

Southwest Resource Advisory Council
MEETING MINUTES
Friday, March 31, 2017
Montrose, Colorado

Southwest Resource Advisory Council Members

Bill Gleason, James Dietrich, Lori Buck, Joe Neuhof, John Potter, Renzo DelPiccolo, Kathy Welt, Mark Roeber, John Justman, Christi Zeller, Jimbo Buickerood, John Reams, Ernie Williams, Tif Rodriguez, Laurie Brandt

Staff

Connie Clementson, Marietta Eaton, Greg Larson, Dana Wilson, Joe Meyer, Wayne Werkmeister, Collin Ewing

Public

John Whitney, Ann McCoy Herald, Betsy Bair, Brian Meinhart

The meeting was called to order by John Reams at 9 a.m. A quorum for the meeting was determined, and introductions commenced. Ernie Williams moved and Jimbo Buickerood seconded a motion to approve minutes. Add John Reams to members list. Motion carried. Ernie moved to nominate John and Renzo second. Justmam moved by acclamation Renzo seconded. Passed. Justman nominated Ernie Mark seconded. Passed. Kathy moved by acclimation, Tif seconded. Passed.

District Realignment Map

Joe distributed the District Realignment Map and explained the shift in boundaries and leadership. See attachment.

D-E NCA RMP Update

See attached ppt

Website Survey

Provided the attached survey and requested returned by Apr. 6

Q&A

Kathy talked about coal mining diminishing in the north fork valley. In the press, they have indicated it's a large expansion. It's adjacent to the south for potential coal, the lease mod started in 2009 and co roadless rule had a except for the additional reserves in NFV allowing for extraction to occur decision in 2012. Vacated in 2014 lease mod, exploration and roadless rule. Mine would like to proceed with lease mod and wanted to give Greg history. Three mines produced almost half of the coal in the state and were the largest underground mine in the state. Had about 1200 employees and now down to 200. Want to survive and not expanding huge. Encourage us to talk with BLM to gain info. Greg indicated BLM is working with FS on this project. Kathy offered a mine field trip and Tif indicated the field trip is

very helpful. Less than 2000 acres are in the lease mod. Brian Meinhart said this is a high priority for his office.

Christi Zeller asked if they could have a project status table. BLM will think about how this information could be presented.

Jimbo thanked Connie for the report. SJNF is going to start travel management soon. Will TRFO connect with FS on the project? Connie said we haven't been invited to be a Coop Agency, but we expect to receive an invite to participate. We will edge match although there's not many boundaries that meet.

Joe Neuhof asked for an update on the sub-group status, and John indicated that the o&G sub-group is complete. Potential for DE sub-group to present to SW RAC.

Christi asked whether the ACEC report was posted, and Connie indicated it should be posted today.

Christi asked about numbers of FOIAs and how does that impact funds for on the ground work. Potter asked heard about raven causing probs with grouse. And Connie indicated they are a predator while trying to figure out how to decrease mortality rate. Renzo indicated that they are trying to figure out how much impact ravens are having on grouse.

Tif said thanks for working on the bait trapping EA. Horses and range are in good condition. Working through 7000 comments submitted on the EA. Two foals this year.

Connie explained that Justin Abernathy is going to the WO to be a senior policy analyst. Working on detailer in the next couple of weeks. Joe Manning is the new assistant in the renewable shop.

Wayne indicated Katie will be back on Monday. Wayne used to work in SW Colorado, so he's excited to be back. McGinnis Canyons partnership with City of Fruita. They are providing funding to promote recreation. New motorized trail head at middle park road to reduce safety risk in conjunction with the county. Local connecting with the community strategy and GJ is excited about this opportunity. Planning a paving project with partners on 18 road as well as improved campsites. County put in for grant for paving. Palisade plunge is a 33 mi trail one of governor's 16 trails and it's gaining moratorium in the last month. It will be a moderate level mountain biking trail and BLM is the lead federal agency on the NEPA. Fram will be back out for public review soon. Lease sale in Mesa and Garfield county parcels available. Permit renewals are taking longer than in the past. CPW is doing thermal imaging in conjunction with grouse research. GJFO has greater and Gunnison. Jimbo suggested initiating fees to increase funding. Little Book Cliffs started pilot project on fertility control. Have a volunteer crew who dart. At upper level of horses, but moisture has been good so hasn't been a problem. This year is dry and it could be a problem at upper AML.

New exhibit at AHC. Working on Flodine and Yellowjacket NEPA for grazing permits. Working on PA for Kinder Morgan CO2 development. Cultural site density is the largest issue and they look at 2000-3000 acres for a five acre well pad. PA stream lines the cultural clearance process. Kicking off a marketing campaign to promote CANM. Tif asked if AHC accepts HS volunteer interns and Marietta said they are actively working to engage students in this process.

Public Comment

Jimbo Buickerood said Connie provided an ACEC overview and they are happy to see the process moving forward. It was initiated in the RMP and it's great that it is moving forward. Connie has hired a project manager to move the project forward. They have concerns about the status because it's been 10 years since those were nominated. Have concerns about the ACEC MV entrance and saw off road travel and concerned that it's being managed and that the management resources are projected. ACEC is maintained until the process is complete. Also concerned about oil and gas leasing that overlap ACEC is done. O&G should be deferred until the ACEC process is complete. San Juan County was transferred to GFO and they are concerned because the Heliski EA process shifted from TRFO to GFO. GFO published the draft EA without posting public comments. He hopes it's not a trend no to post public comments and make publically available. Elijah told him to file a FOIA to get the comments, and SJCA will post those comments online. It's unfortunate that those comments were not available.

Dan Sullivan ranches near Hotchkiss and Crawford. His son has spent time working at the mines and it's good he has a ranch job to come home because he there not many coal jobs left. He looks forward to continuing to work with the BLM.

Travel Management Implementation

See attached PPTs

The CANM RMP designated routes, and implementation has been done and ongoing. Travel management has not been done on accusions, and will be embarking on that process.

GJFO travel management was a part of the RMP revision. So that process is nearly complete. Zone L is heavily used area, and that areas needs route by route analysis and designations. About 200 miles of additional routes as requested by the county is still awaiting designations. Lessons learned is people are more concerned about routes versus the entire RMP. Hired a season to implement travel mgmt via determining which area to work in especially for signing followed by reclamation strategies.

Upcoming Meetings and Field Trips

- Statewide RAC-Gunnison June 19-21
- Doodle poll late August or Early September in Fruita Rec Center or GJ
- GUSG

Adjournment

Christi Zeller moved to adjourn the meeting. Kathy Welt seconded the motion. Motion passed.