

## **Northwest Resource Advisory Council**

**May 29, 2014**

**Clarion Inn, Craig, Colorado**

### **Minutes**

#### Attendance:

Cat 1: Dave Grisso, Wes McStay, Tom Latham, John Potter

Cat 2: Stacy Beaugh, Dona Shue, Terry Sweet, Barbara Vasquez, Carl Conner

Cat 3: Joe Neuhof, Dean Riggs, Lanny Weddle, John Justman, Kai Turner

BLM: David Boyd, Karl Mendonca, Kent Walter, Katie Stevens, Tim Wilson, Wendy Reynolds, Colt Mortenson, Greg Larson, Kathy McKinstry

#### Audience:

Patty Mosby, wild horse advocate

Chuck Groge, Moffat County

Jeff Comstock, Moffat County

Callie Hendrickson, White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts

Jessica Dooley, Piceance Energy

Luke Schafer, Conservation Colorado

Kathy Simpson, Sand Wash Action Team

Lynn McCormick, rancher

Called to order 8 a.m.

Dean Riggs welcomed Wendy Reynolds as the acting designated official. A quorum is present.

Dean Riggs acknowledged past NW RAC members: Jeff Comstock, Dan Davidson, Steve Loshbaugh

### **Sand Wash Basin Wild Horse Herd, Wendy Reynolds**

Volunteers have been helping dart mares with pzp (a fertility control drug), and we have about 104 mares treated this spring. We will start again in the fall. So far we know of 40 foals born this year, plus 460 wild horses already in the population. Washington DC BLM is trying to come up with solution for wild horse through a challenge prize. Throughout the West we have reached or are beginning to reach carrying capacity levels for wild horses. Darting with pzp will help, but isn't the full solution. I have been talking to Dr. Kirk Shiner, who has developed a chemical vasectomy. There's a lot of science behind this solution. You need to capture a stud, typically through a tranquilizer dart, then treat him with a shot. Does not change stud behavior, but renders it sterile. I would like to propose the Sand Wash Herd as a pilot project for this approach. It would be done in conjunction with PZP darting

on mares. We want to continue to see wild horses out at Sand Wash, they are fabulous. We have a great group of volunteers helping us. They are critical to making this pilot project successful, so we are in a good place to do this. Sand Wash has easily accessible terrain, and through the helps of the volunteers we can identify individual horses and be selective of genetics. Given the RACs past interest in the wild horse issue, I am suggesting the RAC consider a resolution that would allow me to take this proposal to DC.

Stacy: What is the goal of number of foals per year?

Wendy: We need to reduce the current number. 40 is too many.

Barbara: what is range for the whole population at Sand Wash?

Wendy 155-355. We are over that now. Opportunities to do gathers is about 0. We proposed a gather of 20 using bait traps for this fall, but that was not approved. We will continue to monitor the range. A number of permittees at Sand Wash have voluntarily taken non-use in this area because of the high number horses. We can't do an adoption, and we can't do a gather right now. We need your help.

Joe: Selection process for which stallions would be treated will be difficult. People follow individual horses and there's a lot of attachment. You'll need to involve public and need to ensure you are taking their concerns into account.

Wes: I want to hear from horse advocates before we pursue a resolution.

Dean: I agree, we won't make a decision until after public comment.

Tom: Why can't you do a gather?

Wendy: Holding facilities are full. Washington is doing a programmatic EIS on wild horses trying to find a solution. But that will take a long time.

Dean: This RAC has taken position in past through several resolutions to use all tools available, including killing or exporting excess horses.

Dona: What was foal rate last year?

Wendy: 60 foals.

Terry: We manage elk herds through hunting. When calf numbers hit 25 percent, we get nervous. No predators for the horses, though, so maybe 15% is the appropriate number.

Kent: 40 foals is a 10 percent growth rate after pzp darting. Pzp may have negative affects on mare behavior – continued attention from stallions. Once you stop pzp, you get 100 percent reproductions.

Kai: Have you done DNA testing? What about people dumping horses in the area?

