

8:05 Meeting called to order by Dean Riggs

Introductions

Expiring RAC members recognized with a paperweight

8:17 – Dan Haas Briefing Section 106 and 110 – see attached

Dan - We have no long term interest to private property. The private property owner has ownership of historic sites on their private property. If we are doing something on private property, our actions must be consistent with Section 110.

Stephanie – Do tribes have to get some sort of Special Use Permit to do some type of ritual? Ie. Do we have to do NEPA, tribal consultation, or Special Use Permit for their use?

Dan Haas – No unless it is something large that requires disruption of use for others. Only one situation in Colorado is different in that there is an agreement for a historic yearly hunt in southern Colorado.

9:15 – Presentation ends

Barbara – sounds like you’ve had to become a lawyer. Based on your earlier framing. You focused on undertaking and development. What does your office do to protect archaeological assets not in the way of development?

Dan – Section 110 provides statute to handle vandalism criminally. With few LEO covering all these lands, the cases you hear about are big sting type operations. We have a lot of small incidents that don’t make the news in the terms of folks collecting. Theft of gov’t property covers some of the things not covered under 110.

We’ve had reports of a family digging up RR spikes on a historical site. We have site stewards that watch sites and record theft for law enforcement.

Barbara – all of these rules apply to fed service, but if you have a property on private land that gets federal funding doesn’t this apply?

Dan – yes. As long as there is federal involvement, 110 covers. Split estate is an example of where BLM has a role in historical preservation.

There’s a belief that if we record these historic sites when there is split estate, the owners of the private surface often think that gathering this information will interfere with their future use.

Katie – there are some ways to mitigate some of those problems.

Dan – yes there are ways for us to accommodate. It is common on the front range where there is mitigation. Ie. We can’t survey on private land, we have the companies survey on federal land as mitigation. We don’t have an efficient way to “bank” money for cultural assessment. So, we can mitigate this by having cultural assessment on federal land.

Carl – all the groups you have to consult with, but the fact is its really a decision by the BLM.

Dan – it all boils down to a reasonable and good faith effort. Consultation in the act says, “where feasible, seek agreement.”

9:23 – Kim Kintz – See presentation.

Kent – we wanted to get a presentation from someone outside of gov't

10:00 – no public in attendance – presentation continued

10:15 – presentation over

Carl – you've gone through a lot of information. I think one of the most important thing is defining what is and what is not important. I know Dann has been struggling with the linear features. Not always easy to understand what is and what is not important. I really do feel we need to get down to what is important. We've been recording pop cans, un named ditches that changes locations every so often. The linear features are challenging. The paperwork documentation is complex. Redundant documentation is burdensome. Dealing with powerlines. Complete insanity.

Barbara – you were talking about historical preservation act. What do you mean by integrity.

Kim – Integrity refers to how much is in tact, intact nature of location, material, integrity of location, etc.

Sometimes, you don't know where the whole site is located. If it has integrity to provide information about the historical use, it probably has enough integrity for preservation

Carl – testing causes some challenges

Kim – Some states, testing is taken off the table.

10: 20 – Break

10:35 – Meeting called back to order

10:35 – discuss GJ airport project – Ref: slides

Project with GJ field office. Potential land transfer and right-of-way authorization

Close to a decision

Katie – Explains some of the reasons for why the project has lingered for so long. – See slides.

Dean – is the new runway the hashed line?

Katie, The new runway will extend further in a NW direction. Existing will be used for taxiway

Katie – we've gotten the total acreage down considerably so the public isn't losing over 2 thousand acres.

Katie – DOT has a requirement to mitigate any loss of recreation lands

Katie – explaining what is the mitigation for this. There is a lot of dumping and we think of this as the broken window effect. We believe by partnering with the airport we can make some positive changes for the user groups.

Barbara – is it going to require clean up

Katie – no, but the improvements will likely make it a nicer area and there by decrease dumping and help people take care of it.

John Justman – That area has been a recreation area for a long time. We've been having a debate about the Leach Creek project.

Katie – interest in working more with National Guard on Innovative Readiness Training

John Justman – We have concerns about water coming off public land ref: detention ponds. There could be another flood. We feel the BLM has a responsibility to build the infrastructure

Katie – there are some really small plants out there.

Dean – in terms of timing when do you believe it will happen

Katie – difficult to say. We're moving it along as fast as we can. There are a lot of federal agencies involved.

