Roger Bankert, Wayne Ludington, Don Banks, Sarah Schlanger, Tom Christensen, Mary Wilson, Brian Quigley, Brad Collin

Others in attendance: Eileen Richmond, FS; David Ream, FS

Sherry - Welcome/Housekeeping Items/New Member Introduction and Election of Officers. Gordon Topham was elected (Motion made by Drew Sitterud /Riley Cutler seconded) RAC Chairperson with Fee Busby as Vice Chair (Motion made by Mike Jenkins/Drew Sitterud seconded).

Selma - What's Happening in Utah (6 Priorities)

**Land Use Plans** - Six of our plans are currently being updated. Many of the BLM's older land use management plans (LUPs) need updating to address the growth of outdoor recreational activities, the need for land tenure adjustments, new energy demands, and many other important issues familiar to those who live and work in Utah.

**Improve Health and Productivity of Public Lands (Healthy Lands Initiative)** - Represents a new concept for meeting emerging challenges in managing our natural resources. \$2 million was given to BLM Utah to begin implementing the Initiative. Our goals are: restoring watersheds; quality habitats; sustainable working farms and ranches; social-economic uses and opportunities; stabilize energy productions; and, increased water quality and quantity.

**Responsible Energy Development** - Ensure adequate NEPA analysis; continue working with industry; research and development of oil shale.

**Recreation** - Continue to work on how we approach the initiative of making sure we don't endanger the resources; work to enhance healthy lifestyles; connect children with nature; and expand our partnerships.

**BLM's Internal Organization** - (Managing for Excellence Initiative) - We are currently looking at BLM's organizational structure. Human Resources, Information Technology

(IT), and Operations functions will be centralized in Denver. We're moving to a 3-tier organization (proposals are due to WO in late summer)

**Grazing Permit Renewals** - Grazing permit renewal efforts are underway. We have a Congressional deadline of October 2009 to have all renewals completed.

Question was asked about the position of BLM Director in Washington DC. Jim Hughes will be acting director until the position is filled.

Question - Status on IBLA on Cultural Resources in Compliance with NEPA. An instruction memorandum will be issued on the process to follow.

Robin Fehlau and Eileen Richmond - Briefing on FLREA, Interagency Agreement, Data on current recreation sites both fee and non-fee, RAC to develop and adopt protocol for fee proposals - For the benefit of the new members, a condensed version of a powerpoint presentation, (which was given at last RAC meeting), on the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) was presented. (hard copy available upon request). Each RAC member was issued, in advance, a FREA Sourcebook which contains the FREA Act Summary, definitions, Forest Service REA Interim Implementation Guidelines, Recreation Fee Guidelines for the BLM, Interagency Agreement, Purpose of REA and Recreation RACs, FS/BLM step-by-step Review and Approval Process for Fee Proposals, BLM Recreation Site List and the FS Recreation Site List. RAC was asked to develop a protocol for fee proposals for the Utah Recreation RAC (which is currently the parent RAC). Copies of Arizona's draft protocol, guidelines, and schedules were given to RAC. RAC will review the proposals. Riley Cutler will be the "proposal coordinator" and Tom Clawson will draft Utah's protocol (based on AZ's draft). Tom asked for at least 3 weeks to prepare the document for issuance to the RAC (March 9).

Russ von Koch - Fee Proposal Presentation - (powerpoint presentation)

Moab FO recreation program overview - seeking to provide the facilities and management necessary to provide sustainable recreation opportunities to 2,000,000 annual visitors; 23 fee campgrounds and camping areas; 140 permits for commercial, organized group, and event uses; collected \$615,000 in recreation fees in FY 06 (\$258,000 from camping). Propose to charge fees at 5 new camping areas (includes a total of 34 individual sites and 6 group sites. 5 sites are planned in the future (at Lone Mesa). Current fees (\$5/vehicle for individual sites @ camping areas - since 2000 - \$5/site from inception in 1996-1999) and \$2/person for group sites & \$10 reservation fee (since inception in 1992). Proposed Fees (up to \$8 per vehicle for individual sites and up to \$2.50/person for group sites & \$15 reservation fee for group sites). Financial Summary - Expected facility development cost (inclusive of group shelters - \$119,000; Direct annual operations/maintenance - \$26,000; Projected annual revenue by second full year of operation - \$29,000.

Sarah Schlanger - Old Spanish National Historic Trail Planning - The Trail was added to the National Trails System in 2004. Conducted public scoping between Feb. and May 2006; now preparing plan alternatives. Goal is to have draft plan available for public

review by end of this year. Working now with interested parties to develop good plan alternatives that address issues raised in scoping. Full scoping report on line at [www.nm.blm.gov](http://www.nm.blm.gov), [www.nps.gov/olsp](http://www.nps.gov/olsp)

Sarah Schlanger - Native American Consultation - (Policy for consultation with Native American tribes) - Government-to-government relations with tribal governments: Heads of departments and agencies will: 1) will operate within a government-to-government relationship with recognized tribes; 2) consult openly and candidly prior to taking actions that affect recognized tribal governments; 3) assess the impact of Federal plans, projects, programs, and activities on trust resources, and consider tribal rights and concerns; 4) remove procedural impediments to working with tribal governments. How we consult: SDs ensure that tribal consultation responsibilities are met, that guidance, technical information, and procedures are developed as needed, and that contacts are maintained with other federal office at state and regional levels. FOMs initiate contact and consult with tribes. Tribal liaisons (staff for Washington, State Directors and FOMs) provide advice and recommendations regarding tribal traditional uses, practices, beliefs, and places of importance. We consult during development of LUPs, EIS, and plan amendments. We share draft plans with interested tribes. We invite potentially interested tribes to provide input on issues of concern, places of religious or traditional importance, and individuals who should also be contacted. When we consult: When we are considering land use actions which may impact or affect resources of tribal concern; impacts to cultural properties; solicit suggestions for resolution; share results of cultural resource inventories with tribes; during project planning on large or complex actions; when we have inadvertent discoveries of materials subject to NAGPRA; consult with tribes prior to intentionally excavating/removing items subject to NAGPRA. BLM to look at consistency of policies/guidelines.

Russ von Koch - Fee Increase for Existing Sites (added topic) - Handout upon request (23 pgs) - (Comparability Analysis for Potential Adjustment of Existing Expanded Amenity Fees for Use of Developed Camping Facilities)

Don Banks - Status on Grazing Permit Renewals - Number one priority for the BLM's range program. Utah BLM needs to fully process approximately 750 grazing permits by October 2009 to meet the Congressionally mandated timeframe. Grazing permits are the basic "contract" between BLM and livestock operators. 10-year permits (staggered) subject to renewal. In total, Utah BLM has 1518 permits on 1472 allotments spread over 22 million acres administered by 11 field offices. BLM, nationwide, has a backlog of expired but unprocessed grazing permits. Overcoming obstacles by: making sure it's a top priority; quarterly progress reports from the FOs; tweaking the NEPA process; direct indiscretionary funding to fill vacancies; we received special on-the-spot hiring authority (at the Reno Society for Range Management conference) to hire Rangeland Management Specialists. We'll be hiring 3 RMS to fill positions in Cedar City, Richfield, and Hanksville.

Public Comment Period - no comments

Next meeting date/location/topics - May 1, Field tour of Nine-Mile Canyon; May 2, business meeting (updates from Cornell Christensen, Richfield FOM, on Factory Butte; Nine-Mile Canyon National Register District; Fee proposal recommendations). Additional topics forthcoming.

Approved by:  
/s/ Gordon Topham

2/21/07

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Gordon Topham, RAC Chairperson

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Date