

**Resource Advisory Council  
Minutes  
February 19, 2015**

**Attendance**

**NW RAC**

Category 1: Dave Grisso, Jim Mattern, Wes McStay, Tom Latham

Category 2: Carl Conner, Barbara Vasquez, Dona Shue, Stacy Beaugh, Luke Schafer  
Schafer

Category 3: John Justman, Kai Turner, Meyer Neuhof, Lanny Weddle

**BLM:** Joseph Meyer, Karl Mendonca, Wendy Reynolds, Kent Walter, Katie Stevens,  
David Boyd, Chris Joyner, Sharon Knowlton, Greg Larson, Erin Jones, John  
Monkouski, , Steve Craddock

**Public:**

Alex Dave- Assistant Director, Renewable Energy – Wilderness Society

Stuart Coles – Public Lands Outreach Coordinator – Wilderness Society

David Ludlam – WSCOGA

Brian Meinhart – Rep. Tipton

Bill deVergie – Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Soren Jespersen – TWS

Eric Sanford – SG

Peter Hart – WW

Trina Jacobson

Michael Warren – Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Megan Crawford

**8:00- Meeting called to order – Barbara Vasquez – Introductions**

**8:10- Briefing on Roan Settlement - Gregory Larson – See slides**

John Justman – what is the distance to get to energy target areas?

GREG LARSON – For Petroleum, 6500 feet is about the total range to extend for  
directional drilling.

KENT WALTER – Socio economic section is showing what areas that will be out of  
reach for energy extraction

JOHN JUSTMAN – I have concern about reaching distant energy areas based on  
limitations in the settlement. “much of the energy is going to be out of reach”

GREG LARSON – We’ll analyze what minerals could be accessed in socio economic  
analysis

**8:29- Briefing on White River National Forest Previously Issued O&G leases –  
Gregory Larson – See Slides**

WES MCSTAY – Are any of these producing?

Greg Larson - Yes

KENT WALTER- What's currently leased?

GREG LARSON – shaded areas – See Conceptual Alt 4

KENT WALTER – if it's already leased, would those remain leased unless they are expired?

GREG LARSON – Depends on area. If it is in the area the USFS has shown not open for future leasing... if those areas expire they wouldn't be leased again

WES MCSTAY – question as it pertains to the USFS decision to not lease, does that apply to already leased and producing wells?

GREG LARSON – the gray areas are where the USFS has decided not to lease for future leasing activity, but their decision doesn't apply to already leases

DAVE GRISSO – Where is the gas storage area

GREG LARSON – That gas storage is an existing lease that was done before this decision that is being analyzed again.

**8:48 – Briefing on Transwest – Sharon Knowlton** – See slides

JOHN POTTER – Question about town of origin in Wyoming – Is this basically creating energy in Wyoming and transmitting to Las Vegas

SHARON KNOWLTON- yes

SHARON KNOWLTON – Agency preferred is similar to red line on slide (Agency Preferred)

SHARON KNOWLTON – Transmission lines can be up to 250 feet from existing above ground transmission lines. Red marks are not colocation.

SHARON KNOWLTON – Here is a summary of comments

SHARON KNOWLTON – Colorado is in Region 1 for comments

JOHN JUSTMAN – does this produce continuous power all the time?

SHARON KNOWLTON – I'm not an engineer – there is a wind farm at the origin location of the powerline. There is steady wind in Wyoming

Joe Meyer- 30% is the expected production

Luke Schafer – why is the project not following corridor NGO's want to see

SHARON KNOWLTON – Strong comments from cooperating counties when the power lines don't benefit the county they are crossing and where there would be many private landowners complaining about the line crossing their properties, they want the power lines to go across public land. Moffat county has indicated they prefer a route that follows public land.

Luke Schafer – I'm looking at the impacts to greater sage grouse. Linear disturbance features have impacts. Can we expect to see mitigation on private and public lands for sage grouse habitat?

SHARON KNOWLTON – yes. We are cooperators with USFW and we are having the applicant identify compensatory mitigation. We understand that the mitigation to damages to habitat need to mitigate disturbances in Colorado.

