

**Canyons of the Ancients National Monument  
SWRAC Subgroup Meeting  
August 14, 2009**

**Subgroup Attendees**

Mark Varien	Chris Majors	Bud Poe	Bob Clayton
Liz Tozer	Gerald Koppenhafer	Peter Ortego	

**Bureau of Land Management Attendees**

LouAnn Jacobson, Monument Manager  
Heather Musclow, Monument Planner  
Bill Dunkelberger, Associate Center Manager

**Public Attendees**

Gala Pock, Citizen  
Celene Sheppard, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe  
Bill Witthans, Back Country Horseman  
Veronica Egan, Great Old Broads for Wilderness  
Jimbo Buickerood, San Juan Citizens Alliance  
Robby Henes, Southwest Seed  
James Dietrich, Montezuma County Public lands Coordinator

**Agenda**

9:00am – 9:10am	Introductions & Review of Agenda
9:10am – 9:30am	Managers Update
9:30am – 10:00am	Presentation on Proposed Plan/Final EIS
10:00am – 10:30am	●Public Comment Period
10:30am – 10:45am	Overview of Plan: Changes and Additions to DRMP
10:45am – 11:00am	What Happens Next?
11:00am – 11:15am	Status of the Advisory Committee/Subgroup
11:15am – 12:00pm	Questions

**Welcome & Introductions, Agenda review**

**Manager's Update**

- We participated in the 2009 Colorado Pres. Inc. Youth Summit
- ARPA arrests, addressed comments in the newspapers
- Oil & Gas APDs are progressing and will be out for public review soon
- Grazing Permit renewal planned for completion by the end of this year
- CO Historical Society Grant received for a brochure covering the Sand Canyon District
- Plaza deterioration with reconstruction starting August 24<sup>th</sup>
- Monument received Recovery Act funding for projects

## **Presentation on Proposed Plan/Final EIS**

### **Public Comment**

Bud Poe: Off-road defined as between designated routes, however, if you go from route A out and around and back to Route A that is not between designated routes but is off-road. Bud suggested the wording change to say "leaving" a designated route.

Peter: How would consultation with Tribes occur for access? LouAnn said if they had a particular need they would need to talk with the Monument Manager and could get a letter of authorization.

Chris: Text on page 429 does not match Table 2.2 page 100. Table 2.2 is the correct text stating grazing no more than two years out of three during critical spring growth period (March 1 to May 31).

Chris: Doesn't like the stubble height standards, LouAnn stated stubble height is BLM policy.

Bob: What is the difference between Appendix P and Map 7 for Visual Quality? Appendix P is Visual Resource Inventory where as Map 7 is Visual Resource Management. The inventory map was used in the process of developing the management map.

Bob: There are responses to comments that conflict with the text of the document.

Bill with Back Country Horsemen: What is a special recreation permit? Examples? Back Country Horsemen do pack water in for these.

Bill: Does rebuilding the plaza include taking out the tree? LouAnn explained all that has transpired in an attempt to save the tree.

Ronnie: What are your plans for monitoring and enforcement of travel mgmt. in the Monument, Sand Canyon in particular? LouAnn talked about the monitoring plan plus two law enforcement officers. Should there be substantial non-compliance on the trail with mechanized use, then adaptive management would allow us to amend the plan and close the Sand Canyon area to mechanized use.

Celene with Ute Mountain Ute Tribe: I want to make sure when someone is in or out of compliance with no off-road travel. Is it just mechanized /motorized travel that cannot occur off-road outside the Sand Canyon SRMA? Yes.

Mark: Clarified that all forms of travel are restricted to designated routes within East Rock and Sand Canyon.

Chris: What about the range position? Will it be someone that covers both his Forest and BLM permit?

LouAnn: Most likely the new person will be responsible for BLM permits only.

Bob: What are the names and area of responsibility for the two new law enforcement rangers?

LouAnn: Lanny Wagner and Sean Waggoner, primarily will work the Monument but will assist in other areas as needed.

### **Heather Overview of Plan**

Changes and Additions to DRMP

### **Heather What Happens Next?**

Bob: Wanted to make a clarification on directional drilling. It sounds simple but it is not. It's expensive and given the geological layer that exists in the Monument, it can be difficult. A single vertical well currently costs \$5 million for Kinder-Morgan to drill, costs double when doing directional drilling.

Peter asked about our meeting with the tribe scheduled after the comment period. LouAnn stated that the tribes have a copy of the plan and a letter explaining it. The suggestion was made that we follow-up with a telephone call to each tribe.

Bob: When oil companies go into litigation, it is not to be mean-spirited but is because of the money they will lose (i.e. their investment) and the thousands and thousands of jobs impacted.

Bob: The difference between "communities" and "settlement clusters" is just language. Bottom line is that it will be hard to avoid these sites to get the resource they need.

LouAnn: Emphasized that the plan does predict and allow for 121 new ground disturbing developments...it is not saying there will be no new ground disturbance.

Mark: Pointed out the need to balance all uses. Not everyone will be happy but everyone has worked together to try to come to a compromise, whether it's grazing, or energy development, or cultural resources.

Jimbo: Are all the 121 new wells on existing unitized leases? Then he asked about what unitizing meant.

LouAnn: Most would likely the wells would be unitized given the extent of the unitized leases in the Monument. However, this would not necessarily be true everywhere.

### **Status of Advisory Committee/ Subgroup**

LouAnn explained that Advisory Committee appointments expired a year ago with the charter expiring last June. LouAnn proposed that we fall back to the SWRAC since it meets quarterly, and at least once/year locally. Concerns as we move into implementation can be directed through the SWRAC. Big issues can have a subgroup developed when needed. You can come in and talk with LouAnn individually any time.

LouAnn summarized the value of the group and their work with their constituents. She hoped the subgroup believed we honored the work they had done and know that we want to continue to work with them.

Chris does feel the SWRAC is a great bunch but he questions if issues with the Monument may get lost in the bigger picture.

LouAnn: If you get mad about something, call her up. If that isn't working then let's try working through the SWRAC.

Gerald: Right now there is local representation on the SWRAC but he can see this possibly going away.

Bud: So what will you need down the road...what about beyond LouAnn? Could this subgroup serve a purpose? Are we reinventing a wheel? What do other places do?

LouAnn: It's all over the map. Some don't have a committee while others do.

Mark: Chris's point is valid; there are a lot of issues that are local. It isn't the day to day stuff but the isolated things that may need group discussion.

LouAnn will bring it up at the next SWRAC to maintain a Subgroup presence. Who wants to stay on a subgroup? Peter, Bob, Chris, Liz, Gerald, Mark, and Bud all raised their hands.

Mark proposes keeping a subgroup going and meeting twice/year.

Bob: If certain issues come up like improper use of trails in Sand Canyon then a small local group may be more appropriate.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:15 pm.