

**Bureau of Land Management – Arizona
Resource Advisory Council Meeting
November 30 – December 1, 2020**

Meeting hosted virtually over the Zoom platform

RAC Members:

Name	Residence	Interest Represented	Term Expires	Present
Bill Brake	Scottsdale	Grazing	01/2020	Y
Geoff Chain	Prescott	OHV	09/2023	Y
J.C. Sanders	Bouse	OHV/Developed Recreation	09/2023	Y
Krishna Parameswaran	Scottsdale	Energy/Minerals	09/2021	Y
Michael Bogan	Tucson	Academia	09/2023	Y
Richard Lunt	Duncan	Local Area/Elected Official	05/2023	Y
Brian DeGanahl	Hillside	Grazing	05/2023	Y
R.J. Cardin	Cave Creek	Environmental	05/2023	Y
Sharma Torrens	Tempe	Archeology and Cultural Resources	09/2023	Y
Michael Dawson	Tucson	Environmental	09/2021	Y
Gary Watson	Kingman	Local Area/Elected Official	09/2021	Y
Holly Jaleski	Flagstaff	Public-At-Large	09/2021	N
Jim deVos (non-voting)	Phoenix	Arizona Game and Fish Department	N/A	Y

BLM Staff:

Name	Title	Office	Present
Raymond Suazo	Arizona State Director	Arizona State Office	Y
Karen Kelleher	Arizona State Associate Director	Arizona State Office	Y
Amber Cargile	Acting Deputy State Director, Business & Support Services	Arizona State Office	Y
Jerry Davis	Deputy State Director, Resources & Planning	Arizona State Office	Y
Elena Fink	Deputy State Director, Lands, Minerals & Energy	Arizona State Office	Y
Rem Hawes	Acting Deputy State Director, Communications	Arizona State Office	Y
Julie Valentine	Senior Advisor	Arizona State Office	Y
Lorraine Christian	Resource Advisor	Arizona State Office	Y
Michael Herder	District Manager	Arizona Strip District	Y
Leon Thomas	District Manager	Phoenix District	Y
William Mack	District Manager	Colorado River District	Y
Scott Feldhausen	District Manager	Gila District	Y
Dolores Garcia	Public Affairs Specialist	Arizona State Office	Y
Kelly Magdaleno	Recording Secretary	Arizona State Office	Y

Public in Attendance: *See the attached sign-in sheet.*

Cyndi Tuell – AZ/NM Director, Western Watersheds Project

David McIntyre – Applied Environmental Consulting Firm

Devin Heaps – Water Resources and Tribal Advisor, Colorado River Indian Tribe

Tricia Gerrodette – Member of the Public

Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item: RAC Business Meeting Called to Order/Introductions

Presenter: Bill Brake, Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Chair

- Meeting called to order at 8:30 A.M. on Monday November 30, 2020.
- Welcomed RAC members and others to the meeting and introduced Roxanne Baca with the Department of the Interior (DOI) Ethics Office.

Agenda Item: Resource Advisory Council Ethics

Presenter: Roxanne Baca, DOI Solicitor and Sarah Sims, BLM Solicitor

- Presented an overview of BLM ethics regulations.
- Hosted a short question and answer session and clarified when recusal due to conflicts of interest is necessary.

Agenda Item: Welcome and Introductions

Presenter: Bill Brake, Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Chair

- Welcomed new and returning RAC members and hosted a brief self-introduction session for RAC members and BLM staff present.
- Recognized the BLM Arizona team for their outstanding work with the public. Reminded members the duty of the RAC is to advise Ray and be respectful to each other during discussions.

Agenda Topic: BLM Overview (101) (See *BLM 101 Presentation*)

Presenter: Amber Cargile, Acting Deputy State Director, Business and Support Services

- Welcomed new and returning RAC members and presented a brief history of the BLM, the current mission statement, and a breakdown of the lands managed by BLM Arizona.

Agenda Topic: RAC Orientation (See *RAC Orientation Dec 2020*)

Presenter: Amber Cargile, Acting Deputy State Director, Business and Support Services

- Presented a brief orientation to members regarding the BLM Arizona RAC, including history, roles and responsibilities, expectations, and ethics.

RAC Member Comment: RAC member Brian DeGanahl inquired about the 12.5% Grazing Fee, specifically asking where the funds are allotted to.

