

**BLM Colorado Southwest Resource Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**June 13, 2019**

**Attendance**

RAC Members

*Category 1*

Mark Austin (Developed Recreation), John Reams (Energy and Minerals), Mark Roeber (Grazing), Kathy Welt (Energy and Minerals)

*Category 2*

Joe Neuhof (Dispersed Recreation), Tif Rodriguez (Wild Horse & Burros), Katie Steele (Dispersed Recreation)

*Category 3*

Renzo DelPiccolo (State Agency Rep), William Gleason (Public-at-Large), John Justman (Elected Official)

*Not in Attendance*

Ernie Williams (Cat 3: Public-at-Large), Christi Zeller (Cat 3: Public-at-Large)

BLM

Connie Clementson (TRFO), Stephanie Connolly (SWD), Collin Ewing (MCNCA and D-E NCA), Edd Franz (GGNCA), Greg Larson (UFO), D. Maggie Magee (SWD), Christopher Rose (CANM), Kirby Lynn Shedlowski (CSO), Gloria Tibbetts (SWD), Wayne Werkmeister (GJFO), Andy Windsor (GJFO); Afternoon: Julie Jackson (UFO)

Public

Bill Babbel, Ann McCoy Harold (Senator Gardner's Office), Alyssa Logan (Senator Bennet's Office), Tracy McCurdy (Western Slope Conservation Center Board Member/North Fork Trail Advocacy Group), Sherry Schenk, Andrew Thompson

**Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Minutes**

With a quorum present, Chair John Reams called the meeting to order at 8 a.m. Mark Austin made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 8, 2019 meeting. It was seconded by Tif Rodriguez and approved unanimously.

**INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

**Special Recreation Permit Program Overview - Andy Windsor, Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner, Grand Junction Field Office**

Andy delivered a PowerPoint presentation discussing how special recreation permits (SRP) differ from other types of permits, the various types of SRPs, and steps involved in applying for one.

Questions to considering when analyzing a proposal for a large event (such as Burning Man: Does the event meet management objectives? Is it an appropriate use under the Resource Management Plan? How much BLM time would be involved in processing and administering the event?

The BLM requires cost recovery for the administration of large events.

All SRP fees stay with the office where collected:

In 2018, the Grand Junction Field Office (GJFO) issued 87 SRPs with \$2.5 million in gross revenue reported by permittees and \$67,000 in fees collected; GJFO has a high number of events.

Typically an effort is made to fold vending into the event SRP so that the main applicant is managing the vending component.

Filming requires a separate process; drones have created new issues and challenges (e.g. potential conflicts with nesting/migratory birds); while some filming (at same time/same place) can be authorized under the SRP, use of aircraft (including drones) cannot.

## **FIELD MANAGER REPORTS**

### **Tres Rios Field Office - Connie Clementson, Field Manager**

#### *Planning*

Transportation and Access Plans (TAP) - In 2015, the BLM initiated a two-year effort to ground-verify (inventory) the linear features across TRFO. The TRFO shared this preliminary inventory with the public via a web-based interactive map illustrating each of the inventoried routes. During 2017 and 2018, the BLM offered three opportunities for the public to provide comments regarding the inventory. The comments received were shared at three open house meetings in 2018. (<https://www.blm.gov/maps/frequently-requested/colorado>). The BLM has been working closely with Montezuma, La Plata and Archuleta counties (roads, trails, and GIS staff) to develop a Proposed Action for SLM-managed lands (TAP Area #1). Additionally, the BLM has convened an intergovernmental working group (DATA) to look more closely at the Durango Area. A 30-day Public Scoping Period targeted for Spring 2019 will offer the public an opportunity to provide comments and information related to the TAP #1 Proposed Action. The TAP#2 process will be initiated sometime before September 2019.

ACEC Amendment - Comment period closes April 22, 2019. The BLM published a Notice of Availability for the Draft Resource Management Plan Amendment and Preliminary Environmental Assessment, which analyzed 17 proposed Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) in San Miguel, San Juan, Dolores, Montezuma, and Montrose counties. The preferred alternative would designate one proposed ACEC (Mesa Verde Escarpment) and reaffirm the designation of two existing ACECs (Ancestral Puebloan and Gypsum Valley) totaling 14,335 acres. The size of the existing ACECs would be reduced to provide for more focused management of the resources requiring special protection. The Dry Creek Basin and Northdale ACEC proposals, both of which contain habitat for Gunnison Sage-Grouse, were deferred to the Gunnison Sage-Grouse Range-wide RMP Amendment. The GUSG Amendment will provide a range of management measures and outcomes for the areas, including possible ACEC designation.

