

June 4, 2015
Minutes

RAC members in attendance:

Stacy Beaugh
Carl Conner
John Justman
Tom Latham
Jim Mattern
Wes McStay
Dean Riggs
Dona Shue
Luke Schafer
Lanny Weddle

Members of the public in attendance:

Brian Meinhart – Congressman Tipton’s office
Dave Stout

BLM Employees in attendance:

Joseph Meyer – Designated Federal Official
Chris Joyner – RAC administrator
Dave Boyd – Public Affairs – NW District
Stephanie Odell – Field Manager, Kremmling - Host
Wendy Reynolds – Field Manager Little Snake Field Office
Kent Walter – Field Manager, White River Field Office
Karl Mendonca – Acting Field Manager, Colorado River Valley Field Office
Wayne Werkmeister – Acting Field Manager, Grand Junction Field Office
Erin Jones – NW District NEPA Coordinator
Ruth Welch – BLM Colorado State Director

8:04 Dean Riggs – Meeting called to order

Dean Riggs – Welcome and review of tour and dinner – It was excellent seeing the North Sand Dunes yesterday for our tour. I’ve been on this RAC long enough that we’ve been hearing about that place for years. Seeing that area and the current management challenges helps put things into perspective.

Wes McStay – The local BLM Field Office should be commended

Dean Riggs – Introductions

Ruth Welch in attendance

Dean Riggs – Introduction to Colorado Mule Deer Strategy literature – See supplemental document

Let me give you an explanation of what is in the packet – We want you to understand the strategy as we’ll be working together for this strategy

Kent Walter – I want you to be thinking about Meeker for the tour for our next RAC in August. I'd like to know if there are specific things you want to see, preferably something up high. It will be warm come August.

Kent Walter – 8:15 presentation for WRFO – See Supplemental documents

Dean Riggs – I really appreciate the effort. I remember that back when we were looking at Roan Plateau. I'm getting a lot of these concepts in planning process. Very encouraging seeing these wildlife components in these plans.

Kent Walter – Thank You, it is a lot of give and take. With our proposed decisions, we want to maintain those population goals. We've made a lot of assumptions, but this is all new stuff. We want to make sure our assumptions hold true.

Luke Schafer – I agree. There is a lot of thinking outside of the box with this plan. It's astounding and impressive. It's a lot of development. This might be the only chance for us to balance these resources. I think it's been a great effort

Kent Walter – It's been a long process. We started this June 6, 2006.

John Justman– In Tier 1 Lands with Wilderness Characteristics – do roads get to stay?

Kent Walter – We're just starting to kick off Travel planning.

John Justman– We have all these millions of acres where we're managing for wilderness without an act of congress.

Kent Walter – Not everyone wants a motorized route.

John Justman – You're creating wilderness without an act of congress.

Kent Walter – It's not a special designation.

John Justman- There is gas development already in one of those WSA areas.... Book cliffs... is it not a WSA?

Wayne Werkmeister– WSA goes around those O&G development you are referencing.

Kent Walter – We are allowing development under Tier 1 because of technology

John Justman -Seems like we're creating wilderness without an act of congress.

Kent Walter – We can't manage for every use on every acre

John Justman– It seems like any disturbance can have an affect on wildlife – I'm up hiking and I hear a lot of noise. It was bikers on the continental trail.

Kent Walter – We didn't make any decisions on how areas are being designated for travel during this RMP. No decision has been made

Wayne Werkmeister – Giving 5 minute breaks

Wayne Werkmeister – starts GJFO Brief 9:23 – See Supplemental documents

John Justman – I have more than 1800 signatures from people who hate the [GJ] plan

Wes McStay – I understand there are groups that are asking the Governor to nix the plan.

Wayne Werkmeister – Its kind of interesting to me because the Governor had staff in all of those meetings so that would be surprising if the Governor didn't sign consistency.

Wes McStay – What happens if the governor doesn't sign it?

