

Northwest Resource Advisory Council
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, May 11, 2006
 Grand County Fairgrounds
 Kremmling, Colorado

ATTENDEES

Resource Advisory Council Members

David Bailey, Category 2	Steven Gunderson, Category 1
Clare Bastable, Category 2	Charles Kerr, Category 2
Dave Cesark, Category 1	Jon Hill, Category 1
Pat Kennedy, Category 2	John Martin, Category 3

Not present:

- Wade Haerle, Category 2
- Jeff Comstock, Category 3
- Duane Dailey, Category 3
- T. Wright Dickinson, Category 1
- Kathy Hall, Category 3
- Larry McCown, Category 3
- Forrest Nelson, Category 3

BLM Staff

John Ruhs	David Boyd
Jamie Connell	Renee Straub
John Husband	
Catherine Robertson	
Kent Walter	

Visitors	Representing	Town/City
Jason Good	University of Michigan	Ann Arbor, MI
Steve Bonowski	Colo Mountain Club	Lakewood
Richard Klingler		Rifle
Lyle Sidener	Colo Division of Wildlife	Hot Sulphur Springs
Craig Mueller	Blizzard Snowmobile Club	Fort Collins
Bill Rex Ford	Blizzard Snowmobile Club	Windsor
Jay Fletcher	Sen. Ken Salazar	Craig
Tracy Boyd	Shell	Denver
Glenn Vawter	EGL Resources	Glenwood Springs
Vic Rosato	Chevron	Houston, TX
Urmas Kelmser	Chevron	Richmond, LA
Mark Looney	Houston	Houston, TX

Called meeting to order at 8:07 a.m.

Minutes from last meeting: Approved with the following corrections:

- Correct spelling of T Wright
- Add Charlie Kerr to wildlife group
- Add John Martin to Recreation group

Action Items from last meeting:

- **Catherine Robertson will provide information regarding the oil and gas spacing that was considered in the 1987 Grand Junction RMP:** State regulates downhole spacing. RMP identifies 1,000 wells, 50 wells per year. The Field Office has about 500 wells now. Analysis was based on older technology, so there should be less disturbance now. It was sufficient analysis to allow leasing. RMP identifies stipulations to protect watersheds
- **Jack Placchi will provide Special Recreation Permit fee penalty information to the RAC:** John Martin says Jack has not answered. This request will be included in a letter from the NW RAC to the State Office on the subject
- **Jamie Connell and David Boyd will check if a new Federal Register Notice is needed if the group meets for an additional day** (e.g. the afternoon prior to the scheduled meeting for Fed Manager updates): Yes, a new Federal Register Notice would be required.

Vice Chair Dave Cesark noted that a quorum was not present.

Designated Federal Officer Jamie Connell stated that the RAC nominations for upcoming vacancies had been forwarded to Washington. BLM did not receive enough nominations for Category 2 and have issued a news release and Federal Register Notice calling for Category 2 nominations.

Field Manager updates:

Glenwood Springs Field Office, Jamie Connell

Energy Office Staff moves into new building: Energy Office staff has moved into their location south of downtown Glenwood Springs. Total staffing at the office will be 23 BLM positions, 4 US Forest Service positions, and a US Fish and Wildlife Service biologist. BLM Director Kathleen Clarke and USFS Associate Chief Sally Collins will be in Glenwood Springs May 25 to tour the Energy Office and meet with various stakeholders. An open house will be held from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Energy Office, 2425 S. Grand Ave. RAC members are strongly encouraged to attend.

Progress on Roan Plateau Final Proposed Plan continues: The Glenwood Springs Field Office continues to work closely with its cooperators on the Proposed Roan Plateau RMP Amendment, particularly the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. The Plan

will be sent to Washington for review this month, and we expect a mid- to late summer release.

