

**MOJAVE-SOUTHERN GREAT BASIN  
RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 01, 2001  
Las Vegas Field Office**

Resource Advisory Council (**RAC**) Members Present and Category Represented:

Patrick Chicas	Permitted Recreation
Steve Mellington	Public-At-Large
John Hiatt	Wildlife
Jerry Helton	Transportation and ROW
Colleen Beck	Archaeology
Billie Gayle Young	Wild Horses and Burros
Mike Wickersham	State Agency
Barbara Callihan	Dispersed Recreation
Mark Ioli	Mining
Marta Agee	Ranching
William Mull	Ranching

**RAC** Members Absent:

Maurice Frank-Churchill	Native American
Susan Selby	Environment
Stanley Smith	Academic

Bureau of Land Management (**BLM**) Representatives Present:

Mark Morse	Field Manager, Las Vegas
Angie Lara	Associate Field Manager, Las Vegas
Gene Kolkman	Field Manager, Ely
Jo Simpson	Chief, Office of Communications, Nevada State Office
Phil Guerrero	Public Affairs Officer, Las Vegas Field Office
Debra Kolkman	Public Affairs Specialist, Nevada State Office
Mike Dwyer	SNPLMA Project Manager
Bill Fisher	Supv. Resource Specialist, Tonopah Field Station
Don Hendricks	Las Vegas Field Office Archaeology

**Public Attendees:**

Bob Maichle	
Keith Rogers	<i>Las Vegas Review Journal</i>

Anne McConnell  
Ken and Sherrie Grubb

NRADP  
Pahrump Public Lands

*\*A copy of each attachment is listed in the text of, or at the end of these minutes is on file with the official copy of the minutes in the Las Vegas Field Office of the BLM. Persons desiring to view attachments should contact Phillip Guerrero, Las Vegas Field Office, at (702) 647-5046.*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Acting Vice-Chair, Jerry Helton, opened the meeting at 8:25 a.m.

Chair Selby could not attend the RAC meeting as she is on jury duty.

**Southern Nevada Public Lands Act** - Mike Dwyer, SNPLMA Project Manager

### **Strategic goal setting**

#### **Land Acquisitions**

- Dwyer received copy of the letter dated January 29, 2001 to State Director Abbey on suggested recommendations for strategic goal setting.
- The Executive Committee does not meet until April 24.
- Dwyer drafted some initial goals based on the RACs suggestions (see Land Acquisition handout).
- BLM has only one vote on the Executive Committee.

#### **Wording of Ranking Criteria under “Land Acquisitions”**

- Take out “types” in number 2, as ranking has more to do with the number of different species present. Suggested language could state, “Is this part of a recovery plan?”
- Working group will re-visit the wording of number 8, as ranking criteria in Round 1 gave points to land being in Clark County.
- Dwyer will modify the access factor so it says something like, “Does this property have physical and unencumbered legal access appropriate for the nature of management once acquired .” If a piece of property doesn’t have access, then you ask the nominating agency what they plan to do to provide legal access.
- Beck recommends deleting “eligible for State or Federal designation” because in order for a site to be eligible it has to have been written up, it has to have gone through a review process, and there has to be an agreement between the State Historic Preservation Office and the property owner or the Federal land agency. You can say does the property meets the requirements. Dwyer will drop the language from the overall ranking factor and modify the language in the first part by saying, “is the property potentially eligible or does it meet the requirements for State and Federal designation.”
- Beck asked about the wording “Have recovery plans been prepared for this?” Not all property needs a recovery plan. Dwyer suggested dropping “recovery” and adding “management plans.”
  - < Kolkman pointed out that as far as ranking criteria, if you are in danger of losing the resource, somehow you need to word some language to capture that threat.
  - < Hiatt pointed out that what the RAC is driving at is there “time-value” associated

with this acquisition. Dwyer said he would re-word the goal. The goal is to preserve the resource. There could be an urgency for action.

- < Dwyer suggested wording could say “degradation of resource values.”
- Hiatt pointed out that there needs to be something that refers to water rights. This is a very important issue, especially in Nevada.
- Mellington does not understand the statement “location of watershed.” Dwyer said this needs re-wording. Hiatt suggested “where is it located in the water shed (whether at the beginning or the end).”
- Dwyer will incorporate into number 5 “properties slated for eminent development.”
- < Dwyer also pointed out that the working group made a drastic change to number 5 that isn’t reflected on the page. They dropped the whole thing about determined by the regional manager to be incompatible.
- Dwyer will work on language of number 4, as Beck doesn’t understand the meaning.
- Dwyer said comments will be incorporated into the new implementation agreement plan package. Dwyer will also make note that the RAC raised concern about the points awarded to riparian in regards to other areas.

