United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Glenwood Springs (Colorado River Valley) Field Office
2300 River Frontage Road
Silt, CO 81652

RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, May 4, 2010 (6:00 – 9:00 PM)

SUMMARY NOTES

Attendees: Steve Bennett (BLM), Allen Crocket (BLM), John Russell (BLM), Brian Hopkins (BLM), David Boyd (BLM), Greg Wolfgang (BLM), Brian Hopkins (BLM), Karl Mendosa (BLM), Greg Wolfgang (BLM), Kay Hopkins (USFS), John Bailey (EcoTrails), Tom Turnbull (Livestock Grazing), Steve Smith (The Wilderness Society), Peter Smith, Ken Neubecker (Colorado Trout Unlimited), Steve Dahlmer (Sportsman and Wildlife), Kimberley Miller (BLM), Carla Deyoung, Peter Hart (Wilderness Workshop), Cliff Jarmen (Tetra Tech), Matt Loscalzo (Tetra Tech).

Handouts:

- Colorado River Valley Field Office RMP Cooperating Agency Packet:
  - Agenda
  - Appendix A - Point of Contact
  - Overview of the RMP Process
  - RMP Public Recap
  - RMP Cooperator Roles
  - RMP Chapters Overview
  - Chapter 4 Format
  - Chapter 4 Comment Assignment
  - Joint Glenwood Springs and Kremmling RMP Schedule
- Draft Recreation Prescriptions for Proposed Special and Extensive Recreation Management Areas – Alternatives B, C, and D
- Proposed Management and Setting Prescriptions for BLM Lands Outside of WSAs Being Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics
- Addendum: Revision to the ACEC Report
- CD containing Draft Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4A and a Comment Response Matrix

Introductions:

- The BLM welcomed everyone and thanked them for their participation. This was followed by a round-table of introductions and then an overview of the agenda.

Points of Contact in MOU Appendix:

- The BLM noted Appendix A of the Colorado River Valley Field Office RMP Cooperating Agency Packet and asked that everyone update their points of contact.

- Kurt Schultz, representing western outfitters, will no longer be part of the RAC Subgroup. Therefore, a position may be open and the Subgroup members have been invited to nominate someone to fill this vacant seat.
- BLM provided an overview of the meeting minutes from May 28, 2009 and directed the RAC Subgroups to refer to the Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council (NWRAC) Guidance for RMP Subgroups for guidance should they choose to meet to discuss the RMP.
- Comments from the RAC subgroups cannot be made directly to the BLM. They must be made by the NWRAC.

RMP Planning Process and Schedule Update:

- The BLM reminded the RAC Subgroups of the RMP process and provided a brief overview of the RMP and RMP schedule:
    - Chapter 1 – Purpose and Need – Complete.
    - Chapter 2 – Alternatives - Complete.
        - Alt. A – No Action
        - Alt. B – Mixed Emphasis
        - Alt. C – Conservation Alternative
        - Alt. D – Resource Use Alternative
    - Chapter 3 – Affected Environment – Complete.
    - Chapter 4 – Environmental Effects – Current Assignment.
        - This chapter will be the focus of the RAC Subgroups comments.
    - Chapter 5 – Consultation and Coordination - Not yet complete.
    - Recreation Appendix – RAC Subgroups can comment on this as well.
- RMP Schedule:
    - State Office Review: 7/12 – 7/23, 2010.
    - Air Quality modeling and socioeconomic analysis complete: 8/17/10.
    - Washington Office Review: 9/13 – 9/24, 2010.
    - Release Draft RMP: Winter 2010/2011.
    - End of public comment period: Spring 2011.
    - Release proposed Plan/Final EIS: Fall 2011.
    - Protest period ends: Fall/Winter 2011.
    - Signed ROD: Winter/Spring 2012.
- In order to stay on schedule, consensus comments by the RAC Subgroups are due to the BLM by June 4th.
- A meeting amongst RAC Subgroups will take place on June 3, 2010, to identify and share areas of consensus and fatal flaws of the RMP.
- BLM answers the question "Why is this RMP process taking so long?"
    - This is a joint effort between Colorado River Valley Field Office (CRVFO) and the Kremmling Field Office (KFO).
    - The KFO has a different schedule than the CRVFO.
    - The KFO did not share the document with their Cooperating Agencies (CAs) last winter like the CRVFO did.
        - As such, this has put the CRVFO in a holding pattern until the KFO shares and receives feedback from their CAs. Any adjustments the KFO

makes to Ch. 2, based on CAs comments, needs to be run by the CRVFO, especially if a management action may be changed that affects the CRVFO.

