

# BLM Resource Advisory Council

## Final Minutes

April 23-24, 2013

Challis, ID

In attendance: Mickey Ross Kelly and Maureen Ross Kelly (Members of Public); RAC Members, BLM and FS Staff: Aaron Swift, Ross Goddard, Kevin Poor, Gary Vecellio, Todd Kuck, Joe Kraayenbrink, Linda Price, Dave Pacioretty, Ben Roundtree, Ken Gardner, Monica Zimmerman, Brent Porter, Joanna Wilson, Trish Callaghan, Louise Stark, Babette Thorpe, Karen Rice, Sarah Wheeler, Jeremy Casterson, Dana Olson, Marianne Little, John Jakovac, Chad Colter.

### Round Robin Discussion

Gary Vecellio welcomed everyone to the RAC meeting and thanked everyone for travelling to Challis, ID. Roundtable introductions were made by all in attendance and Sarah Wheeler reminded all RAC members to keep motel receipts for per diem reimbursement.

### Public Comments

Mickey Roskelley is concerned that his grazing allotment would be affected by the potential land exchange between BLM and Thompson Creek Mine (TCM). Mr. Roskelley seemed to oppose the land exchange because of the grazing area he would lose on his Squaw Creek and Thompson Creek allotments due to the swap. Mr. Roskelley believes that approximately 300 head of cattle would have to be moved to others areas due to the potential loss of 30 AUM's.

Maureen Roskelley stated that she would like the BLM to have more public outreach notice of BLM RAC meetings.

### [Monica Zimmerman – BLM Upper Snake Field Office – Recreation Planner – Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act \(REA\) Summary](#)

- The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) enables federal agencies to charge the public for recreation sites. REA was signed into law by President Bush in 2004. New legislation is being discussed in Washington DC since expiration of REA is upcoming. REA benefits local field offices and dollars collected at recreation sites comes back to the field offices which in turn is spent on upgrading or maintaining recreation sites. The RAC's role includes voting on recreation site fee proposals and Gary Vecellio reminded RAC members that a vote will be upcoming for Birch Creek BLM recreation site. The Forest Service uses the BLM RAC to vote on their recreation sites as well. Louise Stark commented that REA generates about 80%-90% of user

fees and those dollars stay “at home” and that the 3% outfitter fee is used for seasonal employees, and maintenance of recreation sites.

#### [Kevin Poor – Curlew/Deep Creek Travel Management Plan subcommittee update](#)

- The subcommittee is working on 5 alternatives for the Travel Management Plan (TMP). The timeline for the TMP is for a draft to be out by the third week of May 2013 then the document will go to public comment for 30 days and after public comment a final decision will be made by the BLM. Kevin Poor stated the biggest issues have been how to deal with public land with private access roads as well as critical sage grouse habitat. Louise Stark asked if there was a preferred alternative and Dave Pacioretty explained that the group is mostly considering alternative E. The subcommittee plans to stay intact until the TMP goes to public comment.

#### [Brent Porter – Caribou/Targhee National Forest – Al Taylor Cabin Fee](#)

Dave Pennock and Matt Woodard joined by telephone for the vote on the Caribou/Targhee National Forest cabin fee proposal.

- Forest Service is proposing a \$35 per night cabin rental fee for the Al Taylor cabin located on the Dubois Ranger District. The fee has been discussed with the public through the public comment process and federal register. The cabin would be available to rent year round and FS would like to start charging when a vault toilet is installed in the Fall of 2013. The cabin will be available on the national reservation system. Expectation of occupancy is approximately 30%. Dave Pennock had concern that the price may be too low to keep up maintenance. Chad Colter had concern that fees for tribal members may not be appropriate based upon treaty rights. Joanna Wilson stated she would talk with Brent Larsen Dubois District Ranger and address Chad’s concerns.
- Dave Pennock made a motion that the Forest Service rent the Al Taylor Cabin for \$35 per night. The motion was seconded by Dana Olson and the fee was unanimously approved by the RAC.

#### [Trish Callaghan – Salmon/Challis National Forest – 4 rivers lottery system](#)

- The Forest Service is proposing a weighted lottery system for the Middle Fork and Main Salmon Rivers, Selway and Hells Canyon. A survey was distributed to the public with a 7% return of the survey. Due to cost and information gathering district rangers are still trying to make their decision on the weighted lottery system.

#### [Ken Gardner – BLM Geologist – Broken Wing Ranch/Land Exchange Overview](#)

- Thompson Creek Mining Company (TCMC) is proposing a land exchange with BLM for the Broken Wing Ranch. The mine would like to use the BLM land to mine phase 8 of the mine process. The scope of the land exchange would be approximately 5,000 acres of federal land for approximately 900 acres of private land of the Broken Wing Ranch on the Salmon River, which would open up 20,000 acres of additional recreation opportunities in the Lyon Creek drainage as well as more access to the Salmon River. If BLM acquires the ranch it would remain a working

ranch with the houses on the two properties turned over to Custer county. Chad Colter stated he is concerned that public access keeps getting pushed back further from the river since the original plan in 2009. BLM stated that nothing is final yet and all access issues will be addressed. Ken Gardner stated that the EIS is in the final phases and a draft is due in August 2013 with a Record of Decision (ROD) to come one year following.

#### [Broken Wing Ranch Tour](#)

The group travelled to the Broken Wing Ranch for a tour of the property. A discussion took place on management issues with a working ranch and access issues for the public. Chad Colter advised the BLM that subcommittee be formed for the possible land exchange and final EIS phase. This would be a new subcommittee subsequent to the one prior which made recommendations for management of the new property should the land trade occur.

[April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013](#)

#### [Curlew/Deep Creek TMP subcommittee](#)

The group convened at 8:00am to discuss the five alternatives that have been derived. More information on the alternatives can be obtained by contacting the Pocatello BLM field office.

Joe Kraayenbrink gave a brief overview on the GATEWAY transmission line and stated the final EIS is complete.

Peggy Reddick briefed the RAC on the Roskelley Squaw Creek and Thompson Creek grazing allotment issues. Mrs. Reddick believes that no AUM's will be lost to the Roskelley allotment if the land exchange occurred. Ross Goddard volunteered to look further into the grazing issue with the Roskelley's Squaw Creek and Thompson Creek allotments.

#### [Thompson Creek Mine Tour](#)

The group travelled to Thompson Creek Mine for a tour of the facility. The group was welcomed to the mine by general manager Kent Watson. A tour followed by visiting an overview of the open pit operation, waste rock dump sites and tailings impoundment. The group concluded the tour and departed back to Challis.

#### [Future Meetings](#)

August 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, Pocatello, ID – Possible topics include: Pocatello TMP, Blackfoot River land exchange, GATEWAY Transmission.