Volunteers remove tons of garbage from Fravert Reservoir: More than 40 volunteers removed nearly eight tons of garbage from the Fravert Reservoir and JQS Trail areas north of Rifle April 29. The annual clean-up was a cooperative effort among High Country 4 Wheelers, the Bureau of Land Management, and a number of other local businesses and off-highway vehicle groups, including Code 4x4, Mountain Off-Road Enterprises, Colorado Custom Cycles, Waste Management and the Four Wheelers. Volunteers filled more than two 40-cubic yard containers of trash, scrap metal, tires and abandoned vehicles – more than twice the volume as last year.

Glenwood Springs Energy Office participates in Energy Expo: Glenwood Springs Energy Office employees staffed a display at the 4th Annual EnCana Energy Expo in Rifle May 3. More than 50 industry and government representatives staffed booths. Several thousand people attended, including local high school students. Many attendees had specific questions for BLM about various aspects of oil and gas leasing, as well as oil shale development.

Grand Junction Field Office, Catherine Robertson

Decision Record for Bangs Canyon Implementation EA released: In early April the Grand Junction Field Office issued the Decision Record for the Environmental Assessment addressing implementation actions for the Bangs Canyon Special Recreation Management Area. Various environmental organizations filed an appeal with IBLA in early May and requested a stay of implementation. The overarching guidance for the area is provided by the Bangs Canyon Management Plan, approved in 1999, and the Grand Junction Resource Area Resource Management Plan. After carefully considering approximately 300 unique public comments, the BLM crafted a decision that focuses on shared-use trails and urban interface management, while expanding the backcountry primitive area nearly three-fold. An additional 2,300 comments were form letters. The decision has garnered keen interest from all user groups because of the proposed motorized trails, BLM-inventoried wilderness character and Citizens' Proposed Wilderness.

Grand Junction Interagency Air Center dedicated: The new Interagency Air Center in Grand Junction was dedicated in April. Speakers included Senator Wayne Allard, Regional Forester Rick Cables, BLM Colorado State Director Sally Wisely, Tom Boatner from NIFC, and Mesa County Commissioner Tilman Bishop. The Grand Junction Interagency Air Center is one of the nation's busiest fire aviation centers, and this new facility improves the ability of multiple federal agencies to protect public lands in western Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, New Mexico and Arizona. The facility serves as headquarters for smoke jumpers, pilots, dispatch and base administration.

Grand Junction employees win national awards: Two rangers from the Grand Junction Field Office have won national awards. In February Dan “Perry” McCoy, a BLM law enforcement officer in Grand Junction, was named “Ranger of the Year” by the director of the BLM Office of Law Enforcement and Security for his professionalism, cooperation, integrity and honor. And yesterday (May 10) in Washington, park ranger Chris Pipkin was awarded the BLM Employee National Make A Difference Volunteer Award for his work motivating a large volunteer force to manage an extensive trail system. Transportation Planner Jim Cooper recently won a National OHV Award for his work.

More than 48,000 acres in GJFO up for lease at May sale: More than 48,000 acres within the Grand Junction Field Office are nominated for the May 11 lease sale. The parcels within an area that Walker Field Airport had planned for expansion have been deferred. WFA has submitted its expansion plans to BLM. They intend to apply for a formal land transfer under an MOU executed by the BLM Colorado State Director in the early 1990s. Meanwhile, protests from the City of Grand Junction and Palisade from the February lease sale continue to be evaluated.

EIS being prepared for proposed underground coal mine: A Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS for the proposed Red Cliff Mine, approximately 11 miles north of the towns of Mack and Loma, should be published within the next two weeks. CAM-Colorado, LLC is proposing a new portal and associated facilities to extract low-sulfur coal from several federal coal leases, a small amount of private land, and several potential new federal leases. The EIS will analyze the development of surface facilities for coal mining associated with the proposed underground mine, including roads, a water pipeline, coal stockpile and spoil areas, a coal preparation plant, the mine portal, other administrative and operations facilities, and a railroad spur line that would connect to the existing Union Pacific Railroad line near Mack. RAC members will be notified when the NOI is published.