We have matrix – that will help managers analyze net benefit vs. habitat damage

SHARON KNOWLTON-Some colocation in ...

Luke Schafer – I don't understand why we are doing this – this doesn't do Colorado any benefit

SHARON KNOWLTON – We tried to avoid Colorado on this project but it was claimed there were some geological weaknesses near the WY-UT border.

WES MCSTAY- Try harder – if this doesn't benefit Colorado, then keep it in Wyoming and Utah.

WES MCSTAY – aren't there other transmission lines going west from Wyoming?

SHARON KNOWLTON – yes, they go over mountain chains further north.

KENT WALTER-We did consider routes that did miss Colorado. They were considered but withdrawn

SHARON KNOWLTON – The Wyoming State Director is the lead and will sign off on the project. However, the Colorado management will make the decision for final.

KENT WALTER – you can see why the preferred alternative was selected with the challenges. It does collocate with some other corridors in the WRFO. The company was able to address the concerns

WES MCSTAY – we need a Thomson Divide coalition for Moffat County

JOHN POTTER-Can you give examples of sage grouse mitigation

SHARON KNOWLTON- types of tower designs, perch diverters, nesting preventers.

WES MCSTAY- some of your maps show potential grounding sites

SHARON KNOWLTON- they [grounding sites] are now in Wyoming, Utah, and Nevada

JOHN POTTER- I presume they will not erect wind farms without this approval

SHARON KNOWLTON-this is a separate project. There are other energy sources in Wyoming that can carry energy on this corridor. Wyoming doesn't have existing power infrastructure to sell that power otherwise.

Wendy Reynolds-I understand you have a tough decision. We wanted the HWY 13 corridor. We don't always have the benefit to understand the background. We have a lot of internal disagreement internally.

WES MCSTAY- this is actually Thomson Creek Divide in reverse where you have wealthy people that are posing something on less wealth others.

SHARON KNOWLTON – It's been a complex process. There is a no place to put the power line that has no impact.

WES MCSTAY- this is Thomson Creek in reverse

Barbara Vasquez – Can you walk through NGO supporters and go through their preferred route?

SHARON KNOWLTON – The existing collocation of the routes. Problem for the county (Moffat), there are private land owners don't wish any more transmission lines across their land

JOHN JUSTMAN – who is paying for this

SHARON KNOWLTON-applicant will pay. WAPA could own up to half. BLM would collect ROW fees.

Joe Neuhoff - Do you have a map that shows land designation

Lanny Weddle – I talked to Jeff Comstock yesterday, the Moffat County representative. This is my interpretation of that meeting. Moffat County agrees with the preferred route, we [Moffat County] don't want it going down HWY 13.

WES MCSTAY- We needed to try harder for this to avoid Colorado

SHARON KNOWLTON –we did try

WES MCSTAY- I don't think you tried hard enough.

SHARON KNOWLTON – let me show different types of structures that can transmit DC lines

WES MCSTAY-seems like structures with guide wires would be worse on birds

SHARON KNOWLTON – it is

Carl Conner- I'm wondering if the wind is only going to give 30% of power then what other methods?

SHARON KNOWLTON- Gas

Wendy Reynolds- we had the same concerns as you Wes. We're determined that guide wire structures are only used on a very limited basis

SHARON KNOWLTON- we are encouraging the proponent to meet with the affected field offices.

Tom Latham- Is there a projected date

SHARON KNOWLTON- ROD is expected this fall. There are about a list of 40 to 50 things that have to happen before the company can proceed. I.e. Air quality, tower type notice to proceed, etc. That process of fulfilling all notice to proceed can take a while

Luke Schafer-Are they going to have to do cultural resources survey for each surface disturbance?

SHARON KNOWLTON-yes

Luke Schafer-would they have to do preconstruction analysis,

SHARON KNOWLTON-yes

Barbara Vasquez- will they have to pay rent if WAPA joins?

