



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING #5

**Kremmling Chamber Building, 203 Park Avenue, Kremmling, CO
Thursday, February 21, 2008 (5:00 – 8:00 PM)**

SUMMARY NOTES

Attendees: Clare Bastable (Northwest Resource Advisory Council), Dave Costlow (Mad Adventures), Jim McDaniel (Good Chance Guided Hunts), Randy Miller (North Park Snow Snakes), Carol Peterson, Nicholas Peterson (Power World), Jerry Stahl (Grand County Wilderness Group), Holly Whitten, Susan Cassel (BLM), John Monkouski (BLM), Bernice Sterin (BLM), Joe Stout (BLM), Andy Windsor (BLM), Angie Adams (EMPS, Inc.), Chad Ricklefs (Tetra Tech, Inc.)

Handouts:

- Agenda
- Recreation Alternatives Matrix (2/21/08)
- Draft - SRMA Recreation Management Zones Maps:
 - Blue River – Alternative B
 - Blue River – Alternative D
 - Headwaters – Alternative B
 - Headwaters – Alternative D
 - Laramie River – Alternative C
 - North Park – Alternative C
 - North Sand Hills – Alternatives B & D
 - North Sand Hills – Alternative C
 - Strawberry – Alternative B
 - Strawberry – Alternative C
 - Strawberry – Alternative D
 - Upper Colorado – Alternatives B, C, and D
 - Wolford – Alternative B
 - Wolford – Physical Setting Alternative B and D
 - Wolford – Operational Setting Alternative B
 - Wolford – Social Setting Alternative B
 - Wolford – Operational Setting Alternative D
 - Wolford – Social Setting Alternative D
 - Draft – SRMAs Alternative B
 - Draft – SRMAs Alternative C
 - Draft – SRMAs Alternative D

WELCOME

Joe Stout (BLM) and Angie Adams (EMPS, Inc.) welcomed everyone and thanked them for their participation followed by round robin of introductions. Angie Adams reminded the subcommittee that the alternatives being presented tonight are a range and that the alternatives will continue to be revised based on comments from cooperating agencies, RAC subcommittees and resource specialists. Clare Bastable (Northwest Resource Advisory Council) thanked the group for their participation and stated that the purpose of tonight's meeting is to get the RAC subcommittee's comments and approval of the range of alternatives.

PLANNING UPDATES

- None.

REVISED SRMA WORK SESSION

- Handouts: Recreation Alternatives Matrix (2/21/08); Draft - SRMA Recreation Management Zones Maps (see list of maps above under “Handouts”)
- Andy Windsor (BLM) made a PowerPoint presentation on Recreation Management. Goal of today’s presentation is to provide a brief overview the changes that have been made to the alternatives matrix since the last meeting (2/11/08).
 - Discussed Stipulations: No Surface Occupancy (NSO), No Ground Disturbance (NGD), Controlled Surface Use (CSU), and Site Specific Relocation (SSR). Exception criteria can also be applied to stipulations. Stipulations used as tool to protect setting prescriptions.
 - “Operational” replaces “Administrative” under setting prescriptions.
- Blue River Discussion (refer to matrix for specific changes).
 - Alternative D, Zone 1 added Class I permits for wade fishing.
 - Alternative C ERMA. BLM will incorporate Blue River working group comments into this alternative. Stipulations in this area may be stricter. Route density would be reduced through travel management. Visual Resource Management (VRM) classifications would also be applied. Recreation will still occur in ERMA’s but structured recreation would not be emphasized in these areas.
 - RAC comment: Would like to see larger crafts that carry more people rather than smaller crafts. BLM response: BLM doesn’t have a lot of land in this area so they are limited on how they can manage the area. The river flows help manage the length of the float season. The Blue River working group may be addressing this issue.
 - RAC question: How is river user numbers calculated? BLM response: Calculations are based on river flows.
 - RAC is comfortable with the range of alternatives for Blue River.
- Headwaters Discussion (refer to matrix for specific changes).
 - Alternative C ERMA’s. The same types of stipulations described above under the Blue River would be incorporated. ACECs and VRMs would be applied in this alternative. Recreation would not be the emphasis of Alternative C.
 - RAC question: What are temporary administrative access routes for timber, range management and emergency access? BLM response: Alternative D would allow for these temporary actions. It is an exception. Existing administrative routes will be still open for administrative management use.
 - RAC question: What are the encounters in Zone 2? BLM response: BLM would like to see the range for middle country being met. If the trend goes up then the BLM will need to revisit the encounter numbers.
 - Alternative B addresses concerns with motorized use and CDOW concerns in this area.
 - RAC is comfortable with the range of alternatives for the Headwaters.
- Laramie River Discussion (refer to matrix for specific changes).
 - No changes in the matrix for the area.
 - ERMA’s in Alternative B include an ACEC, grazing would be an emphasis; recreation would not be the emphasis under this alternative. Would be managed similar to existing conditions.
 - RAC question: Do we need to have another alternative since alternatives B and D are the same. BLM response: NO, if the range is covered than another alternative is not needed.
 - RAC is comfortable with the range of alternatives for Laramie River.
- North Park Discussion (refer to matrix for specific changes)
 - ERMA emphasis under Alternative B is wildlife and emphasis of ERMA under Alternative D would be development (oil and gas). Grazing would continue under both alternatives. Grazing is not a key issue in this FO so not many changes are needed to grazing management.
 - RAC comment: Working with CDOW on sage grouse mapping in the North Park area. BLM response: BLM will continue to work with Jackson County and CDOW in this area.
 - RAC question: What is the status of the recent leases in core sage grouse habitat? BLM response: Parcels were deferred in the sage grouse core areas during the last lease sale. There have been some leases in moderate areas but most leases are occurring in high potential areas.
 - RAC question: Will roads in the North Park area be shut down? BLM response: Roads will be closed as necessary to accommodate wildlife. Existing roads on the ground would be similar to

