

EXHIBIT 17

June 4, 2021 Fort McDermitt Paiute-
Shoshone Tribe meeting notes

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
DOCUMENTATION OF TRIBAL GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION & COORDINATION

PROJECT TITLE/IDENTIFICATION		
<u>Check Meeting Type(s):</u>		<u>Meeting Date(s)</u>
1. Formal government-to-government consultation (BLM Manager w/Tribal Council/Chair)	X	7/23/2021 1330
2. Government-to-government info sharing (BLM Manager or Liaison/BLM Staff w/Tribal Chair/Council)		
3. Coordination on project/planning/program work or proposal (BLM Liaison/BLM Staff w/Tribal Staff)		
MEETING PARTICIPANTS	NAME	ROLE
Tribes: FORT MCDERMIT TRIBE	Maxine Redstar	Chairwoman
Bureau of Land Management: WDO	Ester McCullough, Kathleen Rehberg, Mark Hall, James ‘Andy’ Boerighter, Donovan Walker	WDO District Manager, HRFO Field Manager, BRFO Field Manager, BRFO Assistant Field Manager, Interagency Fire Management Officer
MEETING INFORMATION [attach additional sheets as necessary]		
Topic(s) and Major Point(s):	Monthly project update meeting, both current and future	
Conclusion(s)/Agreement(s):		
Follow-up and Assignment(s) (What/Who/When):		
Completion of Follow-up and Assignment(s):		
DOCUMENTATION INFORMATION	NAME	ROLE
<u>Recipient [include specific names and positions]:</u>		
1. Tribes	Maxine Redstar	Chairwoman
2. BLM Line/Staff(s)		
3. Administrative Record/Project File	Shannon Deep	Native American Coordinator
4. BLM Field Office Manager		
5. Applicant/Contractor		
NAME OF RECORDER <u>SHANNON DEEP</u>		DATE <u>7/27/21</u>

Notes: The meeting waited 30 minutes for other tribal members to arrive, started meeting @ 2pm. Introductions of all members present at the meeting.

- First on the agenda of current projects that might be of potential interest to the tribe: Jordan Meadows Grazing Permit Renewals EA:
EA will be starting soon with a new grazing management plan for this allotment since the last one was in 1995. The applicant will be BLM and the grazing permittee (Home Ranch LLC). This project is located 10-15 miles west of McDermitt on the Montana Mountains. A map is provided for locational purposes. The tribe has no comment.
- Pueblo Fire Station ER&PP Final EA: the NORA is out for comment. The project analyzes providing Humboldt County with the opportunity to acquire a parcel of land within the Pueblo Fire Protection in order to construct a facility to house fire protection apparatus and to store equipment for the Humboldt County Roads Department. The facility would also provide water for fire suppression and road maintenance. The proposed action would be located approximately 30 miles south of Denio, NV. A map is provided for locational purposes. The NORA consultation letter got sent out on 7/21/21 with a map as well. The tribe has no comment.
- The Pinto Hot Spring and McGee Mountains Geothermal exploration projects are in the pre-app stage. Ormat has proposed two geothermal exploration projects in northern Humboldt County. The McGee exploration project is located southwest of Continental Lake near the old Painted Hills Mine in the HRFO. The Pinto Exploration Project is located around Pinto Hot Springs in the BRFO. If the resource is determined to be viable for production through exploration activities, then the next phase would be to develop the resource. The exploration phase will take several years to complete, and Ormat will submit a utilization plan that will require further NEPA analysis for a decision. BLM is in the process of getting the baselines completed for the Pinto project. The tribe indicated that the McGee Mountains project might be of some future interest for the tribe.

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-McDermitt Cordero Mine cleanup:

Kathleen: The BLM has been working on figuring out tracking down the previous owners responsible for the dumping of toxic materials so they can help front the cost, they have found one of the owners so far. The BLM is putting together a cost analysis to recover the land and clean up the waste material, around \$2 million so far.

Chair: Would this be the reason for the contamination around McDermitt?

Kathleen: Possibly, the mercury leaks would be high, it was tested by the EPA.

Chair: Especially around the school

Kathleen: The BLM is still committed on getting it cleaned up.

Chair: The tribe was just awarded the Brown grant, which the EPA used to test around the old fort and other Cordero contaminants. The test results are expected back in September. Are there air quality monitors being planned by the BLM?

Kathleen: I'm not sure. I know they capped the hazardous calcine and want to fill in the pit, as trash is being put it in. They also want to cap other piles of hazardous material.

Chair: PWS Plant, a machinery plant, might be hazardous as well.

Kathleen: The BLM considers the cleanup ongoing work.

-Fire to come around 2:30 to discuss current fire projects, other projects may also be discussed while the meeting waits for fire to arrive:

Ester: Green stripping has been done in different areas to put in forage koska which doesn't burn as well as opposed to the dry cheet grass which is like tinder box. The nation is currently at National Planning level 5, which is the highest level we go. That level means we don't let any fire just burn at this point because there's no additional support available.

Chair: Is Ruby Pipeline still happening?

Mark: Ruby Pipeline and Sinclair's Project of 48-inch pipeline through the heart of the NCA to Fernley are still semi-active projects and not dead.

Chairwoman: That's surprising, we have so little water, why would they want to deplete what we have?

Ester: Water is the State Engineer's provenance.

Chair: What is the BLM's position here?

Ester: BLM has the responsibility to figure out how to 'reasonably' grant the exercise of that right, if someone has a water right existing, or any other right we try to grant it with the least impact done to the land.

