

**BLM Colorado Northwest Resource Advisory Council**  
**April 25, 2019**  
**Minutes**

**Attendance**

Category 1

Wes McStay, Scott Robertson, Jeff Comstock, Kirk Daehling

Category 2

Carl Conner, Connor Coleman, Joe Newhart, Mike Pritchard

Category 3

Don Cook, Callie Hendrickson, Tom Jankovsky, Merritt Linke

BLM

Connie Clementson, Bruce Sillitoe, Kent Walter, Larry Sandoval, Bill Mills, David Boyd, Erin Jones, Heather Sauls, Amber Gose, Jayson Barangan, Brian Hopkins, Kathy McKinstry

Public

Aletha Dove, Wild Horse Warriors; Cindy Wright, Wild Horse Warriors; Tristan Nielson, White River Conservation District; Alden Naranjo; Adam Ortega, Colorado Department of Agriculture; Brandon Bainer, Congressman Scott Tipton's Office; Betsy Bair, Senator Cory Gardner's Office; Jane Turnbuelle; Diane Mobley; Meg Frederick

Chairman Mike Pritchard called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

**Rac Review** – David Boyd gave a quick overview of RAC regulations and procedures.

Jeff – While there is not currently a person on the NW RAC specifically representing wild horses, there is wild horse expertise represented.

Canyon Pintado – Kent Walter gave an overview of the Canyon Pintado National Historic District, which many RAC members visited the day before.

Mike – What about commercial use? Does that generate fees that help administer and manage amenities?

Kent - Just in the beginning not quite established yet. People want to get out and see what is on the public lands. There is some revenue but not enough.

Mike - What could the impacts is the sites to get more popular? Fees should be implemented to protect.

Carl – Thinks the best way to get fees is through tours and guides.

Callie – Need to think about the future and the history along with the more recent history. There was inaccurate information on one of the interpretive signs related to domestic sheep. What opportunity is there to make the change that misinformation about sheep? I would like to help address that.

Kent – That is the archeologists. We will be in touch.

Wes – The Indians were smart and wanted the messages to last and be protected. They put them in places where they would last.

Carl – The cabin should be reconstructed.

Scott – Appreciate the BLM position on trying to harden the sites. Mainly the livestock in the area. Important that if people are going to be coming to visit those sites they need to have the best experience ever.

Connor – What would it take to possibly change the name at the specific Canyon Pintado sites from “Recreation Site” to “Historic Site”?

Kent – Need to talk to more people. There is value in making the change. The goal would be to get the right signage.

Mike – There are some unfamiliarity with national historic district.

Jeff – We should take a firm position for the correction of signs today. Dave need to send a report up the chain about what the NW RAC discussed and accomplished at this meeting.

Mike – We can make these recommendations but need to do our research first.

Tom – We need to get the resolution together prior to making the formal recommendation.

Dave – Procedure the NW RAC has established is that you’ll have a draft recommendation prior to the next meeting.

The informal group to work on signage ideas – Callie, Scott, Carl, Jeff

### **Wild Horse Resolution**

Mike – I think the resolution is valid and I would like to hear discussion from each RAC member.

Callie – We are going to focus on feeding and watering on the rangeland. Need to update the adoption numbers if you have read it. I don’t know what else to add to it. There are other laws that come in effect but the RAC can recommend.

Connor – Are there any other RAC groups working on this issue?

Callie – In Nevada and maybe other states. 50,000 horses have been removed from range and are in holding facilities. Costs \$2 to 5 per day. The act does not give any authority to keep horses in holding from now on. Need to be offered for adoption three times or sold. This was set up more for adoption and selling the horses rather than feeding them. They will be fed until they are sold.

Kent – If we are going to manage horses we need to make sure the range lands are sustainable.

Scott – Actively pursue our message. Need to get our message as high up the ladder as we can. This is currently held up.

Connor – Is our objective to address the local issue or national?

Mike- National issue but local as well.

Callie – The national office directs this program. Hands are tied in local office until plans are changed at the national level. The only way that will happen is if the policies change higher up. Something needs to be done now. To protect the sage grouse and the rangelands.