Wendy: We haven't had abandoned horses recently. It is a problem in other areas of the state. We are pretty remote to get that influence. Problem we have is people trying to make them pets, feed them by hand, etc.

Barbara: What is ratio of studs to mares? What is target?

Wendy: Not sure of target. It's probably about 50/50, but not all studs are herd studs.

Stacy: What kinds of resources can BLM put to studying this?

Wendy: Washing is asking for proposals now. There will be dollars allocated for proposals that are approved.

Wes: I would support a resolution, but need to have give and take with advocates. Maybe some kind of roundtable. I like to see the wild horses too, but they need to be managed. They don't have any predators, and they are not a native animal.

Dean: The Grand Junction Field Office has a really good program. I attended a national BLM meeting in Denver five years ago about wild horses and the interests were still very divided. The problem is getting worse. We have to try to deal with the problem, and we need something that everyone can buy into.

Tim: Some private funding possible as well

Wendy: People come from all around to take the wild horse route we've promoted. Outside of hunting, the number one recreational activity on Little Snake Field Office is viewing the wild horses. It's a big economic impact to area. Definitely an economic boon, but populations still needs to be managed.

Wendy: The partner group, SWAT, adopted last of the sand wash horses that were still in captivity. Great partnership, but we have to have adoptable horse.

Tom: Support any tools to help with this problem. But grazing permittees are taking the blunt of the problem while you determine.

Kai: How many long-term areas, eco-sanctuaries?

Wendy: Not enough. Substantial impact to our budget

Wendy: We asking for a resolution supporting the sand wash herd for a pilot project to use chemical vasectomy.

Wes: What kind of numbers, one or two or going all out? What would sterilizing most popular horses mean for the public?

Existing Leases for White River National Forest

Powerpoint by David Boyd, Greg Larson

Larson: How does the NW RAC want to be involved in this process?

Dave G: Keep it on the agenda each time. May want to weigh in later.

Kai: I agree. We have an obligation to make a recommendation.

Justman: This is a very big deal to Mesa County, very concerned about economic impacts.

Wes: What does Karl think?

Karl: It's a big, difficult decision. The more information we have, the better. We know you want to be involved, let us know how you want to be involved. We share your frustration about how we got this point. Have to make the most informed decision.

Wes: Huge social divide on this issue.

### **Public comment period**

David Ludlam, West Slope Oil and Gas Association– However you feel about oil and gas, this is unbelievable. You are proposing modifying a contract. Talking about billions of dollars. A lot already invested. More than 300 people showed up to DeBeque. It was the most rewarding day in my career. Oil and gas workers, chambers of commerce, all spoke from the heart. In lockstep with us to not cancel or modify leases. Several opposed to leases were moved by testimony at the DeBeque meeting. The Director of Thompson Divide Coalition said this was a tale of two communities. I agree. Pitkin County is richest county in that state and it uses the most gas compared to working class communities. It's the community that consumes more than anybody else yet has the least tolerance for oil and gas development. Thompson Divide is not pristine. There's the Wolf Creek Storage Unit there, huge timber projects, grazing all over the place. I feel the political appointees in DC will cut loose the leases to the west from this process, but will cancel the Thompson Divide leases. Already think that will happen. This will have billions of dollars of impacts. Thompson Divide is a political boundary, has been modified multiple times over the past five years. Regardless of how you feel about oil and gas,

please consider how you would feel if what you did for a living was yanked out from under you for political reasons. This is about politics, class issues and demographics.

Patty Mosby, citizen from Moffat County – Very educational today. I want a win-win situation. I know we have too many horses at Sand Wash. We actually have 61 foals in Sand Wash right now, estimate another 20 to come. There is not just national recognition for this area, but international recognition. One of biggest advocates for the horses lives in New Zealand. Advocates have tracked every known horse in Sand Wash Basin. Need to make sure that other wild horse activists understand that livestock permittees have drilled the wells for water that the wild horses also use. There is good feed out there right now, but what happens when we get the next drought. We are interested in chemical vasectomies. After the 2008 gather, we had 20 and 30 foals a year, now it's maybe up to 80. Not opposed to BLM, we are trying to find a win-win and not have people protesting.