Kathleen: They would need a Basin transfer approved through the State Water Engineer to get those projects approved.

Chairwoman: There's a misconception with the BLM where you're the bad guy because BLM is not responsible.

Ester: We are subject to an aggressive mandate.

Kathleen: Hopefully we can keep these monthly meetings going, especially with draft documents in the works. Other projects we have currently for instance which aren't near McDermitt but might be of interest are the Humboldt County Shooting Range EA and the Winnemucca Sand Dunes EA. *Kathleen briefly gives an overview of both projects* The Owyhee Wild Horse and Burro Gather working with the BLM Elko District is coming up soon as well, it's near the Reservation.

-Cultural Data Sharing Memorandum of Understanding: A draft of the MoU was sent to the tribe in later April, is there any update?

Chair: We are currently working on discussing the MoU and signing it. We would like to discuss it with the BLM at a later date.

-The next monthly consultation meeting is planned on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, August 17th at 1330. We discussed rotating locations, does this suit the tribe?

Chair: Due to current covid concerns, our office is closed until our Health Department gives the green light, so having the next meeting on that date at the WDO office would be preferable.

BLM: We can do that.

Chair: Our administration building and conference room are under renovation currently, and we've upgraded our timekeeping system and have Wi-Fi now. If health concerns are better, we might be able to have the September meeting in the newly renovated building.

Fire arrives

Chair: The FS has a new process for streamlining the application process to apply for harvesting ceremonial wood which goes through the Tribe now. I've been working with Joe Gorratto.

Donovan: Joe Goratto has left for Whittaker California. (The District Manager of the FS for the Santa Rosa District on the Humboldt-Kaiobe Forest). Jose Noreaga is replacing him on a detail for now.

Chair: I recognize that name, I may have worked with him before.

Donovan: It hasn't been a busy season here for Fire so far, but there is a lot happening nationally, so we've been supplying support. We are able to staff at McDermitt if we need to at the airport. We need to hire more people, but we are managing. The Santa Rosa field break is maintained, the Forest Service contacted us to continue a fuel break up around McDermitt onto the Owyhee desert. The I-95 fuel break by Fort McDermitt is complete for this year. The BLM has fire protection responsibility for tribal lands, and we are willing to provide support for fuels projects the tribe might be interested in. Urban-wildlife interfaces are usually done by Nevada Division of Forestry, I'm not sure about tribal lands, possibly the BIA's jurisdiction.

Chair: Do you have the point of contact for them?

Donovan: Yes, that would be Joe Palma, I can email you his contact information.

Chair: Right now, our fire response for the tribe is primarily volunteer but we can tie into other agencies to help develop an official program to help the volunteers be better prepared and be proactive as opposed to reactive.

Donovan: BIA might help to provide gear and resources to the tribe to help fight fires and be better prepared. BLM can help provide training as well, as long as the Tribe is an official entity within the standing agreements qualifications. We need to keep in communication and organized and no "lend" equipment for liability issues. The first step would be getting in touch with the BIA to figure out where the Tribe needs help and doesn't.

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Ester: I mentioned green stripping, can you elaborate on that procedure for the Chairwoman?

Donovan: *discusses fuel breaks* We need to have defensible spaces at homes as well as prepared fire crews. Fires are getting bigger, lasting longer, and there are less people available to keep up. I am very much in support for all the partners I can get to help battle the problem.

-Ester: Are there any other questions you have?

Chairwoman: No, but I want to let you know I am going to push for the MoU agreement. I know with the Thacker Pass injunction the HPTP isn't available for public review, whereas if we had the Cultural MoU, it would make that easier. The protesters say there's burials at Thacker Pass, but it just feeds into their fantasies and riles up the young people. Those residential students' graves were found with sonar, I would like to use that to confirm or deny for good for these burial rumors. I know from our oral history and speaking with our elders that our people conducted burials with piles of rocks on top since digging is difficult. There are lots of complications and contradictions going around right now. Our elders have a story which contradicts the mass grave story circulating right now. They tell of the Pit River tribe stealing a Paiute daughter and sending a war party which tortured two men and spread their entrails across the land. This is said to take place at Sentinel Rock, which we call Pee-ha (woman's breast). This story does not speak to burials however. Our oral histories are not documented, and things get lost in translation and confusion. There is a push and pull in my community about this issue, but I want to keep discussions open with the BLM

Mark: The ARPA permit consultation period is still open and we are willing to work with the tribe to discuss opportunities for tribal monitors, religious ceremonies before breaking ground, having a chapter in the finished HPTP report from the tribe's perspective for the history of the cultural sites, and/or having a traditional plant nursery/seed bank established.

Chairwoman: We are interested in the plant information; my environmental consultant has made a list of important native plants. Lithium Nevada has shown they are willing to meet the tribe more than halfway, but it's a complicated matter of what the tribe wants.

Kathleen: It's a fine line to walk, one can't make everyone happy. The ARPA permit consultation discussion is still open though, like Mark said.

Chairwoman: The tribe has asked the Fish and Wildlife Service for a scoping meeting regarding the Eagle permit. I know this project has not happened out of the blue though and has been happening for awhile.

Kathleen: Yes, for more than 10 years this project has been in the planning stages. Unfortunately, Nevada is full of minerals which people want to mine.

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Chair: Due to current covid concerns, having the next meeting on that date at the WDO office would be preferable.

BLM: We can do that.

Shannon: Here are all the extra agendas with maps of the current projects discussed. I will send you a copy of the meeting notes through email next week.