Arizona State Director Response: A breakdown of funds allocation can be prepared and shared at a later RAC meeting.

RAC Member Comment: RAC Member Gary Watson thanked members of the committee and staff for their dedication and friendship during his time serving the RAC.

-- Lunch Break 11:45 --

Agenda Topic: BLM 2020 Updates

This session will provide RAC members with an overview of Secretary's Orders, key Department Directives, and the Department of the Interior priorities as well as information on landmark legislation such as America's Great Outdoors Act and the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Presenter: Karen Kelleher, Associate State Director

- Reviewed recent Secretarial Orders and updated members on the BLM's compliance and recent accomplishments regarding the following:
 - SO 3355 NEPA Streamlining
 - SO 3356 Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation
 - SO 3347 Advancing Conservation Stewardship and Increasing Outdoor Recreation Opportunities
 - EO 13443 Increased Recreation Opportunities
 - SO 3362 Habitat Quality in Western Big Game Rangelands
 - SO 3366 Increasing Recreational Opportunities
 - SO 3372 Reducing Wildfire Risks
 - SO 3373 Public Access
 - SO 3374 Dingell Act
 - SO 3376 E-bikes
 - SO 3383 Great American Outdoors Act
 - SO 3388 Land and Water Conservation Fund

RAC Member Comment: Mike Dawson inquired as to how BLM Arizona has handled the public outreach and comment component of recent Environmental Impact Studies (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) completed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Arizona Associate State Director Response: Advised members the BLM Arizona team has adopted multiple virtual models such as Zoom and Facebook Live to host remote meetings with the public. Offered District Managers to come forward with their experiences.

Phoenix District Office Manager Response: Zoom virtual conferences were used successfully to host meetings for public comment and the feedback was positive. Members of the public requested the continued use of the virtual format as a supplement to in person meetings in the future.

RAC Member Comment: Mike Dawson asked Mr. Thomas, what his opinion of the participation was, as a result of using Zoom and other virtual platforms.

Phoenix District Office Manager Response: Noted increased engagement and more thoughtful commentary from the general public.

RAC Member Comment: Brian DeGanahl commented on the backlog of EAs and permit renewals and hopes to hear a plan to address the timeline for their completion.

Deputy State Director, Resources and Planning Response: Noted one of the ways BLM Arizona is attempting to address the issue is by looking at the backlog on a watershed level and will approach the permit renewals by working to complete the paperwork before it is due. This will be a more efficient use of labor and allow us to catch up while making headway on current projects.

RAC Member Comment: Mike Dawson inquired about SO 3388 Land and Water Conservation Fund, and if any further guidance for implementation had been passed down.

Arizona Associate State Director Response: Relayed BLM Headquarters does typically pass down guidance to implement Secretarial Orders, however this one is so recent no additional guidance has been given yet.

Question Submitted through Zoom Chat function: What is recreational shooting?

Arizona Associate State Director Response: Recreational shooting refers to target shooting. BLM has developed plans for five developed shooting areas, with berms to capture spent lead, and increased safety to the public land users. Leon Thomas will cover more on this topic tomorrow.

RAC Member Comment: Richard Lund commented on the growing spread of invasive noxious weeds along highway corridors and in waterways and their effects on wildfires. He would like to know if the BLM plans to work with other agencies in the future to manage those plants.

Colorado River District Manager Response: BLM Arizona participates in initiatives involving local county and state governments and their weed treatment programs each year. A special certificate is required to perform the weed treatments, we work with state and county agencies to treat areas on BLM lands.

RAC Chair Comment: Noted the Arizona fire season has extended beyond what is typically seen starting in April through the monsoon season. The county usually mows a small strip near the highway corridors, typically 5' wide, and they will cut that strip 10-15' wide near houses – but it seems they are not widening the strip they mow near the BLM lands. Requested clarification if there were interagency efforts, or funds for such efforts as many constituents worry about preemptive maintenance, as widening those strips of mowed weeds would improve fire risks.

Arizona Associate State Director Response: In some areas of BLM such as Southern Idaho, Northern Nevada, and Western Oregon, they do incorporate larger field breaks in EISs like you are describing. BLM also partners with ranchers in those areas to look into the efficacy of utilizing livestock to implement fuel breaks in those areas and near roads, with moderate success. If there is further interest in these topics, we can investigate preparing a presentation to highlight our current work in future RAC meetings.

