

**Eastern Washington Resource Advisory Council Meeting
Spokane BLM District, Spokane, WA
Spokane District Office – July 25, 2003**

<p>Members Present (interest/term expiration):</p> <p><u>Designated Federal Official (DFO):</u> Joseph K. Buesing, Spokane District Manager, BLM</p> <p><u>Sub-Group 1</u> Dave Billingsley (Grazing/2004) Maurice Williamson (Commercial Recreation/2005) Steven Tveit (Timber/2004) Andrew Berg (Energy & Minerals/2005)</p> <p><u>Sub-Group 2</u> Mark Amara (Archaeological/Historical/2005) Al Cunningham (Environmental/2004) Steven McKinney (Conservation/2004)</p> <p><u>Sub-Group 3</u> James Dobrowolski (Academician/2004) Doug Pineo (State Government/2003) JoAnna Meninick (Indian Tribe/2003)</p>	<p>Members Not In Attendance:</p> <p><u>Sub-Group 1:</u> Lori Jordan (Rights-of-Way/2005)</p> <p><u>Sub-Group 2:</u> Linda Harder (Dispersed Recreation/2003)</p> <p><u>Sub-Group 3:</u> Linda North-Spaulding (Public at Large/2003)</p> <p><u>Others in Attendance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kevin Devitt, Field Manager, Border Resource Area, BLM• Jim Fisher, Field Manager, Wenatchee Resource Area, BLM• Kathy Helm, Planner & Environmental Coordinator, Spokane District, BLM <p><u>Meeting Recorder:</u> Kathy Helm</p>
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The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by Dave Billingsley, EWRAC Chair, and a quorum in each subgroup was established.

Joe Buesing reported on the status of filling RAC vacancies. Mr. Buesing also briefly discussed the upcoming joint OR/WA RAC meeting in Oregon.

Notes of the March 2003 meeting were reviewed, corrected, and approved.

Land Exchanges: Joe Buesing and Jim Fisher gave an update on proposed land exchanges. For the Central Washington Assembled Land Exchange, the environmental assessment is being prepared for CWALE, and appraisals are also being done. The assessment and appraisals are expected to be done this fall, with a decision expected in late September.

Maps were distributed to RAC members for a proposed individual land exchange involving approximately 350 acres.

A third individual land exchange has been put on hold at the landowner's request to secure additional funding for processing the exchange.

The Northeastern Washington land exchange is still in a conceptual phase, but is expected to transition to a proposal in a few months. Areas being considered in this exchange are undergoing cultural and wildlife inventories.

Some RAC members requested copies of maps for the proposed Columbia Basin Shrub-Steppe Land Exchange. The maps will be provided to RAC members, per request, on either compact disc or hard copy (discs sent to Mark Amara, Jim Dobrowolski, and Doug Pineo; hard copies to Steve McKinney, JoAnna Meninick, and Mark Amara).

Minerals Resolution: A resolution presented by Andy Berg regarding support of mineral exploration in Alaska was presented to the RAC for consideration. Mr. Berg asked the RAC to approve sending the resolution, with EWRAC endorsement, to congressional staff. Andy Berg distributed a one-page printout to accompany his resolution. A motion was made and seconded to present the resolution for discussion and consideration. Jim Dobrowolski declined to participate due to a perceived conflict of interest since he'd worked in Alaska.

Several RAC members stated a belief that the EWRAC council needs to focus on issues relevant to the EWRAC and BLM lands, such as the land exchanges. They believed Mr. Berg's resolution was an issue germane to Alaska, not eastern Washington. The resolution to present the resolution for consideration did not pass.

Meeting Ground Rules: A draft of proposed meeting ground rules for taking public comment during scheduled input times in RAC meetings was distributed to RAC members for review and discussion. Some questions and comments were expressed, and those are compiled for future review by the RAC. A resolution was made and passed to record oral comments given during the public input time periods, to summarize oral comments if written copy is not provided, and to retain the tapes for the record. The proposed meeting ground rules for accepting public comment will be revised and presented for RAC review at the next meeting.

Public Input: At 11:00 a.m., the RAC chair recognized time for public input. There was none.

RAC Chair Report: Chair Dave Billingsley reported on the RAC chair meeting held in Washington DC in April. Topics discussed included the need for timely processing of new RAC appointments and charters, the moratorium on land exchanges, and the Sustaining Working Landscapes (SWL) Initiative. The RAC chairs recommended more subcommittees and holding an annual meeting with the BLM Director and RAC chairs. Dave also reported there is now a RAC website. A Weed Kit was sent to the RAC chair to be made available to show to various publics. Jim Dobrowolski took the Weed Kit and another one will be requested for the District to be available for checkout. Also, time permitting, the Weed package may be shown at the next RAC meeting.

Joint OR/WA RAC Meeting: This meeting will be held September 22-24 at the Kah-Nee-Tah Resort, near Warm Springs, Oregon. The EWRAC will not likely have a quorum at the September joint meeting. The agenda and other meeting information will be provided to RAC members as it becomes available.

Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy: The Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy is available for review and input until August 20 (see note). Since the RAC will not be meeting again until after that date, EWRAC members are asked to submit their individual comments. (NOTE: The BLM extended this deadline to November 1.)

Next Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, October 20. Agenda items may include: USFS plan revision, weed video, Sustaining Working Landscapes, Sage-grouse, public input protocol, follow-up on items from OR/WA joint RAC meeting, and land exchange.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.



Officially Approved: October 20, 2003