

Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Meeting  
 BLM Southern Nevada District Office, Las Vegas, NV or Virtual/Zoom  
 Nov. 12, 2024

Agenda

- 8:00 a.m. Opening  
 Welcome from BLM Southern Nevada District Manager and Designated Federal Official  
 Introductions
- 8:30 a.m. District updates  
 Battle Mountain District  
 Ely District  
 Southern Nevada District
- 9:30 a.m. Break
- 10:00 a.m. Southern Paiute Presentation
- 11:00 a.m. Community Relations
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Public lands rule update and next steps
- 2:00 p.m. Siting of transmission lines and renewable energy projects
- 2:45 p.m. Break
- 3:00 p.m. Current renewable energy applications in each district
- 4:00 p.m. Public comment
- 4:30 p.m. Adjourn

	12-Nov	
Jon Sherve	BLM Battle Mountain District Manager (Detail)	In-Person
Randy Martin	BLM Battle Mountain District Manager Public Affairs	In-Person
Robbie McAboy	BLM Ely District Manager	In-Person
Bruce Sillitoe	BLM Las Vegas Field Office, Field Manager	In-Person
Nicholas Pay	BLM Pahrump Field Office, Field Manager	In-Person
Whitney Wirthlin	BLM Southern Nevada Acting Sup PM E&I Team	In Person
Steve Leslie	BLM Southern Nevada District	In-Person
Beth Ransel	BLM Southern Nevada District ADM SNPLMA	In-Person
Theresa Coleman	BLM Southern Nevada District Manager and Designated Federal Official	In-Person
Kirsten Cannon	BLM Southern Nevada District Public Affairs, RAC Coordinator	In-Person
Zach Reichold	BLM Southern Nevada District, acting Deputy District Manager	In-Person
Ray Tsui	BLM Southern Nevada District, Assistant District Manager, Division of Support Services	In-Person
Corey Lange	BLM Southern Nevada Wildlife Biologist	In-Person
Kimberly Reinhart	RAC Member Category 1 Grazing and Ranching	In-Person
Susan Agee	RAC Member Category 1 Grazing and Ranching	Virtual

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David Spicer	RAC Member Category 2 Dispersed Recreation	In-Person
John Hiatt	RAC Member Category 2 Environmental Organization	In-Person
Matthew Brown	RAC Member Category 2 Environmental Organization	Virtual
Tara Kilpatrick	RAC Member Category 2 WHB	In-Person
Jef Jaeger	RAC Member Category 3 Academia	In-Person
Gary McCuin	RAC Member Category 3 Elected Official	Virtual
Shanandoah Anderson	RAC Member Category 3 Native American	In-Person
Megan Labadie	RAC Member Category 3 State Agency Rep	In-Person
Steve Paxton	RAC Member Category Outdoor Recreation	In-Person

Opening

- Theresa Coleman, as Southern Nevada District Manager and Designated Federal Official extended a welcome from BLM to attendees. She reviewed safety considerations for the venue.
- Each attendee (in-person and virtual) introduced him/herself by name and title with a brief background as appropriate.
- John Hiatt, RAC Chairman affirmed that audio was sufficient for presenters and members, thus fully capable of engaging in a good discussion.

District updates

- Battle Mountain started the district presentations with Jon Sherve reviewing his District’s area, location, manning and accomplishments in FY 2024. Highlights that generated discussion focused on the need to reduce wild horse and burro populations within HMAs to AML, something that has been a problem for years. District managers described factors and resource channels that hinder rapid reductions. RAC members expressed familiarity with those challenges and their desire to focus, through a subcommittee, on the issue. Ms. Coleman suggested that a state or national-level WHB manager can be requested to speak with the RAC in the future. RAC members welcomed the option.
- District Managers each described the categories of work that BLM members are asked to perform and the applicable guidelines. This technical discussion was informative and new to some members of the RAC. The information revealed the biggest challenge BLM faces, arguably nationally, being recruitment and retention. RAC members offered assistance with recommending steps to streamline permitting processes and also to advocate for the BLM with stakeholders and potential new hires.
- Ely District followed the Battle Mountain discussion differing primarily on the projects that are unique to Ely. District Manager, Ms. Robbie McAboy discussed several space-

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related initiatives in the district's area and introduced the topic of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act for the first time. Additionally, she spoke on the topic of cultural and tribal considerations.

- Concerning Southern Nevada District, Ms. Coleman echoed themes that were mentioned by the Battle Mountain and Ely Districts. Her presentation demonstrated the District's proximity to the state's largest populated area. She spoke on SNPLMA, Lands and Realty, property disposal, close cooperation with stakeholders and other public services including law enforcement, tourism, and Tribes.

