

**Bureau of Land Management
Boise District Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Meeting
April 5, 2017
BLM Boise District Office
3948 Development Avenue, Boise, Idaho 83705**

MEETING MINUTES

Boise District RAC Members Present

Eric Yensen Ph.D, Ric Raymondi, Tina Reay, Joe Merrick, Karen Steenhof, Donna Bennett, Michael Gibson, Bill Walsh, Art Talsma, and Charlie Lyons.

BLM Advisory/Staff Present

Lara Douglas, Aimee Betts, Tanya Thrift, Michelle Ryerson, Amanda Hoffman, Lance Okeson, Pete Torma, Cindy Fritz, Lonnie Huter, Mike Williamson, and Raul Trevino.

Introductions – Lara Douglas

- We do not have a quorum.
- Went around the room for introductions. This was Dr. Eric Yensen's first meeting.
- Explained how the day was going to go. After lunch will be the new member orientation.

Owyhee Field Office update – Michelle Ryerson, Owyhee Field Manager

- Discussing Soda Fuel Break decision issues.
 - 30-ish mile stretch of targeted grazing areas.
 - We are currently in an appeal period.
- Our Range program is fully staffed!
- There will be some late turnout this year because of the weather/wetness.
- We are in the Special Recreation season, SIDRA has a race, seems to be a race every weekend, booked into May with something.
- Talked about Jump Creek fatality, doing outreach with the county.
- Karen – have there been appeals on Soda fuels? Michelle – no, not yet.
- Art – Jump Creek fuels break already done on Oregon side. Michelle – That was regular road maintenance. Lara – they had more money. Art – good spot to see what happens.
- Karen – Where to see where on web for event happenings? Michelle – working with the State Office.
- Art – Seedings, how is it following up with the weather we've had. Michelle – let Pete talk about that later.
- Bill – What about turnout on Soda? Michelle – No spring turnout on Soda.
- Donna – Targeted grazing? Michelle & Lara – working on the grazing.

Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA) update – Amanda Hoffman, NCA Manager

- Busy season for student outreach. We're visiting schools about every day.

- NCA and Canyonlands East to start with.
- Had public meetings to gather data, received good feedback.
- 5,800 miles of routes.
- The NCA draft EA had lots of feedback.
- Working on updating the EA, decision to be this spring.
- Next units will be Canyonlands West and Grand View, about 1,300 miles.
- Last region to do will be Silver City, about 1,400 miles.
- Scoping period extended, field trip next week at Grand View.
- Will start EA, out for a decision next winter.
- 2018 winter for Silver City.
- Karen – Logistics of field trip? Tanya – All are welcome! Email to go out with info.

Fire and Fuels update – Lance Okeson, Boise District Fuels Program Coordinator

- Talked about where fuels is working and why we are there.
- Showed maps of project locations.
- Overview of new folks on staff.
- Most of our work is in the south District.
- Explained problem of fires in northern Great Basin. It is alarming to us how much fire it has had. Nevada is toast.
- Soda Fuel break map and explanation. To protect investments. Signed March 8, is in appeal.
- Explained fire triangle. Fuel is the only one we can control.
- Explained what fuel breaks are, showed pictures.
- Four things needed to have successful fuel breaks:
 - Landscape scale
 - Strategically placed
 - Timely
 - Economical/repeatable
- Tristate is to protect unburned area. Scoping is done not in alternative development.
- Soda breaks is just to protect the investments in the Soda rehab.
- Paradigm is being implemented.
- Bill – Soda and Murphy be maintained? Lance – Yes. We can only maintain on public lands. Key is to be across ownerships, which is challenging with landscape level projects. More people are wanting to participate. Bill – just want to make sure it is maintained.
- BOSH Project, explained background for new folks.
- EIS comments back and making some changes.
- Hope to have finished this summer for final public comment. Fall decision.
- Explained three phases of juniper encroachment. When does this start affect sage grouse.
- Treatment areas were based on led sites, 10 kilometers out.
- Project areas analyzed was 1.5 million acres, 800K meets phase 1.
- Will be mostly chainsaw work. In areas where it is thick, jackpot burning. We will be aggressive in treating slash.
- Karen – There are three alternatives? Lance – explained why we analyzed going into the wilderness. Not a lot of support for that wilderness alternative.
- Eric – Treatment mostly chainsaw work? Lance – Yes.
- Eric – What about the estimates for returning to treated areas? Lance – Depends on how much juniper is out there. Somewhere between 10-20 years if heavy. If light, maybe 20-30.

- Charlie – Kudos to Lance on the fuel breaks, but medusa head on roadsides.
- Cindy – Yes, the roads can be a vector. We have to be vigilant.
- Charlie – What are they doing to stunt growth along roads? Blading does not work.
- Art – counties have learned right way to grade the roads, more money. Can we use Plateau?
Lonnie – Yes.
- Charlie – Waiting on money, not efficient how the State Highway Department does it. Will talk to the State.
- Tate – We're working on something to address that issue.
- Donna – Weeds growing on Mud Flat road. Who takes care of that? Lonnie – Not sure. Summit Spring area? Not sure of jurisdiction.

General Public Comment Period

- No comments given.

Four Rivers Field Office update – Tate Fischer, Bruneau Field Manager

- Rescinded three grazing permit renewals due to ARMPA.
- Moving forward with eight allotment renewals.
- Bennet South renewal process:
 - Putting in more than just grazing
 - Looking at more fuels reduction
 - Forestry work
 - Addressing weed issues
- Idaho Heritage Trust grant for Canyon Creek stage stop along Oregon Trail. Working with Park Service.
- RAC involvement with the RMP process.
 - I will be soliciting for help as we reinitiate the process.
 - We took control back from the contractor to finish it in-house.
 - Finished crosswalk into Sage Grouse plan.
- Issues we're dealing with include:
 - Scattered land base.
 - Treasure valley population growth.
 - Development of energy and related infrastructure (solar, geothermal, getting bigger)
- Maybe have a subcommittee? We want RAC input!
- Donna – How many permittees? Tate – Put three out before, eight now. There are 378 allotments.
- Charlie – RMP grazing out for public comment? Tate – Yes.
- Tina – What about wild horses? Tate – Over capacity. Raul will speak to that.

Wild Horse & Burro update – Raul Trevino, Wild Horse & Burro Specialist

- We are waiting for drier weather so we can work on the corral's pens.
- 4-H Trail Course with Tina's group is on the calendar.
- Involved with Idaho Horse Expo.
- Mustang heritage Foundation is not coming to Nampa this year. They are having an event on July 1-2. They have made 38 trainer adoptions (13 youth, 25 adults).

Minutes certified by:

Karen Steenhof

Karen Steenhof
BDO RAC Chairman

11/17

Date

L. Douglas

Lara Douglas
Manager, BDO

11/17/18

Date