Helton recessed the meeting for a break at 9:45 a.m. Meeting re-convened at 9:50 a.m.

### **Capital Improvements**

- Dwyer will work on wording of operation and maintenance criteria.
- Wickersham asked where the breaking point is for refurbishments or maintenance? Lara stated that she had talked to the Inspector General about this. His interpretation was “if you have a restroom that needs a whole new plumbing system, that is a refurbishment. If you have a plumber come in and fix four toilets, that is maintenance.” Wickersham asked how you draw the line if you haven’t budgeted for O&M, where do you rob Peter to pay Paul? Dwyer said they asked agencies what arrangement had they made or budgeted for in O&M. Lara stated that when the Inspector General conducts audits, they do look at this information.

### **Round 2, Capital Improvements Emphasis Areas:**

- Dwyer may generalize wording on numbers 3, 5 and 6, per RAC discussion (should be more strategic than site specific.)
- Hiatt suggested “preservation of threatened structures” might be a good emphasis area.

### **Parks, Trails and Natural Areas.**

- The Act states that development of parks, trails, and natural areas within local government can be funded, provided there is a Cooperative Agreement (CA) in place.
- Dwyer stated this does not involve the transfer of land, just the improvement or the facility.

### **Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP)**

- The Act states money can be spent for the **development** of a MSHCP for Clark County.
- The MSHCP committee submits to the working group important projects for development

and for the nomination process.

- *Dwyer will get Chicas a map of areas (ACECs) that will be left in their natural state.*
- *Dwyer will incorporate comments today and forward to RAC within the week. Then he will forward to Executive Committee.*
- Dwyer will make necessary changes to criteria with suggested recommendations. These recommendations will be applied to the next selection process.
- Minutes should reflect that Dwyer was very responsive and will try to incorporate recommendations they suggested.

Meeting was adjourned for lunch at 11:55 a.m. Meeting re-convened at 1:05 p.m.

**Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project** - Gene Kolkman, Ely Field Office Manager.

- All information is contained on brochure that was handed out (see attachment).

Helton recessed meeting for a break at 2:00 p.m. Meeting re-convened at 2:15 p.m.

**Spring Mountain National Recreation Area Update** - Tom Kuekes, Forest Service (FS) Supervisor

- Visitor use in Kyle Canyon has gotten very heavy.
- The Forest Service is looking at the possibility of a fee system for Mt. Charleston due to the types and amounts of use the area is receiving. Very earliest implementation of fee system would be 2002.
- Agee cautioned that agencies must be sensitive to lower income families and the needs they have for recreation.

**Dust Control in Las Vegas Valley** - John Jamrog, Las Vegas Field Office.

- The Supreme Court upheld the Clean Air Act and said the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has a right to certain resolution.
- County can site BLM for violations. BLM doesn't have additional money to enforce these new regulations.

**Jean Lake Allotment - Cal Baird Issue.** John Jamrog

- Cal Baird is a grazing permittee on Jean Lake allotment, east of the town of Jean and on the west slope of McCullough Mountains.
- Baird obtained the allotment in 1998. He has blocked off public access around the McClanahan Springs area by putting a fence and a locked gate up on public land, thus, making the public go around the area. About 300 yards of the road that is blocked off isn't BLM road.
- BLM sent a notice to Baird that he had to cease and desist and that he was in violation of his grazing permit.
- Baird acquired the allotment as a switch to remove livestock from the Spring Mountain area which was FS land. BLM permitted Baird in this area on the condition he would develop a plan, of which he has not.

