

**Arizona Strip "Alliance" Meeting
July 18, 2000**

Welcome and Introductions: Roger Taylor

Bobbie Antonich – Facilitator

Ending Time: 2:30

Lunch: 12:00 Noon

Breaks:

Role: Timekeeper for morning session

Summary of Agenda

Alliance concept

Overview

Partners perspective

Expectation of Meeting Outcome:

- Joy Jordan – have steps to follow to work with the communities and counties along with the Federal agencies to get past barriers – how to work collectively with all the federal agencies
- Joe Judd – would like to realistic commitments from all who are here
- Dennis Curtis – would like to have a vision of where it will lead us – what is the end in mind
- Jim Matson – would like to see us get to the point where we have formal agreements
- Dennis Curtis – need to have some idea of funding
- Jim Matson– seamless planning
- Oliver Barlow – want to see us put together an organization that gives the communities official standing similar to Arizona Regional Task Force
- Bruce Fox – see visioning and goals statement – process that is very inclusive for all stakeholders or user groups

Jana Prewitt

- Secretary Babbitt is a visionary – looking 100 to 200 years into the future
- Concerned that we need a strategy to get through from now to then –
- Will create a “place marker budget”
- Clinton Administration will only have a limited effect – goal should be a strategy for transition
 - Need to develop funding from a variety of sources
 - Begin with experience with Grand Staircase
 - You are politically invisible – need to collaborate to increase political visibility
 - Grand Staircase strategy was “reinvention based” –
- What can we do at all levels to have a strategy that is attractive enough to make a difference in this part of the country -

- This region can become an economic player – but only with the involvement of the federal players
- How we manage these resources and sustain the economy over the next 4, 8, 16 years

Jim Madsen

- Range and complexity of the region – immense area that is isolated
- Road crossing at Marble Canyon allowed some communication
- If we redraw the state boundaries it would be different – River would be stateline
- Large Federal withdrawals – contributed to isolation
- Now we are more interconnected
- Complexities and changes – moving away from the extraction industries
- Wage and economic data – seeing a big split in Utah – haves and have nots
- Need to find ways that are politically acceptable – challenge is to not fall off the edge (visibility)
- What kind of place is the Arizona Strip – develop land use plans – then have coordination with federal planning
- Can not limit our vision to local areas – develop a plan that is not limited to federal lands – Arizona Strip Planning Taskforce – how do we communicate with each other
- Implementation – how do we work together
- Reinvention – need to find something that will last a lot longer
- There is need and willingness to work together – its just how do we do it
- The Monument designation is forcing us to work together
- What needs to be addressed
 - Task force is established – do not have the formal agreements to share resources
 - Need the University capabilities
 - Need to work with Kaibab Paiute Indians
 - Water, Transportation, funding
 - Contributions of in-kind assistance

Conny Frisch

- Arizona Strip has changed over the last 10 years – population base and opportunity for change
- Resiliency of local populations
- Kaibab is a small forest – workforce is still downsizing but will support the taskforce efforts
- Have an interest to move this effort to a higher level
- There are a lot of strong relationships in place between the forest and local communities
- Future of resource base coming from the forest service
 - There will be an ongoing program of vegetative treatment – harvest will not go away
 - Volume of 3 to 6 million board feet per year will stay the same

- Agency perspective is supportive of continued volume
- Legal challenges are included in estimated timeframes
- Pinyon-juniper – now beginning to tap into this resource – could provide some opportunities

