

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Idaho Resource Advisory Council Meeting  
 August 11, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time  
 BLM Idaho State Office, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Boise, ID 83709 and Zoom**

**RAC Members:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Residence</b>	<b>Interest Represented</b>
Jeff Berend	Post Falls	Commercial Timber
William Orr	Coeur d' Alene	Energy and Minerals
Donna Bennett	Grandview	Federal Grazing
James Wills	Hailey	Commercial Outdoor Recreation
Leon Smith	Mackay	Federal Grazing
Jake Rajala	Troy	Dispersed Recreation
Robert (Bob) S. Unnasch, Ph.D.	Boise	Environmental Organizations
Scott Nichols	Meridian	Dispersed Recreation
Brenda R. Pace	Idaho Falls	Archaeological & Historic Interests
Rocky (Skip) Brandt	Kooskia	Elected Official
Bernard Brown	Hailey	Public-at-Large
Preston Buckskin	Fort Hall	Tribal Representative
Robert (Bob) P. Breckenridge, Ph.D.	Idaho Falls	Academia
<b>Absent:</b> Shell L. Howard	Twin Falls	Dispersed Recreation
Jeff Buck	Eagle	Public-at-Large

**BLM Staff:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Office</b>
Peter Ditton	Idaho State Director (Acting)	Idaho State Office
June Shoemaker	Idaho Associate State Director (Acting)	Idaho State Office
Jennifer Jones	Deputy State Director, Communications	Idaho State Office
Aimee Betts	Deputy State Director, Resources and Science (Acting)	Idaho State Office
Dennis Strange	State Fire Management Officer	Idaho State Office
Rod Collins	Deputy State Director, Support Services (Acting)	Idaho State Office
MJ Byrne	Special Assistant	Idaho State Office
Hannah Cain	Public Affairs Specialist	Idaho State Office
Bruce Hallman	Public Affairs Specialist	Idaho Falls District Office
Suzanne Endsley	Public Affairs Specialist	Coeur d' Alene District Office
Heather Tiel-Nelson	Public Affairs Specialist	Twin Falls District Office
Mike Williamson	Public Affairs Specialist	Boise District Office
Tanya Thrift	District Manager (Acting)	Boise District Office
Mike Courtney	District Manager	Twin Falls District Office
Mary D' Aversa	District Manager	Idaho Falls District Office
Kurt Pindel	District Manager	Coeur d' Alene & Spokane (WA) District Offices

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Idaho Resource Advisory Council Meeting  
August 11, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time  
BLM Idaho State Office, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Boise, ID 83709 and Zoom**

2

**Meeting Minutes**

**Agenda Item: Welcome and Introductions**

**Presenters:** Peter Ditton, Acting Idaho State Director, BLM and Designated Federal Official (DFO) for the BLM Idaho Resource Advisory Council (RAC), Jennifer Jones, Deputy State Director, Communications, Idaho State Office, BLM Idaho key Leadership and Staff; RAC Members  
Jennifer Jones called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Mountain Time. Peter Ditton welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed appreciation for their attendance. Key BLM Leadership and RAC members in attendance introduced themselves (see participant list, p. 1)

**Agenda Item: Housekeeping, Review Agenda, Approve April 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

**Presenter:** Jennifer Jones, Deputy State Director, Communications, Idaho State Office  
Jennifer Jones provided an overview of the agenda and discussed logistics and “housekeeping” items for the hybrid in-person/virtual meeting. Minutes of the April 14, 2021 RAC meeting were emailed to RAC members to review prior to the meeting.

Motion to approve minutes of the April 14, 2021 RAC meeting – Robert Unnasch, RAC Chair  
Second - Scott Nichols and Robert Breckenridge, RAC Vice-Chair  
BLM Idaho RAC members voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**Agenda Item: State Director Updates**

**Presenter:** Peter Ditton, Idaho State Director (Acting)  
Peter Ditton provided an overview of key Department of Interior (DOI) and BLM leadership and DOI priorities – Clean Energy Future, America the Beautiful, Great American Outdoors Act, Tribal Consultation, and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples. Ditton also discussed BLM Idaho operational adjustments in response to COVID-19, including mask and physical distance requirements and vaccine status attestation. In addition, Ditton provided an overview of key BLM Idaho statewide issues, programs and activities including drought impacts, Sage-Grouse, key Environmental Impact Statements in development, outdoor recreation, and BLM Idaho “Super 75” Challenge.