Joe Meyer – I can't recall a Governor finding an inconsistency ruling if that happened that would be figured out at the director's level

Carl Conner– How many ACEC are there now in this proposed plan?

Wayne Werkmeister– We currently have 4 and when the proposed goes into affect, it will go up to 13

Stacy Beaugh – how is ACEC done on bordering areas? For example if something borders up to another field office how is that treated in both field offices?

Kent Walter – We border the GJFO on their northern border. We have ACEC with adjacent field offices for example where GJFO has the ACEC near Carr Creek – Roan Creek, we have ACEC protection.

Carl Conner – In reference to Uranium routes that were inventoried but never really a "route." A lot of the Uranium miners would just explore by putting the bulldozer bucket down. In a lot of cases, they are not really roads.

Wayne Werkmeister – we probably should have had better rules when we started our route inventory. We didn't do that so we ended up with a lot of "routes" that aren't really routes. They were created when dozers ran through the area to cut a path for uranium exploration. They're not roads there now but we inventoried them because we didn't want to leave something out. If we had it to do over, we would have done things differently.

Tom Latham – How are you going to control it? If you close an area, how are you going to enforce that closure?

Wayne Werkmeister – we are going to rely on the public. I think the public is going to start policing themselves. These changes aren't going to be over night, but over a period of time.

Carl Conner – Isn't there a large gas leasing project out there in the area you plan to close near De Beque?

Wayne Werkmeister – There are valid and existing leases and this RMP does not trump valid and existing leases

Carl Conner – this [De Beque area] is a very important place for the Native American cultures

Lanny Weddle – I'd like to know your opinion on this Tom

Tom Latham – It is amazing where you do see the bike tracks. It's the perfect time to be out there [weather and time of year]. There is definitely some [hostility] about route closures. How do you keep these routes closed? I guess as time goes on. I've seen more people go camping there recently.

Lanny Weddle- would those closures impact your lease?

Tom Latham – No. It's already closed off. It wouldn't impact my lease.

Wayne Werkmeister – we've kept some routes open for admin for permittees to get to range improvements

Tom Latham- the gas development still has routes

Dean Riggs – 10:00 – Public Comment Period

Dave stout – see Supplemental documents –

I just wan to let you know that you're going to get a copy of this. This document – See Supplemental documents. There is a lot of interest in taking public lands into state land. There is an initiative to take public lands in every state except California. Gardner is the only US Senator to vote against this. IF everything works well, you'll have a copy of this. I hope this document can serve as a resource for you in the future as people want to know more about their public lands.

10:05 – Public Comment ends

Wayne Werkmeister – Many of our closure decisions are pertaining to roads that aren't designed routes. They were created just to get from point A to B. What does this do to soil erosion? What's it do to permittee? Mileage numbers are not the key. Engineering of those routes is the key.

Kent Walter – is travel management an EIS or EA level decision

Wayne Werkmeister – EIS

John Justman – how cost effective to close these routes?

John Justman – I don't think ELK get that low. How are you going to close these routes that you say has elk?

Wayne Werkmeister – We're going to post carsonite signs.

Joe Meyer – Because these routes are in the travel management plan, we have to make a decision. In a lot of these decisions, we probably will not have to do anything. Many of these aren't even in use. The amount we have to do on the ground could be little in some cases.

John Justman – the people we hear from are the ones that are mad

John Justman – people tell me I can't walk that far

Wayne Werkmeister – Travel Management is much easier to amend than an RMP. Travel Management is a living process. We will continue to work with the public and cooperators and permittees to put in new routes. So don't think this is going to be the end of the process.

Wayne Werkmeister – Everyday after you sign the TMP, you can move forward with implementing

John Justman – I'd like to see a pie of routes were we had in 2000

Wayne Werkmeister – WE would to

Wes McStay – Any lessons learned

Wayne Werkmeister – zone by zone. Some offices are doing zone at a time.

