

**Southwest Resource Advisory Council**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Friday, August 15, 2014**  
**Dolores, Colorado**

**Southwest Resource Advisory Council Members**

Zane Odell, Ernie Williams, John Reams, Paul Joyce, Mary Monroe Brown, Renzo DelPiccolo, Kathy Welt, Tif Rodriguez, Deb Gangloff, Wally White, Mark Roeber,

**Staff**

Lori Armstrong, Shannon Borders, Connie Clementson, Marietta Eaton, Brian St. George, Matt Azhocar, Lauren Brown, Leigh Espy, Ruth Welch

**Visitors**

Andy Antipas, Kinder Morgan and John Whitney

The meeting was called to order by chairperson Kathy Welt at 9:05 a.m. A quorum for the meeting was determined. Everyone introduced themselves. Ruth Welch, BLM Colorado State Director, introduced herself and recognized the RAC for their contributions to the BLM. Minutes from the May meeting was approved with a motion by John Reams and seconded by Mark Roeber. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Gunnison Sage-Grouse Update**

Leigh Espy, BLM Project Manager, gave an overview of the Gunnison Sage-Grouse planning for the Environmental Impact Statement. The PowerPoint presentation is available online. Lori Armstrong said she is trying to determine the best way to keep the RAC informed. We are willing to provide the RAC with the same information that the cooperating agencies receive. The RAC would like feedback on what the cooperating agencies provide as well.

**Oil and Gas Sub-group Update**

Wally White said the group had decided to attend meetings to try to provide insight into oil and gas issues, and to educate the public. The sub-group tried to meet, but wasn't able to hold a meeting. Wally White indicated there's not a lot of drilling in the Durango area at this time. Connie Clementson said a Master Leasing Plan was requested by La Plata County to develop stipulations for a leasing in the area. Typically, in an area that's not leased a Master Development Plan is written to determine the best development scenarios for locations at leasing. One example is the Geographic Area Development Plan within Canyons of the Ancients National Monument will feed into a MDP based on the guidance within the Resource Management Plan. Additionally, the Tres Rios Resource Management Plan will have updated stipulations once the Record of Decision is signed.

**Special Recreation Permits**

Lori Armstrong distributed fliers about the Recreation Fee program. Historically, the BLM issued joint recreation permits between federal agencies. Recently, the solicitors determined that this process can't adhere to both agencies policies, and our attorneys have indicated that the agency could be held liable. Therefore, joint permits won't be issued going forward. Several permits have been issued by the USFS and vice versa on behalf of the other agency. We are working to determine the best course for issuing separate permits. RAC members may hear about these issues from permittees.

Occasional use, as determined by the field manager, will not require a permit. Additionally, fees are calculated differently from agency to agency. Rates will change and permittees will be required to adhere to both agencies' policies if they are utilizing public lands managed by more than one agency. The biggest changes will likely be for the jeep tour permittees on the Alpine Loop as many of those have been issued by the USFS although the jeepers are utilizing public lands managed by the BLM. Paul Joyce encouraged interagency communication. Connie Clementson and Lori Armstrong indicated they are and will continue to work with other agencies.

### **Public Comments**

None

### **Land Tenure**

The following are things to consider for creating priorities and criteria to determine which land tenure parcels are of benefit to the public.

Disposal, Retention, Acquisition

- Allows for continued public access
- Landlocked with no current road access
- Parcels which adjoin state lands
- Smaller isolated parcels with difficult management potential
- Adjacent to residential development or active ag operation
- Enhance management opportunities
- Contains significant resource values
- Provides recreational opportunities
- Additional easements providing access to recreation opportunities
- Wildlife corridors
- ESA

Renzo DelPiccolo suggested a point system along with a committee to analyze issues to determine the first filter. Mary Monroe Brown suggested automating the application system, and then only reviewing the top 10%. This gives applicants the criteria and they can put forth their best proposal. Be sure that the application includes a section to explain that it must be of public benefit. Mary Monroe Brown volunteered to help develop a draft. This maybe an internal tool that may or may not be promoted to determine the best projects. Deborah Gangloff and Mary Monroe Brown will help create the rubric.

## **Question & Answer**

Paul Joyce said that his wife has serious concerns about not being able to access trails due to guard dogs. He needs to know where they can access information to know where the dogs are located. Connie Clementson said the BLM is working closely with USFS to keep the public informed. Brian St. George said there's a difference between pet versus public safety. The dogs are intimidating, but several people explained that they aren't attack dogs. Rather the dogs are protecting the livestock. The BLM has been considering options for real time reports.

## **Upcoming Meetings and Field Trips**

- November 6-7: Montrose (Tentative)

## **Adjournment**

Wally White moved to adjourn the meeting. Renzo DelPiccolo seconded the motion. The motion carried.