#### Southern Paiute presentation

- Shanandoah Anderson, a RAC member, of the Southern Paiute tribe provided a briefing that traced Native American history from ancient times to the modern era. Her presentation was augmented by input from husband, Greg Anderson, attending as a Tribe member. The two explained their many years of community outreach aimed at bridging gaps that are common not just to non-native cultures but nowadays often among the next generation of Indians from all Tribes. They covered sacred sites, sign language, origin stories, spiritual matters, trade, dating, marriage, among other customs and challenges. They offered the viewpoint of Native Americans who recall the suffering of ancestors not too long ago. They offered a Native perspective for preserving habitats. Comments by RAC members suggest recognition and appreciation for the wisdom of Native Americans, natural stakeholders with a shared objective. RAC members and BLM staff were eager to hear more.

#### Community relations

- The RAC acknowledged that the public lacks an understanding of the BLM's mission and the concept of public land stewardship. It's especially critical given popularity of outdoor recreation among visitors and residents. It's vital to leverage public and commercial media as well as face-to-face outreach. The RAC called for a campaign to influence stewardship behaviors among school-age children. Though there are logistical and physical hurdles, such options include field trips, classroom visits etc. There may be a monetary cost to support community relations but it's necessary given the influx of people to the state. Responsible behavior is critical to preservation of habitats, safety, cultural sites. The RAC advocates partnerships with other agencies including FWS, Southern Nevada Agency Partnership involving BLM, Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Park Service, National Park Service and Bureau of Reclamation.

#### Lunch Break

#### Public lands rule update and next steps

- The Public Land Rule is based upon BLM's authority to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for present and future generations. Vital that DOI/BLM protect healthy landscapes, restoring landscapes back to health and ensure decision-

making is based on science and data. BLM has copious and reliable data that it relies on and shares. The PLR emphasizes restoration, nature-based solutions, native seeding, raising water tables etc. The Public Land Rule establishes a new tool in the form of restoration and mitigation leases. It provides guidance on who can hold leases, how to apply for them, and how to process them. It provides guidance for when and how to terminate or suspend restoration and mitigation leases. It provides guidance on bonding for restoration and mitigation leases, and it provides additional guidance for mitigation leases. The rule promotes tribal engagement. The PLR supports improved land health measures, watershed condition assessments. A federal advisory committee has been formed and Nevada is involved.

#### Siting of transmission lines and renewable energy projects

- Today there's more than a million acres in the western states that are currently available for solar applications. BLM looks to reduce that number and really focuses development where it anticipates the least environmental and resource conflicts. BLM wants to bring that number down and try to guide project applications to areas that are less conflicted. In southern California, there is the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan that was completed to balance out conservation while having development areas for renewable energies like wind, solar, and geothermal. BLM is looking to guide proposals to less conflicted areas where there are fewer known resource conflicts. BLM noticed that the front runner technology was solar power, towers and concentrated solar troughs and dish technology that reflect direct sunlight to create energy from heat. BLM has seen in the past decade that photovoltaic technology has advanced significantly and the economics of it have become increasingly more feasible for energy deployment. Under this effort, BLM is trying to identify broad areas with fewer known resource conflicts to maintain a large enough area to have the flexibility for project applications. BLM wants to make sure that the Bureau has enough flexibility to be able to be responsive to localized concerns. Photovoltaic lends itself to more flexibility and BLM believes that raising that development limit up in percentages of slope might be appropriate.

#### Current renewable energy applications in each district

- Justin Abernathy, BLM Nevada's, Deputy State Director for Energy Mineral opened the discussion. He is responsible for the mining program, beyond Nevada's mining program, the fluid minerals or oil and gas, geothermal renewable energy, abandoned mine lands transmission programs. There are numerous existing authorized projects. Nevada hosts robust power production sites on public lands. That that do not include GenTie where energy production is on private land. It doesn't include battery energy storage but actual energy production on BLM managed public lands. There are over four gigawatts currently coming from solar, geothermal and wind. BLM currently has utility scale solar projects in Nevada. Those are primarily located in Southern Nevada District, but there are some in Battle Mountain, Carson City and Ely Districts. BLM has two dozen, authorized

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geothermal power producing facilities on federal lands. BLM also has one proposed utility scale wind project which is on hold in Ely District. Projects are in various stages. Some of them are going through what's called a preliminary review process, a variance process. Numerous projects are in the NEPA process.

- RAC members posed questions that spanned multiple use considerations such as: grazing and outdoor recreation in proximity of renewable energy projects, reclamation of lands when operations cease, maintenance during operations, and overseas sources of material used.
- District managers discussed project statuses in their respective areas, in some cases a repeat of information already covered.

Public comment

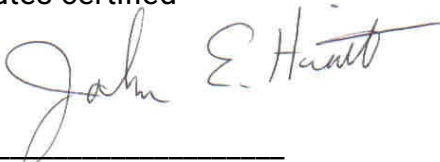
- There was no additional public comment.

Meeting Adjourned

To view a recording of the RAC meeting in its entirety, visit:

Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Meeting recorded

Minutes certified



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RAC Chair John Hiatt

January 10, 2025  
Date