Tom Latham – Grazing usually gets the black eye. They can get a star by their name in comparison. In no question that the travel that is occurring is deteriorating the public lands more than grazing.

Carl Conner – I'm working in that area. I would have to concur.

Joe Meyer – I hope the big message is that we think about is the implementation.

These things need to be living documents. We will fix the stuff that isn't working. If we do it well, we will not have to do this difficult process over and again. We'll fix things. Implementation is much more pleasant process than planning.

Stephanie Odell – 1035 – Begin discussion on Beatle Kill

Reference supplemental documents

Stephanie Odell – The buyers have really wanted to get in and cut some of these areas

Jim Mattern – are there beetles still around

Stephanie Odell – not to the extent they were. They first arrived during a drought. They are now moving south. There is another species of beetle moving in, but is not as aggressive.

Wes McStay- you mention regeneration how long does that take?

Stephanie Odell – degrading naturally could take 10-30 years. Natural conditions will impact this. Our designated permittee is having trouble finding trails to get from one allotment to another. We are also able to give non-use for up to 10 years without having a permit non-renewal. We've got them the admin use they need, but the question is getting them from point A to point B.

Tom Latham – how much revenue does this produce and are their contractors waiting

Stephanie Odell – independent pass. We got \$50,000 more than we expected. It depends. Some sales have no bids.

Kent Walter – Have you given any thought in WSA to use motorized equipment?

Stephanie Odell- Yes, and we can't. We have to leave this to natural processes

Lanny Weddle – sale on Independence Mountain – is that related to stewardship

Stephanie Odell – no

Lanny Weddle – problem with USFS is that they kept trying to claim the lumber had timber quality. Loggers wouldn't buy it because it wasn't high quality. Then USFS said it isn't good for anything but biomass. Problem is not only getting the beetle kill cut, but also having a place to go with it.

Stephanie Odell – shipping is expensive. Some of our sales are pretty cheap. My idea is if someone is interested; sell it to him or her.

Lanny Weddle – I hate to applaud the BLM, but I will take my hat off for you people because you people have realized this problem and are willing to do something about it.

Dean Riggs – from one disaster to another –

Erin Jones – NW Sage Grouse EIS presentation. 11:02

See supplemental documents

We just released the plan so this is a good time to give presentation.

Lanny Weddle question about NSO. Jackson County has been identified as 50% PHMA

Erin Jones – An exception could be granted.

Lanny Weddle – I remember that there would be no occupancy within 4 miles of LEK

Erin Jones – that has changed

Erin Jones – an exception would require consistency with BLM, USFW, and CPW

Lanny Weddle – how long is that going to take?

Dean Riggs – I can tell you that when we've consulted with USFW, it has happened quickly.

Kent Walter – this is something we’re already doing.

Wendy Reynolds– I have a question – LEK’s can come and go. Can these buffer zones can change?

Erin Jones – Yes - consistent work with CPW will be critical

Luke Schafer – Gateway and Transwest will both be excluded [from some stipulations for ROW avoidance]

Luke Schafer – SGI and other agreements

John Justman – what happens if a private landowner has LEK’s

Erin Jones – BLM only has jurisdiction on BLM managed lands

Wes McStay – So, you’re only counting the 250 feet of disturbance? But research is showing several miles. Basically, they’re going to take future O&G development

Kent Walter- that is considered behavioral influence

Wes McStay – this TRANSWEST project is the worst thing to happen to Moffat County

Lanny Weddle– I’m concerned that USWS is going to see these numbers and this is going to give them more ammunition to make a T&E determination.

Erin Jones – We’re using the best science we have

Dave Boyd – Pulled information from Tranwest EIS

Dean Riggs – you worked with Transwest to route line to avoid sage grouse habitat

Erin Jones – yes, we’ve worked really hard with Transwest to avoid these habitats

Kent Walter – we’re putting in other deterrents. We have ignored other mitigation to avoid impacts

Luke Schafer – this is a direct disturbance. The indirect disturbance will be after the ROD is signed. There is a whole lot not understood.