Public Affairs Specialist, Arizona State Office Response: Due to my work in the past as a Fire Mitigation Specialist I can confirm BLM has had assistance agreements with multiple counties across the state to assist with mowing in critical areas. That assistance agreement is currently inactive, but it has been discussed in recent coordination calls and meetings with agencies such as highway and county officials.

RAC Chair Comment: This should be investigated further; it is possible the tools are already in place and we are simply not using them.

Arizona State Director Response: In addition to our unprecedented fire season (early February through November), we collaborated with other agencies and the Governor's office to discuss prevention and mitigation efforts. We established a subgroup to consider the pandemic effects on wildland fire and mitigation, as well as increased messaging to "recreate responsibly" as we had elevated public land use during this year. We are actively assessing and coordinating to ensure we continue our collaborative efforts to tackle these issues.

Arizona Associate State Director Response: BLM does have an emergency fund for stabilization and burn area rehabilitation that we are able to tap into after these fires. There have been several projects completed this year that utilized that funding as well.

RAC Member Comment: Krishna Paremewaran, sought information regarding commonalities seen between fire activity in California versus Arizona, especially the similarities in the amount of human-caused versus natural-caused fires, and are there differences in mitigation measures taken.

Arizona Associate State Director Response: Kelly Castillo, Arizona Fire Management Officer will present tomorrow and include facts and figures regarding number of acres burned and their causes. This year, there have been more human-caused fires than natural occurring and more acres burned than previous years, almost a million acres in Arizona, which is almost double our previous two years combined.

Public Affairs Specialist, Arizona State Office Response: Those facts and figures are available in the written report provided to the RAC by Kelly Castillo. One of the tools that we use are fire restrictions, which can prevent some of the most common causes for fires on public lands such as abandoned campfires, recreational target shooting, and outdoor work with tools that can cause sparks. We implemented restrictions earlier on this year, and several agencies remain under those same restrictions late into November.

Gila District Office District Manager Response: Acknowledged this extremely long fire year was a challenge, and the COVID-19 pandemic added an additional layer of difficulty. There was assistance from BLM Headquarters and the fire community to develop these policies as needed.

RAC Chair Comment: Extended gratitude for BLM executive and management efforts to keep our front-line wildland fire responders safe, as they protect communities like his during fire season.

RAC Member Comment: Gary Watson relayed that Mohave County had tremendous road building and maintenance capacity but were lacking wildland fire certified personnel. Our county road departments should have at least 3-4 personnel who are wildland fire certified, it would help that process.

Arizona Associate State Director Response: Access is a big issue, the faster we can access these fires, the easier it is to put them out when they are small.

Public Affairs Specialist, Arizona State Office Response: Reported each of our districts' fire personnel work closely with county officials to help with that training, if you see a need let us know and we can get folks out to you for training.

Agenda Topic: Public Comment Period (2:15pm – 2:45pm)

This comment period will provide the public an opportunity to provide input to the RAC (on any BLM-relevant topic) for the meeting record.

Presenter: Bill Brake, Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Chair

- Welcomed members of the public to address the RAC.

Public Comment: Tricia Gerrodette introduced herself as a member of the public currently living in Sierra Vista, Cochise County, Arizona. Ms. Gerrodette reported being pleased to hear BLM Arizona Wildland Fire resources are working with the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management for fire coordination. She recommends the continuance of the use of the Zoom platform to host public meetings. She reported that it is easier for her to participate without the need to drive long distances and it increases public involvement.

Tricia requested clarification of the phrase, “sustainable recovery of damaged lands”, asking if these efforts are undertaken under the Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) plan, and is an Environmental Assessment (EA) required for the IVM if it is completed like the watersheds. Reported there were a number of projects in the Hereford Natural Resource Conservation District that involve doing some things over again, the time frame between the treatments is 5-10 years, questioning the usefulness or effectiveness of these treatments.

RAC Chair Comment: Expressed gratitude for the comments. Recommends Scott Feldhausen arrange a meeting with Tricia Gerrodette and himself to discuss this topic further. Mr. Brake welcomed Ms. Cyndi Tuell to share her comments.

