

BLM Colorado Southwest Resource Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Sept 25, 2019

RAC Members

Category 1

Mark Austin (Developed Recreation), John Reams (Chair, Energy and Minerals), Mark Roeber (Grazing- telephoned into conference in afternoon), Kathy Welt (Energy and Minerals – called in)

Category 2

Tif Rodriguez (Wild Horse & Burros), Katie Steele (Dispersed Recreation), Joe Neuhof (Dispersed Recreation-telephoned into conference after lunch for 18 Rd campground decision)

Category 3

Renzo DelPiccolo (State Agency Rep), William Gleason (Public-at-Large- telephoned into conference all day), John Justman (Elected Official), Christi Zeller (Public-at-Large)

Not in Attendance

Ernie Williams (Cat 3: Public-at-Large)

BLM

Stephanie Connolly (SWD), Morgan Rubanow (SWD), Lisa Dawson (SWD), Eric Coulter (SWD), Connie Clementson (TRFO), Jeff Christensen (TRFO), Edd Franz (GGNCA), Greg Larson (UFO), Heather Sauls (CANM), Joe Manning (GJFO)

Afternoon: Chris Pipkin (GJFO), Andy Windsor (GJFO), David Sanders (CANM)

Public

Michael Carroll (The Wilderness Society), Gail Birhly (Four Corners Free Press), Shaine Gans (Southwest Colorado Canyons Alliance), John Whitney (Sen. Bennet's Office), Steve Garchar (Dolores County Commissioner), Adam Ortega (Colorado Dept. of Agriculture), Ann McCoy Harold (Sen. Gardner's Office), Jim Mimiaga (Cortez Journal), Tiffany Mapel (Durango area school teacher, emailed her comments)

Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Minutes

Chair John Reams called the meeting to order at 8:00 am. Because Joe Neuhof (Category 2) was not present in the morning, the meeting began without a quorum, but the meeting continued as a discussion. Decisions were made with a quorum in the afternoon. Mark Austin made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 13, 2019 meeting. It was seconded by Tif Rodriguez and approved unanimously.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

The meeting started with Stephanie Connolly, Southwest District Manager, updating the RAC on the 2018 Southwest RAC nominations. Stephanie indicated that the 2018 RAC members were approved, but the Secretary of the Interior's Office will notify the RAC of the approved

BLM Colorado Southwest Resource Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Sept 25, 2019

members. She also provided a brief update on the BLM headquarters move to Grand Junction. Stephanie updated the status of key vacant position and informed the RAC that vacant positions GS-12 or higher will be open to BLM employees located in Washington DC and, if no one applies, then then positions will be open to others.

E-bike presentation – Jeff Christensen, Outdoor Recreation Planner for Tres Rios Field Office

Jeff provided details on the difference between class 1 (peddle-assist, max 20 MPH), class 2 (throttle assist, max 20 MPH), and class 3 (pedal assist up to 28 MPH) e-bikes. He went over the Secretarial Order 3376, and copies were provided to RAC members. The US Forest Service, under the Department of Agriculture, still manages e-bikes as motorized and do not appear to be changing that definition at this time. Jeff mentioned that the Tres Rios Field Office's Transportation and Access Plan 1 is considering class 1 e-bikes for trails open to mountain bikes and now open for public comment.

Until direction changes, the BLM has to provide a travel management decision to allow e-bikes on trails closed to motorized use and open to mountain bikes. State and County regulations vary, some places allow e-bikes and others do not, especially in the Cortez/Durango area. This can cause confusion with the Secretarial Order. The BLM Washington Office will come out with frequently asked questions in near future for Secretarial Order. The RAC suggested that public comment should be part of this process at some point since there was not any public involvement prior to the order coming out.

Questions to consider: Can these bikes be manipulated to be faster than the manufacturer made it? Will GOCO grants include e-bikes? How will the rules work on trails that cross different boundaries with differing regulations? What about conservation easements that state no motorized? How will the public get involved in rule changes for DOI? What about 3-wheeled bikes and 4-wheeled bikes (adaptive bikes)? What are the social impacts of the Secretarial Order?