BLM acquires Rabbit Valley parcel at McInnis Canyon: BLM and the Trust for Public Land recently completed the purchase of a key 520-acre tract of land in the heart of the Rabbit Valley on the western edge of the McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area. The parcel has long been a desired acquisition that resolves several trespass issues and decreases the number of inholdings within the NCA. U.S. Senator Wayne Allard, former U.S. Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell, and former U.S. Representative Scott McInnis were instrumental in securing the federal funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to protect acquire the property. Last August TPL and BLM closed on six parcels totaling 830 acres in the NCA. Without protection, the Rabbit Valley inholdings would have been prime candidates for second homes. By acquiring the land, the BLM can now provide better trail access.

Pedestrian Bridge Dedication Part of Antiquities Act Celebration: The Grand Junction Field Office celebrated the long-awaited pedestrian bridge at Bridgeport during a dedication ceremony at the end of March. The bridge is located 30 minutes south of Grand Junction, off Hwy 50 and the Bridgeport Rd, then a one-mile hike from the

parking lot. The new bridge serves as a gateway to the Dominguez Canyon WSA providing convenient, safe and legal access. The new bridge dedication is part of a year-long celebration of the centennial of the American Antiquities Act of 1906. The area's history includes rockart, Indian trails, wagon roads, railroads, and bridges.

Kremmling Field Office, John Ruhs

Glenwood and Kremmling Field Offices begin pre-planning for joint RMP

revisions: The two field offices will undergo a joint planning process in which both Field Office RMPs will be revised under a single EIS. Two Records of Decisions will be issued. Currently staff is preparing to hold some Community Assessments – small group discussions with local and county governments that are potential cooperators on the plan. Both field offices have jointly initiated a Wild and Scenic Eligibility Study. Scoping meetings for the RMP revisions will likely be held in the first few months of 2007.

North Sand Hills work continues: The Kremmling Field Office continues to be an active participant in the North Sand Hills Working Group, which is developing a cooperative management plan for the popular North Sand Hills SRMA. Jackson County, another participant in the Working Group, was awarded the first-ever motorized GOCO planning grant of \$47,000 to help with the planning effort. A planning consultant has been selected to hold public meetings, collect user data and work with the group in drafting the plan.

National raft race to be held on Kremmling Field Office lands: Plans are underway once again for the Kremmling Field Office to host the national rafting qualifying race in Gore Canyon. “Gorefest” will be held August 19-20, with the winner of the event representing the U.S. in the World Championship in Korea later this year. Last year’s winner of the Gorefest finished in 3rd place in the World Championship held in South America. Hundreds attend this event.

Kremmling Field Office addressing Mountain Pine Beetle: Pine Beetle populations are currently at epidemic levels throughout the Kremmling Field Office, increasing the possibility for major catastrophic fire, loss of valuable timber resources, and impacts on local economies. The KFO is currently addressing this problem through salvage timber sales (260 acres on-going, more being evaluated), pursuing a stewardship agreement with Jackson County, and participating in the Northern Colorado Bark Beetle Cooperative, an inter-jurisdictional effort to manage the pine beetle in a coordinated manner.

Kremmling Field Office facilitates archaeological research: Kremmling Field Office’s cultural program is working with two universities researching two important sites in Grand County. The University of Wyoming will continue to excavate and research the Barger Gulch cultural site while the University of Southern Florida will conduct research activities at the Kremmling Cretaceous Ammonite Site. The cultural program will also begin the process for nomination of the Barger Gulch site to the National Register of Historic Places this year. In celebration of the Antiquities Act Centennial, the cultural

program will construct two interpretive sites; one in Jackson County and one in Grand County.

Owl Mountain Partnership working on 2006 projects: The Owl Mountain Partnership, including BLM, private landowners, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Forest Service and the Colorado Division of Wildlife, will be working on several projects in Jackson County to benefit livestock grazing and improve wildlife habitat. These include the development of five new wells on BLM, four new spring developments on national forest lands, and reconstruction of seven old reservoirs on BLM lands. They will also participate in constructing new fences and completing vegetative treatment projects.

