

Colorado Northwest Resource Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Dec.1, 2011 Gateway Canyons Resort

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
Dave Grisso	Dan Davidson (absent)	Jeff Comstock
Tom Latham (absent)	Pat Kennedy	Dean Riggs
Steve Loshbaugh	Dona Shue	Kai Turner
Wes McStay	Steve Smith	Barbara Vasquez
John Potter	Terry Sweet	Lanny Weddle

BLM attendees: Dave Stout, Kent Walter, Karl Mendonca, Tim Wilson, Jim Cagney, Henry Eichman (USFS), Michelle Bailey, Catherine Robertson, Katie Stevens, Jerry Strahan, David Boyd

Public Attendess:

Kitty Benzar, Western Slope No Fee Coalition
Jason Wedemeyer, Colorado Environmental Coalition
Barbara Hawke, The Wilderness Society, Dolores River Coalition, SW RAC
Lee Gelatt, Western Colorado Congress
Brian Meinhart, Congressman Scott Tipton's Office
Sheri Cogley, Senator Michael Bennet's office
Bobby Evans, Fruita, CAA
Clark Rieves, Colorado Plateau Mountain Biking Trails Association

Called to order 8 a.m.

Introductions

Dean Riggs nominated and uniamously elected as Vice Chair, to replace Steve Gunderson who is no longer on the NWRAC.

Tamarisk Coalition – Cagney: Dolores River partnership has been phenomenal, would like to get the Northwest Partnership to the same level. Looking for support from the RAC and individuals on the RAC to support the NW Group. Local reps could help NW Rep (Season) meeting landowners and key players

Kai will draft resolution supporting efforts in NW Colorado and bring it to next meeting.

Scheduling next year's meeting:

Statewide meeting possible in March in Montrose

Comstock: Would like this RAC to send message to the State Office – We don't want a meeting that's a lot of FYI stuff. Need to provide legitimate advice to the State Director about statewide issues. Not like last time.

Cagney: I agree. But camping rule changes were a direct result of the meeting last year.

Smith: I also agree. It was great to meet members of other RACs, but I want more substantive work. It's definitely a meeting worth having, but we need a more substantive agenda.

Cagney: Will deliver that message to the State Office. We're looking at ½ day travel, then ½ day meeting. Full day, then another half day of meeting, then ½ day for travel home.

Barbara: need info before meeting to better advise

Lanny: Prefer Feb. meeting because it's calving season.

Others agree. This rac prefers Feb. 28-March 1 for a statewide RAC meeting.

Other meetings for 2012 scheduled as follows, with the first day being a field trip and the second day the actual meeting.

May 9, 10 in Silt. Field trip should be a rig tour with EnCana.

Aug 22-23 in Meeker. A field trip to the Piceance Basin to talk about the White River RMP Oil and Gas Amendment would be appropriate

Feb. 28-29 in Grand Junction

Fee proposals

Riggs: We need to be sure we have an executive summary of any proposals in addition to all the details posted on-line.

Michelle Bailey gives Powerpoint review of the RACs new role to approve fees under the Recreation Enhancement Act.

Michelle Bailey gives North Fruita Desert fee proposal Powerpoint.

Katie Stevens gives Ruby Horsethief fee proposal

Public comment:

David Ludlum, Western Slope COGA – Requesting 60-day extension on Colorado River Valley Draft RMP public comment period. The plan has large impact on our industry and local economy. We are requesting 60 days because of the holidays. Asking the NW RAC to support this request.

On another issue, unitization process should be done based on merits of request. It's not about whether there should be development in the area, not asking NWRAC to take a position on that or even specifically take action on the Lake Ridge Unitization proposal. Asking NW RAC to support our position on how unitization is decided – which is on the merit of request, not politics.

All of our companies concerned about leasing reform and the added time.

Comstock: What is your concern that you need extension?

Ludlum: Complexity of document. Need more time to go through it.

Clark Reeves, treasurer of COPMOBA. We support fee proposal for North Fruita Desert campground. Believe it will speed up trail development. Want to see as much of the funding go to trail development as possible.

Lee Gelatt – Western Colorado Congress. Our mission to protect and enhance environment in Western Colorado. Support development of clean alternative energy. Concerned about uranium mines being developed. BLM needs to have stipulations to protect areas. Old sites need to be cleaned up before new sites are approved. Accidents do happen, need to be aware of that. This area we are in today is in the area that has potential for uranium. It's the southern end of the area this RAC covers. You need to communicate with the SW RAC about this area – we don't want this area to get lost in no man's land.

Also part of the quiet trails group. Concerned about helicopter tours proposed in Gateway. BLM needs stipulations on any special recreation permits for this activity to protect quiet and remoteness of canyons in this area.

Kitty Benzar, Western Slope No Fee Coalition – I object to slide 7 in the Ruby Horsethief presentation. “Specialized recreation uses” is not the same thing as “use of special areas.” It's not the same as charging for any use of a special area. Ruby Horsethief is poster child for how fee proposal should be done with all the public involvement and process. But in the law there is not authority to charge this fee. Also, the business plan for this was not available until two weeks ago. Public comment does not reflect what was really proposed.

North Fruita shows loss of appropriated budget revenue of \$40,000 over next 3 three years. So this is definitely loss of appropriation budget.

Support letters were to support trash removal as part of the fee collection, but trash collection would not be provided for under this proposal. The biggest reason the RECRAC rejected this

proposal in 2009 is that once you start charging fees for something that was free, it will lead to people camping in other areas and causing more resource damage. That's still not addressed in this proposal.

Also, the North Fruita Desert public comment presented is not representative of the true feeling that's out there in the public. There's a lot of interest on-line. There's a lot of support for a voluntary donation system. It's worth a try. It was suggested when this was presented to the RECRAC in 2009, but it has not been done.

In summary, the North Fruita Desert proposal hasn't addressed displaced campers, doesn't address trash removal, and results in a loss of appropriated budget

Potter: Kitty makes a good point. Seems like it's because of trail construction.

Bailey: It would be new road construction within the camp area itself, from expanding the campground from what it is now.

Clark: COPMOBA has two well-signed donations spots on popular mountain biking trails in this field office. All we've gotten is about \$100 a year. Not significant.

Catherine: Want to clarify that what Clark mentions is not a donation to BLM, it's to COPMOBA. But that's 75,000 visitors at one site, 100,000 at another site, and only \$100 a year.

Comstock: What about the comment related to greater dispersed camping resulting from this fee?

