



**Minutes of the D-E NCA Advisory Council**  
**April 4, 2013, 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Mesa County Courthouse, Grand Junction, CO**

**Council members attending:** Katie Steele, Joe Neuhof, Oscar Massey, Neil “Mike” Wilson, Bill Harris, Tamera Minnick, Steven Boyle, Doug Atchley, and Terry Kimber (on Skype).

**Council members absent:** Steve Acquafresca

**BLM staff attending:** Katie Stevens, Andy Windsor, Samantha Staley, Ben Blom, Collin Ewing and Marie Lawrence.

**Members of the public attending:** Tracey Rohde, Bob Herron, Bob Janowski, Doris Janowski, Del Martin, Jerry Smith, Mary Tucker, Conrad Tucker, Kent Davis, Jan Potterveld, Joyce D. Olson, James Solomon, Bill Thompson, Tom Derryberry Sr., Patricia Thompson, Keith Fife, Emily Hornback, David Rohde, Mark Ackerman, Dennis Calloway, Steve Chapel, Janice Shepherd, and Eric Rechel.

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**Call to order and introductory remarks**

At 3:00 p.m., Chair Katie Steele called the meeting to order, welcomed attendees, and asked that everyone present introduce themselves. Steele noted that the Advisory Council met 24 times in 16 months and thanked the Council and BLM for their efforts.

**BLM update, agenda review, meeting objectives, and role of the Council**

Katie Stevens: Have been several staffing changes affecting the NCA: Marie Lawrence, new writer-editor, replaces Brodie Farquhar; Katie’s new job is GJ field manager. Katie will stick with Council until there is a replacement NCA manager. Ben Blom has new job with BLM’s Headwaters Forest Reserve in Arcata, California. Samantha Staley will take on Ben’s role as D-E NCA planning team lead when he leaves, and Collin Ewing will be new acting NCA manager.

Stevens: Status of the draft RMP: it’s close to release, within next month or so, Purpose of this meeting is to pre-prepare for draft RMP release.

Steele: Today is a strategy meeting, to figure out how to approach the next stage, i.e., the release of draft RMP. Next meeting will be after public comment period starts. Stevens/Steele: Purpose of these meetings is for Council to advise BLM, with the public able to observe. Steele: Council members should think about which topics they want to take ownership of for future meetings.

Ben Blom: Propose to cancel May 1 meeting and have next one be in Delta on May 29. Powerpoint presentation is review of planning process, since Council hasn’t met in a year. Steele: Each Council member should take responsibility for one or two sections of the draft RMP, so they can respond when plan is released; BLM should provide a compilation of all Council’s previous recommendations. Blom began the Powerpoint presentation (see online document: [Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area: Re-Introduction to the Draft RMP](#)).

Stevens: The BLM expects to see changes to GJ preferred alternative, and this is also true with this planning effort, but BLM may have more up-to-date information from the public due to all advisory council meetings. The development of the preferred alternative for D-E NCA was a different process than for GJ: had shorter time frame and more opportunities for public involvement. Blom: Travel management will be the subject of most interest to the public. Blom completed the Powerpoint presentation.

Terry Kimber: When will the Council see alternative E, the preferred alternative?

Blom: Alternative E will be included in the draft when released to the public.

#### **Council discussion**

Steele: Do Council members have any thoughts on how to divide up the topics on list provided (see online document: [Structure of the D-E NCA Draft RMP](#))? Neuhof: Suggest one or two people set up subgroups. The Council then divided up responsibilities for review of the draft RMP (see table below). Blom: How does Council feel about publicizing these assignments? Steele: It's a good idea. Blom: Will put the assignments on the website (included as a table below). Wilson: Should publicize contact info on Web. Minnick: Don't want personally identifiable information (PII) on Web. Steele: Recommend that requests for contact information of advisory council members be made through the BLM. After checking with members for additional comments, Steele opened the floor to the public.