Travel management work continues: Plans are proceeding for construction of the technical 4x4 route in the Wolford Travel Management Planning area this summer. A designated single-track motor bike trail will also be relocated through Cow Gulch in accordance with the travel plan decision. Additional kiosk construction to help the public understand travel management in the area is also underway and installations are planned in the Wolford area, Dice Hill, and North Sand Hills SRMA

Little Snake Field Office, John Husband

Summer release for Little Snake Draft RMP revision expected: The Draft EIS/RMP for the Little Snake Field Office is scheduled to be published for a 90-day public comment period in July 2006. Major issues addressed in the Draft RMP include energy and mineral development, special management areas, transportation and travel management, and wildlife habitat. The Field Office has worked closely with the community through both its Cooperating Agencies and the Northwest Colorado Stewardship (NWCOS), an independent community-centered stewardship group. The planning effort has remained on schedule.

Public comment period complete for Emerald Mountain Land Exchange EA: The Little Snake Field Office released the Environmental Assessment on the Emerald Mountain Land Exchange in northwestern Colorado for a 30-day public comment period in early April. The Field Office received 46 comments, all but two of which supported the exchange. Most supported an alternative that establishes a Special Recreation Area and allows for management to be tailored over time to meet public needs. Under the proposed exchange, BLM would trade 127 scattered federal land parcels totaling about 15,500 acres for the approximately 4,400-acre Emerald Mountain parcel, a consolidated block of land near Steamboat Springs owned by the State of Colorado. The EA analyzed the impacts of the exchange, as well as four management alternatives should the exchange take place. BLM has been working with the local non-profit Emerald Mountain Partnership and the City of Steamboat Springs for more than five years on the proposed exchange and management alternatives.

Many parcels in May Oil and Gas Lease sale within Little Snake: More than 40 percent of the 196,000 acres nominated statewide for lease at today's (May 11) sale fall within the Little Snake Field Office, including 37,600 federal surface and 43,800 private surface acres. BLM deferred 40 acres owned by the City of Craig that were part of a larger 680-parcel near Elkhead Reservoir. The city has plans to develop a recreation site on this property, so the portion of the parcel was deferred to allow time for the City and BLM to meet and address concerns. When lands nominated within Moffat County in the White River Field Office are included with Little Snake, more than 60 percent of the parcels at the statewide May lease sale are within Moffat County (118,900 acres, including 47,200 acres of split estate with federal minerals).

White River Field Office, Kent Walter

Programmatic EIS for Commercial Oil Shale Leasing on schedule: The Draft Programmatic EIS for commercial oil shale leasing is on-schedule to be released this fall. The Record of Decision is scheduled for summer 2007. Regulations should be published six months after the ROD.

Oil Shale Research Development and Demonstration (RD&D) meetings draw crowds: More than 200 people attended the four RD&D open house meetings in Rangely, Meeker, Rifle and Grand Junction. Three companies have nominations to conduct oil shale development research on five 160-acre tracts southwest of Meeker. BLM is writing Environmental Assessments for each of the company's proposals. While not required under the EA process, the open houses were held to give the public a chance to interact with BLM and the nominated companies and have their questions and concerns addressed. The EAs will be available for a 30-day public review when they are released later this summer.

White River RMP Amendment Notice of Intent in Washington: The White River Field Office's Notice of Intent for its RMP Amendment addressing the level of oil and gas development over the 1.5 million-acre field office is undergoing review in Washington. New technology, expanding infrastructure and high demand has created unprecedented growth in oil and gas program in the Piceance Basin. The oil and gas industry has expressed interest in drilling more than 13,000 oil and gas wells in the next 20 years, a figure its current resource management plan does not address. The 1997 RMP analyzed a reasonable foreseeable development of 1,100 oil and gas wells over 20 years. Public meetings will be held in Rifle and Meeker during a 45-day scoping period. This planning effort is being jointly funded with industry, which will be funding the NEPA contractor. BLM will retain control of the contractor.

