

**SUMMARY MINUTES  
BLM SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO  
RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
June 14, 2023**

**RAC MEMBERS PRESENT:**

John Cornell  
Marianne Smith  
Roy Gooch  
Kathleen Blair  
Teofilo Holguin  
Robert Matulich  
Gill Sorg  
Jack Callaway  
Charles Turner  
Sabrina Pack (via ZOOM)

**DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICIAL:**

Jim Stovall, BLM Pecos District Manager

**RAC MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Clifton Greer  
Emily Wirth

**PUBLIC: (Identified groups)**

Kitty Benzar, Western Slope No-Fee Coalition

**BLM STAFF/MEETING SUPPORT:**

Sabrina Flores, Albuquerque District Manager  
Dave Wallace, acting Manager Las Cruces District Manager  
Warren Kasper, Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave National Conservation Area Manager  
Jesse Vinson, Recreation Planner  
Zach Latta, Outdoor Recreation Planner  
Mark Mathews, Socorro Field Office Manger  
Chuck Schmidt, Roswell Field Office Manager  
Chaz Sartin, acting Assistant Manager Roswell Field Office  
Michelle Bell, Chief of Operations Pecos District  
Glen Garnand, Roswell Field Office Planner

**U.S. FOREST SERVICE STAFF:**

Ryan Means, Recreation Management Specialist, U.S. Forest Service Southwestern Region  
DJ Thrash, Interpreter  
Maria Garcia, Interpreter

**SCRIBE:**

Glen Garnand

## **CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME & OPENING STATEMENTS:**

The meeting was called to order by RAC Chairman John Cornell who introduced all the council members, the BLM participants, Forest Service representatives, and members of the public. RAC Coordinator William Wight confirmed that a quorum was in place.

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

### **U.S Forest Service programs and major actions overview/proposals – Ryan Means, U.S. Forest Service**

Ryan Means once again briefed on the three fee proposals for Cibola-Magdalena, Gila, and Lincoln National Forests. The fee proposals have been open to the public since December 2019. Recreation fees in these areas have not changed in the last 19 years. The proposed changes include new, increased, and decreased fees at recreation sites and also the adoption of the Enchantment Pass. Slides were presented to show public comments for and against the proposed fee increases. The Forest Service asked the RAC to vote on the proposals after the public comment period.

### **BLM Las Cruces District Update – Dave Wallace, acting Las Cruces District Manager**

Dave Wallace gave a briefing discussing renewable energy and wind energy projects within the District to include a wind proposal of 100,000 acres in Hidalgo Canyon where the current applicant is in the MET tower testing stage. He also discussed the closure and reclamation safety project of Community Pit #1. He explained the Resources Management Plan process for the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument and the public scoping underway.

### **BLM Pecos District Update – Warren Kasper, Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave National Conservation Area Manager**

Warren Kasper briefed about the upcoming four recreation fee increases for the Rob Jagers Campground, Haystack Receptions Area, Mescalero Sands Recreation Area, and Valley of Fires. These areas will have additional amenities added. Business plans are currently being developed.

### **No questions from the RAC members.**

The RAC discussed the need to continue with a ZOOM option for the meeting as opposed to only offering in-person meetings. A discussion amongst member resulted in keeping the ZOOM option for the public.

Mr. Cornell discussed the meeting location of the next meeting being either the Roswell or Socorro Field Office. After discussion, the council voted on the Socorro Field Office for a potential September 20 date.

Brett Riley, a rancher in Roswell, will present a new conservation idea next meeting.

Sabrina Flores mentioned the Socorro Field Office was recognized for its Big Horn Sheep conservation efforts and an overview will be presented at the next meeting.

The RAC members discussed the formation of separate subcommittees for access issues. The BLM is checking into whether funding is available.

**Public Comments:**

Kitty Benzar with the Western Slope No-Fee Coalition mentioned that the Forest Service proposals do not have to be an all or nothing vote. She objected to fee increases for cabins and recreation sites and stated that her organization has an issue with how data was collected. She also stated that the public was satisfied with the way fees are now and are not looking for change. She also mentioned the 80 percent of passes are sold by the Forest Service and the sales are managed by a private company that gets 10 percent of the revenue.

Benjamin Segovia with New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau talked about opposition to the new proposed Public Lands Rule. The members of his organization are concerned with the proposed rule, which he claimed was developed in silo and involved no stakeholder engagement or warning. He mentioned that the potential rule would upend the multiple use mandate and directly impact agriculture, mining, and energy development. Additionally, the proposed rule looks to place conservation on equal footing with other uses outlined in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. He also mentioned the concern that the proposed rule looks to elevate conservation at the expense of multiple use.

