

PUBLIC LANDS ROUNDTABLE MINUTES

Meeting Location: BLM Office **Minutes of:** July 23, 2026

Called to order at: 6:04pm by Co-chair Charlie Hattendorf

PLRT MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Skip Gorman, Charlie Hattendorf, Will Liebscher, Gary Luckeroth, Mary Grimsley, Sam Merk, Steven Rainey, Dana Stevenson, BLM Assistant Manager

The meeting was called to order at 6:04pm.

Pledge of allegiance was led by Charlie Hattendorf.

Charley opened up the meeting to tell us that Arzell Hale fell in garden and has a small fracture of his hip. Not enough to require surgery, but it will keep him bed for another few weeks under rest restrictions. We all wished him well.

First off, it was brought up by Charlie that he felt uncomfortable having our meeting audio available to the public. It was quickly discussed, then Sam Merk made a MOTION: To not make the audio of the meeting available to the public on the website and keep it available to members only. 2nd by Mary Grimsley; Passed. From now on, we decided that the minutes do not need to be so detailed as Mary has been doing, and briefer.

Sam wished the BLM a Happy 80th Birthday.

Public Lands Day will be September 26th at 9:00am somewhere out in Inyokern to meet. Sam's new group, , will be heading up a clean-up with the BLM. Food will also be provided. More details later. Sam will be giving up her "Representing the Public" on the PLRT so that she can represent her organization, the . She would like to present her "Public" position to Arzell Hale when he returns.

John Auburn is in Colorado with 2 of his Burros. The remaining Burros left behind at home were not happy, and let him know as he drove away.

Dana Stevenson gave us a briefing on the following:

WILD HORSE & BURRO: 2 Emergency gathers were completed. One in Trona after another fatality on the road leaving town going north. They only have 2 wranglers at the WH&B corrals and are at full capacity: 1,000 animals. They are moving the older ones out to other long-term holding facilities.

LAW ENFORCEMENT is very busy with fires, with most out of the office. A couple of small fires, one behind Robbers Roost, for one. They have requested a grant for restoration.

GROUND WATER: Still in the Pre-NEPA phase for the pipeline.

STAFFING: No hiring being done at the moment. We do have a much-needed Archeologist temporarily. Paul Rodriguez, real estate specialist has retired (?) and Tom Bickauskas has already moved.

WEMO: Recently submitted to Judge a required quarterly update on what the BLM is doing. Mapping the area; working on maps for the public that are easier to read; and education.

Skip asked about the Over the Hill running events that might be getting into the close area, and whether they were permitted, as it is a long running event. Dana replied that they have a 10-year permit. They will be given a special permit for driving in to put up drink stations as needed.

Charlie made a MOTION: to not have an August meeting. 2nd by everybody . Passed.

An open discussion ensued about the pipeline, water rights, possible election of those to serve on the next Ground Water Authority board. The GOA serving now was appointed, NOT voted on.

The meeting was closed by Charlie Hattendorf at 6:55pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Mary Grimsley, Secretary