SHARON KNOWLTON-the proponent will have to pay rent

Barbara Vasquez-can we get a list of what they are paying on private vs public land

SHARON KNOWLTON- yes

Barbara Vasquez – do private lands receive more \$

SHARON KNOWLTON-Yes

Barbara Vasquez-could that affect the project

SHARON KNOWLTON- yes

WES MCSTAY – what about imminent domain

SHARON KNOWLTON- There is no right to imminent domain because this is a private energy company. With the joining of WAPA they could exercise imminent domain.

Lanny Weddle – During conversation with Jeff Comstock, I thought he said the proponent would be one of the largest tax payers in the county.

Luke Schafer – we're going to get nothing out of it

Lanny Weddle – he said it would be the largest

Luke Schafer- I specifically asked the company. We've had this discussion with everyone.

WES MCSTAY-there is nothing in it for Colorado

SHARON KNOWLTON- The applicant explained that it would be too expensive to sell the power where it crosses.

**9:48 - break**

**10 a.m. – Public comment period**

**Bill deVergie – Colorado Parks and Wildlife – Area Wildlife Manager out of Meeker** – The Transwest presentation includes area of power line ROW. Our main

concern is a large impact of adding potentially 3 new power lines. We wanted to see this stay in Wyoming. We're looking at the sage grouse possibly being listed. We have conservation easements like Tuttle Easements which is 15000 acres and a neighboring easement (Crooked Wash at 9k acres). We have the Cross Mountain easement at 12,000 acres as well as the nearby 6k acre Bitter Brush SWA. These conservation easements protect a large block of land. CPW spent approximately \$10,000 plus on all of this land protection and the USFWS added \$500,000 to the Tuttle easement which adds a federal component to this process. We're concerned about the diminished value of these easements. With this preferred route, we might have to look at legal options. We're trying to work with willing land owners for conservation easements and this puts us in a bad place where we try to get a conservation easement. NPS is also involved as one of the routes crosses the NPS near Dinosaur National Park.

We could see places where land owners get easement and now have tax ramifications because this route diminishes the value of their conservation easement. The landowner of the Tuttle Easement, (the Tuttles) does not want this power line to come through their property and wanted it to stay north of Hwy 40. We would prefer to see it go down HWY 13.

See CPW Supporting information

**Michael Warren of CPW** - We have been working since 2011 to get this moved out of Colorado. We are on the record of opposing the line going across the Tuttle Easement. We've objected to the preferred alternative numerous times including, Scoping and Draft. We've been accommodating in any way we can yet this project is still going across our Tuttle Easement. We've provided solutions. We have a statutory responsibility to manage wildlife in Colorado and legal responsibility to fight this. We've been disappointed that we haven't gotten the cooperation as a cooperator. We have strived for compromise.

**Alex Dave- Assistant Director, Renewable Energy - Wilderness Society** - Thank you, RAC, for letting me address the group. We've been engaged with the BLM on mitigating the problems with the Transwest project. What is the BLM going to do to address these concerns? The BLM could follow the HWY 13 area or go through public lands where they are going to be required to do mitigation. All of the impacts are going to be on public lands, then the mitigation needs to be on public lands. You should be adding administrative protections on other lands with similar goals. We think there is an opportunity to do right. A similar New Mexico project buried some of the lines. What happens next? We encourage you to take the opportunity in the final EIS to address these important issues.

**Soren Jespersen Wilderness Society.** Commenting on the Transwest presentation Instead of following existing corridors, this Transwest project is going to come across Little Snake River. It's surrounded by roadless BLM lands. The valley is confined by 7 mile of river and Cadiva Rim. Cadiva Rim is a highly promoted iconic

area and the project is going to go across Cadiva Rim. This is the Little Snake River habitat. GMU 2, has a 67% elk harvest success rate. This area is highly valued for wildlife habitat. I encourage the RAC to learn more about this project.

**David Ludlam** – Energy Minister from Lithuania will be visiting and I encourage RAC members to visit with him and understand how gas impacts our future. The 65 lease cancellation is why our agency objects to the USFS plan. For us, we believe these things are connected. Most of these decisions are made at the Washington Office. We have the BLM Colorado State Director having to get permission to even talk to producers. The people in this room are being run over by the WO who are political appointees. For the RAC, you need to be concerned with how these decisions being made. We believe that if the political appointees in WO were not influencing local decisions we could come up with better decisions. The 65 leases - It is single handedly the most disconcerting issue we deal with as an industry.