**Agenda Item: District Updates**

**Presenters:** Tanya Thrift, District Manager (Acting), Boise District; Mike Courtney, District Manager, Twin Falls District; Mary D’ Aversa, District Manager, Idaho Falls District; Kurt Pindel, District Manager, Coeur d’ Alene and Spokane (WA) Districts.

Tanya Thrift provided an overview of key issues, programs and activities on the Boise District, including wild horse herd status, current drought conditions, Reynolds Creek Cheatgrass Challenge, Shoofly Oolite Area of Critical Environmental Concern, Simco Training Area Expansion, Four Rivers Resource Management Plan, Skinny Dipper Hot Springs, fuels reduction, and public land user conflicts.

Mike Courtney provided an overview of key issues, programs and activities on the Twin Falls District, including wildfire response, fuels reduction, emergency stabilization and rehabilitation, Juniper Butte Range withdrawal of public lands for military use, and Cedar Fields Plan Amendment Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Monument Resource Management Plan.

2

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Idaho Resource Advisory Council Meeting**  
**August 11, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time**  
**BLM Idaho State Office, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Boise, ID 83709 and Zoom**

Mary D’Aversa provided an overview of key issues, programs and activities on the Idaho Falls District, including Willow Creek Summit and Windy Devil Annex radio system upgrades, Spar Canyon Switch Station, Konnex Mine, abandoned mine lands remediation, Portneuf Road River Access trailhead, Blackpine Fire, Maple Grove Boat Ramp Improvement Project, Curlew Fuel Breaks, Highway 93 South Trail, Whitebark pine management, Tendoy Gravesite sign, St. Anthony Sand Dune Recreation Area Management Plan, Sand Creek Vegetation Management Plan, Birch Creek Ranches land exchange, and wildfire response.

Kurt Pindel provided an overview key issues, programs and activities on the Coeur d’ Alene District, including timber sales, outdoor recreation, Cougar Bay Land and Water Conservation Fund acquisition, and Snake River complex wildfires.

**Agenda Item: Great American Outdoors Act – BLM Idaho Projects**

**Presenter:** Rod Collins, Deputy State Director, Support Services (Acting), Idaho State Office  
Rod discussed implementation of BLM Idaho projects funded in Fiscal Year 2021 through the Great American Outdoors Act, including construction of a new Shoshone Field Office and road maintenance and improvement projects in the Boise, Twin Falls, and Idaho Falls Districts. Collins also discussed the 17 BLM Idaho recreation site maintenance projects that have been selected to receive Great American Outdoor Act funding in Fiscal Year 2022. In addition, Collins provided an overview of the Great American Outdoors Act project priorities and selection criteria.

**Agenda Item: Lava Ridge Wind Energy Project Environmental Impact Statement**

**Presenter:** Codie Martin, Field Manager, Shoshone Field Office  
Codie Martin provided an overview of the proposed Lava Ridge Wind Energy project, which if approved would be located on 73,000 acres of federal land and 3,000 acres of state land in south-central Idaho. Martin discussed the project elements, which include up to 400 wind turbines, seven new substations, collector lines, 381 miles of access roads, and other infrastructure. In addition, Martin provided an overview of the process to develop an Environmental Impact Statement to analyze the proposed project. Martin suggested that the Lava Ridge Wind Energy Project could benefit from input from the RAC and suggested establishing a subcommittee that could discuss the project in depth and report their findings to the full RAC, which could then provide formal recommendations to the BLM.

Motion to establish a subcommittee to research review the proposed Lava Ridge Wind Energy project and report to the full RAC on potential impacts and issues – Bernard Brown

Second – Scott Nichols

BLM Idaho RAC members voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

RAC members agreed they would seek volunteers for the subcommittee from within the RAC as well as experts in wind energy issues and other interested parties.