Gunnison Sage Grouse Plan Amendment- On July 18, 2014, the BLM issued a notice in the Federal Register announcing the agency's intention to incorporate clear and consistent conservation measures into BLM land use plans and prepare an associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in order to protect Gunnison Sage-Grouse habitat across the range of the species. Approximately 40 percent of currently occupied Gunnison Sage-Grouse habitat is on public lands

administered by the BLM. The range-wide decision area consists of more than 600,000 acres of BLM surface estate in Chaffee, Delta, Dolores, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Mesa, Montrose, Ouray, Saguache, and San Miguel counties in Colorado and Grand and San Juan counties in Utah. The Tres Rios RMP (2015) and Canyons of the Ancients RMP (2010) may be amended by this planning effort. A BLM interdisciplinary team is working with 21 federal, state, and county cooperating agencies to develop the EIS and RMP Amendment. The Draft RMPA/EIS was released on August 12, 2016. Public meetings were held in several towns, including Dove Creek, in late 2016. The BLM is currently waiting for the Fish and Wildlife Service to complete a Species Status Assessment (formerly known as a Recovery Plan), and for a joint CPW, County, FWS, and BLM effort to complete a Collaborative Action Plan.

### ***Wild Horse and Burro Management***

Spring Creek Herd Management Area - On September 17, 2018, the TRFO issued a Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact (DR/FONSI) to implement bait trapping within the Spring Creek Basin Herd Management Area (HMA). This decision will allow the BLM to proactively manage and gather horses within the 22,000-acre HMA over the next ten years. The BLM will continue to administer the fertility-control vaccine PZP to manage the herd population and work with volunteers to dart selected mares in the HMA to strategically manage foal rates. The Spring Creek Basin population is currently within the Appropriate Management Level (AML).

### ***Recreation***

Phil's World Trails - In 2018, the TRFO issued a decision (DR/FONSI) to authorize the construction of 22 miles of non-motorized sustainable single-track trails and add two parking areas/trailheads. On February 20, 2018, an adjoining land owner filed an appeal with a Petition for Stay. The Stay was denied and the appeal is in process with IBLA. The first phase of the project has been completed. Funding for parking lot trailheads has been secured and construction is scheduled to begin in mid-February 2019. The public and Montezuma County Commissioners continue to support implementation of the project.

Durango Area Trails Alliance - The TRFO initiated an inter-governmental working group with the City of Durango, La Plata County, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and the San Juan National Forest. The purpose of this group is to enhance balanced recreational opportunities around Durango, primarily through coordinated interagency trail management.

### ***Wildlife***

Dry Creek Basin Pinyon-Juniper Mastication - The TRFO masticated 211 acres of pinyon and juniper in Dry Creek Basin, improving the habitat effectiveness of Gunnison Sage-grouse critical habitat. The TRFO will continue to monitor the effectiveness of previous treatments and treat tamarisk in the Basin.

### ***Abandoned Mine Lands***

Slick Rock and Egnar Mine Safety Closures - Freeport Corporation has been surveying old claims with which they have become affiliated. Following environmental analysis, Freeport completed 18 physical safety closures in 2018 and has 37 closures east of Egnar, Colorado planned for 2019.

Little Gypsum Valley, the Hat & Lookout Mine Safety Closures - The BLM, in partnership with

the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, completed approximately 61 physical safety closures in western San Miguel and Montrose counties (Big & Little Gypsum valleys) in 2018. The BLM will be analyzing approximately 60 closures (Bald Eagle & Klondike) at the southeast end of Big Gypsum Valley in San Miguel County. These projects are scheduled to begin in Fall 2019.

#### ***Lands & Realty***

Tri-State Montrose-Nucla-Cahone Transmission Improvement Project - Tri-State is currently improving the Montrose-Nucla-Cahone Transmission Line. The 115kV power line passes through both the BLM UFO and TRFO. Originally built in 1958, this upgrade will boost the existing 115kV power transmission line to 230kV to better serve Tri-State customers. Phase I (vegetation clearing) and Phase II (access road upgrades) were completed in 2018. Tri-State has also implemented an interim stabilization program that began in Fall 2018. Construction work will continue in Spring 2019.

#### ***Minerals (Fluid)***

Lease Sale EAs - Currently there are no pending Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the field office. The last scheduled deadline for EOIs was January 4, 2019. Any TRFO parcels identified would trigger a six-month lease sale process.