Bailey: We are looking at that in our draft RMP. Bicycle emphasis area has only designated camping, so no dispersed camping is allowed. We have expanded area that is bicycle emphasis. Campground is close to the trails, structures, so that's where people want to camp.

Comstock: BLM is making assumption that use won't decrease as a result of fee.

Robertson: Everything is right there. Very large social affiliation at this area. People don't want to go off by themselves. Area is really unique. Feedback from users is: Why aren't you charging fees? But we will monitor use. RMP will allow us to address problems if they arise.

Riggs: Has there been research done about how much decrease you typically see once you start charging fees?

Bailey: I haven't found any. I really don't think we will see that here. We've talked to a lot of people about this.

Pat: When was business plan updated? What was updated?

Bailey: It is basically the same since 2008. We updated the years in spreadsheet since 2008.

Weddle: Will BLM further limit dispersed camping if there are problems?

Bailey: We would probably go to designated dispersed camping areas. We are already enforcing rules about dispersed camping. It's already an area where you must camp in designated areas.

Wes: What about the point about no trash collection?

Bailey: Campground host could do it during high use times.

Cagney: This is a concentrated area because it's right at the trailhead. We have to respond from a health and safety perspective. If we asked people in a coffee shop in Illinois if they should pay for this or if users should pay, they would say definitely the specific users should pay for that. That's what this fee does – allows users to pay.

Comstock: What about the concerns about red on budget sheet? \$40,000 decrease?

Bailey: We can't go into the red. These are improvements we would like to see. Need to phase in project work. Even with fees, we won't have enough. To do that work we would need to find additional sources. Can't go into the red.

Roberstson: Appropriated budget is going down. Already making very hard choices. Fees are a way for us to provide and improve services. Simply don't have that capacity in our budgets.

Kai: In the White River National Forest, management of campgrounds goes to lowest bidder. Seems like fees go up but services go down. Hate to see that on BLM. Is that a possibility here for BLM, that we could see something like that?

Bailey: No.

Weddle: I'm not ready to make a decision today.

Pat asks if anyone else is not ready. No response.

Dona: Moves that we support the fee increase as proposed for the North Fruita Desert.

Seconded.

Category 1: all 4 in attendance vote yes.

Category 2: all 5 members in attendance vote yes

Category 3: Lanny votes no. The other 3 members in attendance vote yes.

Motion carries.

Ruby Horsethief Fee Proposal Discussion

Barbara reads an e-mail from an outfitter in this area:

From: Adventure Bound River Expeditions <info@AdventureBoundUSA.com>
To: bv_99_munich@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2011 4:18 PM
Subject: McInnis Canyons NCA

Barbara- Thank you for taking the time to talk to me on the phone today. Here are the main views I hold concerning the new camp fees in the NCA:

- 1) I hope your group can agree on something, it is already quite late for Outfitters to present product to the marketplace. This area has starved for a quality experience, anything, even if it is flawed, needs to be put in place. The quality of the experience in this area has not meet most outfitter standards for presentation to the public for several years.
- 2) The sliding scale cost of different camps has it merits, but outfitters would prefer a per person charge for camping. It is hard to do business with this variable.
- 3) River Outfitters are concerned that these fees will be used for managing other 'users' in the NCA. Day river runners, mountain bikers, horseback riders, ATV users, hikers and others will be utilizing the backcountry patrols as well as river campers in the NCA. It is unfair for river campers to be the only ones paying a fee for just a reservation system. Rivers runners supply their own portable toilets, trash removal, fire ash removal and water.
- 4) Outfitters need to understand what camps will be available to them in 2012. This goes back to item #1. If this is going to go in place for 2012 it needs to be accomplished as soon as possible. It is still unknown how each outfitter will be assigned these very limited camps, it is very hard to do business like this.

Please feel free to call time in Grand Junction if you have any questions.

-Tom Kleinschnitz

Katie: Outfitters support \$7 per person. McInnis subgroup supports sliding scale as proposed.

Pat: The recreation planner who developed this worked hard to meet every ones' concerns. It was a painstaking process.

Potter: What about Kitty's concern on slide 7 about specialized recreation uses vs. use of special areas?

Katie: Significant differences of opinion on whether REA can be used here at Ruby Horsethief. Solicitors and staff at BLM believe it can be, and it has been in other areas as well.

Sweet: What is the availability for expansion of camping sites?

Katie: We have 28 sites, we are adding 7 more. Hearing interest in smaller sites. We have marked most of the sites that are available. New sites require archaeological clearance and crews to clear brush. Every new campsite requires significant resources.

Catherine: Process of mitigating cultural sites is very expensive.

Riggs: Boat launch owned by Parks and Wildlife. We have always been concerned that hunters and anglers can launch without fees. Signage and message is really important so that it's clear it's a camping fee, not an access fee.

Cagney: 20 miles stretch. Everybody wants to camp in the middle. Another issue is people are hoarding sites. Identifying and allocating sites in an organized manner. Need fee to put this together.

Kai: How are outfitters charged?

Katie: Outfitters pay the BLM 3 percent of gross revenues, which goes back to recreation program. That's part of their special recreation permit and different from this fee.

Kai: Can outfitters have designated spots?

Katie: We will have to develop a way of rotating between permitted and private use.

Tim: What type of reservation system are you looking at? Costs?

Katie: Costs of maintaining reservation system. Best at first to go by phone, then could perhaps go to on-line system.

Pat: I've been floating this area for about 15 years. Area is being loved to death. Immediacy that we do this now to protect this resource. Commercial boaters don't want anything to do with it right now but want to see it come back.

Potter: What about concern about "specialized use" that Kitty raised?

Katie: Gunnison Gorge is a local example

Cagney: Going on record that this is legal. Lots of precedence for charging fees.

Lanny: Also uncomfortable with voting now. Need more time.

Smith: We need to really do a detailed resolution on this. Need more detailed statement. Have draft already from when the NW RAC tasked me to draft a resolution in June. Reads draft resolution.

Comstock: Comfortable acting on what we just heard in the discussions about the fee proposal. Don't need additional info that's in this resolution. Concerned about statements about motorized use.

Smith: Not intended as an attack on motorized use, but it needs to be monitored.

Pat: Right now we are trying to hammer out fee issue, not other management of this area.

Potter: Agree with Pat.

Riggs: Mixing fee proposal responsibility and the traditional rac role together here. I have specific concerns about what was read.

