

## 2019 Current Fiscal Year Report: Eastern Montana Resource Advisory Council

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<b>1. Department or Agency</b>		<b>2. Fiscal Year</b>	
Department of the Interior		2019	
<b>3. Committee or Subcommittee</b>		<b>3b. GSA Committee No.</b>	
Eastern Montana Resource Advisory Council		2060	
<b>4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?</b>	<b>5. Current Charter</b>	<b>6. Expected Renewal Date</b>	<b>7. Expected Term Date</b>
No	03/05/2018	03/05/2020	
<b>8a. Was Terminated During FiscalYear?</b>	<b>8b. Specific Termination Authority</b>	<b>8c. Actual Term Date</b>	
No	5 U.S.C. Appendix		
<b>9. Agency Recommendation for Next FiscalYear</b>	<b>10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?</b>	<b>10b. Legislation Pending?</b>	
Continue	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	
<b>11. Establishment Authority</b> Statutory (Congress Created)			
<b>12. Specific Establishment Authority</b>	<b>13. Effective Date</b>	<b>14. Committee Type</b>	<b>14c. Presidential?</b>
Federal Land Policy and Management Act, Sec. 309	10/21/1976	Continuing	No
<b>15. Description of Committee</b> Non Scientific Program Advisory Board			
<b>16a. Total Number of Reports</b>	No Reports for this FiscalYear		
<b>17a. Open Meetings and Dates</b>	<b>17b. Closed Meetings and Dates</b>	<b>17c. Partially Closed Meetings and Dates</b>	<b>17d. Total Meetings and Dates</b>
No Meetings			

	Current FY	Next FY
<b>18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00

<b>18d. Total</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	0.00	0.00

**20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?**

The RAC offers advice to the BLM and serves as a sounding board and input-working group for the BLM field managers located in Billings and Miles City, Montana. RAC members provide input to the BLM regarding the viewpoints from their constituencies on local natural resource issues.

**20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?**

The Eastern Montana Resource Advisory Council was composed of 15 members distributed in a balanced fashion among the following groups. Category I includes those holding Federal grazing permits or leases, interests associated with transportation or rights-of-way, developed outdoor recreation, OHV users, or commercial recreation activities, commercial timber industry, or energy and mineral development. Category II includes nationally or regionally recognized environmental organizations, dispersed recreation activities, archaeological and historical interests, or nationally or regionally recognized wild horse and burro interest groups. Category III includes state, county, or locally elected office-holders, employee of a State agency responsible for the management of natural resources, Indian Tribes within or adjacent to the area for which the RAC is organized, are employed as academicians in natural resource management or the natural sciences, or represent the public-at-large.

**20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?**

When operational, the Eastern Montana RAC typically meets two to three times a year in various locations throughout its jurisdictional area. The meetings include RAC member briefings to the BLM; updates on activities by the BLM's Billings and Miles City Field Offices and Eastern Montana/Dakotas District. Other agenda items are included that reflect developing issues and new BLM-wide emphasis areas. RAC members stay up-to-date on BLM programs and issues and offer pertinent and timely advice. Training is also periodically conducted at these meetings.

**20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?**

Montana is characterized by great distances between communities. The BLM's Miles City and Billings Field Offices cover an area encompassing the entire eastern one-third of the state with a checkerboard land-ownership status. The RAC meets this need and allows the BLM to hear from a variety of interests without excessive time and expense. RAC meetings rotate between communities in eastern Montana to allow the public to address

the Council.

**20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?**

When held, all meetings are open to the public. Notices of the meetings are published in the Federal Register, posted on the BLM Montana/Dakotas website, and distributed to local print and broadcast outlets, organizations and political representatives via news releases.

**21. Remarks**

The RAC did not meet in FY2018 due to a lack of quorum, per BLM regulations.

**Designated Federal Officer**

Diane Friez BLM Eastern Montana/Dakotas District Manager

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Hanson, Steven	11/17/2015	11/17/2018	Attorney	Representative Member
Harding, Rita	11/17/2015	11/17/2018	Retired	Representative Member
Line, Lucas	11/17/2015	11/17/2018	Ranch hand	Representative Member
Pilster, Larry	11/17/2015	11/17/2018	Rancher	Representative Member

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 4**

**Narrative Description**

Members of the Eastern BLM's Montana RAC provide input on BLM issues related to natural resource management in eastern Montana. RAC members are also a conduit for public participation and provide input to the BLM from their respective constituencies. Council members address public comments made during regular RAC meetings, and provide perspective to the public relating to BLM policies.

**What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?**

	Checked if Applies
Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Outcome Comments**

The RAC provides an interface between various land-use groups and interests, and is an effective liaison between the agency and the multiple use-oriented public. The RAC helps enhance trust and the public's feelings of involvement where the public land is concerned. The RAC also represents the public in resource management planning, providing input for consideration on management strategies and possible outcomes.

**What are the cost savings associated with this committee?**

Checked if Applies

- None
- Unable to Determine
- Under \$100,000
- \$100,000 - \$500,000
- \$500,001 - \$1,000,000
- \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000
- \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000
- Over \$10,000,000
- Cost Savings Other

**Cost Savings Comments**

An in-depth analysis has not been done to determine cost savings associated with the Eastern Montana RAC. However, the contributions of the RAC are of benefit to the BLM.

**What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?**

14

**Number of Recommendations Comments**

There were no recommendations developed in FY2018.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?**

0%

**% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

No recommendations developed in FY2018.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?**

0%

**% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments**

No recommendations developed in FY2018

**Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?**

Yes  No  Not Applicable

**Agency Feedback Comments**

RAC didn't meet in FY2018 due to a lack of quorum, per BLM regulations.

**What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?**

Checked if Applies

- Reorganized Priorities
- Reallocated resources
- Issued new regulation
- Proposed legislation
- Approved grants or other payments
- Other

**Action Comments**

RAC didn't meet in FY2018

**Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?**

No

**Grant Review Comments**

N/A

**How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?**

Checked if Applies

- Contact DFO
- Online Agency Web Site
- Online Committee Web Site
- Online GSA FACA Web Site
- Publications
- Other

## **Access Comments**

When they meet, the BLM distributes meeting notes to RAC members after each meeting.

These notes are also posted on the RAC website at:

<https://www.blm.gov/get-involved/resource-advisory-council/near-you/montana-dakotas>.

Individuals can also call the designated Federal Officer directly with questions or concerns, and do so on a regular basis. RAC members treat the managers with respect and value their relationships. They inquire on topics of interest in relation to the BLM's role in local issues.