Oil and Gas Projects - Kinder Morgan has submitted upgrade project proposals, which include three Loop Lines and a Booster Compressor Station in the McElmo Dome Unit of CANM. These projects would enable Kinder Morgan to maintain CO2 production flow rates in the unit. Kinder Morgan has also indicated that they will be submitting up to six Applications for Permit to Drill (APDs) in 2019.

#### ***Minerals (saleable)***

Gravel Pit Renewals - The TRFO is working with Montezuma County to renew and issue a free use permit (FUP) for the Tozer Gravel Pit, located near County Road Gin McElmo Canyon. Dolores County's Black Snag Gravel Pit FUP was recently renewed, and San Miguel County's Klondike Gravel Pit FUP renewal is near completion. These FUPs provide an invaluable resource for local governments in maintaining roads, bridges, and other public works.

#### ***Minerals (solid)***

King II Coal Mine - A 30-day Public Scoping Period for GCC Energy LLC's proposed Dunn Ranch Area King II Coal Mine Lease by Application (LBA) and associated Mine Plan Modification (DOI-BLM-CO-S010-2019-0003-EA) was initiated on Feb 8, 2019 by the BLM and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE). The proposal includes approximately 3,200 acres of private surface (federal coal) north of the existing King II Coal Mine. The LBA would use existing surface facilities and transportation routes and could extend mine life for 5-7 years (depending on the successful bidder). A Final EA and DR is expected to be signed July 2019. This would be followed by a competitive lease process. Once the lease is issued, OSMRE would then process the mine permit application, which would likely be completed by late 2019.

**Canyons of the Ancients National Monument - Christopher Rose, Acting Monument**

## Manager

### *Canyons of the Ancients Visitor Center and Museum*

Exhibit Gallery - The "Krakow to Castle Rock" exhibit focuses on years of research completed in the Sand Canyon area by Jagieollian University (Krakow, Poland). The exhibit opened in July 2018 and will continue into 2019. Photos featured in the exhibit are mainly from the field school and illustrate multiple traditional and modern archaeological techniques as practiced today. The photos, accompanied by artifacts from the Museum's repository, provide a beautiful and informative overview of the important research being conducted within the Monument.

Fee Increase Proposal for Museum - Two informal public meetings were held in early December 2018 to discuss a proposed fee increase at the Monument's museum. Fees have not been increased since 1993 and the proposed increase would raise fees from \$3 to \$5 year-round. The fee money would provide opportunities to support programs and projects that benefit the monument and its visitors. The proposal would offer a free visitation day on the last Saturday of the month and provide an option for locals in Montezuma and Dolores counties to purchase an annual pass for \$10.

### Curation

High Density Storage - Since 2017, CANM has been working on increasing storage capacity in curation by replacing old shelving with high-density storage. The first phase of storage unit installation has been completed and a contractor is re-shelving artifacts, which should be completed by Fall 2019. This effort will extend storage capacity by more than 50%.

### **Grand Junction Field Office - Wayne Werkmeister, Acting Field Manager Dominguez-Escalante and McInnis Canyons NCAs - Collin Ewing, NCA Manager**

**Staffing updates** – Grand Junction FO is experiencing a staffing turnover that's a little unusual for us. A couple 30+ year veterans of GJ are retiring in the next couple months and a couple 10+ year veterans have accepted new assignments in Montana and California. These include;

- Realty Specialist = retires tomorrow.
- Rangeland Management Specialist = retires this fall.
- Archeologist = Departs in July.
- Law Enforcement Officer = Departs in August.
- River Ranger = Departs in July.
- Field Manager = Departed last March, or November.

We're working hard to have these key vacancies filled ASAP to prevent backlogs from building up.

Palisade Plunge - In cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Grand Valley Ranger District and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Grand Junction Field Office issued a decision to construct the Palisade Plunge, a 30-mile mountain biking and hiking trail. The Palisade Plunge is a collaborative effort between the agencies, Mesa County, the Town of Palisade, and the Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association (COPMOBA), and was one of 16 high priority trails identified by the State of Colorado for promoting outdoor recreation in Colorado. Contract awarded and trail construction set to begin this summer.

Range – Given the winters welcomed moisture that continued thru spring, our recent drought is

but a memory. Our Term Permit Renewal process is underway and several renewals are being analyzed.

