

Northwest Resource Advisory Council

Feb. 25, 2011, Salida

Minutes

Present:

Category 1: Dave Grisso, Steve Gunderson, Tom Latham, Wes McStay

Category 2: Pat Kennedy, Steve Smith, Dona Shue

Category 3: Gary Bumgarner, Jeff Comstock, Dean Riggs, Kai Turner, Barbara Vasquez

BLM staff: Steve Bennett, Jim Cagney, Dave Stout, Kent Walter, David Boyd

Pat Kennedy call the meeting to order at 8 am

Pat acknowledged this was Barbara's first NW RAC meeting and welcomed her. Introductions followed.

Kai mentioned he was uncomfortable with Steve Smith passing out Wilderness Society materials on the Wild Lands policy, that he felt it was not appropriate.

Steve said he did not realize that would be considered inappropriate and that he was representing a larger coalition and providing background materials.

Draft Protocols

Steve Smith and Jeff Comstock developed a draft protocol for decision making and citizen input as an action item from last meeting.

Steve G: we have been doing this most of the time.

Dean: formalizes it. Gives us opportunity for a better document. Gives members a chance to talk to constituency. Endorses concept.

Jeff C: This gives us opportunity to act on the spot if you want to, but it's preferable to take longer time for folks to get background.

Steve S: worked with Jeff, talked to Club 20 to see how they did it.

Barbara: need time for good decisions

Dean: support concept, and agree that we need to be able to act on the spot as well.

Wes: asked about section explaining that one RAC member can request something be taken to subset of other members -- could that be used to hold things up?

Several: Hasn't been a problem.

Barbara suggested NW RAC use a minority opinion tag when something is passed by the NW RAC but is not unanimous.

Jeff C: concerned about minority opinion idea, highlights division in a group

Steve S: what about qualitatively acknowledging other views in decision

Pat: if not unanimous, then doesn't go to the Secretary, so it doesn't carry weight if not unanimous

Kent and KAI: we ask subgroups to only bring unanimous decisions to the larger RAC.

Barbara: Round table I am on requires minority opinion.

Gary and Jeff: not the ones we are on, has to be unanimous.

Dave G: looks like this protocol requires vote to be at the end of the day.

Jeff: Most of the time we don't get public comments on what we vote on, need flexibility.

Tom L: some things we need to just go ahead and get done

Steve G; moves to vote, seconded

Vote is unanimous in favor of the Protocols as drafted.

White River Subgroup RMMP Recommendations

Kent: Did not receive them from the subgroup.

Met twice since last NW RAC meeting

Several members have stated they were not receiving e-mails from the subgroup chair. This should have been remedied at this point.

Kent: If subgroup can provide written recommendations, get them to NW RAC, then have conference call with the NW RAC. We like NW RAC recommendations before summer to meet schedule.

Pat: Can you mail that to us instead of e-mailing since it is a large document?

Kent: Yes. Next subgroup will be looking at impact analysis chapter 4, should be in May in time for June meeting.

White River Subgroup membership consideration

Suggestion for Trout Unlimited rep to be on subgroup. Would add more of a fish/wildlife representation. He is interested and asked if the NW RAC would consider his request to be on the subgroup.

Kent: would help diversify group.

Dean: Trout Unlimited is getting more involved in these issues, which is a good thing.

Kai: Moves to appoint Aaron Kindal. Dean seconds. Unanimously carries.

Kent will contact Luke and the subgroup.

North Sand Hills ISA resolution

Dave S: Updated draft from last meeting. Doesn't mention research natural area, which has been de-designated. BLM does not recommend the ISA be recommended to Congress for Wilderness designation. Point of this resolution would be to confirm your support to have it withdrawn as an ISA. It's part of larger SRMA and ACEC.

Steve S: Discussed at August meeting. Toured area. This would get rid of ISA designation. Lanny Weddle, Jackson County Commissioner, was here at statewide meeting, commission agrees that this needs to be resolved, worked with Lanny line-by-line to ensure it accomplishes what Jackson county wants. Lanny agrees.

Steve G: moves to accept. Second

Gary: Wants to take away "sound and protective management" for remaining sand dunes. I went to Jackson county commission, would be surprised they support this language.

