

**August 18, 2016**  
**Meeting Minutes**

8:00 - Barbara Vasquez – Introductions -

8:10 - Ruth Welch – RAC Realignment - See Presentation

8:45 – Outline of Oil and Gas support for BLM office's in West Slope

8:50 – Barbara Vasquez – We want these meetings to be more than just informational – want these to be more beneficial for the BLM

George Newman – look at future meetings and how we can be better involved in regards to the turnover of federal lands to state lands.

Ruth – I don't know that it would be a beneficial conversation for our time and your time. Its not something we can have any type of meaningful contributions

8:55 Kent – WRFO Travel Inventory Presentation

Kent - At the statewide RAC Meeting you asked to see these preliminary alternatives These are preliminary alternatives for our travel inventory

Heather Sauls: We're providing a basic overview of the travel management RMPA's preliminary alternatives. See presentation

John Potter -What is the thought with treating county roads different than state road and US roads

Heather – County Roads in the WRFO are similar to BLM roads. Many of these are dirt roads and only a few gravel. The county and US HWY roads are different in the speed and usage and thus impact on wildlife

Barbara – In terms of impact – Enforcement is a concern

Heather – We need to make it easy for people who want to do the right thing to know how to do it. We also need local buy in

Barbara – I thought one of the reasons with going with education. You're not going to depend on signage?

Heather – we will sign which is open not what is closed to avoid sign destruction

Temporary routes will be managed using thresh hold concept.

Kent - there is a different level of use on O&G use because O&G routes are for that one use.

Mike Pritchard – is this a direction other BLM offices will go with?

Kent – all offices are different

Kent – Density concept included only in alternative A & B

Barbara – I'm trying to visualize the density

Heather – In Alternative A the density is based on GMU boundaries

Heather – What we need from the RAC: How do you want to provide recommendations to the BLM?

How should the Subgroup submit their recommendations to the NW RAC and by what deadline (we propose by September 30)?

How do you want to review the Subgroup recommendations on these preliminary alternatives (we propose by email)?

When will you provide your recommendations to the BLM (we propose by October 14)?

Kent – one of the reasons we post these timelines, it keeps with our schedule. That's why we can't wait till the December meeting to hear back.

Barbara – If we were to have a phone call to discuss would we need to do a Federal Registry Notice

Chris – I think it would have to be open to the public. The information Joe gave that we discussed on the phone dealt with what individual's interest in placement. I think this would have to open to the public.

Dean Riggs- That's in line what I was about to say. What strikes me is that I get that we want to keep things moving but how does the public know what we discuss? That's part of our meetings is that the public has the opportunity to know and hear what we discussed. I don't know how we'd make this available to the public.

Kent – If we made the RAC's recommendations available on the website, perhaps that would facilitate the public observation process. I'm just making some suggestions.

Barbara – One of the things we got in trouble (ref: 2012) in regards to the subRAC communicating to the BLM. So if we are looking at the subRAC's recommendations to the RAC its an odd limitation in how we behave. BLM people are there to take advice during the subRAC but we have a rule that recommendations have to come to the BLM through the RAC. SO, if we're talking about the subRAC's recommendations are we violating by posting the subRAC's recommendations?

Luke – How much time do we need to do a Federal Registry Notice?

Chris – I've been told we need about 3 weeks for Federal Registry Notice

Kent- that is why we have the question marks.

Kent – If the RAC doesn't make any additional recommendations from the subRAC then the public has already been involved.

John Potter – are you asking if the subRAC will they stay through entire process

Heather- the selection of the preferred alternative is with the BLM. Right now, we're asking the public to tell us if we're addressing the issues you wanted addressed

Barbara – I recommend we use email to provide the recommendations to Kent

John Potter agrees to be the conduit to get RAC's concurrence with subRAC's recommendations.

Barbara – does anyone have any issues with this that the subRAC will give us recommendations and we would discuss via email.

Heather – we planned to use the subRAC in this initial stage. We'd like to get feedback on their future involvement.

Lanny Weddle – I was a commissioner in Jackson County. I think its very important to have the subRAC continue through this entire process. We need that consistent involvement.