**Agenda Item: Husky 1 North Dry Ridge Phosphate Mine Environmental Impact Statement**

**Presenters:** Mart D’Aversa, Idaho Falls District Manager

Mary D’Aversa provided an overview of phosphate mining operations in eastern Idaho, including phosphate mine operators, phosphate uses, federal phosphate leases administered by BLM, socioeconomic impacts of phosphate mining, and best management practices. D’Aversa also discussed Itafos Conda LLC’s

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Idaho Resource Advisory Council Meeting**  
**August 11, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time**  
**BLM Idaho State Office, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Boise, ID 83709 and Zoom**

proposed Husky 1 North Dry Ridge Phosphate Mine and development of an Environmental Impact Statement to analyze it.

**Agenda Item: Wildfire Activity Update**

**Presenter: Dennis Strange, Fire Management Officer, Idaho State Office**

Dennis Strange provided an update on 2021 wildfire activity, including current incidents, drought monitoring, wildfire potential outlook, and wildfire information sources.

**Agenda Item: BLM Idaho Recreation Site Management, Fees, and Associated Amenities**

**Presenter: Donn Christiansen, Field Manager, Owyhee Field Office**

Donn Christiansen provided an overview of the draft Jump Creek Recreation Site Business Plan.

Motion – Robert Breckenridge moved that the RAC recommend to BLM approval of the draft Jump Creek Recreation Site Business Plan.

Second – Preston Buckskin

BLM Idaho RAC members voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

When BLM Idaho receives approval from BLM Headquarters to resume efforts to institute/increase recreation fees, BLM Idaho will make the draft Jump Creek Recreation Site Business Plan available for public comment and complete other required processes.

**Agenda Item: BLM Idaho Recreation Site Management, Fees, and Associated Amenities**

**Presenter: Maile Adler, Acting Manager, Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area**

Maile Adler provided an overview of the draft Cove Recreation Site Business Plan.

Motion – Robert Breckenridge moved that the RAC recommend to BLM approval of the draft Cove Recreation Site Business Plan.

Amended motion - Robert Unnasch amended the motion so that the RAC recommend to BLM approval of the draft Cove Recreation Site Business Plan with a modification so that camping is listed as a single line rather than split between RV and camping sites.

Second on the amended motion - Leon Smith

BLM Idaho RAC members voted unanimously in favor of the amended motion.

When BLM Idaho receives approval from BLM Headquarters to resume efforts to institute/increase recreation fees, BLM Idaho will make the draft Cove Recreation Site Business Plan available for public comment and complete other required processes.

**Agenda Item: Wild Horse and Burro Program Overview**

**Presenters: Chris Robbins, Range/Wild Horse & Burro Program Lead, Idaho State Office and Brent Ralston, Four Rivers Field Manager**

Chris Robbins provided an overview of the BLM national Wild Horse & Burro Program, including on-range population estimates and Herd Management Area locations, off-range population numbers and holding area locations, and BLM expenditures. Robbins also provided an overview of BLM Idaho's Wild Horse & Burro program, including Herd Management Area locations and population estimates, off-range corrals locations and capacity, wild horse gathers, 2021 water hauling, and adoptions. Brent Ralston provided an overview of the Four Mile Herd Management Area gather planned for September 2021 to adjust the estimated population of 210 wild horses to the low end of the Appropriate Management Level of 37-60 wild horses.

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Idaho Resource Advisory Council Meeting  
August 11, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time  
BLM Idaho State Office, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Boise, ID 83709 and Zoom**

**Agenda Item: Public Comment Period**

No members of the public requested to make comments in-person or on Zoom.

**Agenda Item: Wrap-Up**

Presenters: Jennifer Jones, Deputy State Director, Communications and Peter Ditton, Idaho State Director (Acting)

Jennifer Jones reviewed draft agendas for the November 10 and February 16 BLM Idaho RAC meetings. Jones also discussed need for BLM Idaho leadership and staff to work with RAC Chair and Vice Chair to determine next steps needed to form the Lava Ridge Wind Energy Subcommittee. Peter Ditton thanked everyone for participating in-person and on Zoom.

**Agenda Item: Adjourn**

Motion: Donna Bennett moved to adjourn the meeting

Second - Robert Breckenridge seconded the motion.

BLM Idaho RAC members voted unanimously in favor of the motion.