Wild Horses - The recent adoption in Fruita last March was another incredible success. Not only did all 28 horses and two burros find a home, we had a few bidding wars that brought around \$2,000/head for 3 or 4 of the horses.

As for conditions on the range, the break in our recent drought has range condition as well as horse condition looking pretty amazing. Fertility control efforts are underway to keep reproductive rates in check.

National Conservation Areas, Dominguez-Escalante and McInnis – Water is high and people are enjoying the rivers. Our river rangers and front desk are trying to make sure people are educated about the risk and the need to have proper equipment.

The Grand Junction Field Office continues to work with permittees and Mesa County Commissioner Scott McInnis on the development of the proposed action for grazing permit renewals on Glade Park, south of Grand Junction. The permits include motorized use in the Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness Area as well as designated critical habitat for the Gunnison Sage Grouse.

**Education stats:** The Bureau of Land Management has partnered with local non-profits, school districts, and other agencies to get students, parents, and teachers outside and exploring their public lands. This education season we have reached over 2,500 people through various events in D-E NCA and MCNCA. Working with our partners from Colorado Canyons Association, about 1,500 students have had the opportunity to work with different specialist from BLM and nonprofit organizations through our land and river programs. The land based programs provide students with interactive field trips, guided hikes, science lectures and classroom visits all of which cover subjects related to local wildlife, plants, archeology, geology, ranching history, soil crusts and as well as Leave No Trace principles. The river based programs offer students a memorable trip down the Gunnison and Colorado Rivers, some in an overnight setting. On these trips students learn about the BLM, desert ecology, local history, leadership, and river safety. Our second largest partner event is Dinosaur Days. Working with the Museums of Western Colorado, we were able to reach approximately 1,000 people for their annual event. Dinosaur Day is a kid-friendly educational day for the entire family. Through hands-on activities BLM professionals interact with families to explain the abundance, diversity, and significance of the fossils that have been found on public lands.

Recreation - It was another incredible spring in the GJFO. Some of the more notable events and projects include:

Special Recreation Permit Events:

- Gemini running festival had over 550 participants
- Grand Junction Off Road mountain bike race – we haven't seen final numbers, but organizers anticipate numbers will be up from 2018 (last year there were over 600 riders)
- Rock Junction and Expo
- Fruita Fat Tire Festival demos at 18 Road

New trail construction:

- 8 miles of new single-track multiple use trails in the Bookcliffs north of the 18 Road

trails. (multiple use = open to motorcycles, e-bikes, mountain bikes, hiking, and horseback riding)

Some notable major volunteer projects that were completed this spring:

- 1) Ed Ruland/WSATVA 29 road clean-up, 50 volunteers, 3 roll-off dumpsters filled;
- 2) Grand Mesa Jeep Club/Rocky Mtn Sanitation cleanup, 41 volunteers, 2 roll-off dumpsters;
- 3) Adrenalin Driven, 25 road Clean-up 20 volunteers, 1 roll-off dumpster;
- 4) Rifle Range, 27 ¼ Road, 30 volunteers, 2 dump trailers full;
- 5) COPMOBA/MTRA, Coal Gulch trail construction, ~30 volunteers.

North Fruita Desert SRMA - Since our field trip last March we are still working with local communities and the planned expansion of camping and event opportunities associated with the North Fruita Desert mountain biking area. A Preliminary EA is in the works.

Lands and Realty -

- 1) Airport land transfer - Signed patent on 6/12/19 transferring 188 acres to the GJ Regional Airport to allow runway expansion to improve safety and functionality.
- 2) Cheney acquisition - We received Recreational Access Funding in 2018 to further the discussion of acquiring 480 acres near Whitewater to improve public access.

Unauthorized Use Actions - We have an estimated 40 unauthorized use actions that we're trying to work on. These range from a rancher who "dropped" their machinery on the end of a field, to a determination that a house was put 15' onto the BLM side of the property, to etc... Often times we'll meet with the "violator" and simply explain the situation and they're happy to make things right – they simply didn't know where the boundary was. Other times, as with the house, it gets much more complicated.

**Uncompahgre Field Office - Greg Larson, Field Manager  
Gunnison Gorge NCA - Edd Franz, NCA Manager**

Uncompahgre Field Office Resource Management Plan Revision - The UFO is preparing a Final EIS and proposed RMP. On June 14, the UFO is scheduled to brief the DOI Executive Review Team. The UFO PRMP/FEIS remains a high priority for the BLM.