White River Field Office plans wild horse gathers: The White River Field Office is working on an Environmental Assessment for several wild horse gathers this season. Under the current proposal, 301 horses from the estimated 436 horses in the Piceance-East Douglas Herd Management Area will be removed to BLM holding facilities for adoption. BLM plans to capture and remove all of the estimated 52 horses outside of this

Herd Management Area. Meanwhile, the proposal for the West Douglas Herd is to remove the first 89 horses captured, which should leave about 50 in the area after foaling this year. Work on the environmental documents authorizing the complete removal of the West Douglas Herd continues.

Stipulations in-place for oil and gas leasing in ferret reintroduction area: More than 41,000 acres the White River Field Office have been nominated by industry for the May oil and gas lease sale. About 29,800 acres in the lease sale are located within the 52,000-acre Wolf Creek Management Area, where black-footed ferrets have been released. About 19,800 acres of active white-tailed prairie dog colonies are located within the Wolf Creek Management Area, and 12,642 (64%) are located within the lease sale. Oil and gas leasing within the Black-footed ferret reintroduction area was address in the 1997 RMP, as well as in the 2001 Ferret Reintroduction Plan, developed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Colorado Division of Wildlife. BLM believes the stipulations in place will protect the ferrets and prairie dogs.

Public Comment Period

Bill Rex Ford of the Colorado Blizzards Snowmobile Club – Attending because his group wants to ensure access to public areas. Concerned because he had heard rumors about selling public lands

Craig Mueller of the Colorado Blizzards Snowmobile Club – Stated that he wants to keep access open to public lands.

Split Estate Listening Session

Catherine Robertson explained history of split estate – stopped disposing of federal resource with 1920 Act. Federal gov't retains mineral estate in many areas. Court cases have shown that development of mineral estate has primacy over surface

BLM will begin 60-day public review ahead of lease sales in August. Expect Director will want to continue in Colorado.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 directed BLM to review current policies and practices for managing split-estate situations and prepare a report to Congress.

BLM was directed to consult with affected property owners, representatives of the oil and gas industry, and other interested parties while completing the review to consider how best to facilitate reasonable access for Federal oil and gas activities and minimize impacts to privately owned surface.

Five “Listening Sessions” were held to gather public comment: Albuquerque, Grand Junction, Casper, Miles City, and Washington D.C.

Attendees were given an overview of federal split estate regulations, policies and practices, followed by an opportunity to provide concerns, comments and suggestions to BLM.

More than 360 people attended the listening sessions, with 102 choosing to speak. In Grand Junction, 65 people attended and 19 spoke.

Comments on split estate were also accepted via e-mail from December 23, 2005 through April 1, 2006. A total of 3,248 e-mail comments were received; 3,083 of these were nearly identical, and 165 were unique.

BLM is currently drafting a report to Congress based on the public feedback. The Field Managers have not seen a draft of this report and do not know when it will be released.

Most of the public comments in Grand Junction reflected frustration with the process, a few suggestions on improving process.

Catherine pointed out that the challenge with BLM notifying landowners that minerals under their land is up for lease is that the landowner information is controlled at the county level. It is not always updated timely depending on county. This would be a tremendous workload for BLM. It should be addressed in the report.

Other comments: The public needs to be aware of mineral rights when they buy property. They can follow lease sales on the Internet.

State law requires property owners be notified of mineral rights at closing

Discussion of possible Split Estate resolution

Charlie Kerr led the discussion and passed out copies of the SW RAC's resolution on the topic. He suggested that notification of property owners and adjacent property owners of leasing should be the operators' responsibility

Dave Cesark – Mineral rights are property rights too. Should mineral owners be notified about development on the surface that might impact their mineral rights? A summary of public comments from the listening sessions would be helpful to this discussion, we should wait until they are available

Catherine – The information about what lands are up for lease is available on-line or at field offices. Information is available to landowners for each lease sale. The question is: Whose responsibility would it be to notify each landowner? When considering this resolution, keep in mind notifying people does not give them opportunity to say no.