Final thoughts on e-bikes:

A field trip provided RAC members first-hand experience on e-bikes for perspective that may influence the RAC members' advice going forward. Stephanie stated that as of now, the order made public lands open to e-bikes, but BLM has not opened all biking trails to e-bikes because doing so would require a rulemaking on trails closed to motorized vehicles. The discussion included questions on whether BLM would incorporate its NEPA process prior to officially opening BLM trails. The RAC also stated that there was public misunderstanding of the order and they wanted to get more information out once it becomes available. There was concern over Class 1-3 e-bikes looking very similar, regardless of class, so it would be hard to monitor usage should there be any restrictions on e-bikes associated with the class. There were also concerns about the differences with speed and throttle assist in the classes. The RAC noted that enforcement mechanisms, such a sticker system would be difficult to enforce if the BLM decided only certain classes would be allowed on trails. The RAC will discuss e-bikes further during the

BLM Colorado Southwest Resource Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Sept 25, 2019

December meeting in Montrose. The RAC's overarching concern was the lack of public involvement in the decision to allow e-bikes.

- The Secretarial Order was confusing. The BLM needs to involve public input. It will be hard to implement this Order.
- There could be large crowds on trails due to this Order and the industry is going to evolve, making e-bikes more capable and possibly faster.
- Education and etiquette outreach will be important.
- Certain members recommended trails be open to Class 1 to avoid conflicts of speed.
- There was concern about wildlife and increased trail usage or using non-established trails.
- Scott Winans of COPMOBA sent in comments to Katie Steele via Facebook Messenger and read them out loud:

Scott Winans message 1: Katie, With Electric Bike Management on the meeting agenda, I encourage you to consider the broad implications and impacts of the recent Secretary of the Interior Order 3376. Yes, E-MTB's are a product that may provide benefits to many users, but ultimately they are a motorized contrivance. The process involved in the Order has effectively removed the public from this discussion, as it defines all categories of e-bikes as non-motorized vehicles as far as the BLM is concerned. There are planning and access implications to such a direction, management considerations, and no apparent consideration for creating a unique E-MTB category, for example, through which some of the access and user interaction aspects of the mandated change might have been filtered. Is it suitable that E-mtb's have access to all non-motorized trails under BLM management? Is it suitable that all classes of E-mtb's should be treated identically? These are important questions to which the public has had no input. And the timelines for implementation contained within the Order are impractical for thoughtful implementation. The public needs a voice in this process.

Katie Steele: Scott, thank you for sharing your concerns and this topic will be addressed tomorrow. With your permission, I would like to share some of your thoughts as the process was definitely not as it should have been.

Scott Winans: Hi Katie, yes, please do. COPMOBA is deeply concerned by both the process and the content of the Order. As 30 year community partners and advocates for non-motorized trail planning, development, and maintenance, this Order is deeply disturbing. Sweeping redefinition to "expressly exempt all e-bikes as defined in Sec. 4a from the definition of off-road vehicles or motorized vehicles" is a change that trumps past land use planning, may strongly influence future planning opportunity for non-motorized user access, and creates management challenges that are not well evaluated or considered. It may seem easier to group all classes together from a management perspective, and it is in some sense, but that does not address the management of that new user group in conjunction with existing user groups on non-motorized trails. Management by fiat is not a healthy process.

BLM Colorado Southwest Resource Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Sept 25, 2019

- E-bikes make a difference going uphill, making it much easier. People will go further and ride longer.
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife is seeing impacts of e-bikes in Colorado.
- It can open opportunities to people with disabilities.
- The National Park Service policy on e-bikes 19-01 was mentioned.

Field Manager Reports

Uncompahgre Field Office- Greg Larson, Field Manager

Planning

Final Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS): The UFO published its Final EIS and proposed RMP on July 28, 2019. This release began a 30-day protest period and a 60-day Governor's consistency review. Approximately 120 protests on the plan were submitted, and protest resolution remains in progress by the Washington Office. The Governor's consistency review letter is under consideration by BLM Colorado. BLM expects to publish a Record of Decision this fall.

Minerals

North Fork Mancos Master Development Plan (NFMMDP): The UFO published a Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI) on August 16th, 2019, regarding a proposal from Gunnison Energy, LLC, to create 35 horizontal wells from one expanded well pad, three new well pads, and one existing well pad. The decision approved those portions of the proposed action on private lands and BLM-administered lands. It deferred a decision regarding portions that involve new surface disturbance on National Forest System lands that require Forest Service approval.

Vegetation

Vegetation Treatments: The UFO signed decisions to conduct fuels and vegetation treatments in several areas of its management area and in the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area. The treatments benefit multiple resources and are designed to specifically benefit wildlife. The UFO is using prior vegetation monitoring data to see how past treatments went so they can learn for the future.