North Fork Mancos Master Development Plan (MDP) - The UFO continues to work with the Paonia Ranger District of the GMUG National Forest and the BLM Colorado River Valley Field Office to prepare an EA considering a proposal from Gunnison Energy LLC to drill 35 horizontal wells from one expanded well pad, three new well pads, and one existing well pad. The BLM recently sought additional public comment on the MDP because Gunnison Energy changed its proposal to use the slickwater method of hydraulic fracturing instead of the previously proposed nitrogen foam (or gel) method. The BLM received approximately 99 comment letters and 100 form emails on the revised EA and hopes to issue a decision late summer of 2019. Comments centered on transportation effects and water usage.

Programmatic Vegetation Treatments EA - The UFO has a number of site specific vegetation treatments ongoing and planned, with the goals of reducing fuel loading and improving habitat conditions for Gunnison Sage Grouse and big game species. To better support future projects in these program areas, the UFO is initiating the preparation of a programmatic EA. The purpose of this programmatic proposal is to ensure that we have considered the environmental effects of

these projects and determined suitable mitigation, while streamlining the NEPA approval process. Tribal consultation and consultation with the State Historical Preservation Office will be done later with site specific proposals rather than programmatically. The UFO formally scoped the proposal this spring, receiving few comments. Comments centered on ensuring consistency with special planning designations and the potential to use grazing to manage vegetation.

North Fork Coal Mine Methane Working Group - The Working Group is comprised of state, county, industry, conservation and business leaders to support coal mines and surrounding communities in the North Fork Valley through the development of a comprehensive strategy for education, capture, exploration of mitigation, and economic utilization of coal mine methane (CMM). BLM has participated as a non-voting invited party since the group's formation in October 2017. The Working Group has supported CMM capture at the Bowie Coal Mine, which has mined out all of its leased federal coal. The BLM Colorado State Director outlined the BLM's regulatory processes in a May 2019 letter to the working group, and the UFO is working with several parties on potential applications to capture mine methane.

Recreation Projects - The UFO continues to see high demand for recreational amenities from local communities and user groups. Projects under consideration include:

- Jumbo Mountain - A cultural resources inventory of the Jumbo Mountain area has been contracted to support ongoing collaboration with Delta County regarding designation of an authorized trail system. This area is a RAC agenda topic.
- Shavano Gateway - The UFO is working with Montrose Co. and the "MUT" Chapter of COPMOBA to consider a staging area proposal under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act and a single-track trail proposal. The UFO held scoping meetings in April, and is currently working on the Environmental Assessment. Most comments were supportive of the proposal.
- Adobe Badlands WSA - The BLM is working to make open OHV areas more recognizable from the adjacent (and closed) Adobe Badlands WSA. Post and cable fencing will begin this summer.
- Escalante Triangle - The UFO is also working with the "DAM Bikers" and GJFO to plan for trails in the Escalante Triangle area of D-E NCA. Staff are currently doing informal "pre-scoping" with CPW, horse riders, local government, etc.
- Rim Road Staging Area - The UFO is working on a proposal for a staging and camping facility in a heavily used area off the Rim Road in the Dry Creek Travel Management Area.

Paradox Valley Unit EIS - The BLM Colorado Southwest District Office, and the UFO and Tres Rios Field Offices have been working with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) for several years as a cooperating agency on the Paradox Valley Unit Injection (PVU) Well Replacement Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS considers multiple alternatives for addressing long-term, sustainable management of saline brine from the Paradox Valley. The PVU is one of the most effective salinity control projects in the Colorado River Basin and provides about eight percent of the total salinity control in the Colorado River. The BOR is evaluating several alternatives to replace the existing facility, all of which require the BLM to process a right-of-way and/or withdrawal. Alternatives are proposed at several sites within and above the valley



and could include injection wells, evaporation ponds, or industrial desalinization.

## **INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

### **Highway 50 Flagpole ROW Application - Collin/Greg**

Collin Ewing provided a PowerPoint presentation describing a pending application to replace an existing flagpole (approximately 8-9 feet tall) with a taller 20-foot lighted flagpole. The existing flagpole is located within the Dominguez-Escalante NCA just south of the Mesa-Delta county line and was informally placed prior to NCA designation. Legislation designating the NCA states that only uses that further the purposes for which the NCA was established should be allowed. The Advisory Council supporting the development of the D-E NCA Resource Management Plan (RMP) met 41 times. Through their recommendations, a high bar was established for allowing new rights-of-way (ROW) within the entire NCA, including the following measures required by BLM policy for NCAs:

- only when required
- provides an essential community service
- no alternate siting possibility exists outside the NCA

The North Branch of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail passes through this area and to protect its setting, the RMP designated the corridor Visual Resource Management Area Class II. VRM II requires management to retain the existing character of the landscape, developments should not attract the attention of the casual viewer, and changes must repeat basic natural elements.

