

## **District Manager Reports (Notes):**

### **Tom Heinlein, Front Range District Manager**

Tom-comes from Utah where RAC is set up different, 1 RAC for the entire state. South Park is very important because of the watershed. Among pressures and challenges, come opportunities, such as the youth corps and volunteers.

Update from Front Range, San Luis Valley Field Office is working on renewable energy development in the valley. Solar energy- identifying areas to develop, ongoing process and a high priority, which continues to evolve. Finalizing a Geothermal document. Restoration of wetland and riparian resources. One of the biggest successes in San Luis Valley is Blanca Wetlands. Looking at expanding that area. Continuing to work with Rio Grande natural area, fleshing out through a citizen led group how to manage that area. Coming out of a change in relationship with Forest Service. Relationships with other agencies are still really strong, keep communication open, and continue to do good work.

On the horizon-Had some preliminary decisions to manage threatened and endangered species for the Southwest Fly Catcher and Gunnison sage-grouse. Still trying to figure out what that means to our management.

Royal Gorge Field Office-Looking into beginning the process of updating the RGFO RMP. Important component of this, the RMP would encompass oil and gas development, we can plan for this. Oil and gas development is still a strong component of what we do in RGFO. Keith Berger is doing a good job at working with staff and industry on this.

Recreation-Keith's staff is about to revise the overall management plan for the Arkansas River, dual project with Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Western Prairie Chicken-Preliminary status for listing. Looking at how that may affect operations where there are minerals. Working with state and federal partners during that process.

Drought-Aware of how drought will affect RGFO. Becoming increasingly noticeable and alarming, more and more red days.

Beatles-Our district has quite a bit of forestry, we've managed to avoid the Beatle, although spruce Beatle is showing up throughout the range and toward Canon City. Figuring out how to deal with that.

Update on individual RAC meeting-10-12 showed up for the comment period. Focus was on oil and gas development, concerns on fracking in South Park, 8 people who gave testimony, more turned in concerns later.

Very impressed with Front Range RAC and the expertise that comes from them.

### **Jim Cagney- Northwest District Manager**

DENCA- 24 meetings held to discuss management of DENCA. Had 15-45 people comment about cultural to grazing, tremendous advisory council, had people show up for every single meeting, great project. Turned in recommendation last may should have something back late March or April. Katie Stevens is now the GJFO manager, no longer managing the DENCA. Thrilled to have Katie.

Grand Junction-has their draft RMP, having firestorm debate on target shooting.

White River Field Office-Finishing comment period on RMP amendment on oil and gas. BLM has a history of managing winter ranges. With directional drilling we can get 40 wells from one pad. This is an environmental offer we can't refuse, but the rigs can't be completed in narrow time. Staff has come up with a way to deal with that.

Yampa River-Kremmling has about 90 percent land priority habitat. Wendy doesn't have a land use plan because she got her ROD out. Natural gas field is going to begin now that the air quality is done.

North Platte- Don is overseeing that now that Dave Stout is gone, their comment period is over for the Land Use Plan. Priority habitat for sage-grouse.

Colorado River Valley-Steve Bennett's office. Only doing three Land-Use Plan amendments, one released in September, they are kicking off Roan Plateau right now.

Two fire offices-Northwest Fire, White River and Little Snake Offices, were tested last year and they did a good job. Upper Colorado River Fire Organization coordinates well with BLM and Forest Service. They do a great job. That organization was born after Strom King, communication has improved.

### **Lori Armstrong-Southwest District Manager**

Planning-DENCA RMP should be coming out hopefully soon. Tres Rios-we are coming to a close on that planning. Hopefully early spring maybe March, they should have the joint plan with Forest Service complete. Separate records of Decisions. Final EIS will come out the same time Forest Service releases theirs. Uncompahgre-working on their draft plan, maybe may. Canyons of the Ancients -that plan completed a few years ago, still implementing.

Coal-3 active mines and another in Tres Rios, all have applications for modifications. Last year we processed 5 modifications. Anticipating application for a new coal mine in the North Fork Valley.

Oil and Gas program-working with Kinder Morgan working on CANM. Working with SGE interests in Uncompahgre, determined couldn't find a NOSI. Working with department of energy on uranium EIS, they have 5 different alternatives. That draft is out or almost out, covers several areas in the west end, Tres Rios and Gunnison, we are the cooperating agency. Tres Rios working on Potash EA. Draft just came out, we are looking at that.

Gunnison Sage-Grouse-a huge factor in the Southwest District. FWS came out with their proposed package. Gunnison sage-grouse does go in all three districts. Does fall over a little into Monticello, Utah. We've been working on a candidate conservation agreement; document is signed working on biological assessment.

Working on Travel Management- working on that in all offices.

Abandoned Mines-we have a lot of abandoned mines, worked with state on closures, clean-ups, have a big project for clean up along the animas river. Recently signed MOU with EPA for activities there.

Gunnison FO working with Nature Conservancy with climate change. Lots of studies going on with climate change.

Big fire season kept managers busy - still dealing with the results of those rivers.

Dolores River-working with other partners on restoration efforts. Active work on restoration and tamarisk removal.

Land Tenure and sales exchange, we talked about this at the last RAC meeting. Next RAC meeting they will help us work through that.

CANM-AH-Artist in Residence program, 4 artists were chosen to be at the monument for the week, presented their work. This program was kicked off in CANM, artists work is displayed back in DC.