Merritt – No oil and gas and no wild horses in Grand County. What ranchers do is facilitate the harboring of cellular energy by raising cows. Advice to live by is if you take care of the land, it will take care of you. When you start hauling feed to livestock year-round, it's unsustainable and is a losing path.

Carl – Need to make the effort to move this draft forward.

Wes – would like to see the wild horse advocates on the same page as the RAC then send the resolution to congress.

Connor – Pleased with conversations about the horses. This is not something we are taking lightly. While we are sitting here speaking of this particular topic this is something we take very seriously.

Jeff – If any grazing permittee behaved how the wild horses behave they would not have a permit anymore.

Tom – These horses will be fed until they are sold. Need to remove the part about not feeding horses. they will not feed horses.

Joe- Agrees with the idea that they need to be managed appropriately.

Bruce – Here to listen and hear the public when reading the paper. There is misinformation as to what we think are facts and what they think the facts are. They are polar differences.

## **Public comment**

Meg Fredrick – The BLM should look at making it easier to adopt horses by lessen the requirements. People come to me asking about requirements to adopt wild horses. We go to the BLM website and they can't make the requirements. Why a 6 foot fence? I have not been to an HMA with a 6 foot fence. Why is that a requirement? What about the shelter? The BLM does not have shelter at the holding facilities. It does not make sense to make the requirements so hard to meet when the horses will then go to kill places. If you're in a place if you can't make the adoption site why not have a website for online adoptions? In terms of rounds ups, I feel there is no point in rounding up horses older than 10 years horse knowing they will not be adopted. Limit that to 5 years and under. You adopt less than 3,000 because the public can't see the horses. How can you say the PZP is not working? Adoption questions on more requirements. I would rather pay for grazing rights for the wild horses.

Aletha Dove – Wild Horse Warriors for Sand Wash. Gives the NW RAC a letter (see attached). Want to see the wild horses maintained at Sand Wash and the land being used for multiuse. Last year we realized it was going into drought conditions. As soon as they got to the point where the wild horses needed water we hauled 70,000 gallons delivered by volunteers. We hauled water because the horses would have to go too far and burn their energy to get to the water. Ten days after hauling water the improvement was amazing for the horses. We are in an MOU with BLM to help with range management. Believe that the grazing people are in partnership with them also. They have catch ponds that are not catching the water. We believe they need to be maintained and that would improve that land. It would let the horses be in different areas. The ground is getting damaged because of the concentration of where they need to be. Wild horses were here before the sheep and cattle. Indians used them. All need to become partners for the land.

Jeff- Your letter asks to hold off on our resolution. Why?

Aletha – When you had the last meeting wild horse advocates was not aware of them. There should have been more advocates involved. More time needs to be put into it with the advocates

Cindy Wright – Wild Horse Warriors are all about the range and healthy horses. I think that the voting on the resolution needs to be postponed and needs to be brought to the table. The water hauling brought a spotlight to their group. The resolution is putting a Band-Aid on a bleeding wound. Not getting the changes made. Groups need to get together and find things that we all agree upon. There needs to be different kinds of fertility control and resolutions in place. Right now here are 34 foals on the ground. They have volunteers that will help with the darting. There is a database that has been created to keep track of mares that have foaled in the past years. For the amount of money this costs the government, they could buy land and put the horses there. They could make it a profit center. If we could get together and come up with a plan it could make a difference when it goes up the chain. There are 66 watering spots in Sand Wash. Because they were hauling water the horses lived and reduced the damage being done to the area. Student pointed out that the grasses are in bad shape but there is still sage brush with flowers and there were some left over from winter. If we could get the permittee to work with them and water sources repaired they could do it naturally.

Tom – When you are managing the herd like you are, when does the wild go away?

Cindy -- They are not fenced. They are not depended on the tanks. They are locations where they are already used to going. Tanks are not still in place. Understands the AML and does not want them put in feed lots. Goal was to reduce the public outcry by hauling water.

