

**Bureau of Land Management – Wyoming
Resource Advisory Council**

**3/1/17
Wyoming State Office
Cheyenne, WY**

**RAC Coordinator: Brad Purdy
RAC Meeting Recorder: Corey Murzyn**

Name	City	Interest Represented	Term Expires	Present	Notes
John Corra	Cheyenne	Energy/Minerals		Y	
Christi Haswell	Sheridan	Environmental		N	
Penny Bellah	Buffalo	Energy/Minerals		Y	
Brenda Schladweiler	Gillette	Academician		Y	
Marilyn Mackey	Gillette	Federal Grazing		Y	
John Espy	Rawlins	Elected Officials		Y	
Lyle Konkol	Casper	Public-at-large		Y	
Jim Bolinger	Douglas	Energy/Mining		Y	
Julia Stuble	Lander	Environmental Organizations		N	

Name	Title	Office	Present
Stephanie Connolly	HP District Manager	High Plains District	Y
Tim Wakefield	HD District Manager	High Desert District	Y
Kim Liebhauser	WR/BB District Manager	Wind River/Big Horn Basin District	Y
Buddy Green	Acting Associate State Director	State Office	Y
Mary Jo Rugwell	State Director	State Office	Y
Brad Purdy	Public Affairs	State Office	Y
Mike Valle	Acting Deputy State Director	State Office	Y
Mike Abel	Branch Chief	State Office	Y
Duane Spencer	Deputy State Director	State Office	Y
Brian Davis	Deputy State Director	State Office	Y

**Agenda Item: Welcome
Presenter: Mary Jo Rugwell**

Opening Remarks

- A few RAC members are not present due to poor weather conditions throughout the state
- An opportunity for public comment will begin tomorrow at 8 a.m.
- The next meeting will most likely be in the Wind River/Big Horn Basin District

Agenda Item: DSD Report – Division of Minerals & Lands

Presenter: Mike Valle

- Due to the downturn in drilling, BLM WY has focused primarily on Inspection & Enforcement
- The June 2017 Oil & Gas sale will be held online, using EnergyNet for the auction
 - The February 2017 Oil & Gas sale made \$130 million
- Initiated a right-of-way bonding policy in April 2016 (the ROW needs to have a bond in place)
 - A comprehensive review of the policy will take place in April 2017
 - A great deal of pushback has come from the state
- Idle wells are being pursued in the High Plains District
 - Working with the oil & gas commission to plug idle wells
- Secretarial Order issued in January 2016 regarding the coal program
 - Now it's time to think about how we can reinvigorate the coal program

Agenda Item: DSD Report – Division of Resource Policy & Management

Presenter: Mike Abel

- Sage-grouse
 - New Hires:
 - Management Zone Lead – Erica Husse
 - State Mitigation Coordinator – Jenny Morton
 - State Geospatial Ecologist – Janelle Alleman
 - State Office Sage-grouse Biologist – Darren Long
 - Wildlife Biologist – Brad Yost
 - Economist – Jennifer Dabb
 - Lori Armstrong (Montrose, CO) overseas the Rocky Mountain Regional Sage-grouse division
 - National Sage-grouse Instruction Memoranda issued in September 2016
 - Expanded Leadership Team met in November 2016
 - Will provide EQ's to the field
 - 130 projects were submitted for 2017 (totaling \$14 million)
 - Wyoming has 82 projects totaling \$6.3 million
 - Wyoming is receiving 44% of the funding going to the Rocky Mountain Region and doing 63% of the projects in the region
- Planning 2.0
 - Issued in December 2016
 - Designed to get more public engagement
 - Currently under Congressional Review
 - Planning 2.0 does not affect any current projects
- Wild Horse & Burro Program
 - 16 management areas in WY
 - Population is estimated at 6,500 horses (WY is well-suited to care for 3,700 horses)
 - We have not had any gathers in the last few years
 - A gather is being planned between the BLM, University of Wyoming, and USGS to track 20 horses and collect data

- Solar Eclipse
 - We care about the implications of impacts from out-of-state visitors
 - Homeland Security meeting on Friday (3/3) that BLM WY staff will attend
 - Estimated 30,000-75,000 visitors expected
 - Trails Center
 - Marketing efforts will focus on working in partnership with the Casper Convention and Visitors Bureau to increase visitation and enhanced interstate signage
 - Coyote Derby Hunts
 - BLM has received thousands of emails and phone calls protesting coyote hunts due to the perception that the BLM failed to issue the hosts of the tournament a Special Recreation Permit
 - BLM will not issue permits for this type of “predator control”
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Agenda Item: High Desert District Update

