

**Eastern Washington Resource Advisory Council Meeting
Spokane BLM District, Spokane, WA
Spokane District Office – November 20, 2002**

Members Present (interest/term expiration):

Sub-Group 1

Andrew Berg (Energy & Minerals/2002)
Lori Jordan (Rights-of-Way/2005)
Maurice Williamson (Commercial Recreation/2005)

Sub-Group 2

Mark Amara (Archaeological/Historical/2005)
Al Cunningham (Environmental/2004)
Steven McKinney (Conservation/2004)

Sub-Group 3

James Dobrowolski (Academician/2004)
Linda North-Spaulding (Public at Large/2003)
Doug Pineo (State Government/2003)

Members Not In Attendance:

Sub-Group 1:

Dave Billingsley (Grazing/2004) [Note: participating in Phoenix meeting of RAC Chairs with Director Kathleen Clarke]
Steven Tveit (Timber/2004)

Sub-Group 2:

Linda Harder (Dispersed Recreation/2003)

Sub-Group 3:

Bill Graedel (Elected Official, 2003)
JoAnna Meninick (Indian Tribe/2003)

Others in Attendance

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

Federal Officials:

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

Guests:

Don Gonzales, Planner, Colville National Forest

Bargee Scheibner, Inland Empire Chapter Backcountry Horsemen

Meeting Recorder: Kathy Helm

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Joe Buesing, Spokane BLM District Manager and EWRAC Designated Federal Official. Mr. Buesing thanked the RAC members for attending the morning satellite downlink from Phoenix, in which BLM Director Kathleen Clarke was meeting with all RAC chairs. A quorum of RAC members was established.

Mr. Buesing reported that four of the five RAC positions that expired September 30 had been filled by the Secretary of the Interior, three with renewals of previous RAC members and one with a new person (Lori Jordan representing Rights-of-Way). These newly appointed positions will serve until September 2005. The Secretary of Interior did not make a selection for the fifth expired position (environmental); another call for nominations for that vacancy is expected to be announced soon.

The RAC members gave brief introductions of themselves for the benefit of the new member. Since the EWRAC Chair, Dave Billingsley, was in Phoenix attending the RAC meeting, Mr. Buesing asked for a volunteer for today's meeting. Doug Pineo agreed to be Acting Chair and assumed the position.

Meeting notes of the July 22, 2002 meeting were distributed for review and officially approved as written, without changes.

Old Business

The proposed resolution regarding support of energy development that Andy Berg distributed at the July 22, 2002 meeting for RAC consideration was tabled for discussion at the next RAC meeting.

New Business

Perceptions/Discussions about RAC Downlink: In general, members thought the broadcast brought out concerns similar to those of the EWRAC, such as land exchanges and communications among RAC groups. There was discussion about the need for a mode of communication, similar to an FTP site, between the BLM and RAC members. This need was one that was mentioned in the national downlink meeting, too. James Dobrowolski made a motion stating that the RAC would like to investigate the possibility of establishing a legal communication access site, within the confines of FACA and FOIA requirements. The motion was seconded and passed by consensus.

Among other items discussed:

- Possible target action items, including review of land exchanges and streamlining project analysis process.
- Coordination/collaboration of EWRAC with other RACs on regional and national issues (example: weed issue and shrub-steppe management)
- Process to inform Congressional members on programmatic and NEPA consultation.
- Need to improve public outreach about RACs.

- Need to make scheduling RAC field trips a goal; possibly once/twice a year, to become more familiar with BLM management.

RAC Charter: RAC members discussed the RAC charter. Council members made a resolution motion that was seconded and passed by consensus to consider amending the EWRAC charter, specific to the following:

- Change geographic boundary of EWRAC to include the southeast portion now within boundary of the John-Day Snake RAC in Oregon (would need to hold a joint discussion with that RAC), as well as the Yakima River Canyon (would need to verify status of Provincial Advisory Committee).
- Change how quorum is established by (1) allowing alternate members in cases when RAC member is unable to attend; and or (2) allowing RAC members to connect to the meetings remotely, by teleconference.

Meetings: Currently, the Spokane District schedules RAC meetings based on input from the RAC members, and then about a week prior to the meeting canvasses the members to confirm their attendance. If a quorum cannot be established at that time, then the RAC meeting is cancelled.