Wendy Reynolds– I’m curious, is Energy gateway south computed in these figures?

Erin Jones – it is not

Dean Riggs – the whole discussion of this cap is interesting. If these two transmission lines are collocated then the impacts could be less. The final decisions on if they are truly collocated will have a large impact

Luke Schafer – there is adaptive management built into the plan. Is there going to be a corresponding funding for this implementation?

Wes McStay – Should there be an MOU?

Ruth Welch – That is a great question

Lanny Weddle – I agree when I’m thinking about the USFW, that is a good point.

How are you going to perpetuate these decisions? This isn’t spelled out.

Dean Riggs – the endangered species recovery has funding. I see this problem, where the money comes from and how that happens is up in the air. The recovery program that was funded largely by water users may not be best for this species.

Wes McStay – USWS needs to look at the alternative of the listing

John Justman – I’ve talked to many county commissioners and common story is there is no predator control

Wes McStay – In our ranch, we have the largest active LEK in Colorado. We don’t do ANY predator control. I have other neighbors that do a lot of predator control and they have very few grouse.

Wes McStay – predator control is not going to keep them from being listed

John Justman – predators have to have an effect on these species

Lanny Weddle – what about birds.

Wes McStay – Crows are just as tough on grouse

Dean Riggs – human reaction is to find the problem and fix it. It is never one problem. It is a culmination of many things. You can't have accurate studies about individual influences. I've talked to researchers about this and try to understand this and every researcher says it is too complicated to do. If it were possible to do, you'd have to have some very significant funding.

With any of these species, you have to look at all the threats. Then list out those threats. Knowing that, is there things you can do to minimize those threats? In spite of all of us who think we're doing a great job, a few years of success does not make a trend.

Wes McStay – in a wet year, we're all good land managers

Dean Riggs – an argument could be made in the 50 – 60's that when we were poisoning predators, was that a piece of the pie? What is socially acceptable?

Luke Schafer – it's been great working with the NW BLM office – we've been lucky having them working with us. We're still moving forward because of leadership helping us work together.

Dean Riggs – I couldn't agree more. Some of these bring positive impacts.

We're bringing people from many backgrounds and having good conversations

Lanny Weddle – Jackson County is a cooperating agency. I'm still impressed with how fast you got this done. There is a lot of this plan I don't like. But, I have to remind myself that you're doing this to keep the bird from being listed. When I listen to people, that is the part that people don't understand. People don't understand that the BLM is doing things to keep it from being listed.

Dean Riggs – Is there anything the state director wanted to add

Ruth Welch – thanks. This is one of the better more, lively discussions. I'm going to the Front Range next week.

I really appreciate the topics. They are the big things we're dealing with. I'm so happy Joe Meyer came down from WY. He has a very firm grasp of things that take place on BLM. You are so lucky to have Joe Meyer and his fabulous field managers. I'm so glad Kent Walter and Wayne Werkmeister talked about these RMP's. It has been a real experience for me. For better or worse, we're working to get 4 RMP signed and in place.

It's been an interesting dance getting everyone comfortable with our plans.

We feel very confident with what we're doing. Lucky for Wendy she had her plan done a good bit ago. I'm feeling very confident that these plans are going to be done before Sage Grouse. Sage Grouse is very important. Erin Jones and Bridget Clayton have done an incredible job.

This is a different process than we've done before. Working with our cooperators and the public has been important.

We had a few challenges, but I'm hoping people will use this opportunity to protest if that is what you want.

NO plan is ever, "done," in the BLM. Plans can be added to and modified as needed. I know in Mesa you have the Gunnison [Sage Grouse]. It's another landscape planning

effort. It's been a high priority to keep on an aggressive schedule. With all these plans coming together we must keep pushing to keep our deadlines. Gunnison was listed making some of those planning efforts easier for the agency. I appreciate you taking time on your agenda to discuss these issues. I appreciate Wes' [McStay] question about what we would have done different. We want to consistently improve. Law changes cause every plan to be a new experience.

