

Federal Lands  
Joint WSGA WWGA Meeting

Meeting called to order by WSGA Chairman Glen Alameda.

Introductions: Joe Neild, Vice Chair, and recognition for Truman Julian (absent), WWGA chair, Eric Peterson, recorder.

Review of agenda and introduction of speakers and dignitaries.

Item: Washington Update, Maggie Beal and Pete Obermueller.

Climate change finding thought to be a political strategy

Cap and Trade legislation position thought to be weak. Mentioned requirement for adaptation and mitigation strategies in response to climate change to be addressed in NEPA documents

Permit Renewal still in appropriations riders.

Secretary of Agriculture has announced allocation of 40 million in Region II for Bark Beetle mitigation, primarily to set up west-wide demonstration projects.

Secretary of Interior Salazar counter proposal regarding Wild horse strategy signals weakness for support for the ROAM bill.

NREPA may be scheduled for mark-up on committee. Feeling is that the concept is DOA in Senate.

Item: USFS update by Ric Forsman.

Discussed lawsuit regarding Categorical Exclusion authorization. BLM has pulled back from the authority.

Legal struggles in Idaho regarding Bighorn and Domestic sheep issues.

Talked about Western Watersheds activities. Talked about Recission Act schedules. Wyoming forests generally ahead of schedule

Item: BLM Update by Joe Meyer

Appropriation act rider re-authorized permit authorization processes currently in effect to do permit renewals in the face of workloads.

BLM is putting a lot of effort in monitoring

Building relationships with Weed and Pest districts regarding funding

Signed MOU with PLC (again) regarding Joint cooperative monitoring.

Still working on final guidance for grouse.

RMP processes have been progressing and ongoing. Several completed, several underway.

Noted increased demands as result of responding to renewable energy interests.

Item EAJA initiative by Karen Budd Falen

Environmental groups are being paid by the Federal government to sue the Federal Government as a result of the EAJA act. Urged support for Western Legacy Alliance. Lummis, et.al. asking for transparency in tracking EAJA expenditures and are preparing a bill.

Item: Forest Service Categorical Exclusion litigation by Karen Budd Falen

Affects 11 Wyoming allotments. Very similar suit in New Mexico was won and should set precedent for the case in California Federal courts.

Item: Wild Horse Update by Dick Loper and Jason Fearneyhough

Interior Secretary Salazar proposed an initiative including buying private property and turning them into federal horse reserves.

Item: Bighorn Forest Litigation by Jim Magagna.

WSGA is an intervenor. The litigation seeks defense of the USFS planning process. Currently in required mediation phase.

Item: Bridger Teton Little Greys ROD by Joe Neild

Fear that the EA is going to be a template for other NEPA work. Calls for substantive reductions in utilization.

Item: State Grazing Board Update by Dick Loper

A "Monitoring" bill has been drafted.

Sees trend in lawsuits shifting from success in process questions to seeing more technical issues being successful. WDA wants to know how they can help in the process.

Resolution introduced regarding Wild horse Management. (text follows) Introduced by John Espy and moved to adopt. Seconded by Nels Hansen. Motion to adopt passes

Directive introduced regarding EAJA (text follows) Introduced by John Croft and moved to adopt. Seconded by Rob Crofts. Motion to adopt passes

#### Wild Horse Management

WSGA/WWGA support efforts to control the number of Wild and feral horses on private, state and BLM lands both in and out of established Herd Management Areas (HMA's) at such a level that the BLM can manage the annual increase in population in a manner consistent with Wild Horse Management section 2 of the Wild Horse and Burro Act which states "When the Secretary determines on the basis of [information available to him] that an overpopulation exists on a given area of the public lands and that action is necessary to remove excess animals, he shall immediately remove excess animals from the range so as to achieve appropriate management levels. Such action shall be taken, [in aspecified priority], until all excess animals have been removed so as to restore a thriving natural ecological balance to the range, and protect the range from the deterioration associated with overpopulation." The offered as an addition to Federal Lands policy #38 which states, "Support that the BLM manage the wild horses according to the appropriate management levels and that there be no moratoriums on horse roundups."

Equal Access to Justice Directive:

The Officers and Staff of WSGA/WWGA are directed to support the efforts of the Western Legacy Alliance and other groups to pursue full disclosure of payments made under the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA)

Being no further business, meeting adjourned by Chairman Alameda.