Public Comment: Ms. Tuell expressed gratitude for the ability to attend the meeting in the virtual Zoom format and relayed her willingness to continue the use of virtual platforms in the addition to in-person meetings in the future.

Ms. Tuell asked if BLM Arizona was working with other agencies to determine the impact of the wildland fires on BLM lands and the impacts to the Sonoran Desert Tortoise, and whether general population surveys were planned. Ms. Tuell also expressed concern regarding the land health evaluations and grazing allotment renewals happening on the watershed scale. Western

Watersheds Project has asked to be involved in future grazing allotment reauthorizations and land health evaluations.

RAC Chair Comment: Expressed gratitude for Ms. Tuell's comments and requested she direct her specific questions in an email to BLM.

RAC Member Comment: Michael Bogan inquired as to what this upcoming year will look like while the RAC has a quorum as far as meeting schedules and work to be done.

Arizona State Director Response: Relayed to members there is a quorum now and anticipate the next meeting to take place within the next quarter. It has been over a year since the RAC met last and we have new members needing this orientation session, and there are nominations for the fiscal year 2021 but we anticipate at least three meetings this year.

Public Affairs Specialist, Arizona State Office Response: Reminded RAC members that included in their information packet is a detailed listing of the RAC working groups that have been established historically. The DM/DSD report is also included in that packet and that report will provide background information on many projects BLM is working on currently.

Wrap-up:

Bill Brake thanked RAC members and BLM staff and encouraged review of the report included in the resources packet ahead of the planned briefings scheduled tomorrow.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Agenda Topic: RAC Business Meeting Called to Order

Presenter: Dolores Garcia, Public Affairs Specialist, Arizona State Office

- Meeting called to order at 8:30 A.M. on Tuesday December 1, 2020.
- Introduced Jim DeVos, Representative for the Governor's Office.
- Welcomed Ray Suazo to offer opening remarks.

Agenda Topic: State Director's Opening Remarks

Presenter: Raymond Suazo, BLM Arizona State Director/Designated Federal Official

- Welcomed members, new and existing, to the BLM Arizona Resource Advisory Council; relayed his personal gratitude for their cooperative efforts and advisement and reiterated that the RAC is a cornerstone to the BLM Arizona public land management approach.
- Thanked Bill Brake for his steadfast commitment to public lands. Relayed gratitude to Gary Watson and JC Sanders as incredibly active and valued members of the council.

- Confirmed the Bureau’s interest in hearing broad perspectives regarding public land management from stakeholders and RAC members.
- Reminded members that if there are absences in categories two and three a quorum would not be achieved, a poll will be sent out ahead of time, please do use those to help guide us in scheduling.
- Notified members that Jerry Davis had been selected as Deputy State Director of Resources and Planning. Gera Ashton has taken a position at BLM Headquarters and Amber Cargile is acting Deputy State Director of Business and Support Services with Rem Hawes acting as the Deputy State Director of Communications.
- Informed members that this very challenging year was ultimately a success due to the hard work and dedication of BLM staff. With an extended fire season and the COVID-19 pandemic, this year has seen many unprecedented challenges; BLM leadership is very appreciative of the hard-working individuals on our team.
- Outlined the new streamlined process for Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) having a one-year timeline and Environmental Assessments now having a six-month timeline.
- Discussed completion of the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA) Resource Management Plan (RMP).
- Appraised members the Ten West transmission line Right-of-Way (ROW) was granted.
- “The John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act” of 2019 (Public Law 116-9).
 - Section 1004 – Udall Park Land Exchange
 - Section 1007 – Pascua Yaqui Tribe Land Conveyance
 - Section 1008 – La Paz County Land Conveyance
 - Section 1015 – Black Mountain Range and Bullhead City Land Exchange
 - Section 1017 – Embry-Riddle Tri-City Land Exchange
- Noted the following major land withdrawal exchanges:
 - Lake Roosevelt
 - San Francisco Peaks
 - Barry M. Goldwater Range
- Noted the following land acquisitions:
 - Cross Y Ranch
 - Coyote Mountains
- Advised members the COVID-19 Pandemic has been highly impactful requiring shifts in procedure, establishing protocols for wildland firefighter safety as well as field and physical office employees’ safety, BLM Arizona remains in a maximum telework situation with minimal staff in office. Reaffirmed BLM’s commitment to the public and encouraged members to reach out if stakeholders had trouble making contact and participating virtually.
- Noted the historic fire season experienced here in Arizona, it was unprecedented in length and scope. The pandemic added an additional complication, however the State Fire Management Officer, Kelly Castillo, worked tirelessly with BLM Arizona leadership as well as local government and health officials to establish protocols for employee safety.