Recreation

Shavano Gateway Project: Recreation projects have been a big interest for the public and the RAC visited the Shavano Gateway on a previous field trip. The UFO published a Finding of No Significant Impact and two decisions for the Shavano Gateway Project, located west of Montrose. The first decision was to move forward with a Recreation and Public Purposes Act lease and conveyance of about 44 acres to Montrose County for a staging area serving its

BLM Colorado Southwest Resource Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Sept 25, 2019

Rimrocker OHV trail to Moab UT and other local trails. The other decision authorized about 20 miles of single-track trails on adjacent BLM-managed public lands. The decision also set parameters that are necessary for the BLM to authorize special recreation event permits. There has been positive feedback from Montrose County and the community. The UFO still needs to do a Federal Register Notice for conveyance, which will likely happen in the next two years.

Rim Road: The UFO is seeing a lot of staging/camping in this area that is causing resource damage, similar to Rabbit Valley in the Grand Junction Field Office. The UFO is working to manage the area by creating a parking area and camping location with waste management facilities but do not intend to create a fee for this area. Scoping showed that there is positive feedback on managing this area for its high usage.

Cimarron Mountain Club: The UFO is responding to a request from the Cimarron Mountain Club (CMC), a private ski area under development for 13 members and their friends and families. The CMC requested a special recreation permit (SRP) to guide skiing on adjacent BLM-administered public lands located in lynx habitat near Silver Jack Reservoir and Big Cimarron. The request includes the use of explosives for avalanche mitigation. The CMC holds a BLM right-of-way that is limited to noncommercial use. The UFO intends to consider amending the noncommercial aspect of the SRP as part of its consideration of the new SRP request. The request is limited to CMC families and their guests, but approving the SRP would not exclude public use. The UFO is still waiting on the final proposal. The RAC requested that it be kept engaged in the process.

West End Trails Master Plan: The UFO continues to participate in and advise a master planning effort lead by the West End Trails Alliance and the Telluride Foundation for a potential proposal for single-track trails in Montrose County's "west end". BLM is not leading the effort, but is working to make sure stakeholder groups (including our recreation and range permit holders) and community groups are informed of the process.

Eagle Rock Shelter: Excavations at Eagle Rock Shelter, east of Delta, were recently terminated and the excavation site backfilled. The site's lower strata were dated back 12,960 years, making it one of the oldest continuously inhabited sites in Colorado. The UFO and GGNCA are engaged in ongoing consultation with the Ute tribes regarding visitation and interpretation of the site. The UFO and GGNCA are also discussing partnership opportunities with the Ute Indian Museum in Montrose CO and with History Colorado. Future goals include developing signage, SRP-holder trainings, and co-sponsored guided visits. This could be a possible RAC field trip in December.

Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area: The 20th Anniversary is on October 21. There will be celebrations with the community through September and October.

Dominguez- Escalante National Conservation Area Flag Pole Update: The UFO met with Mr. Babbel the week prior to this RAC meeting and discussed alternative sites for the flag pole that is off Highway 50 within DENCA. It seemed to have gone well but no solution has been decided.

BLM Colorado Southwest Resource Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Sept 25, 2019

Abandoned Mine Lands

The UFO continues to partner and coordinate with the Department of Energy (DOE) on their Defense Related Uranium Mines (DRUM) inventory and closure program. The DRUM program seeks to verify and validate the condition of defense-related uranium mines on public land. The UFO is the first office that will receive an initial inventory of part of the office's management area, and we are coordinating with DOE on a proposal for the closure of inventoried physical hazards, as well as the need for potential reclamation of any radiological or chemical hazards. The UFO also continues to partner and coordinate with Freeport McMoRan on their abandoned uranium mine program. This could be a possible field trip for RAC.

Tres Rios Field Office- Connie Clementson, Field Manager

Planning

Transportation and Access Plans (TAP): In 2015, BLM TRFO initiated a two-year effort to inventory linear features across TRFO resource area, then TRFO shared this preliminary inventory with the public via a web-based, interactive map that illustrates each of the inventoried routes. During 2017 and 2018, the BLM TRFO held a number of open house meetings for the public to provide comments.

TAP1: The BLM TRFO initiated a 30-day scoping period beginning April 22, 2019. In response, the BLM received 120 comment letters. The TRFO anticipates having the Environmental Analysis issued on September 19, 2019, for a 30-day comment period and is scheduling open houses for late September.