Charlie – But landowner could bid, file protest. Responsibility should not be BLM but developers

John M. – Guidelines from the SW RAC resolution would have to be rewritten so that they are doable, e.g. you can't notify each landowner as the SW RAC resolution states

Cesark – 102 people spoke nationally, how big issue is it really? Big for individuals, but is it a large-scale issue across the West?

Charlie – Negotiating balance leans toward mineral owners

It was pointed out that the discussion needs to focus on split estate situations with Federal minerals

Claire asked whether it is a big issue for industry to notify landowner when they are working up the nomination for a particular parcel

Ceark – Doesn't know at this point, it may not be a big deal. The nominator often does not get lease they nominated

Jamie – The big difference with federal leases is NEPA and public involvement process. That does not occur with private land. Not as many issues with split estate on federal as on private as a result

Jon – Notice of staking is public process.

Field Managers pointed out that BLM does not sign an APD until a surface agreement is in place

Charlie and Claire – feel strongly that adjacent landowners should be notified

John M – private property ends at boundary

Jamie – adjacent landowners would have opportunity to participate in NEPA/public review

Jamie addresses the SW RAC resolution item by item:

1. The Colorado BLM should extend the time period for posting notifications and advertisements of an oil and gas lease sale to 60 days prior to the sale date to be consistent with its neighboring BLM state offices. It is our understanding that the current posting time period in Colorado is 45 days, but is 60 days in Utah, Nevada, and New Mexico. **Jamie: BLM Colorado is now doing this.**

2. The nominator of potential federal oil and gas lease parcels, or the BLM, should be required to identify and provide nomination notification to surface property owners of record within and immediately adjacent to nominated parcels by consulting county

records or other reasonable means. **Jamie: to require the nominator to contact surface owners would require a change in federal regulations.**

3. Following each quarterly oil and gas lease sale, in addition to posting on the BLM web site, the BLM should post the results of the sale at each affected BLM field office. These postings should include the names and addresses of the successful bidder of each parcel sold, as well as a list of those parcels that did not sell. **Jamie: This is already being done.**

4. The applicant or the BLM, should be required to notify the affected surface landowner *and* immediately adjacent landowners at the time an application to drill is requested by the leaseholder. **Jamie: This might involve a regulation change.**

Claire – wants to see us continue with this idea at a future RAC

Cesark – need to see response from State Office to the SW RAC resolution first. Seeing the public comments/national report from the Washington Office would also be helpful, particularly before the next meeting.

The group agreed to continue discussion at the next meeting. **Action Item:** include info from public comment, handouts, response to state director

Weed Resolution

BLM committed that all Resolutions will be responded to in writing. All resolutions should be addressed to the DFO. The BLM Field Managers will determine if the information/request should be elevated to the State Director.

BLM's response to the Weed resolution was passed out

Working group updates

Field trip group – Official RAC field trip on public lands should be open to public lands. Question is on private land. Need congress to change charter. Under law all of field examinations need to be open to public.

Jamie -- RAC needs to decide on case by case. If public wants to go, they can. Look at spirit of law, not trying to make closed-door decision. Need to be our own referee. Can rewrite Charter every two years, might try if we come up with some good language.

Can't take large numbers, can't take to restricted sites

John H. Are we talking public notification? Fed register, news release. A: news release should be enough

Kent: Can require advance RSVP from public in order for them to go

Catherine: how many times has this been an issue?

Special Recreation Permit Fee group: Claire: SW RAC passed resolution in support of new SRP application fees. We have been talking to Jack Placci trying to get more info. We still a lot of questions. No other state has application fees for SRPs. The groups is drafting a letter to the State Office: main concerns are public notifications, who needs these permits (not clear, always inconsistency from FO to FO), guidelines – which activities need SRP (need at least loose set of guidelines), consistent deadlines, website or brochure explaining, centralized permitting – discretionary, one FO may require, another not), would have to pay fee for each FO,

John M: can't determine what service BLM is providing to public for \$100 they weren't getting before

Charlie: a lot more applications now, require more time

Steve: assume that permit is the issue

Kent: cost of business going up

John Martin: some applications have fees, some don't

Claire: two issues, application fee and SRP itself

Action item: The Recreation working group will send a letter to DFO asking for more information before the NW RAC can consider resolution of support

RS 2477 Guidance

John Husband passed out a handout giving background on the issue.