Travel Management planning. We're working on a response to the governor and cooperators to do things on an area implementation level. WE want people to be able to interact on this planning process.

Wes McStay – thank you for coming. I am asking that you work on funding for this sage grouse plan.

Wes McStay – Erin Jones, how is monitoring going to be done?

Erin Jones – We've been working with the USFW to track reclamation, populations, etc.

Ruth Welch – I'd like to have a great answer on the funding. I feel really confident our director is pushing for funding for the agency. Sage grouse is causing a heavy workload. We are expecting funding for sage grouse.

We don't want to be left with an unfunded priority. We're not the only agency impacted. Its high enough on the radar for folks in our department and congress is aware of the importance. It's going to be in front of congress more than any other issue. There are folks that are very concerned. Hopefully it will not be listed and hopefully we can keep it that way.

John Justman – most of the habitat in Mesa County, we have several populations already covered under conservation easements. We think in Mesa County we've done what we can. We're heading in the right direction.

Ruth Welch, - we're really appreciative of the county's action. Private landowners have done a lot. It makes it easier with us to match things up. Thank you for that. It is so important for the preservation of the species.

John Justman – in Mesa County it is in a remote area and impacting such a small number of private landowners.

Ruth Welch – I think we're going to have a public meeting in the fall in Grand Junction to discuss Greater Sage Grouse.

Dean Riggs – we're the most vocal RAC.

Joe Meyer – I'm still new here. While I try to stay out of the conversation so I can be advised.

Lanny Weddle- I think it is beneficial for the State Director to attend these meetings.

Ruth Welch – thank you. I enjoy attending these.

Dean Riggs – break for lunch 12:02

Dean Riggs – meeting called to order 1:15

Wendy Reynolds – Section 8 review 1:17

Wendy Reynolds explains Section 8 foundation – See supplemental document

Foundation goes back to before we did NEPA on grazing permit renewals. The Allotment Management Plan was issued with the permit.

As time went on EA's took place of ALP. Section 8 goes back to this. Part of Section 8 is that the person requesting the review request the RAC review the issue to be resolved.

Wendy Reynolds – we have a live request that the RAC could be involved in and it could invoke you to be involved.

The MOU is still in effect. Kent Walter went through one a few years ago. Kent Walter said it worked. The intent is to talk about the allotment management plan. It's being applied in a very different way that its intent, but I think it is a valuable step.

I may still make decisions even with this Section 8 action; I just want to make you aware of it.

We don't get a chance to make a decision on who is on the Section 8 team. It is appointed by the Colorado Dept. of Ag.

The issue we're going to be talking about isn't related to allotment but is on supplemental feeding.

Sometimes regulations don't give us the "wiggle room" to make a different decision. It is a very old agreement. It is still a live and the invitation has been extended for us to be part of this Section 8 review.

Kent Walter – the value I found in it was that they bring along people from academia and industry. The value was for the rancher to hear it from his peers what the situation is according to them.

Supplemental feeding is something we don't do unless it is an emergency.

Wendy Reynolds – this issue is about supplemental feeding vs. maintenance feeding. We have a manual that directs us but we're limited on interpretation.

That individual can still take my decision to IBLA. We could be looking at phased decisions, etc. It is a tough position. The regulations don't support supplemental feeding. It is difficult to find that "sweet spot" where everyone can feel like they got a fair deal.

It may not be invoked for the RAC. I just want to be sure you understand this real life opportunity could be coming your way.

At some point, I think the state need to go back and revisit the MOU. This is a 1997 document. Now with our NEPA and participation with our permittee, this is sort of moot. We may want to disband at some point, but for right now, it is alive and well.