Kathy Simpson, local resident. Sand Wash Action Team. Take a look at our Facebook page. We have an MOU with BLM. We exist to educate, and to assist BLM to improve herd. The number of horses at Sand Wash is escalating at a pace that makes us nervous. Concerned about the next drought. We need more tools. I am glad there will be no helicopter gathers. The pzp is a lot of difficult work. SWAT will want to be involved in discussions regarding chemical vasectomies. SWAT will be here to lend support and help with documentation. Adoption is not a complete solution. SWAT can help with decisions about which stallions get the treatment.

Lynn McCormick – I own land by Maybell. We have raised all kinds of animals. I am biased toward horses, use them for work and watching wildlife and looking at the range. I've spent a lot of time at Sand Wash. I've been to Washington several times to talk about wild horses and range. If we get pilot project, why can't we do some in situ adoptions? Going to have to gather a bunch of horses anyway.

Wendy – We will be tranquilizing the stallions through darting, not gathering.

Lynn – People have specific horses that they want, in situ adoptions will work. Genetic viability needs to be looked at. Range has to be in good shape. Need to put some numbers on the economic value of these horses. I recommend Ted Turner's book on green economics.

Callie Hendrickson, White River and Douglas Creek conservation districts – I also sit on the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board. Thank you to you guys at local level that are making this work. That's not what I hear from activists at the national level. Please don't let national groups interfere with good work you are doing here. The national annual budget for the wild horse and burro program is \$78 million, and \$46 million of that is spent for holding. It's hard to find additional long-term pastures, and as current contracts are coming up, the existing holders are not renewing them. There are 50,000 horses on the range now, and that's a conservative number, probably a 30 percent underestimate. The range can support 26,000 horses

and buros. Something has to give, and I agree it is not the range. Upset to hear that Little Snake Field Office was turned down to gather 25 horses. Adoptions are expensive but not working. Washington Office is trying to use prize to inspire somebody to come up with solution. Talking about a programmatic eis on whole wild horse program. I have one recommendation for the resolution. I have talked to someone from an area where they are doing chemical vast. They found it wasn't working as well as they thought. Think about mares vs. studs. Just takes one stallion to service a lot of mares. The biggest message, though, is that we have to have a healthy range.

Chuck Grobe– Moffat County Commissioner – The President is looking at monuments throughout the states, which could include Vermillion Basin. I would like to request the RAC send a letter emphasizing that a public process should occur before any Monument designation decision, rather than simply an Antiquities Act executive order from the President. Not asking the NW RAC to take apposition on whether there should be a designation, just that there be a public process rather than executive order.

Wendy: Wasn't aware of any discussions of monument designations

### **Munitions – Powerpoint by Kevin Trabert, Colorado National Guard**

Kevin: Would NW RAC consider Resource Advisory Board duties for this project?

Joe: Does your Delta project have a RAB?

No

Barbara: we meet quarterly, can't get through agendas as it is. 4-inch binder of information might be daunting.

Dean: you could get with RAC when you have something to bring back to us

Tim: wanted NW RAC to be able to understand decision space on this. Historically shouldn't have been anything live, but it has turned up in other areas. They haven't found much, but from a land management point of view what kind of liability does BLM face if you don't say clean it all up. But from a taxpayer point of view, huge costs associated with a clean-up that may not be necessary. So what is right decision to make?

Wes: Interested. I will talk to other old guard members out here. Maybe we can help with the RAB.

### **Planning 2.0 Kathy McKinstry** Powerpoint

Barbara: What is the timeframe?

Kathy: Looking for comments by end of June. Especially what people find complicated or difficult about the planning process.

Carl: BLM is on a course of being more reactive than proactive, and this should help. Problem is money. Billions of dollars have come from industry, perhaps they could help.

