Statewide Resource Advisory Council
February 14, 2013

Maintaining Healthy Landscapes Panel Discussion:

Daniel Jiron, Regional Forester - United States Forest Service Region 2

Dan said that his main priorities are the condition of public lands, restoration and resilience, and bark beetle impacts. Dan said that bark beetles can be mitigated using 10-year stewardship contracts for thinning of areas affected by bark beetle. Dan's other main concern is drought and the impact drought has on permittees and the forest conditions for recreation. Dan is working on how to coordinate agencies to take the right actions on public lands collectively to make the land as resilient to fire as possible. The main effect of drought is fire. Dan said they need RAC support to make lands as resilient as possible. Dan stated that 1.4 billion was spent on fire suppression in 2012, and that 1.6 billion – 2.1 billion is expected to be spent in 2013. Dan emphasized the point that land needs to withstand fire and fire resilience has become more important. Dan spoke about the importance of a connection between people and the land. Dan cited recreation as how people begin to care for land. More effort needs to be made to educate the urban society. Education must be aimed at ways for more people to safely recreate, and to inspire young people, Dan wants to create a 40-50 year architecture of how to manage land and then to pass on the architecture to the next generation.

Matt Hogan, Deputy Regional Director - Fish and Wildlife Service Region 6

FWS responsibilities transcend land management because of mission to protect wildlife. FWS has a very small land authority. FWS is using surrogate species to gauge the health of the lands. The health and condition of surrogate species indicates the health of the landscape. FWS is using a handful of species that represent landscapes and the FWS let species tell us about health of landscape, make more efficient, accountable, broaden focus to resonate with general public, Matt said the key to landscape conservation in the west is a holistic approach that requires both private and public lands to be healthy. The approach includes farm and ranch easements. The FWS is working with farmers and ranchers through easements to maintain health of adjacent public and private lands. The vast majority of FWS resources are used to conserve landscapes. FWS is currently working with the BLM to update manuals in hopes of preventing sage grouse extinction. FWS is working the BLM to update RMPs where grouse exists and prairie chicken to prevent listing. Matt said that it is crucial to conserve "the west" due to populations increasing and urban encroachment on lands.

Carol McCoy – Chief, Air Resources Division - National Park Service

She said it is critical to work together and leverage resources in times of scarce budget. Carol began talking about air quality. Concerns about the effects of air quality begin firstly with human health but it also affects ecosystems, affects water, soils, wildlife. Many initiatives are being undertaken to maintain healthy landscapes. One is a Multi-agency air oil and gas MOU that is now in the implementation phase. The MOU is designed to improve decision making that assures oil and gas development and to reduce conflicts among agencies. The Rocky MTN NP Initiative is a good model for reducing nitrogen in parks. The accumulation of nitrogen is changing composition of plant communities; lessening of wildflowers and more grasses coming in. Park Service Call To Action- reach out to the community. Make efforts to connect people with public

lands. The mantra of the effort is “these parks are our parks.” There are 4 themes that have an effect on connecting people to parks:

1. advancing education mission
2. preserving special places
3. enhance professional
4. organization excellence

Questions-
Barbara Hawke: Two or three most important areas to collaborate with BLM?
Jiron: Restoration is the most important area to collaborate with BLM.
Hogan: Agreed with Dan. The public expects conservation among agencies. We must collaborate with BLM to improve consistency.
McCoy: NPS is working with BLM on scenic views, air quality. Also NPS is working with the chief landscape architect (BLM). Lots of collaboration must be done concerning wildlife and fire mitigation.

Lynn Padgett: Dust from Utah effecting snowpack, Colorado depends on snowpack, what is being done in Utah to help Colorado’s dust on snow problem?
McCoy: There are multi-state air quality studies. A regional approach must be taken to dust on snow problem. Do not know what is being done specifically by the state of Utah. Dust is not only a problem in Colorado but also a global problem.
Jiron: There is a need to coordinate information among states.

Wally White: Four Corners impacted by air quality Mercury surplus in Southwest (Mesa Verde) can you work better to help air quality?
McCoy: Dialogue about issues is being discussed among agencies, Rocky MTN initiative good example and model of voluntary measures to help.
Jiron: While with the Santa Fe NF, we worked tightly with Colorado and Utah to understand the effects of Mercury surplus in the Southwest.