Kent – we could bring the subRAC back into the process later

Kent – I can't engage with the public or RAC unless I'm engaging both. I think its Dean Riggs – how well have we advertised these subRAC meetings?

Heather – we want people involved but it is very difficult to get people involved. We were excited we have 14 people show up to a meeting in Rangely. We had 6 show up to one in Meeker.

Barbara – you do advertise the agenda?

Heather – no, we post it online

Barbara - as a member of the pubic, I don't go to the FRN.

Heather – these meetings are in the evenings

Chris – Are we saying we're going to put paid advertisement

Barbara – I wasn't asking that, every paper have a public announcement

Wes McStay – Did you consider noise level for impacts

Kent – that is one of the concepts in density

Heather – that would be a good comment

Lanny Weddle – How are you going to enforce 18" snow cover depth?

Kent – You're really looking at people using good judgment

Barbara – How does that compare with Forest Service requirements?

Wes – I think some say as long as vegetation is covered

Heather – There's some need for good rationalization

- Public Comment Period -

Soren Jespersen – Wilderness society – First I wanted to say welcome to Craig, Bruce Sillitoe. I want to say thanks to these extra steps. We heard the white river [field office] taking this extra step a 2.0 like initiative giving the public an extra step to see planning intiatives. We also are seeing it in Craig with their work on Travel Management Area 1. For a long time, we dealt with the BLM making planning decisions in a black box, but we think the planning 2.0 is a great way to get more

public involvement and we're already seeing more public involvement. I think it's been helpful in both places and I want to say thank you for that.

I'm on the subRAC and I want to make one comment. I have one comment to see us how we work together in the future. We want to be able to continue working with the BLM on the route-by-route decision state. Everyone knows that's worked through groups knows its much easier if we can work together one-on-one and make site visits rather than work through the BLM or litigation. As someone that spends a lot of my time on the ground, I know if we went out and looked at an area on the ground, I think we could come up with a consensus of what a travel route should look like.

I'd also encourage the BLM to keep travel management documents to small areas as possible.

I know that if we looked at routes on the ground, we could come up with a route system that works.

Rebecca Bowling - I agree we need more advertisement for these meetings. I heard about this on the radio. I couldn't find it on the computer.

10:21 - Barbara - get started

10:22 - Brian St. George & Timothy Finger- REC Strategy - See slides

See - Backyard to Backcountry Theme Map

Wayne - The lunch loops brought mountain biking to a new level in the valley. I think Fruita saw this and capitalized on it. Fruita said, we can bring them over here and have some unique opportunities.

Barbara - one of the things was that not-for-profit groups need to be considered in community involvement

George - You could throw out the magazine as it's a disservice to some areas. The resource can't handle it.

Tim Finger - A requirement in the rec strategy is to evaluate resources and talk to communities

John Justman - If we're closing routes, isn't that route closure going to force more people on the routes that you're keeping open thus causing more routes to be over used?

John Justman - On the health part, I get it, but rec jobs are lower paid.

Luke - Maybe we can provide some case studies to see what has worked in some communities.

Wayne - so much of our solutions are found when we communicate with all effected stakeholders

Carl Conner - I just saw where the BLM collects money, where is that money.

Stephanie - If it's a fee area, 100% come back to the area.

Carl Conner - all the large O&G projects making a huge impact, but I'm not seeing it come back to the local area

Mike Pritchard- if this doesn't come with money, what is different/

Brian - Until we do the work with our stakeholders, we don't know what is critical for us to do

11:10 - Carol Dawson - See Presentation

David Ludlam – You come across very authentic. I work in the natural gas industry and I'd love to have you come present to our industry.

Conner Coleman – are there subsidies available for private growers

Carol Dawson – yes

Wes – This is something I'm interested in and I'd like to partner with you. The interesting thing north of Craig is it's hybrid. There were thousands of acres that died in the 2002 drought.

Carl Conner – I've walked a lot of fire rehab and it seems there's a shotgun approach to get the seeds out there.

Wes – I had some CSU grad students on my ranch. Trying to tie insects to treatments. Insects are tied to diverse plants

Barbara – Do you have native plant gardeners helping you with native planting at places like BLM office buildings

Lanny Weddle- Are you using plants that don't require much water for planting around office buildings.