### **NW District reorganizing – Tim Wilson**

Sequestration reduced BLM budgets 7.5 % in 2013. Set up to be multi-year reductions. Initiated workforce planning. BLM Colorado needed to reduce workforce from 680 to 560. NW district has about 2/3 of workforce, so we took biggest hit. Nobody will lose job, changes will be made through attrition and retirement. Already well below target now and beginning to hire again.

We were funding 85 positions for oil and gas, only had money for about half that. Needed to look at ways to reduce that. Colorado River Valley Field Office pilot oil and gas office – it has a resource side and an oil and gas side, which has been very effective. We'll look at a similar approach for the White River Field Office. Needed to get to two oil and gas offices. So the White River Field Office will also do the oil and gas duties in Little Snake and Kremmling. The Colorado River Valley office will also do oil and gas for the Grand Junction Field Office. These oil and gas offices will have one team for oil and gas, one for everything else. Coal is already concentrated in the Little Snake field office, which will do all coal for the NW District. For recreation, KFO will take the lead on Colorado River Management down to Dotsero.

John: How many employees in the NW District

Amy: 254, goal is 234. (Check)

Barbara: So Kremmling and Little Snake will be managed out of WRFO?

Yes. KFO may be split between Jackson and Grand. Looking at that still.

Wes: so people will be traveling from Meeker to Walden? How often?

Tim: employees may still be based in other offices, but supervised centrally.

### **Wild Horse resolution continued**

Kai: moves to pass resolution supporting sand wash as a pilot area

Stacy: seconds

Dave Boyd will draft, e-mail vote

## **CRVFO RMP Karl, Mendonca**

Powerpoint on CRVFO Proposed RMP

Dean: if we use sub rac in the future, need to have good direction for the subtracs. The RAC needs to give those directions.

No public comment at 2 p.m.

## **KFO RMP Stephanie Odell**

Powerpoint on KFO Proposed RMP

Dean: How does sage grouse EIS affect these RMPs?

Stephanie: EIS will likely amend the rmps.

## **District and Field Manager Updates**

### **Wendy Reynolds**

**District Fire Units have had a busy spring:** Both the Northwest Interagency Fire Management Unit based in Craig and the Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire Management Unit in Grand Junction have been busy this spring with prescribed fire and mechanical treatments.

The Northwest Unit completed the 125-acre Junction Butte Prescribed Fire near Kremmling and the 35-acre Oxbow burn near Maybell. Both targeted improving riparian vegetation. It also completed the 350-acre Badger Flats Mechanical Treatment south of Dinosaur National Monument and Cross Roads Mechanical Treatment on the Piceance Basin. Both targeted pinyon-juniper to improve wildlife habitat and reduce fuels. Several other mechanical treatments are being planned. During winter 115 acres of slash piles were burned in Jackson County and 167 acres were burned in Jackson County.

The Upper Colorado River Unit has completed the 211-acre Lapham Prescribed Fire north of Fruita, the 375-acre Nick Mountain Burn near Molina, 66 acres in the Palisade Watershed 77 acres on Black Ridge in McInnis Canyons west of Grand Junction, as well as the 324-acre West Divide Prescribed fire. Mechanical treatments and/or hand thinning projects have been completed near Eagle, DeBequ, Carbondale and Glade Park.

**Northwest Colorado Greater Sage Grouse EIS Update:** BLM received about 7,500 public comments during the public comment period on the Draft EIS that ended last December. The Northwest District Sage Grouse Interdisciplinary Team have drafted proposed final management actions, which were presented to the cooperating agencies in April. The BLM is now incorporating national guidance. The BLM will begin impact analysis soon and hopes to have a final EIS in September.



## **Colorado River Valley Field Office, Karl Mendonca**

**Volunteers help remove several tons of garbage:** More than 100 volunteers have removed several tons of garbage from throughout the Colorado River Valley Field Office this spring. Volunteers from the High Country Four Wheelers and White River Trail Runners teamed to remove more than four tons of garbage from Hubbard Mesa north of Rifle. More than 65 people took part in the Colorado River Clean-up gathering more than 200 bags of trash. Volunteer projects have also been completed this spring at Red Hill and Prince Creek outside of Carbondale and on Transfer Trail above Glenwood Springs.