- Notified members with the election certification BLM Headquarters will begin work with transition officials from President-Elect Biden’s team, and BLM Arizona will implement any orders and comply with any information requests from the incoming administration.
- Closed by thanking RAC members for their diverse perspectives and input, noting the mandates to conserve and protect natural resources, and stating appreciation for the teamwork exhibited to research and provide input regarding our management of public lands.

RAC Member Comment: Sharma Torrens commended Ray and his staff at BLM Arizona for their commitment to putting a timeline together for the RAC this year.

Arizona State Director Response: Thanked Ms. Torrens for her comments and relayed his gratitude to work with her in her second term.

RAC Chair Comment: Informed members that if they have a topic they would like to bring up for discussion, the procedure in the past has been to notify the Chair at least 60 days before the RAC meeting.

Arizona State Director Response: Noted that during the pre-RAC meeting the RAC Chair will bring topics for discussion and the BLM leadership notes if the issue can be resolved by working with a District or Field Manager, or if the issue requires consultation by the Council.

RAC Chair Comment: Informed members that Jim DeVos, is soon retiring and personally extended his thanks to Jim for the work they have done together, and the amount of knowledge and experience he has contributed.

RAC Member Comment: Mr. DeVos noted he has thoroughly enjoyed participating in the RAC and will miss the professional relationships he has developed with Ray and other BLM staff.

Agenda Topic: District Updates

The BLM Arizona District Managers will provide brief updates on the work their districts are accomplishing on the ground to advance the Secretary’s Orders, Department of Interior priorities, and improve customer service in Arizona.

Presenters: Michael Herder - Arizona Strip District, William Mack - Colorado River District, Leon Thomas - Phoenix District, Scott Feldhausen - Gila District

- Michael Herder, District Manager for Arizona Strip District presented the following accomplishment highlights to RAC members:
 - Integrated Vegetation Management
 - Lake Powell Pipeline (LPP) Project
 - Virgin River Canyon Recreation Area – Virgin River Campground
 - Vermilion Cliffs National Monument

RAC Member Comment: Jim DeVos asked if he could be provided with a short summary of the issues that led BLM to amend the RMP for the Pipeline.

District Manager, Arizona Strip District Comment: The Resource Management Plan identifies an Area of Critical Environmental Concern, and the management prescriptions that define how this ACEC should be managed, refer specifically to ROW's and how they can and cannot be managed. Options are being explored regarding the utility corridor to minimize that overlap.

RAC Chair Comment: Inquired about the upcoming Wave decision and how the permit process would work.

District Manager, Arizona Strip District Comment: The decision has not been released yet but will focus on the numbers and not necessarily the method of delivery. There will be 10 permits per day available on the online system, recreation.gov and 10 permits available during a walk-in lottery.

RAC Chair Comment: Thanked Mr. Herder for his time and requested a copy of the decision once released. Welcomed William Mack, District Manager for Colorado River District to present.

- William Mack, District Manager for Colorado River District presented the following accomplishment highlights to RAC members:
 - Law Enforcement (Public Safety)
 - Fire Management Program (Public Safety, Ecological Function)
 - Black Mountain Herd Management Area Wild Burro Gather Environmental Assessment (Sustainability)
 - Dingell Act, Sec. 1015 Black Mountain Range and Bullhead City Land Exchange
 - Fisheries Program
 - Recreation Program
 - Realty - Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP)
 - Ten West Link Transmission Line
 - Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Withdrawal
 - Fee Amenity and Long-Term Visitor Areas (LTVAs) Business Plan Update
 - Dingell Act, Sec. 1008 La Paz County Land Conveyance

RAC Member Comment: Brian DeGanahl inquired if the Black Mountain gather was halfway done, after the initial gather.