Cagney: Yes, we are looking for vote on fee issue.

Kai: Moves to approve fee proposal as presented for Ruby-Horsethief. Needs to be resolved so that it can be managed appropriately

Dona: Seconds

Steve: RAC should still look at bigger issue still. Been an ardent supporter of plan and fees, I will have to vote against proposal if it is not comprehensive and includes both the fee and plans for the area.

Wes: We need two resolutions. One for fee one for management

Kai: Moves that we modify the motion that we support the fee proposal as presented, but will address the specific management plan for this area at a later date.

Dona seconds

Cat 1 Potter no, three others yes

Cat 2 yes all 5

Cat 3: lanny no, three others yes

Motion carries

Oil and gas leasing reform. Jerry gives Powerpoint

Smith: What effect is this likely to have on production?

Strahan: It's a longer process, it slows things down. As long as we keep leasing, shouldn't affect production

Smith: Is this more thorough review reducing challenges and conflicts as was hoped?

Strahan: Hope so. More of a question about education. When you can educate, should reduce protests.

Smith: Are there fewer opportunities for public involvement, or did any ones go away with these changes.

Strahan: No, definitely more opportunities now. None went away.

Smith: Does this change public relationship with IBLA?

Strhan: No

Cagney: This identified timelines and responsibility, which we needed

Socioeconomic presentations

Henry Eichman gives Powerpoint

Henry will go to KFO and CRVFO subgroups to discuss and get specific thoughts from subgroup in February.

If individual members have thoughts, they can talk to Henry directly.

Barbara would like to be notified about CRVFO subgroup meeting to she can attend.

Cagney: Katie's Ruby Horsethief plan needs to be done before next RAC meeting. Does the NW RAC feel it's OK for her to continue working on the plan before the next meeting?

Group agrees its ok for her to continue.

Public Comment:

Barbara Hawk: on SW RAC, UFO subgroup. Natural amenities are an important part of economics of these areas. A lot of research on the economic benefits of preserving public lands. Encourage NW RAC to look into that more. Communities on Western Slope can really benefit from that.

David Ludlam: In Colorado in 2011 every single parcel was withdrawn, deferred, or challenged. If percentage of parcels challenged by 2014 goes down, I will buy rac dinner. The NW RAC needs to take action to ensure the process is effective.

Lake Ridge unit – I will provide more context. Thompson Divide Coalition's strategy is to force leases to expire in 2013 so they can pursue legislation. We're concerned about letter from the Senators. If consensus is necessary to approve federal units, that's very different, very unusual from how it has been done. Very worried about precedence that sets.

Economics – keep in mind a lot of jobs from oil and gas not accounted for in this kind of analysis.

Smith: Thompson Divide warrants that extra look. Also keep in mind that some leases were issued in Roadless areas without proper roadless stipulations. That's a USFS problem, but BLM needs to not act too quickly.

Comstock: We do have a request in front of us. Next RAC meeting may be too late. Issue of politics getting onto way of BLM making a basic administrative decision on an oil and gas unit.

Comstock: asks that RAC support idea that units be determined by technical merits, not political consideration

Grisso: supports.

No other interest from members

CRVFO subgroup update: Steve Smith. Subrac met to gauge interest in group participating in next round of RMP. Subrac said yes they would like to work on next phase.

Need a couple new members. Passes out names to be considered. Recommends rac approves them. Nominates two new members.

Karl: Next step would be participate in development of proposed alternative. BLM will craft alternative, then take to subrac and get into specific discussions about specific issues or geographic areas they want to address specifically.

Dona seconds steves motion to approve. Names pass unanimously.

Grisso: Related to CRVFO Plan, it's very difficult to get arms around. Feel we need more than a 30 day extension

Karl: Concerned about scheduling and WO expectations about schedule. Issue with contractors, already extended contractors. Would likely have to terminate contract before plan is done.

Comstock: request for extension are common, usually granted. Industry, Tipton, DNR have all requested more time. Real issues that need to be addressed. Save headaches later.

Smith: request going to be coming in from the Wild and Scenic working group today for extension. 52 different entities that have developed alternative for river management. Asking for 30 days.

Smith moves that the plan be extended 30 days.

Comstock: Really need 60 days.

Dona seconds 60 day motion.

Stout: requests are all coming from groups with paid staff. Need to prioritize

Karl: We do not resolve issues during comment. We are trying to identify issues. Most groups making request are part of subgroups that can help us after the deadline.

Weddle: very complex document that has been worked on for many years. We only get 90 days to review. In favor of extension.

Cagney: Already looking at Jan. 15.

Ludlum: Grateful for any extra time, but we really want 60 days.

Vote on 60-day extension:

Cat 1 – Only Grisso votes yes. So the motion fails.

Motion for 30 days, seconded

Cat 3 all

Cat 1 all

Cat 2 all

Motion carries to support a 30-day extension to the CRVFO RMP comment period.

Karl: continue to extend offer to anyone who needs help with document.

Stout: Same goes for KFO. Meet with subgroup in Oct. Went over plan with group. Clare was liaison, need new one.

GJFO: Riggs: group looked at final range of alternatives. Agreed it was adequate range of alternatives. We felt we were done at that point. Recommends that subgroup be disbanded.

Robertson: last meeting RAC asked us to evaluate keeping the groups going after met its task of ensuring range of alternatives has been met.

Riggs; Moves that the subgroup for GJFO RMP subrac be disbanded.

Smith: seconds

Robertson: will commit to develop of outreach plan with RACs help for specific constituents.

Motion carries.

WRFO subcommittee: plan amendment. Draft to cooperating agency. Plan to have draft out for public review in July 2012. RAC subgroup will help us develop outreach plan. Group will review document from Feb. to July.

McInnis – haven't met in past 30 days. Nothing new to report

Field Manager Updates:

Kremmling Field Office, Dave Stout

Kremmling RMP Revision: The Kremmling Draft RMP/EIS was made available to the public on September 16, 2011, in CD format and on the Kremmling Field Office website. Due to a delay in printing paper copies, the traditional 90-day comment period was extended to January 17, 2012, to allow

those receiving paper copies a full 90 days for review and comment. KFO staff had meetings with the NW RAC Subgroup and Cooperating Agencies. Public open house meetings were held in Granby, Walden and Kremmling. The public meetings were well attended. The main issue at the public meetings was travel management, with ranchers, recreationists and others concerned about changes in the *status quo*. Soon after the RMP was available, we had many email comments resulting from a slightly inaccurate NRA notice to members about recreational shooting closures. Similarly, we had a number of comments prompted by an anonymous, inaccurate OHV person or group regarding travel management. The Blue Valley Ranch land exchange was a popular topic at the Kremmling open house, due to some media reports (radio and print) that mischaracterized the relationship between the RMP and the exchange process.