Erin Jones – they have to get funding. Funding will have an impact.

10:55 – presentation ends.

10:56 - Steph – Presentation begins – see presentation

Dave Grisso – what are your flows

Steph – around 600 – 700 cfs

Barb – what kind of signing

Steph – we have several signs.

Kent – flow?

Steph – there is a minimum flow we must protect.

Kent – I don't understand

Steph – they have to maintain a certain flow to keep the recreation value usable. That is why we have water rights. The rights keep the recreation value.

We're seeing a lot of people wanting more volume and that isn't possible. We must have a flat river portion, this is a diversion.

Barb – was it a preexisting water right?

Steph – no, the county applied for it for this specific feature.

Lenny – how deep are the fish passages

Steph – about 10 feet – 4ft square

Joe – I think we got consistency letters from every governor's office regarding the Greater Sage Grouse plans. The agency is working through those concerns. We're responding. Then the governors could file an appeal.

We're getting to the final days.

We're also getting close to releasing the ROD's released for WRFO and GJ

We expect those very soon. They're time consuming but important

Dean – as a cooperator... considering there are many plans going on at the same time, its so important for cooperators to help in the process. We have staff that does nothing else but respond to plans. Seems like there has got to be a better way.

Joe – we have to give credit on Washington

Wes – a year ago in May, BLM was taking public comment on how to streamline planning

Joe – Planning 2.0 is a result of that feedback and is what we're using on the front range

That was the hope and why we were getting that feedback.

Stacy – the national native seed strategy just came out. I was wondering if we could give an update.

Joe – I don't think I can give you an update on this. The idea is that there is a lot of effort to get lands restored to native vegetation populations. We've had trouble getting local seed that works locally. The strategy is to get local adapted species.

Barb – Is planning 2.0 published

Joe – yes

John – this is close as I've ever worked on one of these things. Its far too bureaucratic. This is a very difficult process for the public. Its way too difficult.

Joe – I agree that the citizen can't understand the document
I think we've been working on the document and hoping

John – we asked the public to help us address roads and it didn't work

Joe – We've been working on this for 8 years. WE need people involved well before the decision is made.

John – yes, that is when they are upset

Joe – User groups have helped us get meaningful comments.

Dean – it is very similar for CPW

Barb – I think that is where a sub RAC can help

Wendy – I'm going to put these rocks out for view. Would like for you to guess what they are.

11:30 – Break for Lunch

1:08 – Erin Jones – RMP Next steps – implementing the records of decision – see power point

Barbara – is there an anticipation that under Planning 2.0, do you think you'll have to update less?

Erin – yes

Joe – you'll see implementation measures under Planning 2.0

We got partners in as part of this discussion

Dean – So does this mean individual specialists will be involved in monitoring.

Erin – The great thing about making this switch from planning to implementation is now we get to do something other than just plan

Kent – we may id in this process that we don't have enough specialists to do the work

Erin – this will facilitate capacity discussions

Katie – we're already trying to schedule our work around cooperating agencies and partners

1:37 – Erin concludes presentation

Luke – this is a great outreach tool to keep the public engaged. I could even see this as an opportunity for the BLM to draw from for volunteers.

Wes – I'm not swift on the Internet, how can I get a copy of this?

Heather – we're revising our handbook and we're going to have it out to the public really soon.

Karl – Is it something that would interest this group to present our recent plans?

Lanny – we need to keep it to 30 minutes.

Karl – yeah we're thinking we could do that.

Barbara – seems like this could help you understand where your log jams could be.

Dean – this is good to see. I would hate to go through eight years of planning for this to go on the shelf

Katie – the good thing also is that the general public can see everything that is on our plate.

Dean – seems this is going to be tied to budget process.

2:48 – Manager updates

Wendy- So, did we figure out what the stones were? We've discovered a dinosaur bone. These were all around the area. They're dinosaur gizzard stones. Dinosaur ate the rocks to aid in digestion.

Wendy explained about dinosaur bones found in the field office. One is in the middle of a road that was about to be excavated.

Dave – how did you discover these.

Wendy - They were reported to us. Very near confluence of Yampa and Little Snake.

Wendy Discuss dumping issue with Smith brothers. They had a history of dumping on public land. Excavating, dumping, and covering up.

We asked that they cease and desist but they continued to dump. They were arrested and a resolution was finally reached. It took a long time and we were able to recover over \$425,000 to repair and rehabilitate. They were also fined. This example is rippling through the community. Now people know there is a consequence. In order to adequately and safely clean up, it is very expensive.