Dianne Mobly – Piceance Mustang group. Positive slant on everything talked about. Happy to know we are aware of the problems. Part of what we do is range improvement. Long term of health heard and lands. Last summer they worked Saturdays and BLM participation to replace fence. BLM needs to clarify private property within the HMA. Need to work in conjunction with BLM, and utility companies to make things happen. There are a ton of old ancient artifacts out there. As we are out there, we are the eyes of the horses. Hunting is also allowed out there and she is advocating a wild horse tour for positive education. Would like to provide information and education.

Jane – Part of what they are doing is converting wells to solar to provide water for horses. The money they raise go to these projects.

Tristen Nelson – Over 90,000 in herd populations. Speaking of BLM being out of compliance with the act. The BLM is not managing the horses properly.

Stella Trueblood ‘s written comments were shared with the RAC.

Mike – Asking if there are any other concerns with the resolution draft.

Kirk – Talking about the strict adoption rules. Do we need to add this to the resolution?

Callie- balancing act. The restrictions are there because someone can come in that has no experience with horses but agrees that the restrictions need to be less. Maybe work in there that the adoption requirements need to be reevaluated and reduced.

Connor – Agrees with adoption statement. Not to leave it vague but encourage the reevaluation in the policy. Wonders if we should add as a resolution that the goal is to meet target numbers.

Merritt – Seems this resolutions address what is going forward. Why do the horse advocates want to delay our resolution? What is the big picture? What is the end goal from the advocates?

Wes – If we were to delay the vote from this meeting and holding a conference, maybe we can come upon an agreement for everyone. Is that something the RAC would consider?

Callie – As much as it pains Callie to say this Colorado is low on the totem pole. She thinks this is a timely matter to move forward.

Don – In his mind this is not just a local issue. It is a national level issue.

Kent – A goal of the RAC is to increase the adoption numbers. It is a solution that will help facilitate and reduce the need.

Carl – Funding PZP is limited and records are not accurately kept. The mares are not being darted properly.

Callie- Again back to foal information. Yes PZP works in places like Little Book Cliffs but not in all places. They have to have a booster shot and given each year. Move to the Piceance area there is a larger group and is not as easy to monitor and dart horses.

Connor motions for RAC to vote on the resolution. Tom seconds.

All RAC members vote in support of the resolution except Wes, who says he thinks the RAC should take more time to involve the advocates.

A cover letter will be drafted from the chair to accompany the resolution.

### **Colorado River Valley Campground Fee Proposal**

Brian Hopkins gives an informational presentation with handouts. The CRV Field Office will likely bring this back to the NW RAC for a formal vote at the next meeting.

Under the proposal, the BLM would begin charging \$20 a night at the newly constructed Prince Creek Campground in Pitkin County, as well as at the Catamount, Lyon's Gulch, and Pinball campgrounds along the Colorado River in Eagle County. Those four campgrounds do not currently charge fees. The current \$10/night fee at Gypsum and Wolcott campgrounds would increase to \$20/night. The BLM would charge \$4 per person at group camping sites at Gypsum, Pinball, Lyon's Gulch and Prince Creek campgrounds. A \$5 day-use fee would be charged at the Wolcott Day-Use Site on the Eagle River near Wolcott. The business plan also proposes tying the new fee structure to a consumer price index. Fees would be reviewed annually against this index. Fees could be increased or decreased in \$2 increments if supported by the index.

Mike – Page 12 in the business plan shows a spike in revenue in 2017. What causes that?

Brian – I will ask Miles the recreation planner

Suggestion to add an end point to the proposal. Stay in touch with the RAC and come back after the in future around the third change due to the CPI?

Callie – Supports some sort of end for the fees. Callie wants to know that the counties are supportive of the fee increase.

### **Travel Management Overview; LSFO and WRFO**

Erin Jones gives an overview of the BLM travel management process (see presentation)

Kirk – Do ACEC’s fit into this process?

Erin – Yes, ACECs can be part of the decision

Several members asked clarifying questions about the programmatic EA on cultural consultation. It will prioritize areas for consultation and lays out when additional consultation is needed (based on survey results, adverse impacts, mitigation) and also identifies where surveys should be conducted. Surveys be conducted based on predictive model.

Connie – Wanted to state that the routes are most likely already in place.