I just want to share this with you. It may require participation from the RAC.

Are there any questions?

Tom Latham – sounds like you're going to be putting the heat on Wes?

Wendy Reynolds – it's likely to set a precedent

Wes McStay – so you're concerned about recreation feeding?

Lanny Weddle – can you explain supplemental feeding

Wendy Reynolds– think of it [supplemental feeding] as getting a vitamin

Maintenance feeding is like getting several meals. If there are too many animals that the natural range doesn't provide the forage, then we need to adjust the use of the

range. So question is what is “supplemental feeding”. Is this salt blocks, corn, during short periods of time or is it feeding of alfalfa hay during entire seasons. I’m now faced with making a decision.

When do you go beyond what is allowed in the regulation.

Lanny Weddle. – I’ve never paid any attention. You don’t allow mineral blocks, etc.?

Wendy Reynolds – No, we allow that. That is supplemental feeding. We usually don’t allow maintenance feeding. If maintenance feeding is allowed, you’re artificially inflating the numbers of animals that can survive on the range.

This is where we are in Section 8.

I’m concerned CPW isn’t on this because some of this area is in Priority Sage Grouse Habitat.

Dean Riggs – so the permittee is the one that extends the invite to have Section 8 involved.

Kent Walter – if you’ve exhausted every other avenue, you then try section 8

Wendy Reynolds – yes, you usually invoke this as a last resort.

He needs a chance to show and tell his story.

Kent Walter – you know you’re not going to reach a favorable decision. So, invoking section 8 eliminates extra steps.

Dean Riggs – I’ve been on the RAC a long time. This has never come up. That tells me you have been solving this issue internally.

Kent Walter – To me, it is still a valid process. You need to come to a decision. They pick someone from a distance area to avoid impropriety.

Before we jump to say get rid of it. It’s always nice to have it as a tool to make decisions. Sometimes our opinion isn’t as valued as your opinion.

Wendy Reynolds – I have no problem with this. For us, it’s only for AMP. Working with our grazing permittee, we have done the process of the AMP through the EA.

Wes McStay – which holds seniority FLPMA, Range improvement Act, etc.?

Wendy Reynolds – the courts will be the ultimate deciding factor

Wes McStay – Doesn’t FLPMA also require evaluation of proposed action

Wendy Reynolds – yes. This is a very different “duck”. Not something we do often.

Joe Meyer – Does this RAC have any interest in being part of this Section 8 decision process.

Wes McStay - I think it is a good process.

Wendy Reynolds – I haven’t made a decision

Luke Schafer – I don’t understand

Wendy Reynolds – They are a little bit ahead of me because I haven’t made a decision

Kent Walter – one thing you should anticipate is looking at new NEPA.

When I went through it, the Section 8 team advised we look at the NEPA process again. I think the process can educate the permittee the flaws in his thinking by his peers.

Stephanie Odell – Colorado Cattleman’s association has a representative that can be involved

Wendy Reynolds – unfortunately we don’t have the opportunity to pick the “guest list” for this process. I would like to ask this.

Luke Schafer – will you have a decision before this process starts

Wendy Reynolds – I hope to.

We sent out a draft EA. The feeding place is disclosed in the EA. It is awkward at best. The outcome of this one will be a pivotal decision.

Dean Riggs – I get the feeling Wes wants to be involved. Is everyone else OK with that role?

Wendy Reynolds - In that case, I can ask the Dept. of Ag ask you, Dean Riggs to be a participant.

This is in the Axil Basin. What it comes down to for me is that I must understand a way to allow this to continue. That hasn't happened and I can't find one either.

Dean Riggs – we have about 10 minutes can you bring up what Barbara wanted you to bring up

Wendy Reynolds – We're a cooperating agency in Colowyo mining. See supplemental documents.

There's been a decision that proper process for NEPA hasn't been met. If OSM isn't able to fix this, the coal mine can no longer mine. There was a public meeting last night with 800 members. We're not linked to this because we didn't do the EA.