- Agee asked what do we want of permittee? Are there other problems with permittee? Morse said yes. He is not rotating cattle as agreed to. BLM is removing his stray cows.
- BLM Las Vegas Field Office will probably go out and issue a trespass on Baird's cattle, give him a cease and desist on his trailers and tell him to open the road.
- Jamrog said that Baird will be in the Las Vegas office soon as they have another issue with him.
- Maichel added that his motorcycle group needs to show support that closing the road was not a good thing by submitting a petition to the BLM. There are other problems with that allotment that Agee and Mullen might want to get involved with at a later date.
- *The RAC will wait and see what happens for now, but they would like to have a brief update (oral or written) at the next meeting.*

### **Field Office Updates:**

**Ely Field Office** - Gene Kolkman, Field Manager.

### **Proposed Power Plant**

- Decision on whether to do an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a land exchange for a proposed power plant that they discussed at the last RAC meeting.
  - < Ely Field Office will stay with an EA on the land exchange.
  - < The power plant will require certain authorizing actions for them to take. One is a pipeline, the other is an access road. Ely Field Office will do an EIS on those applications. Ely office raised the issue that they will address water consumption and potential aquifer impacts as part of that analysis.

### **Proposed holding facility for wild horses**

- **Proposed holding facility for wild horses** with the state prison at Ely. BLM has been working with the State (Nevada Commission for the Preservation for Wild Horses and the prison facilities) to develop a holding and training facility for wild horses at the Ely prison.
- Kolkman will discuss in more detail at June RAC meeting.

### **Prescribed fire**

- Ely office will burn about 25,000 acres in prescribed fire this year. This is mostly 2,000-3,000 acres scattered here and there.

### **Castleton tailings**

- Ely Office has received \$1,000,000 to clean up the site. This is an acidic site where if you walk through this site, it will eat the rubber right off your tennis shoes.
- Ely will do a complete chemical analysis and then they will work with EPA to determine what to do with the site.

**Battle Mountain Field Office** – Bill Fisher presented the update as MacKinnon could not make the meeting.

**Costs for Motorcycle Races**

- The Tonopah Field Station will keep track of costs associated with the Death Valley 300 racing event for Chicas. *Kolkman would also like a copy of the final costs. Fisher will share information with RAC at its next meeting.*
  
- **Renewable issues** – Battle Mountain Field Office has four vacant allotments that the field manager would like to use as a forage bank, or for a permittee in another district that gets burned out, or for a grazing issue.
  - < The RAC would like Fisher to suggest to Smith (Field Manager) that horses cannot be temporarily placed on an HMA. A re-evaluation should be done to see if there is enough forage to sustain any wild horses or burros.

**Las Vegas Field Office** - Mark Morse, Las Vegas Field Manager.

**Independent Power Producers Power Plants (IPPPs).**

- Reliance has a peaking plant proposed in Primm. They are in the process of doing a comprehensive environmental assessment (EA). It is located on private land, but they will be jumping onto public corridors.
  - < Three independent power producers north in the Apex area are on private land, but they will be jumping onto public corridors.
  - < Moapa, which is the Native Americans with Calpine, is in the process of completing their EA, and the Las Vegas Field Office is reviewing.

**M&N Wind Power Plant** (see new release attached)

- Proponent wants to put turbines up on a 4,500-acre area in Table Mountain. BLM had an open-bid process, and M&N won the right to the site at a bid of \$18,500. M&N will also pay for the EIS. This project is totally cost-reimbursable.

There being no further items for discuss, Helton adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

**MOJAVE-SOUTHERN GREAT BASIN  
RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 02, 2001  
Las Vegas Field Office**

Resource Advisory Council (**RAC**) Members Present and Category Represented:

Patrick Chicas	Permitted Recreation
Steve Mellington	Public-At-Large
John Hiatt	Wildlife
Jerry Helton	Transportation and ROW
Colleen Beck	Archaeology
Billie Gayle Young	Wild Horses and Burros
Mike Wickersham	State Agency
Barbara Callihan	Dispersed Recreation
Mark Ioli	Mining
Marta Agee	Ranching
William Mull	Ranching
Stanley Smith	Academic

**RAC** Members Absent:

Susan Selby	Environment
Maurice Frank-Churchill	Native American
Vacant	Elected Official

Bureau of Land Management (**BLM**) Representatives Present:

Mark Morse	Field Manager, Las Vegas Field Office
Angie Lara	Associate Field Manager, Las Vegas
Jo Simpson	Chief, Office of Communications, Nevada State Office
Phil Guerrero	Public Affairs Officer, Las Vegas Field Office
Debra Kolkman	Public Affairs Specialist, Nevada State Office
Craig MacKinnon	Tonopah Field Station Manager
Bill Fisher	Supv. Resource Specialist, Tonopah Field Station
Gene Kolkman	Field Manager, Ely Field Office
Tom Suwyn	Las Vegas Field Office Interagency Fire Officer

**Public Attendees:**

Bob Maichle

Jim Sallee

Julie Gleason

Nevada Wild Horse Commissioner

Jane Feldman

Sierra Club

Pat Fitzgibbons

SMVA

Mike Toas

CSI

*\*A copy of each attachment is listed in the text of, or at the end of these minutes is on file with the official copy of the minutes in the Las Vegas Field Office of the BLM. Persons desiring to view attachments should contact Phillip Guerrero, Las Vegas Field Office, at (702) 647-5046.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Meeting was called to order by Helton at a.m. 8:15 a.m.