Alan O'Neill

- Monument has created an opportunity
- Federal Managers are moving toward more seamless operations
- And have made some movement toward seamless approach – better serve the public
- Co-managed Monument – have a high trust level built over the last 10 years
- Build upon existing trust levels – totally integrated – using the strengths of both agencies
- Its not without problems within our organizations – some levels want to retain control – has created challenges
- The process is not aligned to do business this way – agencies have to move through the barriers
- We have an integrated organization plan
- These are Monuments that have a sense of discovery – development should not be in the center of the area but in the adjacent communities
- Agency models are different – National Park Service (NPS) only gets money for general management planning – very insular document – different from Forest Service (FS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) – this is a barrier to large scale planning
- Base funded for everything but planning – planning comes from 409 funding source
- NPS will have a term planning position – to support the BLM lead planner
- We are pushing NPS folks to look broader than within the monument
- We are open to taking this where we believe we are going
- Concern over a humongus plan – but it doesn't mean we cannot start building toward this goal
- There is probably something in-between the two planning levels
- There is a fear that if we fail, the area will fall under NPS management – This is not Alan's perspective – but we have to make sure it is balanced in our approach – can not have all the funding coming from one agency
- We need to demonstrate a new model – the agency funding has to be there
- Discovery Concept – Dispersed Recreation in FS – is consistent with FS vision of the forests – issue is access and how the visitors get there
- NPS has not been as active a player in the past in this area and we are working to improve our involvement in the communities
- Joy Jordan - Where should we draw the line if the Arizona Strip is too large? – Maybe we can start with the monuments – a water plan may be too ambitious and we could never complete the plan – fears we are biting off too much – focus the more strategic approach

- Welcome centers – joint visitor centers – is there any way the communities could get assistance in operating visitors centers – would help Fredonia a great deal – also emergency services
- Oliver Barlow – appears Congress is not going along with developing these monuments to support the local communities – may need to establish another office in Washington DC to manage these monuments
 - The water and road issues are a litmus test of the effectiveness of this group – Access and Water are the difficult issues – if we can show progress then we are working together
- National Landscape Conservation System – organization that deals specifically with the Monuments – will address the funding issue – The Grand Staircase is an example of adequate funding of a BLM managed monument
- The National Landscape System does improve the attention the program receives within the agency
- Need to look at executive branch politics – packaging is important
 - Bush – place-based collaborative efforts – strategize needs in collaboration with local communities
 - Gore – livability in the local communities
 - Monument by Monument you can identify needs and then package them

Roger Taylor

- Task orientated approach
- Need to make a huge paradigm shift – to involve the public and local citizens
- How can we best sustain the local landscape and local economies
- Southwest Strategy Group – community based partnerships – training sessions are available as far as process
- Common ownership and responsibility – need to have local citizen buy in and
- Need to factor in sound science
- View the ATV and Ranchers are the problem – need to utilize them as part of the solution
- What is happening is scaring the traditional BLM – breaking the mold between the existing BLM and NPS management strategies
- Vermillion Cliffs area is a gem of the Arizona Strip – are we going to create this new model or is it the first step toward a new National Park
- No idea on how we are going to get where we need to be on this
- Focus needs to be on the communities and resource sustainability
- Joe Judd – How do we make this alliance work – all areas have similar needs and we are serving the same public – need to have trash picked up and sanitation, drainage will be an issue for road maintenance, bridge maintenance, signing, all the maintenance tasks – all these issues can be shared by the communities – those who feel they are disenfranchised to have the opportunities to be trained to do these tasks – construction and maintenance teams to do the work in the monuments – employment opportunities for local communities
- FS has some small scale initiatives – sustainable community recreation –
 - Innovation of Government Award – for involving the local community
 - Grand Canyon Forest Partnership – unique ideas

- Not large initiatives – and not a federal organization

Norman Carroll

- Concept of new Monuments is also scaring the local public
- Loosing a lot of good paying jobs
- Endangered species Act and Wilderness Study Areas are hurting the local communities
- These things are coming too fast and the communities can not keep up
- Where do we tax the people to get the funds to participate and provide services
- Economic base is coordinated between counties – know they are going to have to work with the federal agencies
- Economy is shifting from resource based to service based – not good paying jobs
- Communities do not have much say in what is happening on the adjacent federal lands
- Local governments need help with planning and training, assistance with infrastructure – can the communities survive over the next 10 years?
- How to endure the transition from resource to service based economy?
- Local managers have a feel of the people but mandates from Washington do not