- The BLM will take new additional comments by the RAC Subgroups on Chapter 2, although they would prefer that comments focus on Chapter 4.

Discussion on Chapter Four "Environmental Consequences" and the Preliminary Draft:

- Chapter 4 organization
  - CRVFO and KFO analyzed the impacts of the alternatives together but documented them separately in the RMP to make it easier for the reader to understand the impacts based on field office.
- The BLM is looking for the following feedback from the RAC Subgroups:
  - Identify if the alternatives are not broad enough.
  - Do not simply voice an opinion on which alternative a RAC Subgroup prefers.
  - Substantive comments are the most important. To make a substantive comment, provide a scientific rationale on your reasoning, such as a peer reviewed study.
  - Avoid comments such as "See comment above" or "See my last comment" because all comments will be going into a much larger comment database and may not stay in the order in which they were provided.
  - Provide the name of the reviewer if an RAC Subgroup has multiple reviewers so the BLM can contact that reviewer, if necessary.
  - The RAC Subgroups were instructed to refer to the page number in the PDF file contained on the CD as opposed to the word document.
  - The BLM will accept comments from the RAC Subgroups at any time before June 4, 2010.
- BLM provided an update on Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR).
  - Alternatives have not really changed since the first draft of Chapter 2.
    - The revised RMP is analyzing 41 total segments found in 2007 on BLM lands and four segments on U.S. Forest Service lands.
  - Alternative A - Deals with the suitability segments.
  - Alternative B - Broken out into two sections.
    - B1 – Suitability report determinations (4 segments on Colorado River and Deep Creek) and bringing those forward for inclusion into WSR system.
    - B2 – Adopting the stakeholder plan and deferring the suitability findings to the stakeholders while maintaining their eligibility status – Deep Creek would be found to be suitable and would not be deferred.
  - Alternative C - All eligible rivers would be found as suitable.
  - Alternative D - No rivers would be found to be eligible and therefore released from any further study.
  - White River National Forest (WRNF) Wild and Scenic River report is not in the Draft RMP document because the WRNF is still working on it. Analysis is expected to be completed by the end of May 2010. The stakeholder plan will be an appendix to the WSR report. However, the BLM WSR piece is included in the DRMP.

    - Suitability report should be complete before the next meeting on June 30th.
- Chapter 4 format example
    - Chapter 4 is organized so management actions in Chapter 2 are identified and impacts to a certain resource from the management actions from the other resources are identified.
    - The BLM also noted that not all analyses are complete, specifically the air quality modeling, wild and scenic river suitability analysis, and socioeconomic impacts analysis. Air quality modeling and socioeconomic analysis will be completed by the end of August. However, the current draft of Chapter 4 contains some discussion of socioeconomic impacts.
        - The reason the air quality modeling is not complete is because it is a very long process requiring many months of research to obtain reliable data. At the same time, the BLM does not want to hold up the RMP process too long and will continue to move forward with the RMP while these analyses are being completed.
- **Questions and Answers with CRVFO Staff:**
    - Floor was opened up to the RAC Subgroups for questions and requests to discuss a specific resource. The following resources were requested for further discussion.
    - Lands Outside of WSAs Being Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics
        - Main difference between this draft and the previous Chapter 2 draft is the separation of management actions and allowable use decision and Best Management Practices.
    - Recreation Appendix
        - BLM provided a brief overview of the recreation appendix.
            - Per Washington direction, all analyses are broken out by area (SRMA and ERMA).
                - SRMAs are managed for special areas, regardless of the level of use. The BLM wants to provide for a specific type of recreation and user groups.
                - Washington office has encouraged the BLM to manage ERMAs for interdisciplinary purposes such as providing protections to wildlife and multiple-use recreation.
- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)
    - Alternatives
        - Alt. A – Six existing ACECs.
        - Alt. B – Retains the existing six and adds three more.
        - Alt. C – Proposes 16 ACECs.
            - Mount Logan Foothills is considered for plant protection.
        - Alt. D – Proposes three ACECs. Removes three of the six that exist now.
    - Most are no surface occupancy (NSO) on all ACECs. Some lands within Grand Hogback and Mount Logan Foothills are already leased, so there can't be NSO stipulations on leased lands, but there is an NSO on unleased lands.
    - Stipulations include no net increase in routes, with few exceptions, such as to complete a recreational loop.

