



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Colorado Northwest Resource Advisory Council (NW RAC) Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2025

Location: Physical/Virtual Meeting (Meeker Fire Department, 240 7th St. Meeker, CO 81641)

NW RAC Members:

Name	Location	Cat.	Interest Represented
Mike Camblin	Maybell	I	Federal Grazing
Scott Braden	Grand Junction	III	Public-at-Large
Sherry Schreiner		III	Public-at-Large
Callie H. Scritchfield	Meeker	II	Environmental Organizations
Jeff Comstock	Craig	I	Rights-of-Way Interests
Merrit Linke	Granby	III	Elected Official
Carl Conner	Grand Junction	II	Archaeological and Historical
Scott Robertson	Rangely	I	Federal Grazing
Kathy Chandler-Henry	Eagle	III	Elected Official
Kris Middledorf (absent)	Steamboat Springs	III	State Natural Resources
Hattie Johnson	Carbondale	II	Dispersed Recreation
Sean Burke	Fraser	II	Dispersed Recreation
Beatriz Soto Ruvalcaba	New Castle	II	Environmental Organizations
Shawn Brennan	Glenwood Springs	I	Energy and Mineral Development
Kirk Daehling	Rifle	I	Energy and Mineral Development

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Staff:

Name	Title	Office
Bill Mills	District Manager (Acting) (DFO)	Northwest District Office
Greg Larson	District Manager	Upper Colorado River District Office
Erin Jones	Associate District Manager	Upper Colorado River District Office
James Michels	Associate District Manager	Northwest District Office
Stacy Colón	Field Manager	Grand Junction Field Office
Lisa Dawson	Field Manager	Colorado River Valley Field Office
Steve Leonard	Field Manager	Kremmling Field Office
James Roberts	Field Manager	White River Field Office
Hunter Seim	Field Manager (Acting)	Little Snake Field Office
Heather Marsh	Public Affairs Specialist	Upper Colorado River District Office
Zack Kelley	Monument Manager (Acting)	NCA Manager for McInnis Canyons NCA (MCNCA) and Dominguez Escalante NCA (DENCA)

Public Attendees

Name	Title

Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item: Housekeeping, Introductions, and Opening Remarks

Presenters: Bill Mills, Northwest District Manager (Acting)

Discussion Summary

Agenda Item: North Sand Hills Special Recreation Area Management Plan

Presenters: Steve Leonard, KFO Field Manager / Andrew Borek, Outdoor Rec Planner

In response to request from RAC in August 2024 meeting, BLM KFO and CPW have been formalizing partnerships to manage the North Sand Hills Recreation area and the North Sand Hills Instant Study Area (ISA). The areas that the public is currently camping is on Colorado Land Board lands and some BLM managed lands. The RAC direction to get CPW to become a partner on the project was achieved. Through specific state channels the CPW is now looking to manage the area like a state park with the BLM KFO with the KFO remaining in management of the ISA. The presentation explained the steps to get to a cooperative agreement for management of the area. Then a discussion on current capacity on enforcement and what potentially would be needed, what each agency could do to work on improving that, potential labor for managing the area, and what is needed to work on to get a business plan with proposed developments. The discussion also brought up the need to have the Colorado State Land in as a cooperating agency as well as they have property in the area. Post presentation and discussion the RAC supported the progress and plan to move forward on the cooperative agreement and the partnering of the agencies.

Agenda Item: Carbon Sequestration and Methane Capture

Presenters: James Roberts, WRFO Field Manager (Acting)

James presented on the methods of carbon sequestration that has been looked into in the White River Field Office area. The presentation showed what each proposed method of sequestering carbon, the process for each method, what is required for each method and potential complications for with each. Post presentation discussion was around the processes and what it would mean to future energy development to the areas, how long it would last and is there any proposals or applications in at this time to sequester carbon. RAC was pleased with the informative presentation and would like to know if there are any updates in the future.

Agenda Item: Field Manager Updates

Presenters: Steve Leonard, Kremmling Field Office (KFO) Manager; James Roberts, White River Field Office (WRFO) Manager (Acting); Hunter Seim, Little Snake Field Office (LSFO) Field Manager (Acting); Greg Larson, Upper Colorado River (UCRD) District Manager; Lisa Dawson, Colorado River Valley Field Office (CRVFO) Manager; Stacey Colón, Grand Junction Field Office (GJFO) Manager; Zack Kelley, NCA Manager for McInnis Canyons NCA (MCNCA) and Dominguez Escalante NCA (DENCA)(Acting); RAC members.

Packets include updates from Field Managers. Field Managers and the RAC discussed current events in the field across the spectrum of land management programs.

NWDO – William Mills, Acting District Manager,

- District Staffing update, Vacancies, new hires, and details.

Kremmling Field Office – Stephen Leonard

- OHV Recreation, virtual Fencing, Upper Kinney Stream Restoration, Blue Valley Land Exchange, Upper Colorado Special Recreation Area Business Plan (KFO and CRVFO), announced new Assistant Field Manager, Olivia Clark.

- After presentation there was a discussion about the Blue Valley Land Exchange and what is next for that area.

White River Field Office – James Roberts, Acting Field Manager

- Meeker Mustang Makeover, Piceance East Douglas Heard Management Area, Recreation (OHV, Lands with Wilderness Characteristics, and 4th Grade Every Kid outdoor Field Trip), Oil and Gas Development (active wells, APDs, proposed pluggings), FY 25 Oil and Gas Leasing information, Buffalo Horn Land Exchange status, Status of TransWest Express powerline.
- Discussion about the PED HMA, the Douglas horse heard area, potential gathers and horse holding.

Little Snake Field Office - Hunter Seim, Assistant Field Manager

- PacifiCorp Gateway South transmission line update, TransWest Express transmission line status, Lands with Wilderness Characteristics, Greater Sage Grouse Funds, Outcome Based Grazing Pilot Project status, and Sand Wash HMA update.
- Discussion about the Outcome Based Grazing, the Sand Wash HMA and current gather status and horse holding.

Upper Colorado River District – Greg Larson, District Manager

- Supplemental EIS/FMP for Colorado River Valley (CRVFO) and Grand Junction (GJFO) Field Offices, Introduction of Stacy Colon and Elizabeth (Lisa) Dawson as the new Field Managers for GJFO and CRVFO respectively.

Grand Junction Field Office – Stacy Colon, Field Manager

- Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Gather, Watershed scale land health assessments, Grazing permits, North Fruita Desert Trails Master Plan, 18 Road Right-of-way, Clifton Parcel.
- Discussion on Little Book Cliff Wild Horse Gather

McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area (MCNCA) – Zack Kelley, Acting NCA Manager

- Rabbit Valley Fire, Rabbit Valley Campground.

Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area (D-E NCA) - Zack Kelley, Acting NCA Manager

- Gunnison Campsite designation and permit system, Dominguez-Escalante NCA Business Plan update, Escalante Ranch Acquisition update.

Colorado River Valley Field Office (CRVFO – Silt) - Elizabeth (Lisa) Dawson, Field Manager

- Proposed Rock Crawling trails in Silt Mesa ERMA, Upper Colorado River SRMA carrying capacity study, Integrated Fuels and Habitat improvement Projects, Oil and Gas activities, Rocky Mountain Industrial (RMI) – Mid-Continent Quarry.

Agenda Item: Public Comment Period

Scott Braden reminded BLM to reach out to the senator and congressional offices to invite them to the public comment period.

Agenda Item: Adjourn

Meeting adjourned by Chairman Scott Braden at 2:03 p.m.

Meeting notes certified by RAC Chair: July 31, 2025