**Zane Kessler** – Executive Director for Thompson Divide. We all know this is a hot topic. I'd like to clarify that the coalition is not taking a position on Mesa and Rio Blanco County. We disagree with oil and gas company's review. The White River NF is the most heavily recreated NF in the nation. Big game license are significant part of our local economy. Local cattlemen's association is agreeing on this. It isn't often that Garfield and Pitkin County agree. We have worked our tails off to work with our elected officials. We want them to understand who is standing behind our actions. We want to work with industry to develop market based decisions. We would like you to meet and visit with our local ranchers and representatives.

### **10:28- Vegetation Treatment for Mule Deer in Colorado River Valley Field Office – Sylvia Ringer – See slides**

Sylvia Ringer - Everyone really loves fuzzy creatures regardless if is to just watch or to shoot them and eat them.

SYLVIA RINGER- examples of habitat loss associated with O&G production.

Avoidance

Surface structures

Noise

Habitat fragmentation

Some of the new thoughts for best practices are clustered development. This helps avoid fragmentation.

Sylvia Ringer - WPX does a great job with mitigation.

KENT WALTER: how long did it take to get regeneration after burning?

SYLVIA RINGER- a few years.

BARBARA VASQUEZ-what do you use for cheat grass removal?

SYLVIA RINGER-various sprays used two years in a row then seed. Landmark works great because it doesn't impact native species.

SYLVIA RINGER-WPX implements their own projects which has been very effective

Lanny Weddle – WPX is what?

SYLVIA RINGER- one of our larger O&G operators

BARBARA VASQUEZ- do you require seeding with specific native species?

SYLVIA RINGER- yes but... that can be site specific

SYLVIA RINGER- we never have a forced deferral for grazing

Carl Conner– I've been told Piceance deer population is significantly down. Are the population decreases due to energy development, home development,... what is going on in the Piceance? Is there a parasitic organism? The biggest problem I see is HWY 70 dividing populations. What can BLM do to aid in deer migration? I seriously object to PJ cutting. I can't see any purpose in it.

SYLVIA RINGER- state wide populations are declining. As to the reason why, depends on who you talk to. All disruptions to wildlife, predators, I don't think we know. The draught couldn't be good for them. As for the I70, there are a few underpasses and overpasses, I don't think the BLM would be the one to implement something like that.

CPW- Michael Warren– Public safety is the reason for the fences. Depending on where you are, there is little to no North-South movement

SYLVIA RINGER-When I go after PJ, I only go after trees 8 inches in diameter or smaller so I'm only taking out trees that are young 30yrs or less. I agree the PJ is very important. Just going after young trees

Carl Conner-chaining was not effective at all. I've been cleaning some of those areas  
Luke Schafer-when we're looking at mitigation projects in the contexts of grouse, sharp tail grouse. Trend towards guzzlers, are we not creating more predator vectors?

SYLVIA RINGER-I know that vertical structures are vector

Luke Schafer – limiting water, because when we bring in guzzlers, we extend the range of fox and coyote. Also, How is soil saving and seed banking being used for reclamation.

SYLVIA RINGER- we are doing this

Joe- We try to prescribe a performance measure rather than a technique

STACY BEAUGH- how do you prioritize where to do your treatments and what treatments to use?

SYLVIA RINGER-firefighters take GPS and map concern areas

STACY BEAUGH- is it mainly mule deer and elk as priority

SYLVIA RINGER- Timing limitations money is used for deer and elk because that is the reason for the timing limitations

Carl Conner- Do you track the number of acres taken out for PJ?

SYLVIA RINGER- We use a new data base that tracks rehabilitation nationwide.

KENT WALTER-we use a data management system that collects information from all land treatments.

Lanny Weddle-The deer population has been in decline for at least 20 years in North Park. We also have a decline in people. The current O&G boom started about 5 years ago. The decline happened well before.