The Chair stated that he would pass this concern along to the BLM.

The Chair asked Mr. Means if all legal obligations had been met for the U.S. Forest Service fee proposals. The response was yes, and that all obligations have been met to include a two-year public comment period.

The Chair closed out the public comment period.

The Southern New Mexico RAC unanimously approved all U.S. Forest Service fee proposals with Sabrina Pack abstaining due to technical difficulties with ZOOM.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair.

The RAC members and staff departed for the site tour of Fort Stanton.



**Bureau of Land Management  
Southern New Mexico  
Resource Advisory Council**

June 30, 2023

Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands  
Steven Hattenbach, Forest Supervisor  
2113 Osuna Road NE  
Albuquerque New Mexico 87113

Dear Steven,

Please accept our sincere thanks on behalf of the BLM Southern New Mexico Resource Advisory Council (RAC) for Christopher Nichols and Ryan Means' presentation on the 5 proposed recreation fees on Magdalena Ranger District on the Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands.

After reviewing and discussing these 5 proposed recreation fees, the BLM Southern New Mexico RAC unanimously voted to recommend the 5 recreation fees listed below as proposed fees and move forward for approval by the Southwestern Regional Forester. We agreed with the justification and are confident with the Forest Service's Cibola National Forest and National Grassland Recreation fee proposal on Magdalena Ranger District. Thank you again for the opportunity to vote on this proposal and good luck as you move forward with the implementation of the 5 proposed recreation fees in 2023 on Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands.

- 1 standard amenity (Day-Use) sites
- 1 Expanded amenity (campground) sites
- 1 Group Day-Use sites
- 1 Group Campground
- 1 Statewide Enchantment Pass

Sincerely,

John Cornell  
BLM Southern New Mexico Resource Advisory Council Chairperson

CC: Ryan Means  
Christopher Nichols



**Bureau of Land Management  
Southern New Mexico  
Resource Advisory Council**

June 30, 2023

Gila National Forest  
Camille Howes, Forest Supervisor  
3005 Camino del Bosque,  
Silver City, NM 88061

Dear Camille,

Please accept our sincere thanks on behalf of the BLM Southern New Mexico Resource Advisory Council (RAC) for Kyle Grambley and Ryan Means' presentation on the 37 proposed recreation fees on the Gila National Forest.

After reviewing and discussing these 37 proposed recreation fees, the BLM Southern New Mexico RAC unanimously voted to recommend the 37 recreation fees listed below as proposed fees and move forward for approval by the Southwestern Regional Forester. We agreed with the justification and are confident with the Forest Service's Gila National Forest Recreation fee proposal. Thank you again for the opportunity to vote on this proposal and good luck as you move forward with the implementation of the 37 proposed recreation fees in 2023 on Gila National Forest.

- 1 standard amenity (Day-Use) sites
- 24 Expanded amenity (campground) sites
- 3 Group Day-Use sites
- 2 Group Campground
- 3 Cabins
- 2 Dump Station
- 1 Statewide Enchantment Pass

Sincerely,

John Cornell  
BLM Southern New Mexico Resource Advisory Council Chairperson

CC: Ryan Means  
Kyle Grambley



**Bureau of Land Management  
Southern New Mexico  
Resource Advisory Council**

June 30, 2023

Lincoln National Forest  
Ericka Luna, Acting Forest Supervisor  
3463 Las Palomas,  
Alamogordo, NM 88310

Dear Ericka,

Please accept our sincere thanks on behalf of the BLM Southern New Mexico Resource Advisory Council (RAC) for Ryan Means' presentation on the 37 proposed recreation fees on the Lincoln National Forest.

After reviewing and discussing these 17 proposed recreation fees, the BLM Southern New Mexico RAC unanimously voted to recommend the 17 recreation fees listed below as proposed fees and move forward for approval by the Southwestern Regional Forester. We agreed with the justification and are confident with the Forest Service's Lincoln National Forest Recreation Fee Proposal. Thank you again for the opportunity to vote on this proposal and good luck as you move forward with the implementation of the 17 proposed recreation fees in 2023 on Lincoln National Forest.

- 4 standard amenity (Day-Use) sites
- 3 Expanded amenity (campground) sites
- 2 Group Day-Use sites
- 5 Group Campground
- 2 extra vehicle fees
- 1 Statewide Enchantment Pass

Sincerely,

John Cornell  
BLM Southern New Mexico Resource Advisory Council Chairperson

CC: Ryan Means  
Robert Foxworth