

**Eastern Washington Resource Advisory Council Meeting
Spokane BLM District, Spokane, WA
March 21, 2002**

Members Present (interest/term expiration):

Sub-Group 1

Dave Billingsley (Grazing/2004)
Steven Tveit (Timber/2004)
Maurice Williamson (Commercial Recreation/2002)

Sub-Group 2

Mark Amara (Archaeological/Historical/2002)
Al Cunningham (Environmental/2004)
Linda Harder (Dispersed Recreation/2003)
Steven McKinney (Conservation/2004)
Mike Peterson (Environmental/2002)

Sub-Group 3

James Dobrowolski (Academician/2004)

Members Not In Attendance:

Sub-Group 1: Andrew Berg (Energy & Minerals/2002), Harold Mathews (Rights-of-Way/2002)
Sub-Group 3: Bill Graedel (Elected Official/2003); Linda North-Spaulding (Public at Large/2003), JoAnna Meninick (Indian Tribe/2003), Doug Pineo (State Government/2003))

Others in Attendance

Designated Federal Official: Joseph K. Buesing, Spokane District Manager, BLM

Federal Officials:

Jim Fisher, Field Manager, Wenatchee Resource Area, BLM
Kevin Devitt, Field Manager, Border Resource Area, BLM
Kathy Helm, Planner & Environmental Coordinator, Spokane District, BLM

Guests:

Doug Connor, member of public
Brian Sutton, member of public
Mike Sweeney, Spokane BLM
David Hughes, Spokane BLM

Meeting Recorders:

Joanne Finch (morning)
Lucretia Abbey (afternoon)

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson Dave Billingsley.

Joe Buesing, DFO, welcomed new members and noted there was not a quorum at today's meeting. A round-table introduction of members was done.

Minutes of the May 24, 2001 meeting were read and RAC members in attendance approved them; however because there was no quorum, the May 2001 meeting notes are not officially approved.

A district overview was presented using a powerpoint presentation.

Public input was given by Doug Conner who represents Eastern Washington Dirt Riders Association and various other recreationists in the Juniper Dunes area. He voiced continued concern about the lack of access to the Juniper Dunes area, including the off-highway vehicle use area. Mr. Conner said the groups he represented circulated a petition requesting access resolution in the Juniper Dunes area; in two weeks they had 400 signatures, and this petition was sent to the BLM. Joe Buesing and Kevin Devitt said that the BLM and private landowner had reached an agreement on land values, but that BLM did not have funding to acquire the subject property. Optional funding opportunities were being considered. BLM will keep the RAC informed of the Juniper Dunes access issue. A spring or fall field trip may be planned there, too.

The BLM presented a powerpoint show about the Moses Coulee Land and Water Conservation Fund land exchange proposal. Joe explained a future land exchange between the BLM and DNR. This will be covered at the meeting in October.

Chairman Billingsley recommended forming a subcommittee to analyze the exchanges and make recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior. RAC wants opportunity to discuss long-term objectives of exchanges and make determination/recommendation of what to acquire. Chairman Billingsley asked members to think about whether they would want to be on such a committee.

There was a break from Noon to 1:00 p.m. for lunch, during which time a video on shrub-steppe habitat was shown to RAC members.

RAC is interested in knowing to what extent the USFS wants to be involved in the Eastern Washington RAC.

There was some discussion about the RAC boundary issue, which was an agenda item on the May 2001 meeting.

The Spokane BLM is recruiting for vacancies to fill five positions expiring September 2002 on this RAC. The five positions are: energy and minerals, right-of-way, commercial recreation, archaeological/historical, and environmental. A news release announcing the vacancies and information about submitting nominations, as well as a nomination form, were included in informational packets given to the RAC members. (Note: Kathy Helm also emailed the news release and nomination form to absent members.)

Concern was expressed by a RAC member that RAC meetings lack a quorum so is unable to make decisions. One RAC member suggested having mandatory quarterly meetings.

Jim Fisher, Field Manager of the Wenatchee Resource Area, invited any of the RAC members to contact him if they wanted an informal field trip anytime.

Chairman Billingsley opened up a roundtable discussion to schedule meetings for this year.

Tentative meeting dates were set for:

May 22 (field trip, location undecided)

June 25 (possible field trip in north part of District)

July 30

October 8

BLM will contact absent RAC members about availability for these dates.

Possible agenda items for next meeting:

- Status of Juniper Dunes access issue.
- Update on habitat management and land exchanges.
- Formation of a subcommittee on land exchanges

It was recommended by RAC that future meetings have a block of time to update the RAC on habitat management and land exchange status.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Officially Approved: July 22, 2002