TAP2: TAP2 focuses on the northern part of the field office. In early 2019, the BLM engaged in a public process that involved conducting surveys with local government and interest groups for the three-county area by a third party consultant. The surveys sought to understand how the public is presently using the transportation network, what values the land holds for the public, and how transportation and access planning could tie in with local economic developments. In late August, TRFO held public workshops in Nucla and Dove Creek to receive public input.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern Resource Management Plan Amendment

The BLM issued its Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for its Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) Resource Management Plan (RMP) on September 16, 2019. This initiated a 60-day Governor's Consistency Review and a 30-day protest period that ends on October 16, 2019. The Proposed Alternative would resize two existing ACECs (Ancestral Puebloan and Gypsum Valley) and designate one proposed ACEC (Mesa Verde Escarpment) totaling 14,335 acres. The size of the existing ACECs would be reduced to provide for more focused management of the resources. Analysis of the proposed Dry Creek Basin and Northdale ACECs were deferred to the Gunnison Sage-Grouse Range-wide

BLM Colorado Southwest Resource Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Sept 25, 2019

RMP Amendment. The Gunnison Sage Grouse Amendment will provide a range of management measures and outcomes for the areas, including possible ACEC designation.

Recreation

Phil's World Trail: 22 miles of new trails will be created in this area, 15 miles are already completed with the help from partners and Youth Corps.

Minerals and Realty

King II Coal Mine – Lease by Application: The BLM and Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement are jointly analyzing a Lease by Application (LBA) and mine plan modification and renewal submitted by GCC Energy, LLC, in January 2018 to mine approximately 2,640 acres of split-estate lands immediately north of the existing King II Mine. As proposed, the project would extend mine life through 2043 and use existing surface facilities and transportation routes, starting as soon as 2020. A 30-day public scoping period for the Proposed Action resulted in approximately 13,000 comments. A Preliminary Environmental Assessment was released for a 30-day public review and comment period, which ended on August 5, 2019. This included open houses and public hearings. A BLM decision is anticipated in September 2019.

Tri-State Transmission Improvement Project: There will be towers built in the Nucla and Dove Creek areas by Tri-State. Construction is a bit behind schedule due to the winter. This could be a possible RAC field trip.

Abandoned Mine Lands

Safety closures: There have been 18 safety closures at Slick Rock and Egnar Mines by Freeport-McMoRan and 37 more planned closures.

Canyons of the Ancients National Monument and Visitor Center

There is currently a special exhibit by a local artist name Lanny Wagner for visitors to view. CANM was able to hire curation interns, seasonal museum technicians and a contractor to decrease curation catalog backlog. Painted Hand Road is being relocated from private property to nearby public lands and enhance the current parking lot as well as sections of trail to the Painted Hand Pueblo. There will also be a trailhead for equestrian use. CANM has a proposed fee increase for the museum, increasing the fee from \$3 to \$5 and a presentation and request for resolution will be held at the December 2019 meeting.

Grand Junction Field Office- Joseph Manning, Acting Field Manager

Staffing updates: Recent hires include a Realty Specialist, Rangeland Management Specialist, Law Enforcement Officer, Visitor Services. Current vacancies include Field Manager, River Ranger, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Law Enforcement Ranger, and a Park Ranger.

Recreation

BLM Colorado Southwest Resource Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Sept 25, 2019

The recreation program is trying to standardize recreation visitation data collection and look at how numbers change over the years. It seemed like numbers were down this year (117,000 compared to 125,000). New trails are being worked on in the Bookcliffs in collaboration with motorized and mechanized partner groups.

National Public Lands Day: The GJFO held 5 official events this year including trash clean ups and trail work. One additional event was cancelled due to fire concerns since the volunteers were going to cut up and remove an old abandoned car.

North Fruita Desert: The GJFO intends to create a campground and staging area over the next few years and there is a proposed fee increase, with a decision being made by the RAC this afternoon after a detailed presentation.

Grand Valley OHV Area: The Grand Junction Airport provided GJFO with \$250,000 to mitigate impacts of a public land transfer of 188 acres to the airport for runway expansions. This funding will be used on 27 ¼ Rd for a staging and event area.

Palisade Plunge: This trail has been a large collaborative effort and the trail is currently under construction.

Rabbit Valley: GJFO is proposing to create 72 new campsites in the near future. Camping will cost \$20 for individuals. The Fee Federal Registry Notice is going to Washington for approval. This will impose the charge at new and existing sites. Planning with engineers will commence soon, with hopes are to start at Knowles Overlook in late 2020.

Grand Mesa Bowmen: GJFO met with the Grand Mesa Bowman and Gardner's staff in August to discuss options for the Bowmen in regards to their archery area near Glade Park.