Fuels Treatments: NEPA analyses and burn plans are being completed for fuels treatments in the Mule Creek area (near Williams Fork Reservoir) and Dry Gulch (near State Bridge), for mechanical and prescribed fire treatments. Fuels treatments at Gore Lakes and on Independence Mountain are continuing.

Forestry: Sale preparation work (cruising, etc.) continues on Owl Mountain, southeast of Walden and on Black Mountain, northeast of Kremmling. A poor timber market and an excess of timber from USFS hazard tree removals have significantly affected our ability to dispose of trees through timber sales.

Minerals: We received three APDs in October for projects in Jackson County. These are the first APDs received in the last year and a half.

Wildlife: This year's part of the project at the Junction Butte Wetland Management Area has been completed. A ditch that carries water from the Colorado River to the wetland area has not functioned and repair efforts have not been successful. The project installed poly tubing in a porous section of irrigation ditch. Approximately 1,800 to 2,100 ft. of the ditch would be improved, likely over several years, depending on cost. The completed project should resolve all the issues with maintenance of the ditch and delivery of water to the wetlands.

Recreation: Representatives from the State Land Board, State Parks (now the Division of Parks and Wildlife), and COHVCO met on August 31st with the Jackson County Commissioners to discuss the transfer of the State land at the North Sand Hills to another agency, likely the BLM. Jackson County opposes an exchange, at least with the BLM.

The summer concert season at the new State Bridge venue was completed, fairly successfully. As many as 250 people attend each weekend concert. Many of the visitors camp on adjacent public lands under a permit issued to the State Bridge property owner. Both the operator and the BLM had "learn as you go" experiences this summer, due to a number of unexpected situations that developed as the summer progressed. As previously reported, a developer acquired the State Bridge site several years after the lodge burned, and created a venue for music events. An amphitheater and other improvements have been installed. Adjacent public lands are used under a Special Recreation Permit for parking and camping associated with the events. Events will resume next summer.

We are working with Eagle County to develop a Memorandum of Understanding for the management of a parcel at State Bridge. Eagle County acquired the parcel, which has been used as a commercial boat launching site on the Colorado River. BLM's management of that site will fit well with recreation management of the Colorado River from Confluence to State Bridge.

Outdoor Education: KFO employees continue to be active participants in the Jackson County Outdoor Education Network, which provides outdoor education opportunities for students in Walden's schools. KFO employees have formed relationships with the two Grand County school districts to provide outdoor education opportunities for students in Grand County. We have agreed with West Grand High School to provide adjunct instructors in a new effort that will give high school students opportunities for mentoring, specialized help, and instruction in special topics during a newly established instructional period at the end of the school day.

Colorado River Valley Field Office, Karl Mendonca

Field Manager Detail

Steve Bennett accepted a temporary promotion and detail to the BLM Washington Office as Senior Program Analysis for Energy. His detail began in this October and he will be returning as Field Manager January 3rd. Karl Mendonca is serving as Acting Field Manager during his absence.

Resource Management Plan update: The Colorado River Valley Field Office publish the Notice of Availability on September 16, 2011 for the draft Resource Management Plan Revision and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS). The Field Office completed meetings with the Cooperating Agencies and the RAC Subgroup in early October to provide information on the documents and discuss next steps for their involvement in comment analysis and development of the final proposed plan. Public Open House Meetings were also held in Silt, Eagle and Carbondale.

The 90 day comment period is schedule to end December 15, 2011. The BLM has received several requests to extend the comment period from 30 -90 days. The requests are currently under review and evaluation. The BLM will respond to each request individually before the Comment Period ends.

Proposed Lake Ridge Unit (Thompson Creek): SG Interests, LTD (SG) submitted a unit application to BLM Colorado on May 17, 2011, for the proposed Lake Ridge Oil and Gas Unit Agreement. The proposed Lake Ridge Unit is approximately 32,400 acres in size and includes approximately 27,700 acres of Forest Service surface lands. The operator plans to initially drill two obligation wells in the unit area. The BLM is currently reviewing SG's application; however, no decisions have been made.

Follow-Up Items from last Meeting:

White-Nose Syndrome Mitigation Plan: The Colorado BLM is currently evaluating options to complete a White-Nose Syndrome Mitigation Plan. The environmental analysis is anticipated to begin this winter with a decision ready late spring or early summer. Input received from the NWRAC at the last meeting will be incorporated into the environmental analysis.

Fall Prescribed Burns Postponed for the Roan: Weather and fuels conditions were not within prescription to successfully burn this fall. Project implementation will be postponed for next Fall when burning conditions will be re-evaluated.

Carbondale fuels work continues: Implementation of the fuels/vegetation treatment was completed this year on the 27 acres of BLM land west of the intersections of Garfield County Roads 103 and 112, near the Red Hill Special Recreation Management Area. All that remains is the burning of slash piles this winter when conditions are favorable.

Dejour Energy files Master Development Plan for wells in Garfield State Wildlife Area: . The Dejour Master Development Plan (DMDP) was signed by the CRVFO on October 3, 2011. The Decision Record authorized the CRVFO to approve Applications for Permits to Drill (APDs) on the proposed pad, located on BLM surface and accessing Federal Lease COC65531 for which no legal issues remain. Shortly after signing the MDP, four APDs for the pad were approved, and construction has recently begun.

The Decision Record deferred a decision on the proposed pads on State-owned land within the Garfield Creek State Wildlife Area (GCSWA), from which Dejour proposes to drill additional wells into COC65531, and on the proposed pad on State-owned land from which Dejour proposes to access Federal Lease COC66370. The CRVFO will not approve the pads until a Surface Use Agreement (SUA) between Dejour and the State of Colorado has been executed and an adequate basis for granting an exception to the No Surface Occupancy stipulation on both leases relative to the GCSWA has been satisfied.

Grand Junction Field Office, Catherine Robertson

Resource Management Planning:

We are working hard to prepare the Grand Junction Field Office Draft RMP/Draft EIS for internal and cooperating agency review in January 2012. We met with the cooperating agencies, and held the final RAC subcommittee meeting on November 3. The RAC subcommittee was very helpful in the development of our range of alternatives.