Tristate and Colowyo have appealed decision. Not sure if they're going to get a stay. Coal mining is a huge part of the culture.

Lanny Weddle – I need clarification on what the judge said.

Wendy Reynolds – OSM's decision document didn't disclose the indirect and cumulative affects of coal combustion.

Lanny Weddle - The problem is with coal when it gets to where it is going
Seems like that should be the responsibility of the person burning the coal
Who was the judge?

Wendy Reynolds – Jackson out of Denver. I don't know a lot about this, but wanted to share what I could.

You can probably glean some of the concerns from the handouts.

**Dean Riggs – we are at our 2:00 period for public comments
No comments**

**Joe Meyer – DM and FM updates
see supplemental documents**

Joe Meyer-I has finally filled Dave Rosenkrance's vacated position. See DM/FM updates

We're working to fill these vacant positions.

Wendy Reynolds – Reference foaling numbers handout

Stephanie Odell – reference FM updates

Kent Walter – Reference FM updates

Jim Mattern – are the horses preselected for the gather?

Kent Walter – We wait till after foaling season. We usually see foals gathered with their mothers

It is so remote and so difficult in this area any horse we can get, we're going to gather

Tom Latham – I'd like to commend you on gathering the horses

Kent Walter – We have a very extensive historic document that makes determinations very clear

Wayne Werkmeister – Reference FM updates

Lanny Weddle – How do you justify a \$6 fee? (Ref: Ruby Horsethief camping in McInnis Canyons)

Wayne Werkmeister – The public has told us that they need an automated system to make reservation

The \$6 doesn't come to the BLM. It goes to the automated system.

John Justman – River guides. Do they have to be permitted?

Wayne Werkmeister – the commercial outfitters have to schedule right along with the public

Wayne Werkmeister – Reference Wild Horses

With fertility control where hitting upper AML. The range is never getting a recovery period where several horses are removed. We're managing at the top of AML and we do have concerns that a draught year could be a challenge.

Dean Riggs – in our planning, we have seen a range that we manage against and that helps us keep stability

Wayne Werkmeister – We develop plans to have a recovery time after we gather horses.

We were on the verge of sending out draught letters

Next RAC meeting:

Carl Conner – cultural resource management issues the RAC needs to be aware of. One of the big things is the consultation process is having a lot more weight. It's becoming one of those issues that are directly impacting energy development. I know Trapper mine is now dealing with some issues in LSFO. I think it is one of those things that really need to be discussed. And let everyone know what the process has become.

Consultation is really an advisory. Some data is being lost because the different Ute tribes have different ideas of what data should be collected.

The types of cites in the last 5 years has changed. I.e. Linear features. Some have concerns that these are degrading the process.

Wyoming has addressed this looking at what is recorded and or not recorded.

An example is ditches. Ditches by law have to be evaluated as a historic site. They are held with the same value as a stone structure.

Michael Berry and some others mentioned as good people to speak to issues concerning this.

Kent Walter is using some new methods to consult with the Ute tribes.

Some time in the future I'd like to have this as a topic of discussion.

Kent Walter- we've actually put together a presentation that we give industry regarding this. Anasazi heritage center person could come and discuss. As far as the field trip, T&E plant species. Only place they exist is in the Piceance Basin.

We could incorporate that into the field trip.

Karl Mendonca- we've developed a cultural cite protocol.

Joe Meyer – all field offices have developed this.

When you talk about features, where do these come from?

Carl Conner- depends on where it is from. Some places, i.e. Utah have a different interpretation.

Kent Walter – maybe along those lines – we just signed off on new cultural consultation standards. That will help you understand that relationship.

Carl Conner – another big issue recording 50 years or older. We want to get that date cut off at 1950. For example, I recently found a bunch of Coors beer cans. I thought, I might have been the person out here drinking them. I'm not sure [this value]

Meeting ends