Range

Jim Dollerschell retired but the vacancy has been filled. There are 9 CXs and the office had been working on the Hawks Environmental Assessment permit and West Salt Allotment permit renewal.

Realty

There are now two people working on Right of Ways again after filling a vacancy in Realty.

Planning

GJFO Resource Management Plan: Implantation is starting to occur. GJFO has installed winter gate closures and decommissioned routes according to the plan. There is an internal review of the RMP for GJFO in November to see if the implementation is going well and if any amendments need to occur. RMPs get reviewed internally every five years.

Wild Horses

BLM Colorado Southwest Resource Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Sept 25, 2019

The wild horse herd in the Little Bookcliffs are doing well and the range has improved with the wet weather the area received this year. GJFO adopted out all 27 horses at the most recent adoption.

Public Comments

- Tiffany Mapel: school teacher - Tiffany sent the email below:

From: Tiffany Mapel <tiffmapel@yahoo.com>
Date: Tue, Sep 24, 2019 at 9:36 PM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] E-bikes meeting on Weds.
To: sconnolly@blm.gov <sconnolly@blm.gov>

Dear Stephanie,

My name is Tiffany Mapel, and I am a teacher in Durango, CO. So I won't be able to attend the meeting tomorrow, since I'll be in school.

I wanted to put in my two cents about e-bikes. I have one and I absolutely love it. My husband has been trying for years to get me on one, and he won an auction for Trails 2000 and got me an e-bike this year.

My particular e-bike is a class 1, pedal-assist. It runs on a chargeable battery. It has three power settings. It only engages the "motor" when I'm pedaling. If I'm coasting, the motor doesn't run. You can't hear it--it looks like I'm riding a normal mountain bike. And it doesn't push me to ridiculous speeds. I can now ride with my husband and daughter, and I can keep up! They can still beat me, even if I'm on an e-bike. I am now able to enjoy family rides. I'm 48 years old, and have painful knees. I can now pedal my bike without so much pain. This has opened up a whole new outlook for possible rides for me.

I wrote a letter to the editor of the Durango Herald, and my opinion piece will be coming out on Saturday, Sept. 28th. I am definitely in support of e-bikes being allowed on trails. They're NOT motorcycles, and should not be classified as such.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Mapel
Durango, CO

- Michael Carroll: The Wilderness Society - Michael was concerned about the Secretarial Order on e-bikes and its impact on public lands, believing a motor is a motor. E-bikes have a place on public lands and should make trails accessible but should be motorized trails. The process to open more trails should be a public process. Tahoe National Forest was the 1st agency to open non-motorized trails but it is believed that they violated rules and People Outdoors are challenging them with Backcountry Horsemen and other trail

BLM Colorado Southwest Resource Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Sept 25, 2019

users. They are keeping a close eye on the Tres Rios TAP since it is the first BLM managed trail system addressing this issue. This decision has created conflict in areas like Durango.

- Shaine Gans: Southwest Colorado Canyons Alliance - This group is a partner of Canyons of the Ancients National Monument and helps with education programs for various ages as well as stewardship opportunities. She passed out brochures. Overall, this organization does not have a stance on e-bikes but will take the info she learned and wants to help get constituents to comment on the Order and bring info to BLM.
- John Whitney: Bennet's Office -
 - Lands and Water Conservation Fund: was permanently reauthorized, but not it needs to be fully funded and it would be ideal to make it mandatory without the appropriations process.
 - 'Payments in Lieu of Taxes' for public lands has a 10 year reauthorization and if no one can agree on appropriations then it would be funded the same as the year prior.
 - 'Secure Rural Schools' has expired, Bennet wants to get this running again. Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act combined different bills: the San Juan Mountain Wilderness Act, Curecanti National Recreation Establishment Act, and Continental Divide and Camp Hail Bill as well as Thompson Divide Protection Act and hopes to vote on it in next few months.
 - The Senate Committee rejected money for the BLM relocation to Grand Junction. Congress has concerns over the move and there needs to be more to establish a headquarters in the West between the Department of Interior and Congress. Bennet has concerns on where the BLM is going on a National level and will come out with formal statement in the near future.
- Adam Ortega: CO Department of Agriculture- He was a range con in New Mexico prior to his position and has looked at Tres Rios ACEC proposals, which is of interest to the Colorado Department of Agriculture due to watershed influence on agriculture and vegetation management.

North Fruita Desert Campground Fee Presentation- Andy Windsor, Supervisory Recreation Planner Recreation Specialist for the Grand Junction Field Office

Bill, Kathy, and Mark called in and Joe joined so we have quorum.