Dolores River Restoration Partnership:

The GJFO hosted BLM's Director, Bob Abbey, on a field trip to DRRP project sites near Gateway in early September. The visit was a great success with participation from DRRP on tamarisk eradication. Project work for the 2011 season is coming to a close. A couple work sites will be seeded in the near future which will end the season.

Wild Horses:

We are tentatively planning for a gather in September of 2012 dependent upon an evaluation of data from this year. Fertility control efforts have proven very effective resulting in a need to compare utilization, trend and recruitment data before making a final decision on whether to gather next year or not.

Recreation:

North Fruita Desert Special Recreation Management Area –We will be working through the Northwest Resource Advisory Council at your meeting on December 1 (Gateway) to present the campground fee proposal for 18 Road Campground. Fee collections for that site will be used to improve, maintain and increase capacity of that campground. BLM is also working with the City of Fruita, COPMOBA and RRF to design additional trails for motorized and mechanized opportunities. A total of 9 new trails have been laid out and are in the NEPA process.

Grand Valley Trails Alliance -- A position announcement was advertised in mid-November to hire a Trail Alliance Coordinator. The deadline for applications is December 5. A panel of BLM, COPMOBA and RRF will convene to interview and select the candidate before the first of the year. The City of Fruita has offered to provide an office space in contribution.

Bangs Special Recreation Management Area -- BLM is working through assistance agreements with COPMOBA to maintain existing trails in the Lunch Loops area and to explore creation of new motorized trails in other areas with RRF. Ten new motorized trails have been laid out and proposed, these trails are currently in the NEPA process. BLM is also working with landowners at Highway 141 to obtain public access to complete the Tabaguache Trail and important multiple use recreation route that spans over 140 miles.

Gateway Canyons Resort and BLM MOU -- BLM and Gateway Canyon Resorts finalized an agreement that formalizes the relationship between the two entities and shared goals of providing excellent customer service, recreation opportunities, access to public lands and continued support of ecological restoration efforts like the Dolores River Project.

Palisade Rims Trails -- The NEPA process is complete on the 15 miles trail system above the Town of Palisade. WCCC and COPMOBA has been working on construction with the final completion date in spring of 2012. The access to this system was secured through a 5 year agreement with the BOR and OMID. A trail head is being designed along the CDOT right of way by the Town of Palisade.

Cultural:

Calamity Camp Celebration -- Was a huge success and well attended. BLM in cooperation with the Museum of Western Colorado and Gateway Canyons Resort was able to capture multiple oral histories and complete educational products that will be available to the public. Speakers included Dr. Heather Bailey, Zebulan Miracle, Alissa Leavitt-Reynolds and ??.

Dolores River Corridor Tribal Consultation on Rock Art -- BLM in cooperation with Museum of Western Colorado and Gateway Canyons Resort was able to visit several rock art sites along the Dolores River Corridor with Tribal representatives. The process to incorporate some sites into educational tours of the region should be complete in late 2012.

Lands and Minerals:

Airport Transfer EA -- The Grand Junction Regional Airport and their contractor have experienced some delays on the development of the EA for this project. They are currently working on alternatives development. We are not sure whether we can anticipate making a decision on the proposed land transfer/RMP amendment in early 2012.

Colorado Mesa University Recreation & Public Purposes Act Conveyance – A Notice of Realty Action was published in the Federal Register on August 25, 2011, followed by a 45-day public

comment/protest period. Three protest letters were received in response to the NORA, and all were dismissed in writing by the CSO Branch Chief for Lands and Realty. The objections raised included the following: 1) the proposal should include a reservation for public access across the conveyance parcel; 2) CMU should pay fair market value for the land; and 3) BLM should accept E-mail comments rather than by postal mail only. Protestors are allowed a 30-day appeal period beginning on the date of receipt of the Protest Dismissal Decision. Issuance of a patent is anticipated in January 2012.

McClane Canyon Mine -- Consultation with USFWS on the mine and loadout facility have been completed. USFWS issued a Biologic Opinion (BO) that covered both projects. The permitting process of the loadout by DRMS could not be completed without a BO from USFWS. DRMS has received the BO from USFWS and is resuming their permitting process for the loadout.

Public comments expressing concerns with CAM's proposed surface facility changes at the mine were received following the previous site visit with High Lonesome Ranch and contractors working for CAM. The primary concerns raised by HLR in response to CAM's proposal include: 1) impacts to HLR cattle grazing practices and permit in the project area, which includes creation of a "bottle neck of the cattle going through during the spring time with current design" that would affect movement of cattle to and from different pastures, 2) lack of sediment pond fencing in the proposal and potential impacts to wildlife and cattle, 3) impacts to their irrigation ditch that would be directly and potentially indirectly affected by CAM's proposal, 4) proximity of the proposed sediment pond to East Salt Creek, and potential impacts to water quality and stream stability, 5) impacts to and from geology, hydrology, and geomorphology in the project area.

Two additional site visits have been completed with CAM, BLM staff, and visual resource sub-contractors. The purpose of the first site visit was to brief the visual resource contractor and to discuss Visual resource modeling to simulate development may be necessary for impact analysis of the project. Conflicts with the 1987 RMP Visual Resource Management (VRM) designation and other resource conflicts need to be carefully considered. Screening for alternative gob pile locations has been completed through GIS analysis, on the ground site visits, and BLM Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) discussions. Potential alternative gob pile locations that would meet the purpose and need for the project as well as resource objectives were reduced during IDT review. The potential alternative locations for the gob pile were visited by BLM IDT and CAM's mining engineers. The feasibility of these sites has been discussed and reviewed. BLM will be determining if any of the alternative locations will be carried forward for analysis in the Environmental Assessment for the project.

Red Cliff – BLM denied CAMs ROW application which was appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA). IBLA remanded the decision back to BLM without making a ruling. GJFO and CSO staff are reviewing with the Solicitor's Office the remand order.

FRAM Whitewater Unit Proposal -- A public meeting was held November 8 for FRAM to present their new proposal for oil exploration in the Whitewater unit. Over 150 members of the public attended the meeting. BLM has received several dozen written comments.

Fire Program - Upper Colorado River Fire Management Unit:

Russ Long was recently selected as the UCR Fire Management Officer (FMO). Russ comes to us after serving as the Central Zone's FMO for the last 2 years. Clay Fowler, our long-time Assistant FMO, was selected to replace Russ as the new Central Zone FMO.

McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area (NCA):

Please refer to fee and permit presentation.

Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area (NCA):

The BLM continues to have productive project planning sessions with Union Pacific and Mesa County regarding installation of an underpass at Bridgeport. The underpass crossing would create safe, horseback- and pedestrian-accessible access from a new BLM trail to the existing pedestrian footbridge. The BLM will move forward with cultural resources mitigation (excavation) in 2012 if funding allows, and installation of a new trailhead/parking lot/restroom, in 2012. Funding still needs to be obtained for the crossing structure itself, but based on initial design work being done by Mesa County, the cost estimates are likely to be lower than initially anticipated.

The BLM is working on the development of RMP alternatives for the D-E NCA planning effort, in close coordination with the Dominguez-Escalante Advisory Council and Cooperating Agencies. Next steps include development of the preferred alternative and impact assessment. The Draft is anticipated to be released in late fall 2012.

White River Field Office Program Updates, Kent E. Walter

White River Oil and Gas RMP Amendment

The BLM White River Field Office (WRFO) continues work to develop an Oil and Gas Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement (Oil and Gas RMPA/EIS). The four Alternatives look at a range of development from 550 multi-well pads up to 2,550 multi-well pads, with an average of 8 wells per pad. The WRFO is finalizing the Draft RMPA/EIS and is hoping to have it to the Cooperating Agencies in the spring of 2012 (February). A revised schedule is being developed and a Notice of Availability for the Draft Oil and Gas RMPA/EIS is to be published in the Federal Register in summer 2012. This notice initiates a required 90-day public and agency review/comment period for the Draft RMPA/EIS, as well as dates, times, and locations of public meetings/hearings that will be held during the same time period.

Phase I of the Resource Management & Monitoring Protocol (RMMP) has been completed and has been published as a BLM Technical Note #439. The RMMP is designed to serve as a cost-effective and publicly accepted approach for landscape-change monitoring and assessment. The Surface Reclamation Protocol has been finalized and will be evaluated with the RMP Amendment. In addition, the WRFO will be working with the USGS to develop a Data Monitoring System which will provide aspects of oil and gas development which will feed into the RMMP to monitor change across the landscape as future developments occur.

Cultural Resources

The cultural program is working on providing clearances for grazing-permit renewals, currently entailing planning fieldwork for all the allotments that will have renewals done on them in 2012. During 2011, the cultural program was able to complete approximately 115 acres of inventory in the Canyon Pintado National Historic District area continuing several year's efforts to further the knowledge of the historical resources in this region. WRFO archaeologists are also in the stages of making some rock art sites along the Dragon Trail, southwest of Rangely, interpreted for the public similar to our recreation sites in

Canyon Pintado. Currently project work has been completed at two sites, with two more to be completed in the early spring of 2012.

Energy Program

Oil Shale RD&D

WRFO approved American Shale Oil, LLC's (AMSO) Plan of Development (POD) on September 3, 2009. Construction of the facilities at the site location began in spring 2010 and is nearly complete. The process monitoring wells are constructed and the production well casing is cemented. Construction of the heater well commences upon the completion of the production well and rig move. Initiation of the shale oil recovery process is expected to commence late July early August. WRFO received Shell Frontier's POD for COC 69166 (East Lease) on January 3, 2011. The POD is currently under review. Construction of an access road, two pads (one hydrology pad and one core-hole pad) and drilling of five hydrologic monitoring wells and one core hole occurred late 2009 early 2010 on Shell's East Lease and additional appraisal well was drilled April 2011. Chevron is analyzing information gathered during their geo-hydrologic drilling /testing from additional formation/aquifer testing in summer 2011.

WRFO BLM has recently received nominations for two additional RD&D tracts; ExxonMobil Exploration Corp. and Natural Soda Holdings Inc. An environmental assessment (EA) to determine the projects impacts is required prior to determination of issuance of the research tracts. Public open houses were held in Rifle and Meeker, Colorado on April 27 and 28, 2011, respectively. Comment period ends May 17, 2011, A third party contractor to write the EA for the combined projects is selected. Estimated schedule of the EA available for public comment is March 2011.

Oil Shale PEIS

In 2008, the BLM published a Final Oil Shale and Tar Sands PEIS that amended the White River Resource Area Resource Management Plan (WRFO RMP) lands available for oil shale leasing from approximately 295,000 acres to approximately 341,000 acres.

A Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) and Possible Land Use Plan Amendments for Allocation of Oil Shale and Tar Sands Resources on Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming was published on April 14, 2011. The Scoping Period for this NOI runs from April 14, 2011 through May 16, 2011. Scoping Meetings were held the last week of April and the first week May. Two meetings were held in each location. Issues raised at the Scoping Meetings include water quality and quantity, air quality, recreation resources, socio-economic concerns, ecological concerns, and cultural/historical concerns. Many people expressed that the oil shale and tar sands program should not move forward until the results of the Research, Demonstration and Development (RD&D) leases are known and the technology(s) have been proven. Many others expressed concern that extensive resources were spent previously to develop the 2008 Oil Shale and Tar Sands PEIS, and that there are not additional facts or issues (other than the settlement agreement) that substantially change the playing field such that BLM should be expending time and money on this effort. Industry expressed their desire that additional lands, primarily those in the new USGS assessment, be opened for potential commercial oil shale leasing.

Alternatives will be developed based on the terms of the settlement agreement and the issues and concerns identified during the scoping meetings. Once alternatives have been developed, and additional data collected (i.e., wilderness characteristics, ACECs, Adobe Town boundaries, etc.), Argonne will begin writing the document. A draft PEIS was released for internal BLM and cooperating agency review in mid-October through early November. It is expected that the draft PEIS should be available for a 90 day public review and comment in January 2012. A series of public open house meetings will be held during the comment period. It is known at this time that one of these meetings will be held in Rifle, Colorado.

Coal

Blue Mountain Energy's (BME) Deserado underground coal mine produces approximately 2 million tons of coal annually. Deserado is a captive mine where all coal production is shipped, via electric train, and utilized by the Bonanza Power Plant in Bonanza Utah. BME has seven federal coal leases that are contained in a logical mining unit (LMU). In Early 2011 BME applied for an exploration license and a federal coal lease.

Oil and Gas

During FY 2011, WRFO approved 183 applications for permit to drill (APDs), performed 555 inspections, and processed 3876 sundries. FY12 workload is expected to remain consistent with FY11.