**OHV Guidelines Status Report - Gene Kolkman, Ely Field Office Manager**

- Typically, when BLM talks about OHV, they overlap the issues of regulating or controlling the use of a vehicle with access to an area. These are two separate issues.
  - < If you are having resource issues, like an old road goes up a creek bottom, you might close the road or relocate the road. What you are talking about is developing a transportation plan that is environmentally responsible.
  - < It is not restricting access to an area.
  
- If you make a decision to limit use to existing roads and trails, again, BLM is not restricting access to the area. We are not closing the area to access.
- This is different than closing vehicular access in an area such as a wilderness area.
- **Chicas is concerned that the Ely Field Office does not have an ATV or motorcycle person on their OHV committee. Kolkman will look into the matter.**
- Some things they are working on will require a land-use plan amendment. Part of the public process will be the RAC advising BLM on the plan amendment.
- BLM needs to address the issue of vehicles staying on existing roads and trails. Ely deals with this issue district wide. BLM has been struggling the last couple of years on how to get people to stay on existing roads and trails.
- The Tri-County (Lincoln, Nye and White Pine counties) has taken on the task of writing county ordinances trying to effect this through the tri-county area. The counties will do their normal ordinances process.
- The BLM has a provision in their regulations to adopt county plans, but they need to meet certain standards. Again, this will come through the RAC to review, and to give their advice.
- Kolkman talked with the Sierra Front-Northwestern RAC at their last meeting. Some of these members would like to deal with this issue as a Tri-RAC. **Kolkman wonders if this RAC can work through something for eastern Nevada, then bring forward to the two other RACs.**
  - < Chicas cannot endorse plan until he sees what roads BLM, Ely is going to close.
  - < Kolkman responded that they are not closing roads on the broad issue. District

- wide they are just going to ask public to stay on existing roads and trails.
- < Fisher responded they are doing the same thing in Nye County. The County has committed resources to help BLM enforce this issue.
  - Kolkman emphasized that the only closure he is talking about right now is the Duck Creek Basin. Inventories have been done for this area. they have done an assessment road by road. They are dealing with recreational conflicts.
  - Hiatt asked where RAC goes from here?
    - < Kolkman's hope is this: In March they will get an evaluation from the local steering committee.
    - < BLM will evaluate this , put in their language and begin their necessary actions (with the FS). They will start going through planning process to adopt decisions. He hopes to do this in a common-sense way and not drag it out. He wants maximize public involvement so everyone feels they have had a fair shot at this.
    - < Then the three counties are initiating their ordinance. ***He will keep the RAC posted on what the counties are implementing.*** Kolkman pointed out that a lot of use comes from the Las Vegas area. So all the ordinances implemented won't do any good unless they can reach the users. He is at a loss as what to do.
  - He would like recommendations from this RAC. Chicas asked if they have kiosks and people working on heavy use areas. Kolkman said they don't right now, but that is something they may have to do.
  - ***Kolkman will put together a tentative plan and will present to the RAC next time. Kolkman summarized ideas presented.***
    1. Set up and establish a program for public relations, recreation, and out reach to OHV users including organized groups and the general public.
    2. Try to figure out a way to fund these positions in a partnership with the OHV community, then use this group as a vocal point to develop several other programs: (a) organize an Operation Respect type program for the three field offices in this RAC area; (b) develop and provide printed material to campground hosts and other folks in an outreach position.
    3. Establish kiosks in key locations such as Alamo, Hiko, Caliente and Ely to visit with the public about good ethics.
    4. Work with Nevada Division of Wildlife to see if BLM can insert some type of video product into hunter safety courses.
    5. Establish some other group (Helton, Chicas) to do some local community outreach.
    6. Look at changing work hours with BLM staff to get a weekend presence during peak uses and ride-alongs.
    7. Adopt-a-place to see if they can't establish some areas. People would re-hab a trail or pick up trash. Maybe do this during Public Lands Day.
    8. Work with BLM in permitting races.