Barbara Vasquez: Northwest Colorado surface water conservation was not mentioned, no state or federal looking at surface water quality, do not see any coordinated action?
Jiron: That is a broad question. Water is fundamental to the FS mission. Most fights about water are over ownership. We need to monitor water quality for ecosystems. There is a lot going on in this area. Tangible things are being done to protect surface water. Agencies need to help bring states together to solve problems.

<u>Understanding Oil and Gas Development Panel Discussion</u>
Mike King, Executive Director - Colorado Department of Natural Resources
Colorado has undergone a transformation concerning oil and gas exploration. Colorado is currently dealing with social impacts of development. Colorado has been on top of the issues since 2008. Gov. Ritter understood oil and gas was taking off and Hickenlooper continues to build on what Ritter started. The Colorado regulatory board consists of nine members, three from industry. Recent oil and gas developments have created a broader constituency to regulate oil and gas. Regulation stems from concerns about activities along the Front Range. Concerns range from wildlife to urban impacts, health, and nuisance. Colorado has the most progressive

disclosure of chemicals involved in fracking. Mike said that he does not see a systemic problem with hydro fracking, there are isolated problems. Colorado is one of three states to require mandatory ground water testing. Colorado is the only state requiring pre and post tests. Setbacks have become most contentious issue. The setback is 500 ft. statewide. The state requires mitigation by permittees. Coal mines are being converted to natural gas. Mike thinks Colorado can be bullish about development, and an "all of the above" approach.

Chris Urbina, Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer - Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Many concerns of citizens about oil and gas come from rumors and sensationalism that is propagated by misinformation. There is a break between sensationalism vs. true science. Colorado looked at air studies and what trends were present nationally. Air studies by the Institute of Medicine and CDC on impacts have not found anything conclusive. It is hard to make regulatory decisions without sound scientific evidence. Temporal feelings impact people's notion of effect. It is necessary to collect more data and analyze the data. Pollution comes from many different sources other than oil and gas. Diesel trucks and traveling automobiles account for a great deal of pollution. It is difficult to ascertain specific causes. There is currently new legislation in the house about epidemiological studies. Mitigation factors that are in place to minimize impacts to humans: close loop drilling systems, emission controls, 60 air monitors around state. The aim of mitigation factors is to dampen sound, dust, and general activity.

Kate Fay, Senior Advisor for Energy and Climate - Environmental Protection Agency Region 8
Region 8 encompasses several states and 27 tribal nations. The states are on the frontline of dealing with oil and gas. A drinking water study being done by EPA to determine effects of hydro fracking. The EPA plays facilitation role to discuss issues with industry. EPA is interested in NEPA process related to BLM RMPs and other planning. Winter ozone is levels of high ozone pollution that occur in areas during the winter. The Clean Air act is not designed to account for winter ozone. EPA is investigating why air quality worsens in winter. EPA is offering support to the University of Colorado's study and state studies. Communication is important among entities so that efforts are duplicated.

Questions
Wally White: Different situations in different parts of the state, some rules specific to small areas, rules on Front Range may not apply to Western Slope?
Urbina: We tried to not have regulations be one size fits all. It is best to communicate with local governments to determine regulation standards.

Eric: What is the next topic for rule making?
Urbina: Do not see anything coming down the line.

Kit Shy: Ground water testing? Worried about taking samples during drought, will this be addressed in study?
Fay: My understanding is that drought is a factor that hydrologists are considering.

Duran: Disclosure rules related to proprietary chemicals, how do we become more transparent about those chemicals?
Urbina: A small piece of fracking fluid is proprietary. The fluids can be studied to ascertain concentrations. If a spill occurred the company is required to disclose chemical composition to health providers. Dr. Urbina thinks the protection is pretty darn good. The majority of fluid comes back, very little stays in ground.
Fay: EPA is concerned when diesel is injected in ground. EPA is finishing guidance on how to safely inject diesel. The guidance has already led the industry to begin using different fluids.

Engaging Youth and Veterans in Public Lands Panel Discussion

Ann Baker-Easley, Director - Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado
Young Interns within state, youth corps crews
Power Point
Largest organization west of Mississippi related to public land programs, mission is to motivate, more adaptable to vacation volunteering

Scott Segerstrom, Associate Director - Colorado Youth Corps Association
Power Point
Crippling unemployment of young people.

Mike Wight, River Restoration Director - Southwest Conservation Corps
Power Point

Questions
Kit Shy: Have you worked with DOC teams?
Wight: Have not
Segerstorm: Not adult corrections but juvenile divisions