### **Little Snake Travel Management (see presentation)**

Kathy McKinstry gave an overview of Little Snake’s travel management process.

Mike – referencing the route evaluation report in the presentation, Do you have one for each route? Is that thousands of pages like that?

Kathy – We do have them for each route and you can find them on the e-planning site

### **White River Field Office Travel Management (see presentation)**

Heather Sauls gave an overview of WRFO travel management.

Scott – How do you deal with the roads or 2 tracks that have not had NEPA or an EA done?

Heather -- We tried to capture everything when we conducted the route inventory. As we complete the process then they will be designated.

Connor – How do you work with external map makers?

Heather – Most of our field office is covered by 2 BLM maps that are going to the printer in January. As far as a 3<sup>rd</sup> party getting the maps they can pull them off the website or arc map.

Wes – What about snowmobiles?

Heather – what we’re doing in WRFO then it is non-motorized in the winter for snowmobiles. They will be limited in designated routes due to wildlife mitigation. Other places they can go where they please as long as there is 18” of snow.

Jeff – How do you handle a route that was missed during the designation process?

Heather – for the amendment we can come to an agreement if this really was a route that existed. We would then do an EA and make a decision.

Kathy said it will be handled through adaptive management. Depends on the time of year as well. Do we need to do cultural surveys? Does this need to be done right away or how time sensitive is it?

Kent – we try and be proactive on this and take a look at what we missed. Was it existing then yes we would just include it in our process. If it did not exist then we would look at closing it.

Heather – We would try and include the public to be involved and comment.

Bruce – we can all agree that travel management will never be complete. Here is our dilemma we should recognize these in our NEPA documents.

#### **Public Comment –**

Cindy Wright – Wild Horse Warriors. Thank you for your help. You did make some changes in the resolution that we did appreciate. Can RAC make recommendation to the BLM to work closer with the advocate groups to come up with a solution we all agree upon? That way we can come back and say, yes we have tried these things and if they work or not. I don't really see that there will be many changes with the resolution going up the chain.

Dianne - In on the group that was doing the travel management office. These things have been discussed and what I got out of it is there is wildlife and vegetation that need to be protected. The process will go on forever but we need to have a little bit of structure and the future in mind. Wolf Creek – My husband does ponds and roads. He ran cattle out there and we've been out there year round and know the people around the area where the water would need to be pumped. It will be expensive and the area is fragile due to the animals and the dirt. The dirt will cause problems. Putting a large amount of water is not a good idea. I know the person who owns the ranch where the water would be diverted and she is against it.

#### **District and Field Manager Updates –**

##### **Northwest District, Connie Clementson**

**Greater Sage Grouse EISs** – In March the BLM issued Records of Decision for Greater Sage Grouse plans for seven western states, including northwest Colorado. Changes to the northwest Colorado plan included changing the 1-mile buffer around leks from closed-to-leasing to no surface occupancy, and amending the exception language for no surface occupancy stipulations to be more flexible. The State of Colorado supported the changes. The stipulations will be applied to new leases in sage grouse habitat.

Tom recognized Bridget Clayton, acknowledging her tremendous effort and success. Bridget died in March.

**Northwest District wild horses** – Following survey flights over Sand Wash Basin conducted in March, the BLM estimates the wild horse population within the Basin to be 454 horses, with an

additional 127 horses outside of the Herd Management Area boundary. The appropriate management level for Sand Wash Basin is between 163 and 362 wild horses. Volunteers donated 6,000 hours to Sand Wash last year to dart nearly 200 mares with fertility control (PZP). A new group called Piceance Mustangs helping BLM with management of the Piceance-East Douglas Herd Management Area. They donated more than 2,700 hours for range improvements last year. The BLM hopes to conduct census flights over the Piceance this spring. Currently BLM estimates 608 wild horses within the HMA, 305 wild horses in the adjacent West Douglas Herd Area, and another 100 wild horses outside of those areas. The appropriate management level for the Piceance-East Douglas HMA is between 135 and 235 wild horses. West Douglas is not managed for wild horses.