- existing conditions. Will look at eliminating redundant routes during travel management analysis. Routes would still be available for hunters.
- RAC comment: There may be future necessary range developments, and this SRMA states that no new permanent developments would be allowed. BLM response: BLM will modify this language.
 - RAC is comfortable with range of alternatives for North Park.
 - North Sand Hills Discussion (refer to matrix for specific changes)
 - Only change from past versions of SRMA matrix was adding development of a camping plan that identifies where camping would be allowed (in Alternatives B, C, and D SRMA).
 - RAC question: What about snowmobiling? BLM response: CDOW wants BLM to consider winter motorized seasonal closures for wildlife purposes.
 - RAC question: Will BLM use any information from Jackson County's travel plan? BLM response: Alternatives B and D capture some components of plan.
 - RAC question: What do route colors on map mean? BLM response: Pink routes are ATV routes; black routes are full-size vehicle routes; green routes are single-track routes. Alternatives B and D would include a trail plan in Zone 2, so route designation would occur. Zone 1 would be open OHV area.
 - RAC is comfortable with range of alternatives for North Sand Hills.
 - Strawberry Discussion (refer to matrix for specific changes).
 - NSO/NGD stipulation was applied to Alternatives B, C, and D. Analysis of recreation settings without these stipulations would not occur in this area. Alternative B and D stipulations would be the same. May want to look at removing the stipulations under Alternative D for analysis.
 - RAC question: How do you get to Zone 1 (motorized area) under Alternative B? BLM response: An exception would be provided to allow access route to the northern zone. The access route to Zone 1 would be minimal. BLM did a visual analysis of Strawberry area to locate where motorized area could be hidden from views.
 - RAC question: What are the wildlife concerns in this area? BLM response: Wildlife concerns are seasonal and can be addressed through seasonal closures.
 - RAC comment: Concerned with a lot of encounters in backcountry. BLM response: A backcountry setting could be analyzed under Alternative B and C in both zones. This area is managed as community area.
 - RAC question: What effects will oil and gas have on visual impacts? BLM response: The analysis will show how this type of development will impact the visual setting.
 - NSOs can be used to protect the setting outcome in SRMAs and can be used across the board for SRMAs.
 - RAC comment: No primitive social setting in any of the alternatives. BLM response: Analysis of supply and demand of primitive settings around Grand County shows regionally there are a lot of opportunities for primitive and confined settings. Primitive settings in the planning area would require a permit system. ERMAs in conservation alternatives could result in lower route densities.
 - RAC question: Is the BLM concerned with having one primitive area in KFO? BLM response: Backcountry encounters are already being met.
 - RAC is comfortable with range of alternatives for Strawberry.
 - Upper Colorado Discussion (refer to matrix for specific changes).
 - Alternative B social setting is what is currently occurring.
 - Does the 25 people allow for growth in Zone 2? BLM response: Yes, usually 5 clients per boat.
 - Zone 3, concern with social setting. 128 trips were over the 50 people per group. RAC comment: Feel that there has been no damage to the river with these large group sizes. The Colorado River provides a continuous stretch of mild to moderate water that large groups like to seek. BLM response: BLM would like to see up to only 12% of the trips exceed the 50 people per group, 30 encounters per day.
 - Zone 4 numbers reflect what is occurring in Glenwood.
 - RAC is comfortable with the range of alternatives for Upper Colorado.
 - Wolford Discussion (refer to matrix for specific changes)
 - RAC question: Is it possible to put a primitive setting in Zone 2? BLM response: Alternative C has an ERMA so this type of setting could be met in this zone. Alternative C wouldn't be managed for recreation. Would most likely primitive settings in Alternative C. BLM will consider lowering encounter numbers in this area. Structured motorized setting being provided in Zone 1 and Zone 2 for Alternatives B and D.

- RAC is comfortable with the range of alternatives for Wolford.
- Clare Bastable asked if the subcommittee was comfortable with the range of alternatives being presented. RAC response: Yes.
- Clare Bastable asked if this group would like to continue meeting after the draft RMP has been completed. The group would most likely want to get back together after the draft RMP is released.

OTHER ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

- None.

PUBLIC COMMENT/QUESTIONS

- Concerned with range of encounters in the Headwaters area in Zone 1 of Alternative B.

NEXT MEETING

- No future meeting date was set. Future meetings will be scheduled as needed.

ACTION ITEMS

- For future meeting dates, see “Next Meeting” above.
- Send list of Northwest RAC members to the subcommittee members.

CRR – February 21, 2008