Non-Energy Minerals Program (sodium)

Natural Soda Inc. produced more than 120,000 tons of sodium bicarbonate from their existing in-situ solution mining operations. Upgrades to the facility including a higher capacity, more efficient boiler and an increase in production capabilities have been approved. American Soda well field is expected to remain idle in 2011. No production from the well field has occurred since 2004.

Fire and Fuels Program

In 2011 the BLM, Rio Blanco County Sheriff's Department and local landowners south of Rangely completed a Memorandum of Understanding to allow the BLM to efficiently manage natural ignition fires for ecological benefits where this option exists.

Geographic Information Systems Program

Priorities for the GIS Program include developing data and processes to support the RMMP, the travel management plan, and Threatened, Endangered, and BLM Sensitive (TES) plant management. Specific data layers include (1) well pads, right-of-ways, and other surface disturbances, (2) updated road centerlines (to match 2009 aerial photography); and, (3) TES plants including the addition of all 2009 field surveys. In addition to data development, through the RMMP and working with the USGS, plans are being developed to create a web-based GIS/Disturbance Tracking tool that will allow BLM staff, Oil & Gas Operators, and the Public to access near real-time updates of surface disturbance and reclamation activities in the WRFO.

Range Program

During FY11 field work was completed throughout the field season for 15 grazing permit renewals; plans are to finish all necessary field work and issue permits by January of 2012. Field work is also being done on Yellow Creek and several other allotments in preparation for upcoming permit renewals.

Riparian Program

Thirty-eight miles of riparian PFC assessments were completed during FY11 in association with the 2012 grazing permit renewals. Weed treatment evaluation, initial treatment, and inventory will continue in riparian areas with specific treatment targets established at the Olive Garden and Divide Creek Reservoir sites. Several existing riparian projects will be maintained throughout the field season as well.

Wildlife Program

The WRFO Raptor Inventory and Monitoring Project was approved for funding in April, 2011. Currently, BLM staff and one technician are monitoring known territories and conducting nest inventories in suitable nesting habitat as part of on-going oil and gas activities in the project area. The 2010 WRFO Raptor Nesting Productivity and Nest Monitoring Report for Piceance Basin, Colorado was completed in February, 2011, and is available on the WRFO website (<http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/wrfo/wildlife0.html>).

In 2010, 184 known nesting territories were visited, and 88% were classified as occupied. We also noted that nest re-occupancy during the 2010 breeding season was high, with 88% ($n = 30$) of nests that were occupied in 2009 also confirmed as being re-occupied in 2010.

In addition to monitoring and inventory work that is currently being conducted, other projects include refining the raptor nest monitoring spatial database, updating the WRFO raptor survey protocol, and modifying the weighted overlay nesting habitat suitability model using information that was collected during the 2010 breeding season. Most of the project deliverables that were identified in 2008 have been produced and finalized. Moving forward, behavioral information acquired using video monitoring equipment, and nest stand characterization information will be collected in 2011 to allow for analysis of these data using logistic regression.

Recreation Program

The Recreation Program has a multitude of activities underway and planned for 2012. Over the summer of 2011, we updated all 14 kiosks around the field office with new maps, emergency information and informational materials, as well as constructed one new kiosk at the new Willow Creek Trailhead. We are continuing with road signing, as well as planning to add new signs along the boundaries of our Wilderness Study Areas. We are continuing ongoing work with the Rangely Rock Crawlers to install carsonites to delineate the boundaries of the rock park.

WRFO is collaborating with the Eastern Rio Blanco Metropolitan Recreation and Park District (ERBM) in the development of a non-motorized trail from Dorcas Jensen Park, through adjacent BLM lands, to Ute Park. ERBM applied for, and is reasonably certain they will be awarded, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC) team to complete construction of this project in 2012.

We continue to move forward with initial planning steps towards completing a travel management inventory and plan for the WRFO. The WRFO Outdoor Recreation Planner, Chad Schneckeburger, led a panel session on OHV use at the Nation Association of Recreation Resource Planners (NARRP) conference in Breckenridge during the last week of May. WRFO continues on-going coordination with the Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition (COHVCO) and other partners to accomplish this goal. WRFO will be submitting a grant application to the Colorado State Parks OHV program for a phased 3

year grant to complete the full inventory in advance of beginning the travel management planning process.

Related to travel management, the WRFO is participating on a newly formed committee, the Rio Blanco County Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Committee, intended to promote OHV tourism in the county primarily using public lands.

The WRFO led a SWAT team in conducting an intensive inventory for Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWCs) in association with the national programmatic EIS on oil shale development. A total of five units were intensively inventoried over a 3 week period. With remaining funds, WRFO was able to inventory one additional potential LWC parcel, Big Ridge, before the end of summer.

In coordination with the COSO and the LSFO, WRFO completed a full Visual Resource Inventory for the entire Field Office. Chad Schneckenburger, Ted Tedford and Jim Michels met contractual obligations by assisting the contractor with development of sensitivity analysis, scenic quality units, attending public open houses and assisting with wayfinding in the field. The final VRI and associated deliverables were received by WRFO at the end of October 2011.

The WRFO attended the September 24 Rangely Rock Crawlers 5th Annual Competition to monitor the event and provide a BLM presence. We also continue to attend their monthly club meetings. The Rangely Rock Crawlers are applying for additional Colorado State Park OHV grants to continue with improvement to the area via their MOU and EA.

WRFO completed three clean-ups associated with National Public Lands Day events (clean-ups) with the Rangely Boy Scouts (white River Clean up on August 8, 2011), local Meeker citizens (Windy Gulch cleanup on September 27, 2011), and Rangely Rock Crawlers (Rock Park on May 03, 2011).

The WRFO installed new signage and improved trails at two archeological sites along the Dragon Trail, as well as developed and constructed a new day use recreation site at Crooks Brand. Most of this work was accomplished through an office work day.

Several other ongoing maintenance and repairs were accomplished at various recreation sites throughout the WRFO in the summer of 2011.

The WRFO continues to actively manage the Special Recreation Permit program. This includes 49 guide and outfitting permittees, 1 wilderness therapy permittee, 1 higher education permittee, and the Rangely Rock Crawlers. 3 new SRPs were issued for big game hunting this fall and 3 additional SRP applications are in the queue, including one for guided overnight trips on the White River.