Helton recessed for a break at 9:55 a.m., re-convened at 10:20 a.m.

**Wildland Fire Management** - Thomas Suwyn, Las Vegas Field Office Interagency Fire Management Officer.

- Congress gave Federal agencies \$9.1 million to help with fire suppression in conjunction with the new national fire plan.
- This money will be used to develop outreach, for contracting services, to develop community awareness, and for fuel reduction.
- The President asked for money as a result of fires in fiscal year 2000.
- Nevada received \$857,000 for communities at risk.
  - < Will be working with State and volunteer fire departments to try to enhance their programs by helping them obtain equipment and communications so Federal agencies can talk to them during fires. One big concern is to have their help to suppress fires and they have not been able to communicate with them.
- Four interagency buildings(stations) will be built in the next two years. One will be in Pahrump valley, one at Mountain Springs, one close to Oliver Ranch and one will be built at either Logandale or Mesquite. The these buildings will house both FS and BLM engines and the Mesquite building will also have engines from Arizona Strip and Lake Mead.

**Recording of Minutes.** Helton asked RAC members what they would like to see for minutes captured?

- Members would like to capture contents of the whole discussion (word-for-word discussion) on tape. Formal actions would be recorded word for word as would discussions from the public. All other discussions would be bulleted topics. Minutes will reflect this decision.

**Nellis Air Force Range Withdrawal and Resource Management Plan** - Jeff Steinmetz, Environmental Protection Specialist, Las Vegas Field Office.

- Several issues came up during scoping meetings:
    - Public access
    - Drilling wells for water and piping out water for public use (Nye proposal).
    - Fire management–let burn areas. Historically there have been no problems.
    - Livestock grazing (Bald Mountain Allotment is inside Nellis). Access is limited, so how does
      - BLM evaluate. Allotment is being used now.
      - Wildlife habitat and condition. Aerial sensing has been conducted for antelope and sheep.
      - Riparian habitat (areas have been fenced off because of horses) is responding well to being
        - fenced off. Water sources/quality (studies conducted indicate water is all right to drink).
        - Air quality (non-attainment area) as discussed yesterday.
  - BLM would like to get draft out for review in late May.
  - Will ask for extra dollars in pre-plan to do studies.
- \*\*Prime reason for withdrawal is for Air Force and its mission.

**Alternatives in Plan**(see handout)

- Horses were a big issue.
  - < Alternative B is BLM's Preferred Alternative. **Final document will not reflect numbers.** Will manage according to what the rangeland can sustain.
  - < Personnel will keep an eye on this area to make sure it can sustain the appropriate population, whatever that may be. Wickersham commented that BLM has not been able to demonstrate that they can manage horses responsibly, and that they have not been able to obtain the necessary funding.
- Hiatt pointed out that AML should be set for desert, low moisture years, not for El Nino years.
- McFadden explained that you set AML according to carrying capacity of the land. Vegetative studies set the numbers. In a land use plan, BLM identifies the utilization at 50 percent which is current to the use of cows. That's how we set AML for horses.
- Kolkman asked Jamrog to consider looking at off-side effects too, in a regional setting. Jamrog will discuss with Kolkman.

**Guerrero will make sure the RAC receives a formal presentation of the Nellis Plan before the end of the comment period.** Morse will give the RAC extra time to comment if they want to make formal comments.

**Outside Las Vegas** - Alan O'Neill, Executive Director. Packet of information was handed out to each RAC member present.

- They wanted to link with other types of quality of life initiatives that were going on. They also wanted to link to the political structure.

Some of the projects/ideas Outside Las Vegas is trying to accomplish:

- For the most part, the public doesn't know how to care for lands. An informed constituency is a good constituency. Outside Las Vegas is trying to figure out how to get people involved.
- Want to give children experience on public lands for environmental education. Want an environmental education field school, so they are looking at the Oliver Ranch site. This would provide a great opportunity for children.
- Manufacturing a house boat that is equipped as an environmental lab and will give children hands-on-experience.
- There is a lot of interest in restoration. Important to teach children about native plants. Very valuable in engaging people in resources.
- Want to leverage land acquisitions on public lands. Building understanding between private sector and public sector.
- Involved in enriching the experience of visitors, as there is a need for quality group campgrounds. Trails is a big emphasis.
- Site stewardship program. They are modeling after a program in Arizona. This let's folks go out and monitor cultural sites. They brought appropriate parties together.

