

**BOISE DISTRICT RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL (RAC)**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING**  
**April 25, 2013 9:00 a.m. ~ 2:00 p.m.**  
**Boise District Office**  
**3948 Development Avenue, Boise, Idaho 83705**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Boise District (BD) RAC Members Present:**

Donna Bennett, Stacey Baczkowski, Tina Reay, Gene Gray, Karen Steenhof, Gayle Poorman, Sara Schmidt, Ted Howard, Kathryn Alder, Richard Hall, Dr. Neil Rimbey

**BD Council Members Absent:**

Brenda Richards, Rick Just, Charles Lyons, Kathryn Alder, Bill Walsh

**BLM Advisory Present:**

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

**BLM Staff Present:**

Terry Humphrey, Four Rivers Field Office (FRFO) Manager; Andy Delmas, Fire Management Officer; Tricia Roller, NCA Manager, Loretta Chandler, Owyhee Field Office (OFO) Field Manager, Kurt Wiedenmann and Chris Robbins

**Welcome:**

Gene Gray opened the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

**Hot Topics:**

- Jim Fincher spoke about the Gateway West project public meetings have been scheduled. The FEIS will be released tomorrow.
- Chris Robbins spoke about District horse gathers, they have been cancelled in the Boise District in 2013. Donna and Karen noted the lack of forage and water in the HMAs.)
- The RFPAs (Rangeland Fire Protection Associations) were of great assistance during the 2012 fire season. This is a great of public private partnership.
- The BLM has continued talks with the ITD (Idaho Transportation Department) to be more aggressive in maintaining the gravel apron along I84 for fire prevention.
- The Owyhee Land Exchange may be delayed due to the current budget situation.

**Boise District Fire Program: Andy Delmas**

- The Paradigm EA is on track to be released as draft in June.
- Fire will be staffed full time as of June 9.
- Working with NRSS and Fish & Wildlife on Phase 1 of the juniper project in the Owyhees.
- Neil requested the RMP subgroup receive an update on the Paradigm EA prior to release, the RMP group will be briefed on the changes made. Gene will arrange the meeting.

**Idaho Standards and Guidelines: Kurt Wiedenmann**

- Kurt spoke about the history of the S&Gs including the 1992 blue ribbon panel and the 1994 EIS which determined states should set standards.
- In 1996 the RACs used an open process to arrive at the S&Gs. In 1997 the S&Gs were approved by the Secretary of Interior. Any amendments would have to be approved by the Secretary.
- The Owyhee County Commissioners have asked for a comprehensive review of the S&Gs.
- Any changes would still have to conform with the 4180 regulations.

**Rangeland Health Assessment: Chris Robbins**

- Chris spoke about the assessments of rangeland health and the BLM process for making that determination.
- SA RAC member asked why the Idaho State Office has determined there is no need to update the S&Gs. Kurt explained that as RMPs are revised and permits are renewed there is no indication of needed amendments. Chris pointed out the similarity of Regulations to the S&Gs. Richard asked about the practical impact of the County Commissioners request.
- Other RAC members asked if drought was a factor in the assessments. Chris replied that people must manage for drought, and while drought is considered it is only one part of the decision.

**Bruneau Field Office: Arnie Pike**

- Jim Fincher recognized Arnie for his length of service and announced Arnie's retirement.

**Owyhee County Commissioners: Jim Desmond (for Ted Gibson)**

- The Owyhee County Commissioners believe the BLM should re-examine the S&Gs.
- Jim Desmond noted the 47% reduction of AUMs in Owyhee County.
- RAC members asked if other counties are expressing concern.
- Kurt mentioned that statewide, since 2011, 44 allotments have met the S&Gs.

A draft letter was presented to the RAC to be sent to the Owyhee County Commissioners. The RAC decided to correspond with the other Idaho RACs prior to sending a letter.

Joey Milan, Jennifer Forbey and Kathi Kershaw each gave presentations related to bio-control of vegetation, sage-grouse and their preferred forage, and seeding options. Donna spoke about the Paradigm Project.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Minutes certified by:

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Gene Gray  
BDO RAC Chairman

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Date

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James Fincher  
District Manager, BDO

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Date