**Northwest Colorado oil and gas leasing update** – The next lease sale with northwest Colorado parcels will be held September 26. The scoping period for this lease sale ended earlier this month, and the 30-day public review of the environmental analysis will begin May 14. Currently 80 parcels totaling more than 78,000 acres are being considered for northwest Colorado, including acreage formally deferred until the new sage grouse planning effort was complete. The sale includes lands Kremmling, Little Snake and White River Field Offices, with more than 16,000 acres in Garfield County; 21,000 in Jackson County; 18,000 in Moffat County; 11,000 in Rio Blanco County; and 10,000 in Routt County.

### **Little Snake Field Office, Bruce Sillitoe**

**Sarvis Creek Cabin improvements continue** – The BLM acquired the historic Sarvis Creek Cabin in 2015 from Western Rivers Conservancy as part of a Land and Water Conservation Fund acquisition of a 45-acre parcel that provides key public access to the Upper Yampa River below Stagecoach Reservoir. The cabin was built in 1956 by the Hubbard Family, who ranched in the valley for many years. The Field Office plans to eventually make the cabin available for public rental. NW RAC members toured the cabin and property at its December 2017 meeting and provided valuable input, which is helping guide improvements and future use of the site. The propane cooking and heating system have been upgraded, upstairs windows have been replaced, and front door access widened. In 2018 a Public Lands Day event was held at the cabin where volunteers graveled the parking area, installed a gate at the east end of the property and improved the fence at the west end. In 2019 the loft will be brought up to code, including the stairway; the foundation, floor, and insulation will be improved; and since the cabin does not have plumbing an aesthetically appropriate vault toilet will be provided. The draft Business Plan is nearing completion and will be brought to the RAC in August.

**Enduro Race coming to Little Snake Field Office** – On May 11 a high-speed, off-road motorcycle race called Enduro is scheduled to occur in Sand Wash Basin, approximately 50 miles west of Craig. Riders leave one-at-a-time and complete stages of the 28-mile course. The majority of the race will take place in the South Sand Wash Special Recreation Management Area within Zone 1, which is an open off-highway vehicle (OHV) area. The race could become an annual event that draws visitors from outside the area and provides significant economic benefit. The race will occur in the southern part of the Sand Wash Basin Herd Management

Area. Wild horses are typically not in this area during the spring and summer, but BLM staff and volunteers will monitor the area for wild horses.

**BLM to sell Brown's Park School to Moffat County** – On April 30 the BLM and the Moffat County Commissioners will enter into a contributed funds agreement, which will start the process for a direct sale of the Brown's Park School parcel to Moffat County, including an appraisal. This 2-acre BLM parcel currently includes an old school house, teachers' quarters, and playground equipment. Over the last several years, the Browns Park Alumni Association have been working to restore the school house. They have restored the floors, replaced windows, and repainted to name a few of the items. The Alumni Association is also working with the Museum of Northwest Colorado to submit an application for nomination of the building to the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties in the areas of Education and Social History. The transaction should be completed in 2020.

### **White River Field Office, Kent Walter**

**Buffalo Horn Land Exchange evaluation process continues** – The White River Field Office received initial appraisals from the Department of the Interior Office of Appraisal and Valuation Services and is now talking to Buffalo Horn about adjusting the proposal to balance the appraised values in the exchange. The preferred alternative in the EA would convey 14 parcels of Federal lands totaling approximately 2,815 acres in Rio Blanco and Moffat counties for one non-Federal parcel in Rio Blanco County totaling 1,835 acres. The BLM modified the proposal for this alternative to address concerns heard during public scoping about existing hunting access on public parcels and existing surface use agreements on private land. The BLM only conducts land exchanges if they are determined to be in the public's interest.

**Wolf Creek Reservoir proposed east of Rangely** -- The Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District (RBWCD) is proposing to develop the Wolf Creek Reservoir 20 miles east of Rangely and north of the White River. This reservoir would involve significant acreage of BLM surface and minerals. While RBWCD has not yet submitted the required right-of-way application to the BLM, GIS data of their proposal indicates that the reservoir would involve approximately 3,256 surface acres and 20,000 to 90,000 acre-feet of water (approximately five times the size of Kenney Reservoir near Rangely). The BLM will serve as the lead agency for the EIS under the "One Federal Decision" direction from the 2017 Executive Order 13807, which established a one NEPA process for major infrastructure projects involving multiple federal agencies.