SYLVIA RINGER- If we had too many of the linear disturbances it could be bad.

Barbara Vasquez– We have deer that leave in the winter even with good winter habitat and nobody understands why

Lanny Weddle – I have the answer, vehicular accidents

JOHN JUSTMAN- 25 years ago, I saw my first deer on my farm. It seemed to peak @ the 2000s. In the last few years, deer numbers seem to be in decline. The deer hang out in my yard and in my shed. I've often worried if it gives them opportunity for less predators.

SYLVIA RINGER-We're trying to figure out what it is. Bear populations are up.

Tom Latham-I've yet to see any wildlife that don't appreciate a re-vegetated oil pad

Wes McStay- is there any forage analysis over long periods of time?

SYLVIA RINGER- yes, I've seen some results. Range wide we do monitoring. I think a lot of areas, things have improved.

Wes McStay- I think it comes back to nutrition

Luke Schafer- Historically, we had better plant diversity. Treatments have contributed to monocultures.

**SYLVIA RINGER- Ends 11:10**

**11:10 – SubRAC Update – See documents**

KENT WALTER- We requested the RAC help us form a sub group. As part of that process, you requested some things from us. You wanted us to identify subgroup members and you also asked us to fully document roles and responsibilities and we have done both. I know that we have disturbed documentation through Chris. A couple of things I want to mention. CRV gave us some of the framework. The information we got back on emails, we used to enhance our final version. The purpose of my meeting today is to get a decision from the group. We have training planned March 18 and 19 at the WRFO and with the approval of the subgroup, we would meet with them prior to the meeting in the March.

We want to look at the roles and responsibilities first.

- Any recommendations must come through the RAC.
- How decision making works
- What if the participants are being effective and / or participatory
- Don't get compensated for travel
- How we expect to use the subgroup
  - o We have a 3 prong strategy
  - o Inventory – we don't see us drilling too far into this inventory
  - o Route-by-route implementation
- We want them focused on the planning level rather than the rout-by-route designations
- Identified the members
- Roles and responsibilities of the subgroup
- Roles and responsibilities of the RAC liaisons
- What are the roles and responsibilities of the BLM
  - o Technical assistance by BLM
  - o Record keeping – how done



o Public open process

This was our attempt to solve those questions from the RAC. Are there any questions about this document?

We just want to be clear on all this.

Kai is the liaison and John is the alternate.

We want this to be a solid subRAC

Barbara – I think you’ve satisfied the concerns of the RAC

Kent – So let me go forward with the actual individuals.

We don’t have any representatives from Category 3. I think we hit on this with our cooperative agencies and tribal consultation, so I think we accomplished this.

We have 13 individuals we identified. We have contacted each individual and asked them about their interest. We explained all the responsibilities. All individuals have said yes.

KENT WALTER- some brought up concerns that nobody from hiking association but we feel there are others that can meet that requirement

Barbara- you said you don’t have anyone for archaeology.

Luke Schafer-I don’t know if there any associations in Rio Blanco County

KENT WALTER- we think we can meet the archaeology requirement through our cooperators.

KENT WALTER- we have some sites that aren’t released to the general public, we think we can handle the archaeology requirement without a representative on the subRAC from archaeology.

KENT WALTER- we have invited our cooperators to our March orientation meeting.

Barbara Vasquez– I think we are ready to vote on it.

Vote – Roles and Responsibilities All agree

Vote – Names All agree

KENT WALTER- I’m really embracing an opportunity to do it right this time.

Barbara – Is there anyone with other business they want to discuss before lunch?–  
None

**11:30 - Break for lunch**

**12:37 – Meeting called back to order**

**12:37 p.m. – BLM land sales and land exchanges – Steve Craddock**

See slides

STEVE CRADDOCK- FLPMA allows us to do sales

KM-how do you appraise value of minerals?

