

PUBLIC LANDS ROUNDTABLE MINUTES

Meeting Location: BLM Ridgecrest Office

Minutes of: July 24, 2025

Called to order at: 6:06pm by Chairman George Croll

Pledge of allegiance was led by George Croll.

Charlie announced that we have a new DTNA Manager, _____ Emway.

A MOTION was made for last meeting's minutes by Sam, 2nd by _____. Passed

PLRT MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: John Auburn, Barbara Bane, George Croll, Arzell Hale, Charlie Hattendorf, Will Liebscher, Gary Luckeroth, Mary Grimsley, Mark Mason, Sam Merk, Libby Vincent, Hector Villalobos, & Phil Desenze, Ridgecrest Field Manager.

GUESTS: No guests tonight.

GUEST SPEAKER: None – focusing on finishing up Bylaws.

ROUND TABLE BUSINESS

NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS: none

BLM UPDATES: by Phil Desenze, Ridgecrest Field Manager.

FILMING: Most shoots involve a half-dozen people, no long-term set ups of cameras or sets. Garlock Road is used a lot for car commercials.

+ A Liam Neeson major movie was filmed out here lately.

BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL: George asked about the possible land sales of BLM land, if it was passed in The Big Beautiful Bill, and NO, it was pulled out of the bill and did not pass.

+ Sam asked if there was anything else in the BBB that applied to Public Lands and the BLM, of anything with DOGE, etc? Phil replied that they have not received anything yet, or have anything that we can read, so we really don't know yet. He believes there may be something in it that will impact the BLM in the foreseeable future, but doesn't know for sure. We have received a new BLM Handbook that eliminates requirements for a public comment period for EA's & EIS's. I have several projects with public comment period and I will finish those, and I will continue with public comments periods until I can't.

The question was asked, how can the Department of Interior just arbitrarily discontinue public comment periods? Phil answered "I'm sure a judge is going to answer that question. I can imagine there will be challenges to it." There was a continuing conversation, which start around the 15 minute mark thru the 21:45 on the tape.

+ Sam had a question / comment about the Payment in Lieu of Taxes, with a discussion that continued.

WILD HORSE & BURRO: We've moved 400 animals out of our facility (200 adoptions, the rest to other facilities), but will be getting more in from other gathers. The China Lake gather is scheduled for October with the plan to remove 200 – 250 animals there. We did an adoption event last April which was very successful. We are planning another event possibly this fall.

STAFFING: We don't have manager at the corrals yet, and 2 of our wranglers are off for training. The hiring freeze will be ongoing thru February. We are waiting for exemptions of the freeze to go thru so we can hire an archeologist, a geologist, a biologist, an environmental coordinator, and

+ Since our last meeting, Craig Beck has passed away. We won't be able to fill his shoes, ever. He had a huge presence in this office. We are planning on having a Memorial Service for Craig sometime in October.

CONGLOMERATE MESA: They received 14,000 comments, that they're wading thru, with lots of form letters that all count as 1 letter.

NEW BUSINESS:

IWV WATER DISTRICT: George reported that the State Water Resource Board has sent both the IWV Water District and the Inyokern CSD a letter that we have 6 months to figure out how to merge together as a single entity and / or the State is likely to force the consolidation between those two. If the State forces this issue, it does come with State money (to fix what is broke with the Inyokern CSD). If we consolidate on our own, the money would be coming from the IWDWD.

OLD BUSINESS:

Our focus tonight was to finish going over the PLRT By-Laws. It's 6:45pm, so we need to get started!

MOTION was made by Mark Mason to accept the new / updated By-Laws, 2nd by Mary Grimsley. Passed.

Agenda for next meeting was discussed, to include the new Desert Tortoise Manager for sure.

+ We need to limit the length of time a guest speaker to talk. 20 minutes with 15 minutes for questions.

Questions will be after the presentation, so write them down.

+ Mark suggested that we have our local Falconer come to give us a presentation at a future meeting.. Jeff Nowack.

+ We sure do need a geologist in this office with all the mining projects that are going on.

+ On the news the other night, they reported on the salary of the head life guard for Los Angeles County is \$540,000, with 3 top lifeguards salaries are \$450,000, and we can't even afford to hire a geologist.

Meeting was adjourned at: 8:00pm

NEXT PLR MEMBERSHIP MEETING will be 8/28/25.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Grimsley

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

George Croll, Chairman, can be reached by phone @:

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