



BLM NEWS

New Mexico Oklahoma Texas Kansas
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Bureau of Land Management to Host RAC Meeting in Taos June 15-16 at Quality Inn

The Bureau of Land Management's Resource Advisory Council (RAC) will hold a meeting on Thursday and Friday, June 15-16 at the Quality Inn, 1043 Paseo del Pueblo Sur, Taos, New Mexico, to consider the subject of wildlife in New Mexico.

The Lesser Prairie Chicken will be discussed by Mr. Tim Kreager, Assistant Field Office Manager for Resources from the Roswell Field Office of BLM, starting at or around 9:15 a.m. on June 15.

BLM personnel will discuss elk management on BLM lands starting at 11:15 a.m. At 1:45 p.m. Mr. David Sanchez, Vice President of the NM Cattlegrowers Association will address the Council.

Mr. Bob Nordstrum, a RAC member and a member of "The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation" will then make a presentation to the Council at or around 2:45 p.m. that afternoon. Afterwards, Mr. Scott Brown, Assistant Director of NM Game and Fish Department will also address the Council on elk management.

After registering on Friday, June 16 beginning at 10:00am, the public may address the RAC about wildlife issues.

The BLM field office managers will report at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, June 16, on the Southwest Willow Flycatcher in their respective parts of the State of New Mexico as well as other ongoing activities in their offices.

Last RAC Meeting April 27-28, 2000

BLM - Las Cruces Field Office personnel presented a discussion on the Robledo Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA). They discussed its history, why it was established and the history of roads in the area including open and closed roads. The relationship to the off highway vehicle area

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adjacent to the WSA was also presented. This was followed by another RAC requested presentation by BLM on RS2477 and its current status. This revised statute provides explanations of the BLM's guide on current rights of way across federal lands.

The RAC then undertook its sessions on invasive plants, the theme for that meeting. RAC member Ken Heil discussed invasive plants in the northwestern part of New Mexico using a slide show and power point presentation. This was followed by a presentation of the Statewide BLM weeds program in NM.

In the afternoon, the BLM Field Managers made presentations to the RAC with the focus on invasive plants and other major issues in their offices. Continuing with invasive plants was an enthusiastic presentation by Dr. Richard Lee, Cooperative Extension Service weed specialist. Dr. Lee discussed the various situations around the State that involve invasive plants and state resource management concerns. The NM State Highway Department's Jim Nellesen was next with a presentation on what is currently being done regarding control of the spread of invasive weeds along the highways in NM..

The Resource Advisory Council consists of 15 members whose representation is balanced equally among three general interest categories:

- 1) grazing, mining, timber, off-highway vehicle interest, or developed recreation interest;
- 2) environmental organizations, archaeological and historical interests, and wild horse and burro groups;
- 3) state and local government, local elected officials, Indian tribes, natural science academicians, and the public at large.

The purpose of the RAC is to advise the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with the management of public lands. The Council's responsibilities include providing advice on long-range planning and establishing resource management priorities.

BLM provides training on resources science and management issues to all Council members. Council members serve without monetary compensation but are reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses. Qualifications to be a member of the Resource Advisory Council member include:

education, training, or experience to provide informed, objective advice on an industry discipline or interest;
demonstrated experience or knowledge of New Mexico;
resident of the State of New Mexico;
demonstrated commitment to collaboration in seeking solutions to resource management issues.

For more information call Kathleen Mulkey or Tanna Chattin at the BLM in Santa Fe, (505) 438-7514.

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