They each had three attorneys but we were still able to prosecute.

We're still doing our travel management. We're starting our public scoping. We're probably going to do five different travel management plans. It is too massive. We're working really closely with Moffat county.

Where still darting PZP. We've seen some results. We're under about 48 foals. We've had about 70 foals and 10 foals did not make it. Count is approximately 600. I'm not optimistic that current methods will curb growth.

Transwest- We've had some real strong opposition to some of the routes. We've been able to work out some of the differences by bumping over in very sensitive sites.

We've had some really in depth conversations concerning raptors and visual impacts. Despite these impacts, some place are not conducive to power lines.

Ref: Section 8. That Section 8 process did take place and Wes McStay was asked to observe. Basically, we have a MOU that provides for a mechanism to work on allotment plans. In this case, the decision has nothing to do with allotment but feeding method.

Wendy – Difference between supplemental feeding and maintenance feeding. Supplemental feeding is for mineral or some other additive for cows. Maintenance feeding is not allowed because it allows you to graze more animals on the same area.

Wes – this is difficult

Lanny – for clarification – your definition of maintenance feeding was putting out large amounts of hay

Luke- any word on Stafford?

Wendy – none

Tom – dumping question – when do you plan to start restoration.

Wendy – we require them pay the money up front.

Lanny – So will that material be removed.

2:00 public comment period.

Gary Moyer

Chris Golwish

White River Conservation District –

We're here to discuss wild horse issue. We want to emphasize our strong interest in the removal of removing horses from West Douglas. We are in favor of wild horses. We're just as in favor of them being managed at an appropriate level. We are seeing horse numbers continue to grow. Because it isn't a correct place, the horses are going out onto private land. They're eating private resources.

We're asking the RAC to consider a resolution to officially remove horses from West Douglas.

They are created by

Regional and national policy in support of managing the horses appropriately. We know it is going to be a contentious issue.

Chris – Gary pretty much covered it all. On our behalf, we want to convey our support of the gather.

We also encourage the RAC to write a resolution in support

Dean - Just so you're aware, the RAC has supported the BLM on various resolutions. We have a long history of supporting those efforts.

Joe – we have strong support from the RAC for sound management of the range.

Gary – we're seeing major movements to depose this gather.

Karl – We've completed ur

Steph- we're glad to have the RMP done. We're hoping to be starting on implementation.

We have some new staffing additions. See update

We had a record setting weekend. We had some conflicts when we had a little over 2000 visitors. Up and down the river, there were lots of parties trying to share camp sites.

Kent – See FM Update

Kent – we just signed multiple decision records for size increase

Kent- we're working with Utah and Colorado on Sensitive plant species strategy. Tomorrow, I'm meeting in Utah, we're finalizing one of our implementation strategies.

Lanny – Is there any way we could vote on this?

Katie – Tularemia concerns in Mesa County.

Got a list of historic routes from PLAA. Those are routes that have to be brought before the court.

We did defer about 200 miles of routes.

We put 20 new campsites in N Fruita Desert. We estimate about \$1,000 revenue per campsite per year. We're shifting to online reservation for Ruby – Horse thief. Great coordination and collaboration with National Guard.

Carl – I was wondering if it would be an interest of this group to create a sub group to work on cultural resource issues.

Perhaps re-evaluate agreements with cooperators. I'm proposing to create a sub committee.

Dona – I have some questions about procedural

Luke- to clarify – would these people that would streamline consultation.

Carl – if a tribal member doesn't like cultural staff, it is difficult to get anything done. Ie. More negotiating power through a liaisons.

Kent – one thing I liked with Kim's presentation was the Wyoming example.

Dean – as the chair need to ask 1. Should we have the group 2. Who would like to be on the group

Barb- come to next RAC meeting with an explanation of what he wants and a list of things he'd want to accomplish.

Next meeting agenda –

Carl present on sub committee

See Heather planning 2.0

NCLS – over 30,000,000 – over 60 friends groups. Joe Neuhof Presenter (statewide meeting)

Greater Sage Grouse Erin Jones

Native Seed program

Alternative energy and BLM's role

Luke- economic impacts of BLM decisions

Wes – Cross mountain ranch acquisition

Wendy – yes it is open but foot traffic only.

Sarvis Creek – Hubbard - Sept 19 celebration

3:05 p.m. meeting adjourned.