Outside Las Vegas is very interested in educating the public on how to use lands and resources in a

responsible way. Organization helps to organize functions and build structure to work with volunteers.

**Agenda Topics for next meeting: June 21 and 22 at Bill Mull's Ranch.**

- Lincoln County Land Disposal
- Ely area issues
- Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project (this topic will not be discussed Thursday)
- OHV (Kolkman plan)
- Update on wild horse and burro issues

June 21 - Thursday, meeting will be at Bill Mull's Ranch

June 22 - Friday, RAC will be at Convention Center in Ely with Northeast RAC

June 23 - Saturday - Vehicle tour, possibly Mule Shoe fire, and dense pinyon-juniper

June 24 - Sunday - horseback trip to Mt. Graft (or people can hike)

- All present RAC members will be attending the June meeting, except for Helton.

**Public Comment Period:**

Jim Sallee - member of Paragon Foundation in Almagordo, NM, but he lives in Henderson, Nevada.

Last Saturday, he went to the Foundation meeting. The meeting was on Range Net 2000. He believes this is pertinent to the people here at this meeting because it deals with ranching, it deals with anyone using Federal open spaces. The thrust of their meeting is to remove ranchers from the public range. They are accusing the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service and the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service of mismanaging the public lands that serve the livestock industry. So they are going to attempt to get the sage grouse and other sage-oriented species into the endangered species list so they can close down the lands, as they did the logging industry with the spotted owl. This should be noted and people who have an interest in public lands should be aware of it.

Range Net 2000 is about 19 environmental groups that met in Reno, Nevada, in November 2000. If the RAC is interested, the *Range Magazine* has a complete article on this and it also has a response from Ed DePole, a rancher and former area manager of the BLM. DePole counters everything they say and has shown they are wrong. Angie Kerr, who is an activist and has been involved in closing down the logging industry for 20 years, has now decided to give his attention to the ranching industry.

Simpson added that DePole is chair of Central Grazing Board for Nevada. ***To get a copy of the article, the Las Vegas Field Office can get a copy, or you can go to their web site at rangenet.com.***

There being no further public comments, the public comment period ended.

**Coyote Springs Investment** - Mike Ford, Consultant.

- Coyote Springs is the area that spans east of U.S. 93 and north of Highway 168. This area

used to be BLM land that was transferred into private ownership in 1988, as part of the Nevada/Florida Land Exchange, commonly known as the AeroJet Exchange.

< BLM transferred some 42,000 acres into private ownership. The 42,000 acres is comprised of two distinct components--29,000 acres that are 100 percent fee ownership; 13,000 acres that have 99-year lease with an option for a renewal for another 99 years.

- Two-thirds of Coyote Springs sits in Lincoln County and one-third sits in Clark County. The lease area is a doughnut hole in the middle of the broader area (13,000 acres), located in both Lincoln and Clark counties.
- There is a large amount of water associated with this (old MX wells). There is a huge underground lake consisting of carbonate water.
- Important component of lease area is a fee interest. Legislation, when it passed, allowed AeroJet to do a number of things. They could have roads, ancillary facilities. The FWS was designated to be the lead agency for the Department of the Interior (DOI) to look at any subsequent actions that occurred out there, in particular with withdrawal of groundwater and threatened and endangered species.
- Since 1998, they are the land development company and they have been moving forward to exercise certain rights they currently enjoy. In respect to the land south of the Clark County line, it is patented, private land. Coyote Springs has been trying to develop some sort of scenario for the development of this land that is mutually beneficial. Because of the configuration of the donut hole in the middle, it wasn't conducive to wildlife. Fee land goes from Highway 168 on up.
- Sat down with FWS to discuss options for what might work for wildlife and development. Because of planning documents from two different agencies, some things can be done in Clark County that cannot be done in Lincoln County. Coyote Springs Investment has needs, so they had to sit down with FWS so that it works for both sides. They did a habitat conservation plan for all 42,000 acres that was privately funded, privately supported. This is a multi-species plan.
- Jane Feldman from the Sierra Club and a member of the Clark County HCP. The Clark County HCP is set up 4 desert wildlife management areas (DWMAs) specifically for the desert tortoise. The is one large DWMA there in Clark County, and does that overlap the Coyote Springs project? Also, there are a couple of WSAs. Where are those boundaries? Ford answered that first of all, there are no WSAs within the Coyote Springs area. They are outside the established boundaries. There are the Mormon Mesa Critical Habitat Unit for tortoise, and the Northeastern Mojave Recovery Unit that is up there. They have overlaid those areas, and that will be part of the HCP process. What is important is that the movement of the tortoise. The east side is so steep that the tortoises couldn't go that way. There are some passageways, with the configuration of the land, the tortoise would be cut off. The way they have designed this development, and in negotiations with the FWS, Coyote Springs has already proposed in their service that they will create two

