

DRAFT
BOISE DISTRICT RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL (RAC)
ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING
January 28, 2014 9:00 a.m. ~ 1:00 p.m.
Boise District Office
3948 Development Avenue, Boise, Idaho 83705

MEETING MINUTES

Boise District RAC Members Present:

Charles Lyons, Bill Walsh, Stacey Baczkowski, Tina Reay, Gene Gray, Karen Steenhof, Gayle Poorman, Sara Schmidt, Ted Howard, Richard Hall, Neil Rimbey, Alayne Blickle, Rick Raymondi, Steve Damele

Boise District RAC Member Absent:

Kathryn Alder

BLM Advisory Present:

James Fincher, Boise District Manager; Marsha Buchanan, Boise District RAC Coordinator

BLM Staff Present:

Michelle Ryerson, Tricia Roller, Tanya Thrift, Andy Delmas, Lance Okeson, Loretta Chandler, John Sullivan, Heather Feeney, Jim Stobaugh, MJ Byrne, Brent Ralston, Jessica Gardetto, Steve Leonard

Guests Present:

Dave Franzen, Dan Ogle, Rod Fisher, Ernie Brener, Robyn Thompson, Scott Flinders, Joe Merrick, Aaron English, Suzy Cavanaugh, Donna Bennett, John Chatburn, Scott Pugrud, Doug Dockter, Pat Barclay

Welcome:

Gene Gray opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. New RAC members Alayne Blickle, Rick Raymondi, and Steve Damele were recognized and introduced.

Approval of Minutes:

The Minutes from the April 25, 2013 were accepted by consensus.

Welcome:

Jim Fincher thanked the Gateway West Project Subcommittee for all of their hard work and welcomed the new RAC members.

Sara Schmidt requested the new members and any current members be given an orientation to the RAC and the District, including; NIFC, the seed warehouse, dispatch, and the corrals.

Gateway West Project:

Karen Steenhof updated the Council on the progress of the Gateway West Project RAC Subcommittee. The presentation and notes were taken by Tetra Tech staff present.

Karen noted that some progress has been made and the next Subcommittee meetings will be held on February 26, March 10, 18, 27, and April 2.

Neil Rimbey stated that the public input received has been critical. Sara Schmidt noted her appreciation that Jim Fincher called for the creation of the Subcommittee. Many present in the room thanked the Subcommittee members for all of their work.

A question about electromagnetic fields was raised by Ted Howard. Jim Fincher and Jim Stobaugh explained to those present that environmental risks and consequences will be addressed in the NEPA analysis conducted at a later date. Landowner contact letters will be sent to those within 2 miles of proposed project routes.

RAC members had a brief discussion about the mitigation and enhancement package. Details were not presented, the RAC expressed interest in learning more about the mitigation and enhancement details at a later time.

RAC Appointments and Term Expirations:

Marsha told the Council that public notice for the nomination of new RAC members will occur in the next few weeks. Anyone interested in becoming a RAC member must apply. Marsha will check current appointment terms and expirations. Marsha has sent an updated and corrected RAC membership list to all RAC members per members' requests.

Intermountain Range Consultants Paradigm Project:

Dan Ogle and Dave Franzen provided an update on the Paradigm Project. They plan to have management plans ready in a month. They continue to monitor 16 or 17 transects.

Jim Fincher briefly mentioned a prescriptive grazing pilot project. BLM will be working with the University of Idaho and the ARS to monitor "targeted grazing" on four to six pastures.

Paradigm Project:

Lance Okeson described the Paradigm Project for the benefit of the new members; outlining what the Paradigm is, the number of fire starts in the Paradigm area, and the need to solve issues within the Paradigm so more attention can be focused on area outside of the Paradigm.

The project includes installing and maintaining a series of fuel breaks aligned with main roads in the area. Lance stated the forage kochia has worked well as a break material in some areas, and disc lines are instant and effective. Lance did caution the group by stating that these fire breaks will not stop fires from occurring, but fires may be more easily contained controlled if these measures are adopted.

The group had a discussion about forage kochia and its use in fire breaks. The plant is high in protein and is well accepted by large game and cows. Karen Steenhof asked if data was

available / documented studying the dietary needs of squirrels. Tricia Roller has submitted a request for funding for a project to study dietary intake in varied rangeland seeding treatments including forage kochia.

Neil Rimbey reminded Council that the RAC has been involved with the Paradigm Project from the beginning. He would like the RAC to support the Environmental Analysis and the process.

Sara Schmidt asked if Kathi Kershaw had responded to a paper opposing the use of forage kochia. – (Marsha spoke with Kathi, a white paper is being written, but is not ready at this time.)

Charles Lyons asked if there was any progress in working with the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD). BLM staff are working with ITD staff on short term and long term solutions to prevent fires starting along Interstate 84.

Neil Rimbey motioned that the RAC provide a proclamation or a resolution in favor of the Paradigm Project Environmental Analysis. Tina Reay seconded the motion and all RAC members present agreed.

The RAC declares:

The Boise District Bureau of Land Management Resource Advisory Council

- *Supports the Paradigm Fuel Break, Grazing Demonstration, and Research Efforts*
- *We encourage BLM to continue their efforts to Break the Fire Cycle through (use of) all of the tools in the toolbox including a long term commitment to these projects and programs, monitoring efforts to determine effectiveness and others.*

Sage Grouse EIS Update:

Brent Ralston and Jessica Gardetto provided a brief update on the Sage-Grouse EIS. They reported good participation at public meetings. The RAC has asked about the level of interaction Paul Makela will have with local working groups. Marsha will follow-up with Paul.

Public Comment:

No members of the public provided comment.

Wild Horse and Burro Program:

Steve Leonard led a lunchtime discussion of the BLM Wild Horse and Burro (WH&B) Program. The BLM Washington, D.C. office is soliciting advice from BLM staff and members of the public concerning WH&B Program management.

The RAC briefly discussed a number of topics including the need to look at previous recommendations that have not been implemented. The group had a discussion of the benefits and success of the local partnership between the BLM WH&B Program and 4-H Horse Clubs.

The RAC will designate a Subcommittee to work with the local WH&B Program.

Next RAC Meeting: The next scheduled RAC meeting will be May 28, 2014. The time and

location have yet to be determined. One agenda item during the next RAC meeting will be reviewing Subcommittees and Subcommittee assignments.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Minutes certified by:

_____	_____	_____	_____
Gene Gray	Date	James Fincher	Date
BDO RAC Chairman		District Manager, BDO	