Steve S: We talked specifically about that. There are still areas of undisturbed dunes and vegetation, this goes to protect it.

Kai: I thought we removed this language in an earlier draft. Supports "Continuing SRMA plan" something like that.

Wes: The Resolution says that the NW RAC supports this language, not that Jackson County does.

Barbara: Is language in BLM documents somewhere? Where does it come from?

Dave S: Implicit in some documents because of rare plants, but this may not be the exact wording.

Barbara: BLM is mixed use, NSH opportunity for mixed use – protection and OHV use.

Steve S: Conferred with my colleagues. Agreed to remove ISA as long as there was a protected portion in addition to the recreation area. With research natural area designation gone, this wording gets at that protection. Doesn't make any designation, just asserts undisturbed areas would be protected. Had this discussion with Lanny.

Gary: If Lanny is ok with wording.

Jeff: Did you ask him about this specific wording?

Steve S: He read the entire draft resolution. He asked about some other phrasing. Did not ask about those three words, but asked about sentence.

Jeff: It's taking away a WSA, so I can live with whatever wording.

Gary: I have some heartburn, Steve does too. That's why it's called compromise.

Move to move, second.

Vote, passes unanimously.

Land exchange and fee resolution

Dave S: Last meeting NW RAC members asked that we go back to county before resolutions on these items would be considered by NW RAC. Haven't met with county yet, still have some work to do. A lot of use is on state trust land. Technically that use is trespass. It makes enforcement very difficult. State Land board wants to exchange this piece. County commission does not want it to be BLM because it would have BLM rules on that piece as well. State Parks concerned about the enforcement issue too.

Gary: Jackson County Commissioners have passed a resolution opposing fees and this exchange.

Wes: Support more time, more compromise.

Dave G: County is tying whole economic health to that area.

Barbara: Asked for time with Jackson County Commission. There is a breakdown in communication and trust. Give BLM and others time to repair this. I encourage NW RAC to delay action on these items.

Gary agrees.

Dean: Where does Sheriff stand?

Dave S: New Sheriff now. Small department.

Dave S: Will be talking to commissioners March 28.

Jeff: appreciate taking that step. County relationship is the most important relationship for federal land management agencies.

Barbara: There are different views on this in Jackson County. The Commissioners have one. USFS has another, they have concerns about the use moving into them and creating law enforcement challenges and resource concerns.

Will table discussion until at least next meeting.

UCR FEE proposal resolution

Provided more specific language in business plan.

How does this fit with REC RAC responsibilities? This would be supporting fee, not approving fee.

Dave S; will take back to rec planners. RAC wants more information about how money would be used. How much money would be generated. Draft resolution and possibly vote electronically.

Gary: Grand County very supportive. Concerned you are not asking enough.

Camping rules

Kai: illegal outfitting is a big issue. Requiring only 3-miles moving isn't enough, doesn't give tool for agencies to deal with. 14-day rule gives them that tool. Number of people that are going to need to camp more than 14-days is minimal, could address with DOW. Supportive of 30-mile deal.

Gary: Concerned about moving 30-miles, would make them move out of the county.

Kent: Illegal outfitters, squatters. Trying to address that. Broader than hunting. Would like rac notes to be reviewed to see if there is discussion of 14-day rule earlier.

Dave B will check.

Dean: 14 day is not new, 30-mile rule is.

Kai, Dean, Gary will work something up and bring it to the group in June.

Rec RAC resolution from Statewide meeting

Wes: uncomfortable taking on role. Taking on role as financial accountant. Don't have contacts in recreation community. Are recreation reps on this RAC comfortable, need assurance from them that they will do due diligence with constituents.

Pat, Steve G. Steve S., Clare would all have rec constituents.

Pat; Knee-deep in this. I am comfortable. Have one year clause in this resolution.

Dean: comfortable with one-year sunset. Can't let Forest Service off the hook for the rec rac.

Dave G: NW RAC needs training to ensure we know how to function as a rec rac.

Steve G: moves. Gary seconds.

Vote: unanimously passes.

Next meeting agenda items:

NSH update/resolutions

14-day rule

UCR resolution

Wildlands?

Wild horses, white river rmp.

Adjourns 9:50 a.m.