Carol – yes absolutely –

Brian – I don't want everyone to think this is our largest priority, it isn't our biggest priority.

Barbara – are any seeds going to Norway?

Carol – no – we have our own storage

11:42 – Break for lunch

12:06 – Dave Boyd – Colorado River Valley Field Office EIS UPDATE – see presentation

Questions on the Roan –

Dean Riggs – the BLM staff have been working on this thing for the 12 or 13 years I've been here. Tremendous amount of work by the staff. Hats off to the BLM for getting us to where it is now.

Karl Mendonca – I credit our relationship working with our cooperators

Previously issued oil and gas leases on the White River EIS

Questions:

George Newman – I want to acknowledge BLM staff for keeping this on a timeframe. I think this was a prime example of the BLM effective in having an exclusive outreach throughout the Roaring Fork Valley

David Ludlam – I've been bringing up this issue over the past 5 years. I agency represents 4 companies effected by this. I attended the energy summit in Vail last year. The American culture is that we have very strong opinions about some things. We hold strong beliefs on some things we have very little knowledge. This transcends demographics. For energy, people tend to feel a certain way based on their political ideology. If you had a business and had all the appropriate . Wilderness Workshop plans to sue when the decision is filed. We agree with Wilderness Workshop.

We're talking about billions of \$. Decisions being made at the highest level in the agency. We think this is an abomination

Barbara – I'd be careful making blanket assumptions about the close mindedness of anyone on the RAC

David Ludlam – I apologize

George Newman – The BLM EIS relied heavily on the USFS EIS. Rather than the BLM regurgitate the USFS studies, the BLM used those studies.

John Justman – the reason Mesa County boycotted we didn't think anyone ever heard us.

Barbara – I think the comments Boyd made this is a very emotional issue. I think the BLM has had a challenge to deal with this situation reaching out to the communities. I think the BLM is in a situation where they can't make anyone happy. I think industry is worried about the precedence this sets. I'm curious if there is a precedence

Boyd – if the lease is canceled the lease holder would get their money back and their rental payments. We had 3 leases that were challenged and they were canceled. If there was a problem with issuing the leases, we have grounds for canceling the leases.

Karl – We want to ensure we don't repeat this mistake. We will formally adopt the FS EIS and ensure we don't have this happen again. The lesson learned is we don't want to make this same mistake before.

John Justman – what about the money

Boyd – 49% that went to Colorado, that money would come out of future revenue generated in the state.

David Ludlam – The leases that were canceled under sunlight were canceled because they were under a ski resort. The dollars they pay for these leases is an over simplified look at funds.

Dean Riggs- my experience on the RAC is that we have been able to work through some contentious issues. I think we've had a good track record having healthy debate and giving the BLM good feedback to consider.

12:55 Sage Grouse – Bridget Clayton and Kathleen Griffin – See presentation discuss the concept of "Regulatory Certainty" and 5 year re-evaluation in 5 years

Luke – is there going to be an annual report

Connor Coleman – I see a lot of historic boundaries

Kathleen – There are some areas that have few birds and some with lots of birds

Connor – with this 5 year period. If it is listed, would the BLM work with land owners for safe harbor

I hear a lot of land owners say they want to improve habitat.

David Ludlam – associate governments of western Colorado – do you ever find things in your cameras that surprise you?

Kathleen – the cameras help us see if we're missing something on historic leks We have mortality signals on birds and if we get a mortality signal we try to get out there as fast as possible to determine reason for mortality.

- Public Comment Period -

Rebecca Bowling – I understand that we’re looking at predator control. I think predator control would be something to look at and I wonder if there have been any studies done on predator control.

Jane – on behalf well source – I want to echo. Well Source opposes the canceling of leases in the 65 previously leased. I hope the RAC considers the legal ramifications

Lyn McCormack – see handout from wanted to take the time to present a proposal.

FM Updates – See updates

Connor – what rights to private land owners have with horses on private property

Kent – they have a right to have them removed. The land owner sent a letter stating the fact that horses were on their private property.

Connor – does the land owner get reimbursed for lost forage?