Bruce Fox

- Recurring themes – vastness of the area, need for alternative economics, speed of change
- Reluctance to enter into an 8-year plan – better to have a broad strategy that will guide you into the future
- Need to be able to move quickly under general guidelines
- NAU school of forestry has been involved in a number of projects on the Arizona Strip – so do have involvement in the area – can provide good science based information in a timely fashion
- There are a lot of strategies out there we can use
- Oliver Barlow – met with the Dean of the School of Forestry – we have an opportunity to do knowledge based economic development under the leadership of the University
- “Increasing pace of change” is an issue – plan needs to be flexible
- At a Round Table Discussion in Phoenix – Governor’s initiative on the economy – knowledge workers would want to live in the Arizona Strip

Break

Summary of morning discussion

- adaptive strategic processes
- dealing with the same clientele and need for services
- No one wants to go through a long planning process – 8 years is a long time to go with out a pay check
- Involvement and input from local communities
- Need to start simple and do some things
- Start simple and do some easy things – things we agree on and work from our strengths and involve everybody
- Respect
- Need for increasing our visibility and attracting funds
- aware of frustration and isolation on the part of the local communities
- working on strategy and broad guidelines
- pooling resources
- making partnerships at all levels
- recognizing that there are strength in numbers
- collectively united with continuity in our message
- aware of need for economic development in local communities

Alliance should be:

- strategic in nature
- involve the public
- forum for public involvement and debate
- use diverse entities to build constituencies
- sustainable economies within sustainable landscapes
- productive
- free exchange of information
- reach out and bring key stakeholders
- reach out to those who are disenfranchised
- have written agreements of understanding at the technical and administrative level
- with free flow
- a process to reach consensus
- shared advocacy - match needs and priorities
- an agreed upon process for getting things done
- testing the limits on how far we can go (staff, resources, equipment)
- a mechanism for getting funding and identifying sources
- cutting red tape
- a forum for building trust and understanding

Alliance should not be:

- planning with no action
- just another committee or task forces – a waste of time
- vote taking
- Another federal government planning process
- infringing on legal mandates

Concerns

- Time commitment
- Competing priorities
- Lack of staff
- No funding to do this

- Defining decision space – gaining an understanding of everyone’s decision space – legal mandates

- Who does the group answer to?
- and how do we make them responsive to us
- Empowerment from WASO offices
- 80% of decisions can be made locally

- Powerful political entities are not present today
- No political support
- Don’t leave out local governments – need state agencies at the table
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- Duplicative process with Arizona Strip Planning Taskforce
- Define Role and Function of Alliance

- Group has no official status and no organizational structure (look at local models)

What have we committed to?

- Understanding the needs of others
- Formalize the Alliance

What are the next steps?

1. Define the role of the Alliance

- Clarify and define the role and function of the Arizona Strip Regional Planning Taskforce and the Alliance; or combine them
- Formally charter the Alliance
 - implementation document to get started
 - formal charter
- In general terms, define the scope of planning

2. Define the process of how we involve internal and external key stakeholders

- Establish a forum (Community Based Partnership Workshop) to build trust and understanding
- Deliberate attempt to identify and involve in the process
 - Add county, state and local governments to the Alliance
 - Alliance process will be separate from the public involvement process

- Have signed agreements with each entity

3. E-mail mailing list to share ideas

Action: Jim Matson (Lead), Dennis Curtis, Norman Macdanold, Oliver Barlow, and Ray Klein will work on #1 and #2 above. They will have a draft by August 29, 2000.

Next Meeting: September 26, 2000; St George, Utah; morning time to be determined. There will be a joint meeting in the afternoon with the Arizona Strip Planning Task Force

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July 18, 2000

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