**White-Nose Syndrome EA released for public comment:** The public comment period for a statewide environmental assessment outlining management options to reduce the spread of White-Nose Syndrome in Colorado and identifying additional actions if it is detected in Colorado. Most of the cave resources in the Northwest District potentially affected by this EA are in the Colorado River Valley Field Office. While this office originally was doing an EA specific to its boundaries, that effort grew into a statewide approach lead by the Colorado State Office. The NW RAC discussed White Nose Syndrome at its August 2011 meeting, where it formally recommended BLM include a stronger education component in at least one alternative. Both alternatives in this environmental assessment include an emphasis on educating cavers about decontamination procedures and minimizing impacts to bats. White-Nose Syndrome is a fungal disease that killed more than 5.5 million bats across the northeast and mid-Atlantic United States during the past six years and continues to spread westward unchecked. The fungus has not been discovered in Colorado, but its introduction is feared to have similar consequences

**Events being planned for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the South Canyon Fire:** The 20th anniversary of the tragic South Canyon Fire on Storm King Mountain is this summer, July 6. A number of organizations have formed a committee to organize a commemorative event to honor the 14 firefighters killed in the South Canyon Fire. The primary entities directly involved are BLM, USFS, Garfield Sheriff's Office, Colorado River Fire Rescue, Colorado Division of Fire Prevention & Control, Garfield County, City of Glenwood Springs, Glenwood Springs Fire, National Fallen Firefighter Foundation, Colorado Fallen Firefighter Foundation, Storm King 14 (represents families), Prineville Hotshots, McCall Smokejumpers and Missoula Smokejumpers. A public event will be held in Two Rivers Park the evening of July 6. Families will be visiting the memorial site on Storm King the morning of July 6. A picnic for the more than 300 family members expected to attend will be held the evening of July 5.

**Decision expected soon on proposed Sutey Ranch Land Exchange:** The proposed Sutey Ranch Land Exchange would convey six parcels of federal lands for two parcels of private lands. The various parcels are located in Eagle, Garfield and Pitkin counties. When the BLM publishes a Notice of Decision, it will initiate a 45-day public protest period and a 60-day review period by the Colorado Governor and local governments.

Under the proposal, the public would acquire the following to be managed by BLM:

- The 557-acre Sutey Ranch adjacent to the popular Red Hill Special Recreation Area in Garfield County, including the historic water rights from the ranch.
- 112 acres in Pitkin County along Prince Creek Road near the Crown. This private parcel adjacent to a popular area among mountain bikers and must be crossed to access BLM roads and trails.
- A \$100,000 donation from the proponents to develop a site-specific management plan for the newly acquired land, and a \$1 million donation from the proponents for the long-term management of the newly acquired land.

BLM-administered lands to be exchanged:

- Three parcels totaling 1,268 acres in Pitkin County south of Carbondale. These parcels receive little to no public use because they are mostly or entirely surrounded by private land and extremely difficult for the public to access.
- Three parcels totaling 195 acres on Horse Mountain southwest of Eagle, which have little public access and had previously been identified for disposal.

The federal lands that would be conveyed into private ownership would be included in conservation easements to be held and managed by two non-profit land trusts: the Aspen Valley Land Trust (Pitkin County parcels) and the Eagle Valley Land Trust (Eagle County parcels). The Proponents will provide a \$1.1 million endowment to BLM to be held via agreement with the Aspen Valley Land Trust. This endowment will be used to develop a site-specific plan and assist with the long-term management of the Sutey Ranch by the BLM. The exchange is supported by all three affected counties and Colorado Parks and Wildlife. The majority of public comments received have supported the exchange.