#### **Public comments**

Doris Janowski: Will draft RMP give reasons for specific trail closures, as it's hard to comment otherwise? (Stevens: BLM tries to provide reasons. If route is closed, that means there is a resource concern or it could have been put in for a reason that no longer exists. Blom: BLM will give reasons, such as this route was closed for wildlife, etc. it's easier to do that for the NCA than for GJ, because NCA is smaller area).

Jim Solomon: Is there a separate travel management plan (TMP) (Blom: Yes, as an appendix in the draft RMP). Is the NCA is divided into zones, instead of one huge map? (Blom: Map is of the whole NCA, but should be manageable, because NCA is smaller than GJ Field Office. Can also explore map information with Google Earth). Solomon: Dealing with PDFs is impossible.

Tom Derryberry: Will maps show connections to trails outside of NCA? (Blom: Does he mean trails contiguous with Forest Service trails?) Derryberry: The original maps didn't show connections.

Janice Shepherd: Is "Biological Systems" supposed to include wildlife? Concerned that wildlife is only showing up as watchable; want areas where they are unwatched. (Blom: Wildlife is included in biological systems.) Shepherd: Will BLM build new routes? (Windsor: The current plan only looks at existing routes. BLM travel systems support different objectives; new routes would be planned and built in the future based on the objectives in the RMP.) Stevens: Until the BLM can figure out what's working today, can't determine what's needed tomorrow. Katie Steele: As the Council and public go through the plan, this will be the time to make those recommendations. Windsor: A route-by route decision is a decision that can change throughout life of plan, unlike allocation-level decision. In some areas, the NCA will need new routes, or re-routes, depending on objectives. Katie Steele: Does this mean that if the Council sees the need for a new trail, better to recommend it as a route-by-route change? Stevens: Andy and team tried to anticipate needs.)

Doris Janowski: The preferred alternative for the GJFO Draft RMP closes approx. 70% of existing trails, hence public concern. Eric Rechel: Sharing a trail allows everyone to have more, instead of dividing the trails up into different uses. (Bill Harris: Some mountain bikers want nonmotorized trails, don't want to share; some aren't so vociferous. Joe Neuhof: It's nice to have some shared trails; it's hard to lump all users into one type.)

Jan Potterveld: Until he sees the alternatives, it's hard to comment. Appreciative of all work AC has done. Will BLM will weigh all comments together, from public and AC and others? (Stevens: BLM will go through comments, look for things that have meaning; will group them together and analyze; will take what Council says very seriously, but already have comments from Council.) Jan Potterveld: BLM will see comments from him in different forms: individual, and also through groups like Back Country Horsemen. This is a very difficult web of comments. (Katie Steele: People should know that if they have a comment, they need to say why they feel a certain way.) Jan Potterveld: I Ask people to tell me why a particular ride is an important ride: is it scenery; is it wildlife? Trying to get that kind of information from my group's members.

Tom Derryberry: Motorized users must share their trails with all user groups. Giving to one group and excluding others isn't good. There are overlapping trails, but BLM doesn't need to take trails away so people can go hike. Jim Solomon: Motorized recreation benefits everyone; if build single-track or other trail, everybody uses it. Bill Thompson: Have used lands for some 60 odd years; it belongs to all of us; taking a right away from me and giving it to someone else is discrimination against me. Eric Rechel: Is it possible for plan to be amended, because it's a 20-year plan and culture could change? (Stevens: Yes, it is possible; the old GJFO RMP has been amended 13 times.) Eric Rechel: Having more trails doesn't benefit wildlife. Have to look at how our trail structure affects wildlife. If there are more trails, wildlife leaves area. Joyce Olson: It's okay to use land, but not to abuse it. (Stevens: The Grand Junction TMP is a difficult thing; the BLM is asking the public to look at 4,000 miles of road, and the BLM is obliged to look at each one of them. Public comments make a difference. It's asking a lot of folks to look at what they've used in the past and what they want to see in the future, but if the BLM didn't go through this process, it wouldn't be doing its job.)

