

**Bureau of Land Management
Southern New Mexico Resource Advisory Council
Hybrid Meeting
September 16-17, 2024**

Agenda

Sept. 16:

8 a.m. Call to Order, welcome and introductions
Wendy Brown, Southern New Mexico RAC Coordinator

8:15 a.m. Field trip

Will view mesquite reclamation projects in the Lesser Prairie Chicken Area of Critical Environmental Concern and adjoining areas, as well as oil and gas reclamation progress in the Cato Unit, a decades-old 15,320-acre oil and gas field about 45 miles outside of Roswell.

Attendees:

Ty Carter, Reclamation Coordinator, Pecos District
Ricky Flores, Natural Resource Specialist, Roswell Field Office
Danica Cooke, Wildlife Biologist, Roswell Field Office
Dominic Bell, Fuels Specialist, Pecos District

12:00 p.m. Lunch break

1:30 p.m. Field trip

Will visit Oxbow land acquisition near Roswell and Mescalero Sands Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Area

Attendees:

Amanda Eavenson, Assistant Field Manager-Resources, Roswell Field Office
Warren Kasper, Fort Stanton – Snowy River Cave National Conservation Area Manager
Shelly Taylor, Assistant Field Manager-Lands and Minerals Division, Roswell Field Office

4:00 p.m. Adjourn

Sept. 17:

8 a.m. Call to Order, welcome and introductions
Wendy Brown, Southern New Mexico RAC Coordinator

8:05 a.m. RAC Process
Allison Sandoval, BLM New Mexico RAC Program Lead

8:15 a.m. RAC Chairperson Opening Remarks
John Cornell, Southern New Mexico RAC Chairperson

8:30 a.m. Albuquerque District updates

Programs and major actions overviews, including Bordo Atravesado Wild Horse Gather; SunZia Transmission Project; Johnson Hill OHV area upgrades; and preview of Datil Well Business Plan for fee increase.

Michelle Bell, acting Socorro Field Office Manager
Matt Atencio, Socorro Assistant Field Manager-Renewable Resources

9:30 a.m. Las Cruces District updates

Programs and major actions overviews, including update on Afton Solar Energy Zone auction in November/Solar PEIS; status of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument Environmental Impact Statement/Resource Management Plan; Gila Lower Box Recreations Area Management Plan update; and installation of Remote Off-Grid Kiosks.

Scott Cooke, Las Cruces District Manager

10:30 a.m. Pecos District updates

Programs and major actions overviews, including Azotea Mesa Restoration Project in Eddy County; renewable energy projects and impact on public lands; oil and gas numbers in Eddy and Lea counties; and Carlsbad RMP.

Jim Stovall, Pecos District Manager

Chuck Schmidt, Roswell Field Office Manager

11:30 a.m. Presentation on dark skies designation for recreation areas

Will include information about the International Dark Sky Places program, which provides an independent, third-party review and certification of dark sky conditions and protection practices.

Ty Allen, Assistant Field Manager-Resources, Carlsbad Field Office

12:00 p.m. Lunch break

1:30 p.m. Presentation on new BLM Public Lands Rule

Will include information on identifying landscapes for restoration; restoration leases; mitigation leases; use of science and data to make decisions; importance of local input on decisions/consistent management.

Amelia Taylor, Project Manager

2:30 p.m. BLM New Mexico Recreation Summit

Presentation about the recent state-level summit to inform how BLM manages recreation on public lands.

Glenn Simpson, Branch Chief for Planning, Recreation, and Cultural Resources

2:45 p.m. Discussion of land access issues in southern New Mexico

Will include the Culp Access in the Mescalero Sands OHV Area and the Hondo Canyon Access near Roswell; the Carrizozo Land Partnership; the Gray Peak Wilderness Study Area near Lordsburg; Achenbach Canyon near Las Cruces; Alamo Hueco south of Hachita; and Cowboy Spring south of Lordsburg.

John Cornell, Southern New Mexico RAC Chairperson

3:30 p.m. Public comment period

4:00 p.m. Adjourn