### **Kremmling Field Office, Stephanie Odell**

**KFO releases Grand County hazardous tree removal plan:** The Kremmling Field Office has released an environmental assessment for public comment analyzing its proposal to remove hazardous trees on BLM-administered lands in Grand County. Grand County has been one of the most affected areas of Colorado's mountain pine beetle epidemic, resulting in thousands of beetle-killed trees that pose a significant threat to public safety and transportation. The project area includes approximately 9,150 acres of forested lands in Grand County administered by the BLM. Under the proposal, all dead, disease-infested and other hazard trees within 125 feet of BLM roads, trails and other infrastructure would be removed. The EA also identifies potential areas available for large-scale mechanical salvage and fuel reduction, and potential areas where fire could be used to treat slash piles resulting from mechanical treatment. Comments on the EA will be taken through June 12.

**KFO increasing public awareness of the hazards of beetle-killed trees:** The Kremmling Field Office recently updated its webpage and has posted information on social media to increase awareness of the hazards of recreating or working near beetle-killed forests. Nearly 300 miles of roads pass through the more than 70,000 acres of beetle-killed forests in the Kremmling Field Office. Many of these trees have been dead

for several years, which means they are beginning to fall. Here are some precautions to take while in the beetle-killed areas:

- Be aware of your surroundings. Avoid dense patches of dead trees. They can fall without warning.
- Stay out of the forest when there are strong winds that could blow down trees. If you are already in the forest when the winds kick up, head to a clearing out of reach of any potential falling trees.
- Place tents and park vehicles in areas where they will not be hit if trees fall. Do not use dead trees to tie off tent lines.
- When driving in remote areas of the forest, park close to a main road, rather than on a spur or one-way section. If trees fall across the road you may be trapped.
- Bring an ax or a saw to remove fallen trees from roads in case you become trapped.
- Keep in mind still-living trees in beetle-killed forests are also more likely to be blown over because they no longer have the support of other trees.

**North Sand Hills Management:** The BLM continues to work cooperatively with the Colorado State Land Board, State Forest State Park and Jackson County in managing the popular North Sand Hills Special Recreation Management Area. The Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition (COHVCO) is taking a lead to work with Congressional representatives to support release of the Instant Study Area designation. Jackson County sent letters of support to Udall's Tipton's and Bennett's office showing their support of release of the ISA, unified management and the upgrading, maintenance and oversight of the recreation opportunities. The NW RAC also adopted a resolution in February 2011 supporting the release of the ISA.

Lanny: The North Sand Hills is a high-use area. Hope that we can come to agreement about how to manage it without taking it away from people. Most people I talk to who go out there would support fees if there were amenities associated with those fees. A lot of problems out there are due to alcohol. Relationship between BLM and Jackson County took a big hit from BLM putting in the campground in the NSHs without talking to Jackson County.

**Upper Colorado River Management:** The Kremmling Field Office has completed a number of upgrades at the Radium Recreation Site and are planning more improvements in the Upper Colorado River Special Recreation Area as funding allows. The Field Office is working to educate the more than 60,000 annual users of this area about the importance of wag bags and other portable toilets, since this past season the pit toilets along the Colorado River to comply with EPA regulations.

**Grand Junction Field Office, Katie Stevens**

**McInnis Canyons begins second year of fee based camping reservations on Colorado River:** On May 1, the Grand Junction Field Office began collecting fees for camping in McInnis Canyons on the Ruby / Horsethief section of the Colorado River. The BLM collected more than \$66,000 in camping fees for 2013, the first year of fee based camping on that section of river. Those using the river have overwhelming reported positive feedback regarding the fee based system. Money collected for camping on the river has already been used to improve many campsites with cottonwood tree plantings and preventative maintenance of invasive species. The field office has identified new campsite opportunities for development with projected funds for 2014. In addition, the funding is now available for a reliable system of seasonal work staff.

**18 Road Campground fees lead to improvements:** Since initiating a recreation enhancement fee in the fall of 2013, 18 Road Campground has grossed about \$40,000 in fees. These fees have been used to create a permanent host site at the campground, maintain facilities, improve site and initiate the engineering design of roughly 60 more sites. With the help of partners such as Mesa County and the City of Fruita, BLM hopes to work this summer on stage one of the campground expansion. Completion of this project will be incremental and commensurate with funding and partner availability. The additional sites will greatly improve BLM's ability to promote the area as a tourism destination. The campground is at capacity every weekend in the spring and fall with reportedly 60-100 sites being used in the overflow area, which will be eliminated once the expansion is complete.