District Manager, Colorado River District Response: The initial phase is half done, the way it was approached in the EA was an initial gather of 1000, and to date roughly half that have been gathered. Funding was secured for FY22; but BLM Arizona chose not to wait and performed the initial phase of the gather with our staff and resources.

RAC Member Comment: Brian DeGanahl inquired if the EA is intended to gather only 1000, or eventually a larger number than that.

District Manager, Colorado River District Response: The EA is designed to achieve the goal identified population number of 478. Our plan is to gather the initial 1000, and perform additional counts, if more gathers need to be conducted this EA does allow for that.

RAC Member Comment: Brian DeGanahl thanked Mr. Mack for his clarification that the EA is tied to the identified population number.

RAC Member Comment: Krishna Parameswaran asked about the La Paz conveyance land being used for solar energy, inquired if Mr. Mack was aware what types of solar projects were planned.

District Manager, Colorado River District Response: We do not have the specifics of that, La Paz County simply identified solar energy projects as their desired intent for the land use. Once the land is conveyed to them, it is theirs to do what they would like to.

RAC Chair Comment: Reported that a stakeholder in the Lake Havasu area had inquired with him about the issue of pop-up bars, where someone will pitch a tent and set up an impromptu unregulated bar, sometimes with live music, then leave that location. Inquired if Mr. Mack was aware of these issues or had any comments on that issue.

District Manager, Colorado River District Response: Thanked the Chairman for raising that issue. Many times, the people who host these pop-up bars are on public lands, but most often we find they are on state, or wildlife refuge, or private lands. Informed members that reports are followed up on, but it is difficult to track this activity in remote areas.

- Leon Thomas, District Manager for Phoenix District presented the following accomplishment highlights to RAC members:
 - Recreational Shooting Sports Project
 - Miller Road Cleanup

RAC Member Comment: Sharma Torrens inquired about BLM efforts to manage for damage to natural resources such as cacti at these recreational shooting facilities.

District Manager, Phoenix District Response: Developed shooting sites have safety measures in place to ensure damage to natural resources is lessened. There are Supplemental Rules and Recreation Regulations in place that will allow park rangers and law enforcement to enforce these rules.

- Scott Feldhausen, District Manager for Gila District presented the following accomplishment highlights to RAC members:
 - San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA) Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS)
 - Integrated Vegetation Management
 - Holbrook Basin Oil & Gas Interest
 - Status of Coyote Mountain and Cross-F land acquisitions

- BLM involvement in Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape
- Status of Dingell Act realty actions
- Public recreation access during pandemic
- Proposed Resolution Mine Land Exchange & Mining Plan of Operations
- Approval of Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation funding post Jackson and Wood Canyon Fires

RAC Chair Comment: Inquired about the party that filed the lawsuit against BLM.

District Manager, Gila District Response: Stated there were three parties involved, Center for Biological Diversity, Advocates for the West (representing Western Watersheds), and the Sierra Club.

RAC Chair Comment: Asked if Scott could confirm if there had been a sale or trade of land used for research to the Audubon Society.

District Manager, Gila District Response: Stated that through an agreement with them, they are working to manage the pieces of BLM land that have been incorporated into that area over time. Resolution Copper Land Exchange will bring some additional parcels of that research land into BLM ownership.

RAC Member Comment: RJ Cardin noted the increase in recreational use of about 40% and that is consistent with what is seen in Maricopa County as well. Inquired about the environmental ethic of newer land users and what management objective are being used to address that.

District Manager, Gila District Response: Noted the increase in public land use has been largely inexperienced campers/ land users. Informed members the district leadership consults with the Communications Division to promote responsible recreation, and increased communication allowed BLM to let the public know which sites had availabilities in real time.

Arizona State Director Response: Noted that this pandemic has caused the public to change how they recreate, and public lands have offered a safer alternative for recreation. This is a good thing, and will most likely continue, the focus should be education and outreach for this new sector of the public recreating outdoors.

RAC Member Comment: Richard Lunt stated that only 17 percent of the state is private land, with this land exchange it seems like we are whittling away some of the private land we do have left. Inquired as to who Ray or Scott would consult with when considering approving private land exchanges.

District Manager, Gila District Response: Thanked Mr. Lunt for his comment, and agreed it does take balance. BLM considers its mandates to conserve and protect public lands when considering exchanges, and typical consultants include the County Supervisor. The Resolution Copper Exchange was a case that was directed by Congress. Very detailed analysis is performed to consider the impacts and advantages of any land exchange.