The WRFO completed the initial construction of the Willow Creek OHV trail that will provide additional access to approximately 21,000 acres of BLM lands which are currently limited due to private land issues. WRFO applied for, and was awarded, a one week work session by the USFS Colorado Statewide OHV Trail Crew for assistance with construction of this project in August of 2011. The trail was realigned, flagged, gates were installed and an informational kiosk installed. For 2011 the trail is open only to foot

and horseback. WRFO will apply for another work session by the USFS Colorado Statewide OHV Trail Crew to complete construction of the trail in 2012.

The USFS Colorado Statewide OHV Trail Crew also conducted an inventory of illegal trails in the Wilson Creek area, as well as determining a new alignment for a portion of eroded trail that will need re-constructed next year.

The WRFO Outdoor Recreation Planner, Chad Schneckenburger, attended the Visual Resource Management Short Course Training in Canon City in September 2011.

Chad Schneckenburger, Jim Michels, and Kent Walter attended the Lands with Wilderness Characteristics short course training in Grand Junction in August of 2011. Chad Schneckenburger also attended training and received certification for dirt bikes and OHV/UTVs in August of 2011.

The WRFO also had a strong intern and volunteer program for 2011, with one full time archeological intern in collaboration with Rocky Mountain Youth Corps. WRFO also has a number of other volunteers donating their time after their summer seasonal work was complete.

Soil, Water, and Air Program

Work with USGS on groundwater and surface water monitoring continues with sampling of the five dedicated wells and we did geophysical logging on 8 wells this summer to expand the network to 15 wells. The first sampling of the full fifteen well networks will be in August. The Piceance Basin Data Repository group continues to move forward with plans to coordinate with the Colorado Data Sharing Network for future data storage.

Air quality data collection at the Rangely and Meeker Federal Reference monitoring sites supported by the BLM continues. We have a new climate station that began collecting data this spring and continue to add to the precipitation network.

The NEPA workload continues to build and the current focus is back to the RMP Amendment for oil and gas development.

Wild Horses

In February 2011, the Bureau withdrew its West Douglas Herd Area Gather Environmental Assessment which called for the removal of all excess wild horses from the West Douglas Herd Area.

On June 24, 2011, Judge Collier denied BLM's request to dismiss in whole the West Douglas Herd Area Wild Horse Gather of 2010 – Colorado Wild Horse and Burro Coalition, Inc. et al vs. Salazar et al. Case #1:10-CV-01645-RMC. This case is currently active.

BLM completed the Piceance-East Douglas Wild horse gather on October 30th. The gather was successful in the removal of wild horse down to the lower end of the appropriate management level of 135 to 235 animals.

Weed Management

WRFO completed several weed spraying projects in 2011, including the completion of approximately 300 acres of leafy spurge aerial spraying. In addition, weed crews have treated an additional 300 acres of weeds within the resource area. We are also looking at working to develop a collaborative process with oil and gas companies to improve the treatment of weeds on disturbed areas where multiple companies currently operate.

Lands and Realty

WRFO's lands group is working on the TransWest Express interstate electric transmission line project which will transport renewable energy based power from central Wyoming to Nevada and the Energy Gateway South transmission project which will transport electricity from central Wyoming to Utah. The permits have been issued for the first phase of the Rio Blanco County Road 5 improvement projects and the development of a parcel of public land for Rangely District Hospital is proceeding.

Enterprise is completing construction on the Meeker Plant to Greasewood 36-inch pipeline and the expansion of the Meeker 1 Gas processing facility is nearing final NEPA analysis. Proposals for construction of oil and gas infrastructure have been approved or are pending to multiple companies for construction.

Little Snake Field Office, Tim Wilson

Little Snake ROD: The Record of Decision for the Little Snake Resource Management Plan has been available since October 14, 2011 and the Little Snake Field Office is gearing up to implement the decision. This includes travel management planning to be completed within five years of the ROD. At this time, we are not aware of any challenges to the Final ROD. However, there has been an issue raised relative to drilling on State Lands in the Vermillion Basin that we are in the process of addressing. Approximately 77,000 acres of public land within the Vermillion Basin has been closed to oil and gas leasing as described in the ROD. While the State Land Board has the ability to engage in oil and gas leasing on state lands, access is the main issue within Vermillion Basin and the area has been designated as right-of-way exclusion area in the ROD. Dialogue with the Colorado Board of Education is continuing to address this issue. Oil and gas leasing inquiries are increasing as interest in the Niobrara formation is growing. The Little Snake Field Office processed 31 APD's in FY 2011 and is currently processing 30 more. Little Snake is offering 6 lease parcels in the February 2012 lease sale and an additional 7 parcels in the May sale.

Private land exploration is also on the rise.

Fall Hunting: The hunting season was in full swing this year in Northwest Colorado as gauged by the florescent and camo wear in Craig. Our law enforcement officer assisted Colorado Parks and Wildlife officials on a number of incidents including unlawful taking of elk, trespass and roadkill. While the hunter numbers on public lands were high, most hunter camps were orderly and compliant and the weather was cooperative, mostly mild.

Great Outdoors Initiative: America's Great Outdoors Initiative has been and will continue to be one of our priorities this year and the coming years, specifically focusing on the Yampa River Basin in Northwest Colorado. The BLM is working with the Yampa River Legacy Project (a multi-partner organization) to identify projects to implement the initiative and is strongly supported by both Interior Secretary Salazar and BLM Director, Bob Abbey. The initiative is based in conservation and focuses on reconnecting the public, specifically youth, with the great outdoors in America's backyard. The Legacy Project is looking at a number of projects to develop within the framework of the President's initiative.

Emerald Mountain: Emerald Mountain, the backdrop to Steamboat Springs (and the result of a successful BLM and State Land Board land exchange and community partnership) is continuing to be a wonderful recreational opportunity, well used by mountain bikers, hikers, wildlife and skiers. The recent addition of 600 adjacent acres, acquired by the City of Steamboat Springs, has complemented the 5,000 acre parcel of BLM public lands to the benefit of wildlife and recreation activities.

Field Season: Field season is coming to an end and the Little Snake Field Office interdisciplinary staff is gearing up on grazing permit renewal efforts including new analysis for livestock trailing permits.

Transmission EISs: Gateway South and Transwest transmission line projects are also keeping many of the staff occupied with data requests and meetings. Both of these projects are being coordinated out of Wyoming and the final decision on the rights-of-ways will be made by the Wyoming BLM State Director.

Next agenda items: UCR fee proposal, GJFO RMP alternatives
Adjourns at 3 p.m.