passageways—one to the north and one to the west. Hiatt expressed his concern that so far urban development and the tortoise have not worked out. Ford believes they have worked out the best possible scenario for the integration of the tortoise. Morse also pointed out that Coyote Springs is working with the FWS on their own initiative.

- < Feldman also said this isn't just a tortoise issue. Flycatcher and other species are in this area. Ford agreed that it is a multi-species habitat plan (MSHCP).
- < Coyote Springs is committed to a MSHCP and there are a lot of things they can do out there.
- < As part of MSHCP, an agreement will be signed in next the couple of weeks. The outcome will be areas that have been identified as critical. Coyote Springs will try to make adjustments to the land if there are areas of concern. Then we will see a re-configuration according to the MSHCP.
- < Land exchanges will not occur until MSHCP is complete. Coyote Springs will initiate a development scenario of their lands in Clark County. It will be a golf course and associated facilities to start with. Eventually there will be residential and commercial development. Initial development of 1,000 acres will be in Clark County.
- Hiatt commented that the vast amounts of water underlying this land are not 100 percent sure right now. The Las Vegas Water Authority has preference rights on this water. Ford responded that the water will be permitted by State Engineer, and Coyote Springs Investment has agreed to monitoring plans. If they started pushing ground tomorrow, it would still take two years for anything to be built. Ultimately, if it does impact other resources, they would have to pursue other sources. Helton said if there is some testing to be done, the golf course will certainly draw down water. If they monitor the golf course use (draw down) they have a basis for a test. If it proves not to work, no one will be evicted from their home.
- Water is a great concern to FWS and for Muddy River. Several things are being proposed. Coyote Springs has conducted tests on the former MX well. They ran a test for three days at wide open and it did not draw the spring down at all. If there isn't a long-term problem, this might be an additional water source for Moapa. All agencies will be participants in the water plan.
- Ford does not want to mislead anyone. Their final vision is to develop residential area.
- Kolkman's concern is that if development would occur around the donut hole, it would affect the tortoise habitat. Ford said Coyote Springs has already proposed to create passageways for the tortoise.
- Morse pointed out to RAC that FWS is in the drivers seat.

There being no further business, Helton adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

August 27, 2001

Jerry Helton, Vice-Chair  
Mojave-Southern Great Basin  
Resource Advisory Council

APPROVED BY:

August 27, 2001

Susan Selby, Chair  
Mojave-Southern Great Basin  
Resource Advisory Council

Minutes provided by Debra Kolkman, Office of Communications, BLM Nevada State Office

Attachments:

- 1 - Introduction to SNPLMA (1 p)
- 2 - SNPLMA - Land Acquisition (14 pp)
- 3 - Cultural Resources in "Fulfilling the Promise" (2 pp)
- 4 - Letter to State Director Abbey - SNPLMA Selection & Ranking Criteria (1 pp)
- 5 - The Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project Brochure
- 6 - Ely District Fire Projects Map (1 pp)
- 7 - Newspaper Article - "Public lands panel opposes fee plan by Forest Service" (1 pp)
- 8 - Section 90 (Fugitive Dust From Open Areas and Vacant Lots (6 pp)
- 9 - Ely Field Manager's Update(3 pp)
- 10 - Prison Industries Wild Horse Holding/Gentling Facility Proposal (1 p)
- 11 - Battle Mountain Field Manager's Update (2 pp)
- 12 - Assembly Bill No. 56--Authorizing counties to transfer or sell real property (2 pp)
- 13 - BLM News Release on Proposed Power Plants in Clark County (5 pp)
- 14 -BLM News Release on M&N Proposed Wind Power (3 pp)
- 15 -BLM News Release on Clean Up of Discarded Tires (3 pp)
- 16 - BLM News Release on Funding for National Fire Program (1 p)
- 17 - Briefing Paper on Nellis Air Force Range Withdrawal (4 pp)
- 18 - Map of Nellis Air Force Range