Kent - The land owner has no right to compensation of the damage done to forage.

Stephanie – Kremmling Field Office –

Lanny Weddle – From my house, I’ve seen the fire rather well. My concern is, will the money for this fire run out?

Stephanie – it doesn’t come from BLM. U.S. Congress allocates the money for the fire. The daily cost is about \$300 k. When we had structures at risk the cost was substantially higher. We’ve one cut finger and no broken bones.

Barbara – there’s a lot of learning going on and this is the first big fire in beetle kill. They’ve had a hard time predicting the fire behavior.

Karl – the more challenging part is going to be the fire rehab.

Stephanie – the suppression rehab and the actual fire rehab.

David Ludlam – The finalization of the RMP took over .... I think the RAC should send up a resolution supporting the RMP.

Motion to adopt a resolution to support the CRVFO, RMP

George Newman – perhaps we should draft a resolution for the “65 Thompson Divide”

Carl Conner – I want to thank CRVFO for cleaning up Hubbard Mesa

Karl Mendonca – We’re looking at getting help from the county getting some dumpsters

Barbara – I’m not ignoring your motion, I want to come back to it after the field manager updates.

Bruce Sillitoe –

Ben Smith – We’re in the process of writing the Sand Wash Gather EA. Under the EA, we’ll be moving 50 horses to the Great Escapes mustang center. Other part of the proposal is that we’ll treat mares in trap with PZP. Both as part of the EA.

Luke – Getting this project through with the difficult time, we want to thank the BLM for making this gather happen.

Lanny – what happens if they are outside the HMA

Ben Smith – We've found that if they come off the HMA, they just go back. So, we'll remove them.

Wes – Could you tell us more about yourself and your job.

Barbara – We have a long standing relationship with the BLM supporting the appropriate management of wild horses.



Wayne Werkmeister –

Wes – I like to wish everyone in the GJ Office well.

Barbara – Please restate your proposal

David Ludlam – I reject the notion that supporting Karl's RMP we have to support all  
If we can't stand behind BLM Colorado

I propose the RAC draft a simple resolution supporting the CRV, RMP.

Barbara – So we're not precluded

Boyd – One of the things we have done in the past.

Lanny Weddle – My opinion this is an agenda item for the next RAC

David – what are we here for if we have to wait till December to pass a resolution

Wes – How involved with the legal dispute should we be involved in

George – I think

Barbara – We do take resolutions seriously. Is there a second?

John Potter – You ask will the RAC support the RMP. What can we learn between  
now in December that would change that information.

David Ludlam – We often use, "we need more information" is often used.

Dean Riggs – I would say we've already endorsed the RMP because we've been  
involved. I'd have to go thumbs down if we were going to vote today.

Barbara – can we get a second?

John Justman – Seconds

Barbara – motion is on the floor that we have it on the agenda in December.

Karl – we have another 30 day extension.

Barbara – The fact that it could be used in a legal dispute makes me uncomfortable.

Kent –

Karl – I think the administrative record would have  
This would be symbolic in nature.

Kent – what can we learn across the organization

Barbara – what I heard loud and clear was that people wanted to be able to see the  
documents more ahead of time

- we also want presentations to be primed with what we want to get out of the  
presentations.

Alicia – we want to turn the meetings into more of decision nature and less about  
presentation

Dave Boyd – It probably isn't going to happen to get the items ahead of time.  
Conner Coleman – would it be possible to have a local repository for local media coverage

Barbara – we could do a trial between now and December for E-clips

Barbara – We need to select a new vice-chair because John Potter is going to SW District

Lanny Weddle – I don't have a problem meeting with Katie about the rec things she wanted us to see. The consensus is that we still want to see the Rec things in Grand Junction regardless if they are SW district or not

Future meetings –

Mike Pritchard BLM Budget –

Luke – Louis Sp- State recreation strategy and outdoor economy

Dave Boyd - Procedures

David Ludlam's motion

David Boyd – We don't know how the selections will work out

Barbara – I've been having an offline subject on having a workshop en lieu on a few topics regarding leasing.

Carl Conner – Last meeting we talked about having an overview of the recreation areas in Grand Junction.

1. Please submit travel items -