Mike – Can you provide more background on Wolf Creek?

Kent - 37 years ago wolf creek was considered but they choose to go with Kenny instead. It has created a wet land with the silt build up. Reservoir was created for power and municipality. How do they maintain and address water issues. Looking at 3 alternatives.

**Uinta Basin Railway proposed** – A seven-county coalition in Utah is proposing a new railroad line into the Uinta Basin from either western Colorado or from eastern Utah. The U.S. Department of Transportation will prepare an EIS on the proposal, but BLM will also be a key

agency. The route through western Colorado would begin from an existing Union Pacific line in Axial Basin and cross into Utah near Dinosaur.

### **Colorado River Valley Field Office, Larry Sandoval**

**Quarry planning expansion outside Glenwood Springs** – Rocky Mountain Resources Aggregates continues to develop their proposal to significantly expand their 22-acre limestone quarry adjacent to Glenwood Springs. Because of its visibility from Glenwood Springs, the project is highly controversial. RMR purchased the quarry in late 2016. The proposed expansion may include more than 300 acres of disturbance and over 250 truck trips per day (currently around 20 per day). Their current operation covers approximately 20 acres across six mining claims. RMR holds 41 mining claims totaling approximately 820 acres in the area. RMR is working to meet completeness requirements under mining law for their proposal. There are several non-compliance issues that were existing when RMR acquired the quarry, and the field office is working with RMR to determine how best to bring them into compliance. The field office will begin a public review process and environmental review (EA or EIS) after it receives a proposal it deems complete and several baseline studies are complete, including a hydrological study and a common variety determination.

Wes -- Where is the mine?

Tom – Within ½ mile from city limits. 20 acers and 20 trucks, no crushing in winter time, trucks come down transfer trail to Traver Trail. They go under the gondola.

Carl – Where do the trucks go?

Tom – depends on where the sale is. Limestone dust is used in coal mining. They since have started to sell it mostly for aggregate. They are not in compliance. CTY had hearing Monday gave them till June 1<sup>st</sup> to come back into compliance. 16 acer site but they are on 20 acers. They are selling aggregate and not just limestone. They were crushing in the winter when they were not supposed to be. Will be on going for a while.

**Sutey Ranch Management Plan nearing completion** – The Colorado River Valley Field Office anticipates signing the final decision for the Sutey Ranch and Haines parcels management plans this spring. The BLM acquired the 557-acre Sutey Ranch and the 112-acre Haines Parcel in Pitkin County in 2017 through the Sutey Ranch Land Exchange. The final approved plan is the result of close coordination with a number of stakeholders and multiple opportunities for public involvement. Under the proposed plan for the Sutey parcel, the BLM would maintain irrigated fields to provide critical forage for big game and allow public access between April 16 and November 30 to reduce disturbance to wildlife in the winter. The Haines Parcel becomes part of The Crown Special Recreation Management Area focusing on mountain bike recreation.

**CRVFO to approve new route designation for The Crown** -- The Colorado River Valley Field Office will announce new route designations in the popular Crown Special Recreation Management Area. The Field Office worked closely with the Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association and the Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council to develop a trail system that meets the needs of various trail users while minimizing conflict among them. Nearly 12 miles of new single-track mountain bike trails would be approved, and 10 miles of non-motorized two-track routes currently open to mountain biking would be specifically designated for foot and horse travel. Designated motorized routes would not change.

Mike – Excited for these new trails on The Crown. Rocky Mountain Youth Corps will be there to help build the trails throughout the summer. Happy to be working with the BLM

### **Kremmling Field Office, Maribeth Pecotte**

**Blue Valley Land Exchange evaluation nearly complete** -- The final EIS for the Blue Valley Land Exchange is expected in the coming months. Under the proposed land exchange, the BLM would trade nine parcels totaling 1,489 acres in Grand County for nine parcels totaling 1,832 acres of mostly private lands in Grand and Summit counties. The BLM is conducting the EIS to determine whether the exchange is in the public's interest to complete and what the potential impacts of the exchange would be. The exchange could increase public access and increase publicly-held big game winter range, while the proponent would consolidate its holdings. Approximately 300 acres of the 1,832 acres gained by the public would be acquired by the U.S. Forest Service, with the remainder going to BLM. More than half of the BLM acreage (792 acres) that would be exchanged is surrounded by private land and has no public access. The majority of other BLM lands being considered for exchange are small, isolated parcels that receive little public use.