STEVE CRADDOCK-We can’t sell land that hasn’t been identified for disposal unless it is noted in RMP. Land has to be identified for disposal through RMPA

WENDY REYNOLDS-Can you explain trespass. Some trespass issues are on federal land and we must try to cure them. One of the tools we try to do is try to sell the

property to the land owner. The objective is to not encourage trespass to acquire the land

STEVE CRADDOCK-inadvertent unauthorized use is more accurately the title of when someone is using federal land ie. Built project. One of the things you see is an error in surveying from using the wrong monuments. In that case, it is of no fault of their own, and we try to resolve this by some sort of method. In unintentional, inadvertent unauthorized use, we can use many different conveyance methods.

WENDY REYNOLDS-The BLM was able to acquire Emerald Mountain by exchanging several small parcels. We used the Assembled land exchange to make this happen.

Luke Schafer- can you give me an example of access easements?

STEVE CRADDOCK-If we have land locked BLM managed lands. If we can get a land owner to grant access to a land locked BLM managed land, we can pay for that access

Luke Schafer- does the RMP have to say this?

Katie Stevens-we identified in our RMP that we would try to make these happen

Carl- is the conservation more a block situation

STEVE CRADDOCK-yes, it is more of a landscape where access is done on the absolute minimum

STEVE CRADDOCK-we can condemn land only in an event where we need access for fire protection

Joe Meyer-Conservation easements are designed to gain easement, it's to keep land in a state

STEVE CRADDOCK-When we acquire land, the only land we have is LWCF. This is only allowed for inholding or edge holding for special designated areas.

WES MCSTAY- I own isolated parcels surrounded by BLM.

STEVE CRADDOCK- you don't have legal access to the land unless there is a ROW. Is it considered casual use, etc that will determine disposition of land

WES MCSTAY – NRCS will not put any money into a conservation easement without legal access. So is one branch of government going to limit access to another branch of govt.

KENT WALTER- that does happen. A title 5 ROW would correct this.

JOHN JUSTMAN- I have a question about RS2477

STEVE CRADDOCK-There has to be a history of use.

WENDY REYNOLDS we aren't entertaining any RS2477 that has to go through the courts

STEVE CRADDOCK- Correct, we don't make this designation.

KM- is this the first time LWCF is being reauthorized?

STEVE CRADDOCK-it comes up for reauthorization every 50 yrs.

STEVE CRADDOCK-Sarvis Creek was purchased by hunter angler (now sportsmans fund) programs

Barabara Vasquez- Does this include wildlife sighting or just hunting and fishing, that is, "taking"

STEVE CRADDOCK-perhaps that is why name was changed.

STEVE CRADDOCK- BLM is the least funded by LWCF – FS is highest funded

STEVE CRADDOCK-4 acquisitions this year

Canyons of the ancients (listed both for done and to be done acquisitions...is this right?)

Sarvis Creek paid with Hunter/Angler Access

STEVE CRADDOCK – upcoming acquisitions

Canyons of the ancients

Blanca Wetlands ACEC/SRMA

STEVE CRADDOCK-LWCF really likes to fund “projects” Once you get funding, it is easier to continue funding. “they want to see, have we had other acquisitions in that area”

Joe Meyer-We (in Wyoming) were trying to get things going on North Platte river.

We started getting things going with a conservation easement.

STEVE CRADDOCK-if the long term plan is for the federal agency is to own property, we should not get an easement first.

KS-we’ve had some challenges with this in GJFO because of conservation easements already established.

STEVE CRADDOCK-it doesn’t mean we can’t purchase it, it just may make it take a bit longer

Luke Schafer-why?

STEVE CRADDOCK-the things that make it harder for us

Jurisdiction

Conservation Holder control

Stacey-is there data on how LWCF is distributed across states?

STEVE CRADDOCK: Not historically. Depends on when a state gets a lot of money for a long time – that counts against that state in the future. Success of program depends on political support, political support depends on whether each state is getting fair share. President proposes budget, Congress alters or approves it.

BARBARA VASQUEZ- can you give me any Not-for-profits that have received MLR?

STEVE CRADDOCK- not aware of any in Colorado – I can’t give you an example

STEVE CRADDOCK-one of our core issues is to provide access to land however, we couldn’t purchase land with this

STEVE CRADDOCK- FLTFA – it allows us to sell public lands in Colorado.