-- Lunch Break 11:45 --

Agenda Topic: Public Comment Period (1:00pm – 1:30pm)

This comment period will provide the public an opportunity to provide input to the RAC (on any BLM-relevant topic) for the meeting record.

Presenter: Bill Brake, Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Chair

- Welcomed members of the public to address the RAC.

Public Comment: Devin Heaps, Water Resources Director for the Colorado River Indian Tribes, commented regarding the Quagga Mussels at Lake Havasu, recommended interagency cooperation with BIA and BOR to take a proactive stance in managing this invasive species.

Public Comment: Cyndi Tuell stated appreciation for the District Updates and enjoyed the discussions today as well. Informed members she appreciates the work BLM is doing to manage Recreational Target Shooting.

Public Comment: Tricia Gerrodette inquired the name of the area where parties were interested in fracking. Inquired about the land conveyance in La Paz County, and if the county would be mandated to only use the land for solar power projects.

RAC Chair Comment: Thanked members of the public for their comments and encouraged Ms. Gerrodette to email her questions to the District Managers, who would have more specific information.

Agenda Topic: Division Updates

The BLM Arizona Deputy State Directors will provide brief updates on the work their Divisions are accomplishing to advance the Secretary's Orders, Department of the Interior priorities, and improve customer service in Arizona.

Presenter: Jerry Davis – DSD Resources and Planning, Elena Fink – DSD Lands, Minerals, and Energy, Amber Cargile – DSD Business and Support Services (Acting), Rem Hawes – DSD Communications (Acting), Kelly Castillo – State Fire Management Officer, Julie Valentine – Border Coordinator.

- Julie Valentine, Border Coordinator, presented the following accomplishment highlights to RAC members:
 - Border Strategy
 - Operation SABR
 - Border Infrastructure
- Kelly Castillo, State Fire Management Officer, presented the following accomplishment

highlights to RAC members.

- Fuels Management
 - Fire Management Program (Wildland Fire Response)
- Elena Fink, DSD Lands, Minerals & Energy, presented the following accomplishment highlights to RAC members.
 - Minerals Program
 - Mining Operations
 - Cadastral Survey - Management of Federal Land Boundaries
 - Executive Order 13868 (April 10, 2019) - Promoting Energy Infrastructure and Economic Growth
 - Land Tenure / John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019 (PL 116-9, dated 3-12-2019)
 - Federal Agency Support through Land Withdrawals
 - Oversight of Commercial Recreation Leasing Program (Concessions)
- Jerry Davis, DSD Resources and Planning, presented the following accomplishment highlights to RAC members.
 - Wild Horse and Burro (WHB) Management
 - AIM Program - Assessment, Inventory and Monitoring
 - Secretary's Order 3362 Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors
 - Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Projects
 - Integrated Vegetation Management
 - Volunteers and Civic Engagement
 - Youth Public Land Corps Program
 - Recreation and Visitor Services
- Rem Hawes, DSD Communications (Acting), presented the following accomplishment highlights to RAC members.
 - Internal/External Communications
 - Outreach and Engagement
 - Public Comment
- Amber Cargile, DSD Business and Support Services (Acting), presented the following accomplishment highlights to RAC members.
 - Great American Outdoors Act
 - Recreational Shooting Sports Site Construction
 - Improvements at Burro Creek Campground
 - Improvements at Bass Point Day Use Area

- Improvements at Haekel Road/Hot Well Dunes
- Virgin River Canyon Recreation Area Infrastructure Improvements

Agenda Topic: Subcommittee Working Groups

RAC members will establish subcommittee working groups including electing a new Recreation RAC subcommittee chairperson.

Presenter: Bill Brake, Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Chair

- Welcomed members to express their interest to join one of the following RAC subcommittee working groups, noting that expressing interest does not guarantee acceptance, but they will try to stay in line with members wishes.
 - Recreation
 - Minerals and Energy
 - Healthy Working Landscape
 - Wild Horse and Burro

Wrap-up:

Bill Brake thanked RAC members and BLM staff for their time and preparation for their presentations. Encouraged members to bring any topics for discussion to his attention in advance.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:06 p.m.