**Colorado River Recreation Plan comment period closes** – In February the Kremmling Field Office released the Draft Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) for public review. The RAMP seeks to better manage about 40 miles of the Upper Colorado River between Parshall and State Bridge, an extremely popular area for commercial and private float-boating and fishing. More than 90,000 people visit the area each year. Under the proposed plan, camping would be limited to designated sites along the river. These sites would be available for reservation and a camping fee would apply. This would help provide certainty for river users hoping to camp, and would lessen the impacts along the river. Additionally, the current parking fee to access the river would be replaced with an individual day-use permit for all river users from April 1 to Oct. 31. These individual day-use permits would help the BLM better track river usage and would help ensure river users are aware of specific river guidelines. The number of day-use permits would be unlimited. The BLM expects to make a final decision on the plan in the summer of 2019. Before a new fee structure could be implemented, the BLM would develop a business plan detailing proposed fees and expected revenues, which will be made available for public review. Changes to recreation fees must also be approved by the Northwest Resource Advisory Council. If approved, the BLM anticipates implementing the new fee structure in the 2021 season.

**Kremmling Field Office begins North Sand Hills RAMP** – More than 100 people attended four public scoping meetings for the Kremmling Field Office's Recreation Area Management

Plan (RAMP) for the North Sand Hills Special Recreation Management Area in Jackson County. The area is extremely popular with off-highway vehicle enthusiasts and is the only sand dune complex in Colorado open to motorized vehicles. The RAMP will address issues such as designated camping areas, day-use fees, and resource protection. The Field Office is working closely with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Colorado State Land Board, both of which also own land popular for recreation in the North Sand Hills. The field office hosted meetings in Walden, Denver, Fort Collins and Cheyenne. The field office is also working on an environmental assessment to address the Colorado Water Quality Board's listing of North Sand Creek as impaired under the Clean Water Act. North Sand Creek is a small area within the SRMA. The State cites erosion from off-highway vehicle (OHV) use in and around the creek as the primary cause.

Jeff – North Sand Hills potential fees has been going on for many years. Is that still an issue with county commissioners?

Maribeth – They support fees now There MOU with the state and RMYC. Working on fencing and resource protection.

Merritt – A few years ago there was confusion with ranchers and trespassing. Is that still an issue?

Maribeth – Routes closed due to the trespass. We have an agreement working for right of way and a bridge to reopen route. Working with different entities. The fee use will be shared with the partners.

### **Draft resolution on coordinating with counties on land tenure**

Jeff -- main points are if the county has no net gain or loss of public lands, they should be honored. If BLM can't honor that there should be a letter written as to why. Letter encouraging the RMP's to be implemented. Properties the BLM has determined not useful. There should be a budget with land exchanges. Intent to look at the RAC for opinions on land exchanges.

Kent – Part of concern is you have to realize there could be multiple land tenures.

Jeff - I think you need to defer to the agency's policy. Be consistent with it.

Kent – If the RAC is going to support this are you being consistent. Need to ask local agencies.

Kirk – Jeff spoke a lot about this at the last RAC meeting. Seemed the local policy was being ignored. There is dialogue that needs to take place.

Wes- Really weary of resolution requiring fed land being disposed. King Mountain Land exchange was used as example. It is something he can't support. Too many small ranches got hurt and can be hurt.

Items for next meeting

1. Developing improved signage for Canyon Pintato. Scott, Callie, Carl
2. Assuming CRVFO business plan will be presented.
3. Jeff reintroduce draft presentation sale and acquisition of fed lands.

Callie – Next time we're in meeker how about visiting Natural Soda and a grazing field trip.

Meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.