Automatically, leaves funds in Colorado. 4% of money goes to state from any sell.

STEVE CRADDOCK- FLTFA- allows us to make quick actions when it comes to land purchase

STEVE CRADDOCK- R&PP – We can do leases under this. We can do direct sells – this usually applies to governments and not-for profits. These are recreation use areas, public purpose areas (airport, hospital, fire dept.). What is excluded is any qualified entity that has a net profit. Ie. Solar energy plant used to power a baseball field is fine... If solar energy plant wants to sell the excess energy, then they are excluded from consideration.

BARBARA VASQUEZ-How does BLM decide between sale and/or other perhaps higher value uses?

STEVE CRADDOCK- R&PP isn’t related to wildlife, open space, habitat, etc. If a city wants to develop a bike trail, then that is OK only if we don’t have the resources to

make this. There must be a development plan and funding identified before we will issue an R&PP release.

Joe Meyer- if another agency comes to us and it is on sage grouse habitat then we would say no

Joe Meyer – Example of this is the shooting range we transferred in North Park.

STEVE CRADDOCK- now we don't do this for shooting ranges, waste facility. We are not authorizing anything that will create a hazardous condition upon the land.

Anything that is going to make a lasting impact on the land. Under R&PP, we have development clauses. Failure to develop as proposed use, letting an unqualified user, use the land, etc are all ways to revert this back to the US Govt.

Luke Schafer-Do these have to go through a NEPA process?

STEVE CRADDOCK-yes, it has to go through some sort of NEPA process

JOHN JUSTMAN- I know Mcinnis canyons had private land. That came off of tax .

STEVE CRADDOCK-yes, but it is paid back to county in PILT

JOHN JUSTMAN-is this payment always added in PILT

STEVE CRADDOCK- yes

WES MCSTAY-who surveys

STEVE CRADDOCK- has to be cadastral

KS has to meet cadastral standards

WENDY REYNOLDS- we have a cadastral survey person that can talk to you about it  
Wes

Lanny Weddle-When Jackson County started to talk to Kremmling about the shooting range as an R&PP. We were told federal gov't couldn't transfer contaminated land. If we proceeded, it had to be cleaned up. I may be oversimplifying this, but this guy showed up with a belly dump and collected the soil.

STEVE CRADDOCK- yes we can sell contaminated land under certain conditions if the receiving party was already managing the area when it was contaminated

### **STEVE CRADDOCK- presentation concludes at 1:58**

### **2:00 Public Comment Period**

Meghan Crawford – Came here as an adopter of wild horses. I can't tell you how happy I am to be in a state with wild horses. I know there is talk of gather and PZP on horses. Just as a member of the public. PZP tends to be a good thing. I think people want to see the horses remain in the wild. The PZP mass use has a down side. Some horses may not be able to contribute to the herd and let nature sort out the rest.

I think there are a lot of volunteers who would be willing and happy to participate in "that". There are people who know horses on site. If people know the horses then they probably could be the best ones to identify which ones need to be given fertility control.

There are some different programs that are getting horses adopted. The Canyon City prison facility.

I would like to say, of course the BLM has the multiple use mandate. Of course, they

apply to herd areas. Just keep in mind that the horses are out there and the public would like to see them out there. People in Colorado want to see horses in the wild.

## **2:10 DM and FM updates**

Joe Meyer- Gunnison Sage Grouse – a lot of stuff to weigh through. Gunnison and Greater Sage Grouse plans are not exactly the same.

Looking to have a draft out by June.

As for Greater Sage Grouse, we have responded to comments. We're looking at nearly 100 plans associated with this Greater Sage Grouse planning.

WENDY REYNOLDS – Working on travel management inventory – We're getting a lot of inventory done by interns. We love having them. We have about 2000 miles inventory. We overlaid our inventoried map with the county's RS2477 assertion. Surprisingly, they were very close. We were comparing our roads against the county's using our more timely inventory. We can't do all our management decisions with one decision.

BARBARA VASQUEZ- Would there be any way to get accurate data to answer the critics of PZP regarding long-term effects without doing darting wild horses?