There was a discussion on the possibility of meeting at locations other than Spokane, possibly Pasco or Moses Lake, which are within the RAC boundary. There was some discussion as to whether the Provincial Advisory Committee, which takes in the Yakima River Canyon, had been rechartered, and if not whether there was a possibility for that area to be considered for inclusion in the EWRAC boundary.

Proposed Columbia Basin Shrub-Steppe Land Exchange

Mr. Buesing said there was not a lot of progress made on the district's two land exchange proposals. The subcommittee formed at the July 22, 2002 meeting did not meet yet. The RAC members discussed the subcommittee organization comprised of five members, with only one member from RAC sub-group 2 and two from RAC sub-groups 1 and 3. A motion was made, seconded, and passed by consensus to dissolve the 5-member Land Exchange Subcommittee formed on July 22, 2002.

Another motion was made, seconded, and passed by consensus to form a 3-member Land Exchange Subcommittee, consisting of one person from each RAC subgroup. Members of the newly formed Land Exchange subcommittee are Andy Berg from sub-group 1, Steven McKinney from sub-group 2, and Linda North-Spaulling from sub-group 3.

Public Input

Bargee Schreiber, representing the Inland Northwest Chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen, said the organization uses BLM land for some of its activities, including an annual Poker ride. She attended the meeting to see the RAC satellite downlink and meeting process.

Don Gonzales, planner of the Colville National Forest, discussed upcoming proposed revisions of three forest plans by 2006 (Okanogan, Wenatchee, and Colville). The Colville is also preparing a Sullivan Lake Winter Recreation Management Strategy Plan. Another subject that Mr. Gonzales presented to

the RAC for information was workforce reorganization involving combining two ranger positions into one (Sullivan and Newport). A Briefing for Organizational Review of two ranger districts (Sullivan Lake and Newport) was distributed to the RAC members. The Colville NF welcomes input on any of these topics, from the RAC members individually or from the RAC collectively as a group.

Additional Discussion, Including Next Meeting

There was some discussion about the unique nature of the Eastern Washington RAC, in that it was formed by the Secretary of the Interior, but its charter encompasses both BLM-administered lands and National Forests in eastern Washington and provides for the RAC to advise both agencies concerning management of those lands. The recently formed county payment RAC that coordinates work projects with the USFS encompasses only two counties in eastern Washington (Stevens and Pend Oreille). A need was expressed for a definitive statement from Nora Rasure, Forest Supervisor of the Colville National Forest, regarding her expectations of the EWRAC.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed by consensus, to forward copies of those comments submitted by EWRAC members to the Phoenix RAC satellite downlink but that were not addressed during the downlink, to the National RAC Coordinator when that position is established.

The next meeting date will be scheduled after all RAC members have been contacted about their availability. Tentative agenda items will include: proposed resolution on supporting energy development submitted by Andy Berg, charter revision issues including those described in these meeting notes, and RAC workplan for 2003 including potential meeting dates.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.



Note: A table on the next page tracks the status of resolutions.

Officially Approved: March 25, 2003

Summary of Motions That Passed and Status		
Resolution	Responsible Person	Status
Investigate possibility of establishing a legal communication access site, within the confines of FACA and FOIA requirements.	Not assigned.	3/26/03. No action yet.
Dissolve 5-member Land Exchange Subcommittee formed on July 22, 2002.	n/a	New 3-member Land Exchange Committee formed.
Form a 3-member Land Exchange Subcommittee, consisting of one person from each RAC subgroup	n/a	Committee members: Andy Berg, Steven McKinney, and Linda North-Spaulding
<p>Consider amending the EWRAC charter, specific to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change geographic boundary of EWRAC to include the southeast portion now within boundary of the John-Day Snake RAC in Oregon (would need to hold a joint discussion with that RAC), as well as the Yakima River Canyon (would need to verify status of Provincial Advisory Committee). • Change how quorum is established by (1) allowing alternate members in cases when RAC member is unable to attend; and or (2) allowing RAC members to connect to the meetings remotely, by teleconference. 	<p>RAC follow-up</p> <p>Joe Buesing (DFO)</p>	<p>3/25/03 Meeting:</p> <p>Still under consideration for specific action in near future.</p> <p>Since individuals are specifically name appointed to the RAC, alternates cannot serve in their absence. Also, teleconference attendance is not an option.</p>
Forward copies of those comments submitted by EWRAC members to the Phoenix RAC satellite downlink but that were not addressed during the downlink, to the National RAC Coordinator when that position is established.	BLM Spokane Staff	National RAC chair to assume position in May. BLM Spokane Staff will forward comments to that individual.