The ROW as proposed in the application would not be in conformance with the RMP or BLM policy in terms of new ROWs or VRM II. As a result, the decision maker has three choices:

- Deny the application
- Work with the applicant to find an acceptable alternate location
- Amend the RMP to authorize the ROW

There was discussion about whether the flagpole could be grandfathered in as it had been there longer than the NCA. Others mentioned that the increased flagpole height could create a visual disturbance. Several reinforced the lengthy process the D-E NCA RMP RAC had engaged in prior to making their recommendations and recommended deferring to the RAC's recommendations.

Greg acknowledged that there is no exception process for this type of situation. He stated that he appreciated the RAC's input, but did not request a formal recommendation from them. He will notify the RAC of his decision.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

### **Bill Babbel - Highway 50 flagpole proponent**

For the scenery and visuals, people regard Dominguez Canyon as the NCA; not the strip of land along Highway 50. The visual rules shouldn't apply to the edge of NCA (60-80 feet from edge). The RAC probably didn't consider this when making their recommendation. Bill noted that he has done years of light research and the proposed flagpole light would consist of 26 LEDs shining down; not a floodlight. He estimated that the current tree is just under 20 feet tall. Most

people don't even realize that the area is part of the NCA. The flagpole should not be considered a structure because it occupies 4 inches of the NCA and serves as an attraction/point of interest. The current pole is approximately 8-9 feet tall and the proposed pole would be 20 feet tall. The taller height would protect the light from vandalism and a plaque would be added. The Colorado Department of Transportation talked about removing the tree, but relented and left it in place. Bill prefers this site to commemorate the Christmas tree that has been there so long.

No other members of the public wished to provide comments.

## **INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

### **Update on Public Feedback for the Rabbit Valley Camping Proposal – Collin Ewing, NCA Manager, Dominguez-Escalante and McInnis Canyons NCAs**

Collin provided a PowerPoint presentation with an overview of the proposal and a summary of the public feedback that was received. The GJFO received 65 public comments following an extensive outreach campaign.

A discussion followed pertaining to designated versus dispersed camping and the proximity of the proposed sites north of I-70 to the Trail through Time and paleontological resources. RAC members expressed appreciation for the amount of outreach and effort the BLM invested to elicit sufficient public feedback.

John Reams requested that the RAC agree on language for and pass a resolution. Katie made a motion to recommend that the BLM move forward with the proposed action as written on the Proposed Management Tool Slide in the PowerPoint presentation, with minor modifications in response to public comment. Tif seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Additional Flagpole Discussion**

Discussion returned to the three options available to Greg as the decision maker and the lengthy public process already completed by the D-E NCA RMP RAC. There was also discussion about the availability of other viable sites and the potential for triggering a "slippery slope" if an exception were made for a project not in conformance with the RMP.

Greg noted that he had received the advice he sought in order to make a decision and did not require a formal recommendation from the RAC.

## **INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

### **Jumbo Mountain - Julie Jackson, Greg, and Edd**

Greg Larson presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding a diverse area just outside Paonia that is home to big game habitat, livestock grazing, and a trail network that is heavily used by the local community. Greg has been working closely with Delta County (Mark Roeber) to figure out the best method for developing a plan for the area prior to release of the Uncompahgre RMP. He was seeking advice from the RAC on how to go about the planning process, including consideration of establishing a Sub-RAC, but was not seeking a resolution.

The group discussed whether a Sub-RAC might be needed, with members noting that it sounded as though there were a diverse range of interests already represented and a Sub-RAC might actually slow the process down. It was also noted that Sub-RACs have become increasingly formalized, with a federal register notice required prior to meeting. A suggestion was made that a round table might be more beneficial.

**POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR SEPTEMBER 25 RAC MEETING**

- Possible e-bike demonstration (electric bikes)
- Fee proposal for North Fruita Desert
- Background on transportation planning (TAP1/TAP2)

John Reams thanked the RAC for their willingness to work together across a range of viewpoints. September will be the last RAC meeting for several current members. Kathy made a motion to adjourn. Katie seconded and the motion was carried.

**Next meeting:** September 25, 2019 - Dolores, CO