WENDY REYNOLDS- We haven't done it long enough to know the cumulative effects

Lanny- The group that presented at the last RAC meeting said that there are mares that were treated with PZP that never got pregnant again. I know that some mares may only have one foal in their lifetime that have never had a PZP injection.

WENDY REYNOLDS- Some speculation of mares having foals in winter.

Lanny- do you have history of the mare?

WENDY REYNOLDS- She appears to be 2 years old

Lanny-sounds like good genetics

Joe- Very effective and extensive response with the Little Book Cliffs Herd

WENDY REYNOLDS- we have a population of around 550 in Sand Wash. We may have a very serious shortages in water and grass for this year.

Tom- you talked about the stallion chemical vasectomy

WENDY REYNOLDS-Until we had a verified proposal, the action couldn't go forward

WENDY REYNOLDS – Trophy shed hunting has started.

WENDY REYNOLDS- chasing game and off road riding has become a problem with lots of resource damage

Luke Schafer – CPW- just closed shed hunting in several counties to include Routt County & Grand County

Lanny Weddle- So you're saying they are closing areas?

Luke Schafer – no, they are closing shed hunting

Luke Schafer – Can you tell me about funding to hire OHV ranger

Joe Meyer-we didn't receive the OHV funding

Joe Meyer- I want to say thank you to Karl for doing such a good job with Steve's retirement

John Monkouski- I'm presenting for Stephanie for Kremmling –  
We had a request to update the RAC with any plans for a fee proposal for the N Sand Hills in Jackson County. We're hoping to do a field trip there for the June RAC meetings since most of the RAC membership has changed since the last opportunity to visit. We are working on a proposal for fees and hope to discuss it with the Jackson County Commissioners soon.  
See attached pictures – this is about 600 cfs

Lanny Weddle – When do you think you'll present to Jackson County about the fee proposal for North Sand Hills.

Joe Meyer – we're working on that now.

John Monkouski - We also had a request to comment on the riparian setbacks in the KFO RMP/North Park MLP.

Luke Schafer- It's not just the absolute value of the setback (350ft) but also the wording that allows for 'averaging'.

Barbara Vasquez- John, can you please explain how that 'averaging' will be implemented and how the setback stipulations in the KFO documents compare to stipulations in adjacent offices in the NW District?

John Monkouski - I can't, but I'll get you an answer and have it included in the meeting minutes.

Joe Meyer – The issue is different plans will look at setback stipulations as plan amendments and some as maintenance documents.

Luke Schafer-the problem I had with the Kremmling office was averaging these feet. Some were close to riparian areas and others further away

Tom Latham- Are the beetles still moving alive and well?

Joe Meyer- they have essentially eaten themselves out of house and home

Joe Meyer- a lot of catchup with not getting OHV grant

KENT WALTER- scheduled to have RMPA out end of March

We continue to work on analysis of horse gather

Not too early to talk about fire season

Katie Stevens- we're hoping to get approval to print GJFO RMP and DENCA RMP

JOHN JUSTMAN – the new Fruita mayor says that Fruita doesn't have enough bike trails.

2:50 p.m. Next meeting agenda items

SO present on Stipulations

KENT WALTER give presentation on the RMPA – 1 hr

Update on both EIS'

Update on Sage Grouse plans-

Lanny Weddle – like to have a presentation on wind energy

- o Environmental impacts
- o Socio economic impacts
- o Net energy for production

JOHN JUSTMAN – I would like to know the impacts of infrastructure for generators  
Luke Schafer – Gary Miller from Transwest would be a good person to present on  
this

Joe-had experience with it in Wyoming but was on private

BARBARA VASQUEZ – would like an update on Transwest as well as the other two  
routes in planning

KENT WALTER – the ROD is scheduled to be out March 23 so perhaps it will be out  
then.

WENDY REYNOLDS – We just got a request for special use permit to film a new  
reality show for shed hunting

Stacy Beough – suggest Gateway as a good field trip for Dec RAC – see if we can have  
both NW and SW RAC field trip

3:04 p.m. Adjourn