Presenter: Tim Wakefield

- The Pinedale FO is preparing an Environmental Assessment
 - This is a pristine area
 - BLM is working with the state to find a way to protect the area properly
 - Normally Pressured Lance EIS
 - BLM is having issues with development vs. protection of wildlife
 - Riley Ridge Unit Development
 - The issue: the pipeline in question is a CO2 pipeline that crosses the Green River
 - It may be an option to run the pipeline under the Green River to stay above the ground water but below the river
 - Currently working with the tribes to formulate a plan
 - Chokecherry/Sierra Madre Wind Energy Project
 - Largest wind farm in the United States
 - Controversial because this may lead to needing less coal
 - The January 2017 ROD was referenced regarding eagle take permits
 - Wild Horses
 - The Rawlins and Lander Field Offices propose to gather wild horses, remove excess animals, treat mares with PZP fertility control vaccine, and remove horses that have moved outside the herd management areas
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Agenda Item: High Plains District Update

Presenter: Stephanie Connolly

- National Historic Trails Interpretive Center
 - Visitation up 57% in the first quarter since the fee moratorium
 - December visitation increased by 120%
 - Powder River Basin Restoration
 - PRBR put together “NE Wyoming Habitat Workshop” in Gillette
 - APDs
 - Most applications for permit to drill in BLM
 - Fire season has already started
 - Goshen County and Campbell County
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Agenda Item: Wind River/Big Horn Basin District Update

Presenter: Kim Liebhauser

- Moneta Divide EI Statement
 - Project is ongoing
 - The Wild Horse Ecosantuary holds a total of 127 unadoptable geldings
 - Bentonite Mining
 - Wyoming’s bentonite resources make up 70% of the world’s supply
 - The biggest concern with bentonite is the surrounding cultural areas
 - No fire issues (yet)
 - Well-prepared for this season, with new crews on board
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**Bureau of Land Management – Wyoming
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**3/2/17
Wyoming State Office
Cheyenne, WY**

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Christi Haswell	Sheridan	Environmental		N	
Penny Bellah	Buffalo	Energy/Minerals		Y	
Brenda Schladweiler	Gillette	Academician		Y	
Marilyn Mackey	Gillette	Federal Grazing		Y	
John Espy	Rawlins	Elected Officials		Y	
Lyle Konkol	Casper	Public-at-large		Y	
Jim Bolinger	Douglas	Energy/Minerals		Y	
Julia Stuble	Lander	Environmental Organizations		Y	Called In

RAC Facilitator: Brad Purdy

Name	Title	Office	Present
Stephanie Connolly	HP District Manager	High Plains District	Y
Tim Wakefield	HD District Manager	High Desert District	Y
Kim Liebhauser	WR/BB District Manager	Wind River/Big Horn Basin District	Y
Buddy Green	Acting Associate State Director	State Office	Y
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Duane Spencer	Deputy State Director	State Office	Y
Brian Davis	Deputy State Director	State Office	Y

Public Comments

- I propose a more open, transparent, and collaborative process for public involvement in BLM issues
- Presently, opportunities for citizens to be involved in projects on Public Lands are narrowly defined and limited mostly to providing input

–Dave Hohl, Pinedale (letter attached)

- Would love to see, in the absence of Planning 2.0, the planning meetings involve and represent the public
- The issues that are covered at these meetings should be made public, not kept secret
- Not as many documents are online, thru ePlanning, as they should be
- We want the BLM to manage Public Lands, and we want to protect our federal laws

–Wyoming Outdoor Council

Agenda Item: Nominate and select a new RAC Chair and Vice Chair

Presenter: Mary Jo Rugwell

- John Corra has been selected as the new RAC Chair
- Brenda Schladweiler has been selected as the new Vice Chair
- ✓ The minutes from the last meeting (3/9/2016) were accepted

*a teleconference for the Winter meeting might be an option in the future

Agenda Item: Introduce the new website

Presenter: Brad Purdy

- DRUPAL (the new website)
 - “Nowhere near complete”
 - We will be able to implement the next “social media craze” with the new website
 - Does not handle a large amount of data, which is why we utilize ePlanning
 - “Navigator” will be used for programs such as GIS
 - We still need to connect all systems
 - Each state has control over **Spotlight, Quick Facts, Popular Links, and Featured Topics**
 - Anyone within the WY Public Affairs Office can make website edits
 - Resource Advisory Council information is available online for Wyoming
 - Member information
 - Meeting agendas/minutes
 - Upcoming events

To have a successful website, we will need:

1. Buy-in from management
2. Training (internally) and Education (for the public)
3. Follow-thru with the data

- Communique (the old website)
 - A common problem with Communique was that we had a great deal of duplicate information, without having a unified message
 - The BLM was stuck with an outdated version of Communique due to the fact that new support was very expensive

Action Items for RAC members:

- Explore the website
- Provide Brad Purdy (Public Affairs) with comments/ideas for improvement

Agenda Item: Wyoming RAC Priorities (brain-storming session)

Facilitator: John Corra

1. Revisit the recommendation from Doug and Julia regarding transparency, public involvement, etc.
 - a. advice letter from Doug and Julia, IB WY-2015-007 issued by Wyoming
 - b. summarize what happened regarding advice and IB
2. Agency duplication on a landscape basis
 - a. Invasive species
3. The WY RAC in a role as a Regulatory Review Sounding Board for BLM Wyoming
4. WY RAC looking at state management of Public Lands
 - a. The RAC's role is to advise, not act as an advocacy group
5. Decide what the most effective venues are to best communicate and educate the public on BLM Wyoming's mission
 - a. Town Hall meetings to build rapport
 - b. RAC's ability to provide feedback to WLT concerning misinformation and concerns from local communities regarding BLM projects and programs
 - c. Social Media posts as an issue/outlet for misinformation
 - d. RAC'S role as educators for public land management
 - e. Determine the overall value of public lands and the activities that occur on public lands
6. Collaborative rangeland health monitoring/AIM
7. Wild Horse and Burro
 - a. Revisit advice letter sent by Wyoming RAC four years ago
8. Wyoming RAC review and recommendation concerning Wyoming Recreation Taskforce meeting and the taskforce's forthcoming recommendation to Gov. Mead
9. Continued support for WPLI from BLM SO, DO, FO to County Commissions and other local governments
10. The RAC's role regarding WLCI
 - a. Discover new funding and connect the public to WLCI for project submissions
 - b. Provide RAC members with a WLCI annual report
11. RAC advise where each of the RMP/ARMP implementation
 - a. Sage-grouse/sagebrush implementation of RMP/ARMP
 - b. Oil and gas leasing/other energy development resources
 - c. RMP implementation tables
 - i. Do they make sense?
 - ii. Are they helpful?
 - iii. Are they easy to find?
 - d. Public involvement/agency transparency

Agenda Item: Screen Priorities

Facilitator: John Corra

*Priorities 1-12 from brain-storming session listed above

Discussion on each priority from brain-storming session:

1. Brad Purdy will provide advice letter from Doug, along with IB
2. Not a priority
 - Others might already be working on this
3. Not a priority
 - We will not be formulating regulations at this level
4. Not a priority
 - Being an advocate is beyond the scope of the RAC
 - Move B & C to priority 6
5. PRIORITY
6. Not a priority
7. PRIORITY, but not a top priority
 - **Action item:** RAC revisits letter
 - Develop long-term solution recommendations for BLM regarding Wild Horse Management
 - BLM Wyoming will follow up with RAC following WLT meeting
8. Not a priority
 - Possibly come back to this at a later date
9. Not a priority
10. Not a priority
 - Review last annual report
11. PRIORITY

Action Item for WY912:

- ✓ Produce a WY-specific handout similar to [The BLM: A Sound Investment for America 2016](#)
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Agenda Item: Next Steps

Facilitator: John Corra

✓ **The Top 3 Priorities:**

1. Decide what the most effective venues are to best communicate and educate the public on BLM Wyoming's mission
 - a) Town Hall meetings to build rapport
 - b) RAC's ability to provide feedback to WLT concerning misinformation and concerns from local communities regarding BLM projects and programs
 - c) Social Media posts as an issue/outlet for misinformation
 - d) RAC'S role as educators for public land management
 - e) Determine the overall value of public lands and the activities that occur on public lands
 - f) ACTION ITEM
 - Review BLM website and provide feedback to Brad Purdy – bpurdy@blm.gov
 - Provide feedback to BLM Wyoming on community concerns
 - Julie will work with Tim on venue for community meeting
2. Wild Horse and Burro
 - a) Revisit advice letter sent by Wyoming RAC 4 years ago
 - b) BLM WY will follow up with RAC following WLT meeting
 - c) ACTION ITEM
 - None at this time
3. RAC advise BLM on RMP/ARMP implementation (**topic at next meeting**)
 - a) Sage-grouse/sagebrush implementation of RMP/ARMP
 - b) Oil and gas leasing/other energy development resources
 - c) RMP implementation tables
 - Do they make sense?
 - Are they helpful?
 - Are they easy to find?
 - d) Public involvement/agency transparency
 - e) ACTION ITEM
 - Develop agenda item for next meeting
 - Have panel present state, county, local input on Field Offices RMP Revisions (High Desert District & RSFO)
 - Review original RAC recommendation letter & IB WY-2015-007
 - Discuss at next RAC meeting
 - Provide feedback to BLM Wyoming on community concerns

Next Meeting: June 1-2 in Rock Springs, WY