Other Items Not on the Agenda:

- None

Public Comments:

- Comments provided by the RAC Subgroups are not going to be made public.
- As a reminder, the RAC Subgroups would like to review their comments previously made on Chapters 1, 2, and 3.
- Comments are submitted by the RAC subgroups; then they are collated; they are deemed substantive or not; substantive comments will be considered in the next version.

Next Meeting:

- Next meeting to be held on Wednesday, June 30th at 6:00 pm.
- At this meeting, the BLM would like to understand which alternative the RAC subgroups would like to see as the preferred alternative.
- Travel management plan will be discussed.

Action Items:

- Cooperating Agencies: Review draft Chapter 4 and submit written comments to the CRVFO by June 4, 2010.
- BLM to send the RAC Subgroups a new Chapter 3.

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Colorado River Valley Field Office
2300 River Frontage Road
Silt, Colorado 81652

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, May 4, 2010 (6:00 PM)

Last Name	First Name	Initial	Organization & Address	E-Mail	Phone
Bailey	John		EcoTrails PO Box 3392 Eagle, CO 81631	jbailey@vailresorts.com	970-331-9053
Beebe	Chris		Red Hill Council	~~cbeebe@mfullerarchitects.com~~ bcchris61@gmail.com	970-379-4214
Cesark	David		Williams PO Box 370 Parachute, CO 81635	david.cesark@williams.com	
Crockett	Allen		BLM Colorado River Valley Field Office 2300 River Frontage Road Silt, CO 81652	Allen_crockettt@blm.gov	970-876-9005
Dahmer	Steve		(wildlife/recreation – hunting)	sdahmer@mailcw.com	
DuPont	Peter		(river outfitters)		
Hawes	Taylor		Colorado River Water Conservation District PO Box 1120 Glenwood Springs, CO 81601	thawes@crwcd.org	970-945-8522 x227
Jarman	Cliff		Tetra Tech 4900 Pearl E Cir, Ste 300W Boulder, CO 80301	Cliff.jarman@tetratech.com	512-244-2192
Kennedy	Michael		Roaring Fork Climbers Coalition PO Box 1383 Carbondale, CO 81623	mkennedy@sopris.net	970-309-4651
Loscalzo	Matt		Tetra Tech 4900 Pearl E Cir, Ste 300W Boulder, CO 80301	Matt.loscalzo@tetratech.com	720-406-9110

Last Name	First Name	Initial	Organization & Address	E-Mail	Phone
Lloyd	Fiona		(equestrian recreation)	fiona@wolverinepublishing.com	970-876-0268
Long	Sherry		Encana	sherry.long@encana.com	970-618-8443
McCown	Larry		Northwest RAC Garfield County Commissioner 108 W 8th St Glenwood Springs, CO 81601	larryanddeemccown@starband.net	
✓ Neubecker	Ken		Trout Unlimited PO Box 1029 Carbondale, CO 81623	eagleriver@sopris.net	
Noss	Greg		High Country 4-wheelers 760 Melissa LA Carbondale, CO 81623	redscl@sopris.net	970-963-6084
Russell	John		BLM Colorado River Valley Field Office 2300 River Frontage Road Silt, CO 81652	john_russell@blm.gov	970-947-2819
Schultz	Kurt		Colorado Outfitters	cohorse@sopris.net	970-876-5043
✓ Smith	Steve		The Wilderness Society 63-116 Road Glenwood Springs, CO 81601	steve_smith@tws.org	970-945-8596
✓ Turnbull	Tom		(livestock grazing) PO Box 686 Carbondale, CO 81623	tbull@sopris.net	970-963-2888
Witt	Karen		Rifle Chamber	karen.witt@usbank.com	970-384-9250
PETER	HART		WILDERNESS WORKSHOP BOX 1442 CARBONDALE, CO 81623	peter@wildernessworkshop.org	303-475-4915