

**Minutes of the Meeting
March 19, 2002
at Sizzler Restaurant**

March's High Desert Rovers' club meeting was held once again at the Sizzler located on Menaul. The meeting started at about 7pm with the introduction of our guest speaker Peggy Sorenson, Volunteer Coordinator for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) by Vice President, Suzanne Miller. Ms. Sorenson started her presentation with a small introduction to BLM and the purpose of the government agency concerning land use issues.

She mentioned that BLM is a multiple use agency-they have to take into consideration all requests for uses of the nations public lands but they have to do environmental assessments for any request. There are over 270 million acres of BLM land in the United States but there is a serious shortage of manpower to patrol the BLM areas nationwide. BLM has a volunteer organization that although they are considered Federal employees while on patrol, this volunteer effort makes up for the lack of manpower to keep a watchful eye on the public lands and the way they are being used.

Ms. Sorenson went on with an informative slide show on how High Desert Rovers could "make a difference".

We were told that anyone can volunteer as long as they are physically able to perform specific duties relating to different specified projects for the BLM. The most important reason to volunteer.? There are many, to have fun, to be exposed to a different career, training skills, see new country, the satisfaction of contributing to public lands, to become aware of the BLM and how this government agency works, to meet new people.

What effort does BLM need? They need patrols of public lands and generating a patrol log or report while out on BLM land. We can be the watchful eye while out off-roading in the BLM areas, our duties would be to report anything we see that might be unusual, including suspicious activities, gates that appear to be vandalized, removal of plants and or antiquities, evidence of grazing where we have told there shouldn't be any, dead animals, dumping, etc.

Some websites to get more information on BLM:

[New Mexico BLM Web Site](#)

[National BLM Web Site](#)

[PublicLands Web Site](#)

In closing Peggy Sorenson that at anytime the club wanted to withdraw as volunteers that we are able to do so, and with that BLM is also allowed to dissolve our group from being volunteers at anytime. With that she passed out the sign up sheet to Secretary, Jackie Brandenburg to fill out the group's information. Peggy scheduled the club's first outing on BLM land with a Volunteer Coordinator for April 6, 2002. Interested members can meet at the BLM office located on Montano at 8:00 a.m. for a short orientation and also filling

out paperwork. After the course we will make our way to one of the BLM locations, TBA.

Meeting ended.