The Grand Junction Field Office is proposing a fee change to the North Fruita Desert Campground on 18 Road in Fruita. In 2005, GJFO constructed 37 sites, in 2012 they implemented a \$10 fee, in 2015 two more sites were added, and in 2015 the Grand Junction RMP gave guidance on future management of this area. There is currently a lot of undeveloped camping that is leading to resource damage. GJFO is proposing development in the commonly used areas for dispersed camping to manage this.

BLM Colorado Southwest Resource Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Sept 25, 2019

GJFO would like to create 120 new campsites with 30 basic sites for RV's. They would like to add in 6 vault toilets, a 19-acre event staging area and a camp host site with a water and septic tank as well. Projected cost is \$1,397,919. Fee costs were based on Fair Market Value and Cost Recovery. Fees would be used for services, infrastructure improvements, seasonal rangers, facility enhancements, security, and long-term sustainability.

There was a 30-day comment period in 2018 in June/July. GJFO received eight comments: three supported fees, one opposed, one opposed but noticed not all visitors pay appropriately. The other three comments were from Mesa County supporting BLM management of this area, City of Fruita stated they agreed with fees and Colorado Parks and Wildlife noted wildlife impact, but did not discuss fees. One supported development, but did not discuss fees.

The fee proposal objectives are to improve recreation opportunities, generate revenue for services, and reduce impact to resources. The proposal is to change the current fee from \$10 to \$20 dollars (covers 2 cars). For campsites that can accommodate more than 2 vehicles, there will be a new fee of \$10/vehicle.

Resolution: a decision to (1) change the fee from \$10 to \$20 per site for new and existing sites, which would cover 2 vehicles. This would cover existing site as well as new campsites, including RVs, and (2) implement a new fee for additional vehicles above 2 vehicles at \$10/vehicle if more than 2 vehicles can fit in the camping area.

Questions from the RAC: when is high use for this area? Can the county road be improved? Is there still grazing in this area? What will happen to stock ponds? Can people park at trailhead and shuttle without a fee? How many people can stay in one site or will there be a maximum number of people for the sites? How will GJFO prevent people from camping in event area? Will the BLM use Recreation.Gov.

Decision: RAC supports the resolution to make the fee changes and implement new fees. A motion was set by Mark Austin stating that the RAC recommends to accept this resolution for increasing the fee from \$10 to \$20, which will include parking for 2 vehicles and campsites that can fit more than 2 vehicles will be charged for \$10/vehicle. Second by Tif. All said I. None opposed. Motion carried to support resolution.

Canyons of the Ancients Fee Proposal Presentation by Heather Sauls, Acting CANM Manager and David Sanders, Supervisory Park Ranger at CANM

In December, CANM staff would like to come back with fee proposal and resolution to vote on. CANM is proposing a fee increase from \$3 to \$6 per person and charge this year, with the exception of fee-free days. Sixteen years and younger will remain free of charge and CANM will not charge educational groups but will charge commercial groups.

Fees have not been increased in 30 years. The average entrance fee for similar areas is \$8.70 per adult. This fee increase could increase revenue by \$21,000.

BLM Colorado Southwest Resource Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Sept 25, 2019

These fees would be used to: hire seasonal at the Visitor Center and fund projects. Potential projects include (1) enhancing the access route/parking for Painted Hand Pueblo, (2) stabilizing Lowry pueblo, (3) further developing the Visitor Center, (4) creating interpretive facilities at the Lamb House Historic Site on McElmo Road, (5) creating new exhibits such as oral history recording for Strawman Rock Art Panel, and (6) developing night sky programs. There has been a lot of recent work on the Monument to improve access and safety, but more work needs to be done and there is limited funding.

Alternates to consider are to: (1) drop fees and only ask for donations, which currently brings in about \$2,800, (2) charge fees for curation tours, (3) create local pass/free days for locals, (4) provide free entrance for tribal groups, or (4) create different fee for commercial groups. These options would complicate things.

Staff discussed changes to the schedule for the winter. RAC members seemed open to the idea of discussing further in December.

Closing Thoughts from RAC members

- The RAC will need to fill the Vice President Chair since Ernie will be leaving.
- It was helpful to have phone conference, but send presentations to those on phone ahead of time.
- E-bike discussion was extremely helpful.
- Field Managers should have maps of their offices for frame of reference.

POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR SEPTEMBER 25 RAC MEETING

- CANM fee proposals, continued E-bike discussion

Next meeting: December 12, 2019 - Montrose, CO