

**BLM Colorado Southwest Resource Advisory Council**  
**March 8, 2019**  
**Minutes**

**Attendance**

Category 1

Kathy Welt, Mark Roeber, Mark Austin

Category 2

Joseph Neuhof, Tif Rodriguez, Kathleen Steele

Category 3

Christi Zeller, John Justman, Renzo DelPiccolo, Ernie Williams, William Gleason

BLM

Stephanie Connolly, Gloria Tibbetts, Jayson Barangan, Connie Clementson, Tyler Fouss, Joseph Manning, Keith Fox, Brian Yaquinto, Jeff Christenson, Wayne Werkmeister, Collin Ewing, Nikki Grant-Hoffman, Andy Windsor, Paul Sever, Greg Larson

Public

Ann McCoy-Harold, Senator Gardner's office; Ryan Golten, Senator Bennet's office; Janet Wolfe, Senator Bennet's office; Ashley Greco, Congressman Tipton's office; Besty Bair, Senator Bennet's office; Jim Mimiaga, Cortez Journal; Jimbo Buickerood; Craig Grother

With three members from each category in attendance, a quorum is present. Meeting called to order at 9 a.m. John Reams will remain the chair for the Southwest RAC.

**Elections**

A motion was unanimously approved to keep the chairman (John Reams) and vice-chairman (Ernie Williams) in place as the SW RAC had not met since March 2017.

**Southwest RAC update**

BLM Colorado Lead Public Affairs Specialist Jayson Barangan provided an update on the 2018 nominations for the SW RAC. The nomination package was prepared to fill three vacancies. Group discussion on seven positions that will be vacant in December 2019.

### **Dominguez-Escalante Advisory Council close-out**

Acting Grand Junction Associate Field Manager Collin Ewing gave a PowerPoint presentation (see attached), followed by a group discussion on how the Advisory Council played a critical role in public outreach for the Dominguez-Escalante Resource Management Plan.

### **Field Manager roundtable**

See attached.

### **Public comment period**

No comments from the public during this meeting.

### **Proposed general dates for future meetings**

June 2019 in Grand Junction

September 2019 in Dolores

December 2019 in Montrose

March 2020 in Grand Junction

### **Recreation RAC training**

Dominguez-Escalante NCA Outdoor Recreation Planner Andy Windsor gave a training which outlined the process for establishing recreation fees.

### **Fee calendar extension proposal for Ruby-Horsethief Canyon in the McInnis Canyons NCA**

Acting National Conservation Area Manager for McInnis Canyons and Dominguez-Escalante NCAs Nikki Grant-Hoffman gave a PowerPoint presentation (see attached) on a proposal to extend recreation user fees (currently May through September, annually) to April and October. Visitation has increased in the area and currently, BLM staff does not patrol the area in April and October. The fees would fund improvement projects and labor for BLM staff to monitor the area. Outside of the current fee season, visitors often book reservations for multiple sites and wait to decide which site to use until arrival, which leaves sites unavailable for other visitors. Extending the fees to April and October would deter multiple site reservations.

A motion was unanimously approved to extend recreation user fees in Ruby-Horsethief Canyon to April and October.

### **New fee proposal for camping in Rabbit Valley**

Acting National Conservation Area Manager for McInnis Canyons and Dominguez-Escalante NCAs Nikki Grant-Hoffman gave a PowerPoint presentation (see attached) on a proposal to charge camping fees for the Rabbit Valley area in the McInnis Canyons NCA. Fees would fund developed campground expansions and improvements. Visitation in the area has increased,

resulting in an increase in resource impacts and unauthorized, undeveloped campsites created by visitors. The proposal may evaluate removing dispersed camping in the area. Movement of dispersed camping north of the I-70 could be a potential unintended consequence. Public outreach and continued monitoring in the area are critical for the proposal to move forward. The proposal will be discussed again at the next SW RAC meeting.

A motion was unanimously approved supporting camping fees in Rabbit Valley. Another motion was unanimously approved to make the environmental assessment available for public comment and to ensure a more robust public outreach.

### **Update on fee increase proposal at the Canyons of the Ancients Visitor Center and Museum**

Tres Rios Field Manager Connie Clementson and Acting Canyons of the Ancients National Monument Manager Tyler Fouss provided an update on previous public outreach on the proposal. Comments received questioned why a fee is necessary, why fees were not charged for curation tours and other activities and the proposed fee is not high enough. The business plan for the National Monument is currently being updated and will have more information on the feasibility for increasing fees. Updates will be provided at future SW RAC meetings.