**Next meeting**

Next meeting will be May 29, 2013, at the Bill Heddles Recreation Center in Delta. Emily Hornback: Where will the information be available? Blom: It will be posted on the D-E NCA website, but could send her an e-mail, if she likes. There was further discussion on the availability of the draft RMP. Janice Shepherd: Will there be an electronic version of the public comments? Blom: Yes. Stevens: The electronic commenting process is supposed to be really easy, easier than a person putting them together, but that remains to be seen, because this is a pilot program. Janice Shepherd: Will the BLM publish all comments on Web and make names and contact information public also? Stevens: The published documents would focus mostly on content, but if someone came into the office, BLM would supply individual comment, including commenter's name. Janice Shepherd: That's okay, as long as personal information is not on Web.

**Meeting adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

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**Attachments and related documents:** [Structure of the D-E NCA Draft RMP](#) (online); annotated *Structure of the D-E NCA Draft RMP* (see page 4 below); [Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area: Re-Introduction to the Draft RMP](#) (online).

<b>Structure of the D-E NCA Draft RMP* (with page numbers) – April 3, 2013</b>				
	<b>Chapter 2</b>	<b>Chapter 3</b>	<b>Chapter 4</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
<b>Geological and Paleontological Resources<sup>1</sup></b>	39-41	197-203	337-348	
<b>Biological Systems<sup>2,3,4,9,11</sup></b>	41-86	203-241	348-450	Appendix A (725-740) Appendix C (745-752)
<b>Cultural Resources<sup>5,6</sup></b>	86-95	241-246	450-472	

<b>Wilderness</b> <sup>7,8</sup>	95-103	246-254	472-486	Appendix G (761-770) Appendix H (771-776)
<b>Lands with Wilderness Characteristics</b> <sup>7,9</sup>	103-105	254-257	486-494	
<b>Scenic Resources</b> <sup>3,7,5,6,7</sup>	105-107	257-259	494-509	
<b>Air Resources</b> <sup>3,7</sup>	107-108	259-265	509-519	Appendix P (975-982)
<b>Recreational Use</b> <sup>5,8,10</sup>	108-145	265-285	519-543	Appendix I (777-782) Appendix L (825-842)
<b>Scientific Use</b> <sup>3</sup>	145-147	285-286	543-548	
<b>Educational Use</b> <sup>3</sup>	147-148	286-288	548-553	
<b>Livestock Grazing</b> <sup>2,3,4,9,11</sup>	148-157	288-293	553-567	
<b>Transportation and Travel Management</b> <sup>1</sup>	157-161	293-294	567	Appendix N (887-908)
<b>Land Tenure and Land Use Authorizations</b> <sup>1</sup>	161-166	294-295	567-574	
<b>Areas of Critical Environmental Concern</b> <sup>7,9</sup>	166-170	295-296	575-590	Appendix M (843-886)
<b>National Trails</b> <sup>5,6</sup>	170-173	296-300	590-600	
<b>Wild and Scenic Rivers</b> <sup>4,7</sup>	173-175	300-302	600-612	Appendix O (909-974)
<b>Wilderness Study Areas</b> <sup>7</sup>	175	302	612-617	
<b>Watchable Wildlife Areas</b> <sup>2,3,8</sup>	175-176	302-303	617-621	
<b>Tribal Interests</b> <sup>1</sup>		303-305	621-637	
<b>Public Safety</b> <sup>1</sup>		305-307	637-642	
<b>Social and Economic Conditions</b> <sup>4,11</sup>		307-323	642-661	
<i>Note that the Draft RMP has not yet been released for public review. Changes to the document may occur between 4/3/2013 and release of the document for public review.</i>				

\*Annotated version

<sup>1</sup>All Council members; <sup>2</sup>Steven Boyle; <sup>3</sup>Tamera Minnick; <sup>4</sup>Steve Acquafresca; <sup>5</sup>Bill Harris; <sup>6</sup>Katie Steele; <sup>7</sup>Joe Neuhof; <sup>8</sup>Terry Kimber; <sup>9</sup>Oscar Massey; <sup>10</sup>Neil "Mike" Wilson; <sup>11</sup>Doug Atchley.