FLPMA repealed R.S. 2477, but grandfathered existing routes. But even county roads were not always recorded, so issue is: What in fact is grand-fathered? What is a road?

Under new guidance, BLM can make non-binding determinations through its planning process. Only courts can make legally binding determinations.

Washington is working on guidance on this issue for BLM and Field Offices

Oil Shale RD&D

Kent Walter gave an overview of the oil Shale RD&D nomination process. Eight nominations were selected, six in Colorado. We are now down to five. The nominations

are for 160-acre lease applications. Goal of program is to develop commercially viable and environmentally sound oil shale development.

If companies' processes are sound, they can get preference rights to additional 5,120 acres. This will require additional NEPA and is years down the road.

World's largest and richest formation in Green River formation. Piceance Basin up to 1.2 trillion barrels – if 800 recoverable, that's 100 years worth of oil. 1-2 times known reserves. Tremendous opportunity for meeting nation's energy needs.

Three separate EAs covering each company, currently writing

Each company gave a brief presentation on its proposals. Some additional questions arose:

Glenn Vawter EGL

RD&D will help prove technologies to reduce chance of repeat boom and bust

Process will use steam injected in wells that have been drilled. Closed system. Would use natural gas as heating source

Monitoring and drilling would start in spring 2007 if leases issued this summer.

Price per barrel estimates \$40-50, but it is RD&D

Short-term will truck product out, if commercial will need pipeline system into

Shell, Tracy Boyd

Since 1981.

Can recover higher percentage of hydrocarbons than other forms of wells

More than 250 people working on their projects

Power sources: RD&D off of the grid

Commercial level: need to develop own energy sources, diverse: gas-fired, coal-fired, wind power, (will eventually use own natural gas generated)

RD&D water will be taken out and injected on other side of freeze wall

Commercial anticipate treating water and putting it reservoir to use for freeze wall

After done producing hydrocarbons, will inject water back into voids

Estimate \$20-30 per barrel

Chevron, Vic, Mark,

Just a research project at this point. Trying to learn. Don't want to damage Chevron's good reputation

Multi-year contract with Los Alamos scientists

Not a lot of ground water in Mahogany layer.

Don't have cost per barrel at this point

Have instruments to measure any ground shift or aquifer breach

How would you stop breach? A: Need to do more research, some sort of grouting material. Working with Los Alamos scientists on this question

Public Comment Period .

Steve Bonowski, Colorado Mountain Club. SRPs. He deals with permits and access. Like current direction BLM is going: uniform fee for outfitters vs. by trip.

Currently deal with 10 ranger districts, each one is different. Fees, requirements. One staff person spending 1/3 of time on permitting issues alone. Suggests BLM avoids this approach.

Encourage BLM to consider these issues. Would like RAC to include in the SRP letter it is drafting that BLM distinguish between commercial and non-profit groups. 501c3 groups are for educational purposes.

As BLM develops its policies, please consider educational outfitters. Commercial outfitters may be starting to get preferences for permits (don't want to see that). Commercial services are very different service from educational.

Jason Good, masters student. Distributed form to get contact info for phone interview with 7-8 questions re: FACA.

Next meeting possible items:

Bring split estate brochures

John H: Send out leasing primer (regarding process)

Vince Matthews oil and gas presentation

BLM NEPA expert give 30 minute overview of NEPA (a lot of questions)

Brian Macky – could give state regulation process

Resolution discussion of SRP permit. **Action Item: Recreation working group will send draft of this letter to the RAC before the meeting**

Reclamation process following energy projects (is bonding sufficient, roads, improve process) Perhaps field tour

Split estate discussion

Roan Plateau, Little Snake RMPs??

Action Item: David Boyd will provide the written field manager updates to RAC members in advance of the next meeting