**Book Cliffs Coal Lease By Application EIS:** Public Scoping concluded on March 12, 2014 with a total of 64 unique comments on the Book Cliffs Lease by Application Environmental Impact Statement. CAM Colorado nominated a coal lease parcel north of Fruita containing approximately 14,160 acres of federal coal reserves.

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

**Piceance-East Douglas HMA Fence:** The office has posted the Preliminary Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for a proposed fence around the 137 mile perimeter of the Piceance-East Douglas HMA. The fence is needed because portions of the HMA have never been fenced; existing fence has been damaged or destroyed and is no longer functional; and there are no effective topographic barriers to keep horses within the perimeter of the HMA. The BLM received one comment during scoping.

**Route Inventory work beginning:** The WRFO will be conducting a travel route inventory this summer, which includes comprehensively mapping and identifying all travel routes within various focus areas. These focus areas were developed in partnership

with Rio Blanco County, the Wagon Wheel OHV Club, and others. The WRFO will be hosting six Rocky Mountain Youth Corp interns this summer who will assist with the field data collection and GIS data management. Once complete, the WRFO intends to use this travel route inventory to inform future travel management decisions. The long term WRFO travel management strategy is to inventory focus areas, make travel management plan decisions for those areas, and implement these decisions. This pattern is intended to be replicated across the field office over several years until the entire field office has been inventoried, with travel plans, and travel plans have been implemented. Route inventories will be made available for public review.

**BLM Colorado June Lease Sale:** BLM Colorado will offer 12 parcels totaling 7,936 acres in the White River Field Office during the quarterly competitive oil and gas lease sale scheduled for 9 a.m., June 12, at the BLM Colorado State Office in Lakewood. About 6,918 acres are on BLM surface-managed lands. The other 1,018 acres are located on private surface lands with the subsurface minerals managed by the BLM. Twenty-three parcels were originally posted on the sale notice (two parcels in the Kremmling and 21 in the White River field offices); however, the BLM deferred 11 parcels for additional review in response to the protests (two in the Kremmling and nine in the White River field offices).

### **Little Snake Field Office, Tim Wilson**

**BLM co-hosts Stay the Trail event** – The Little Snake Field Office partnered with the Yampa Valley OHV Trailriders and Stay the Trail on May 10th to provide a fun and educational ride of the Sand Wash Basin area. This first annual event was open to ATVs, motorcycles, and high-clearance vehicles. Despite the rainy weather, 40 people participated in exploring the seldom visited north end of Sand Wash, and had the opportunity to see wild horses, scenic views, and a bison trap, while learning to respect this unique and fragile environment.

**Little Snake oil and gas leasing update** – The LSFO is currently analyzing 43 parcels comprising approximately 32,265 acres in Moffat and Routt counties for the upcoming February 2015 Oil and Gas lease sale. Scoping is officially open until May 30, but we would continue to accept substantive scoping comments until the EA is posted.

**Moratorium on issuing new Special Recreation Permits:** The Little Snake Field Office is placing a moratorium for issuing new big game or mountain lion Special Recreation Permits (SRP) starting May 7, 2014. A carrying capacity analysis needs to be completed to evaluate existing and proposed SRPs as they relate to resource and social needs, issues, and impacts. The Little Snake Office will keep a waiting list for applications. We will continue accepting and processing applications for existing SRP's.

When the moratorium is lifted the Little Snake Field Office will evaluate the application waiting list and proceed using a first come first serve basis. However, pending the

carrying capacity analysis, some applications could be denied or placed on a prolonged waiting list until further notice or carrying capacity objectives are met.

**Next meeting items**

White River Leasing EIS

Sage grouse

White River RMPA

Shiner, chemical castration