GUNNISON BASIN SAGE-GROUSE STRATEGIC COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

DATE: Wednesday, July 16, 2014
PLACE: Planning Commission Meeting Room, Blackstock Government Center

1.	10:00am	● Call Regular Meeting to Order; Determination of Quorum;
2.	10:05	● Agenda Approval
3.	10:10	● Approval of June 18, 2014 Meeting Minutes
4.	10:15	● Committee Member Comments/Reports
5.	10:30	● Gunnison Sage-grouse ESA Listing Decision Extension -update on activities
6.	10:45	● Signal Peak Recreation Area Planning Update
7.	10:55	● BLM Resource Management Plan Amendment Process
8.	11:15	● Predator Control Investigation Subcommittee -report -recommendations
9.	11:30	● Lek Access Photographic Products -issue raised by participant
10.	11:55	● Future Meetings
11.	12:00pm	● Adjourn

NOTE: This agenda is subject to change, including the addition of items up to 24 hours in advance or the deletion of items at any time. All times are approximate. Regular Meetings, Public Hearings, and Special Meetings are recorded and **ACTION MAY BE TAKEN ON ANY ITEM**. Work Sessions are not recorded and formal action cannot be taken. Two or more Gunnison County Commissioners may attend this meeting. For further information, contact the County Administration at 641-0248. If special accommodations are necessary per ADA, contact 641-0248 or TTY 641-3061 prior to the meeting.

GUNNISON BASIN SAGE-GROUSE STRATIGIC COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
July 16, 2014

The July 16, 2014 Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee meeting was conducted in the Gunnison County Blackstock Government Center, 2nd floor meeting room, located at 221 N. Wisconsin # D, Gunnison, Co. 81230

Committee Members Present:
Voting:
Ken Stahlnecker, Chairperson, National Park Service (NPS) *
Nathan Seward, Colorado Division of Parks & Wildlife (CPW) Alternate *

Peter Caloger, Public At-Large*
Greg Peterson, Gunnison County Stockgrowers' Association (GCSA)
David Wiens, At-large Recreation Community *
Chris Bove, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) *
Susan Linner, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) *
Jonathan Houck, Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) *
Russ Japuntich, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Alternate *

Staff Members Present:
Jim Cochran, Gunnison County Wildlife Conservation Coordinator
Michelle Spain, Administrative Assistant
David Baumgarten, County Attorney
Russell Forrest, Community Development Director

Others present as listed in text.

10:01:52 AM **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Stahlnecker called the July 16, 2014 meeting of the Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee to order at 10:00 A.M.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM: Stahlnecker confirmed that a quorum was present.

PUBLIC NOTICE CONFIRMED: Stahlnecker verified that proper legal public notice had occurred.

AGENDA APPROVAL: No modifications to the agenda were requested. The agenda was approved as circulated.

APPROVAL of June 18, 2014 MEETING MINUTES: **Moved by**, Bove, and seconded by Wiens to accept the June 18, 2104 meeting minutes as circulated. Motion carried.

Audience members introduced.

Navid Navidi, Leigh Espy, Charlie Sharp

10:05:52 AM **COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS/ REPORTS;**

- Question on when the shed antler season will be revisited. Right now it is State regulation. There is no sunset on this current regulation. There may be some concerns. Antler collection is being discussed Statewide. Collection In the grouse areas was discussed. Area closure times were discussed.
- Japuntich stated that there will be changes in his status with the BLM.

- Dolores County has put in additional protective measures for the Sage-grouse in their county. This is very encouraging.

Linda Joseph entered the meeting by phone. The counties bordering each other are working with one another on evaluating these parcels. They are sub-divided lots, undeveloped at this time.

10:21:52 AM **GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE ESA LISTING DECISION EXTENSION- update on activities;**

- Review by Cochran on the Guerrie**ri** Pre-application Conference.

- Baumgarten reviewed the comments that have been submitted.

- Linner indicated that the comments were received and they are currently being evaluated. Any new information should be submitted to the USFWS within the next month. Conservation easements are not formally tracked by our assessor's office. Ute Tribe has competed their conservation agreement. Mapping information and GIS layers are different. This was discussed. The six month extension was discussed. The 4d rule was discussed.

- Endangered, threatened, not warranted statuses were discussed. Regulatory procedures need to be in place and monitored once a status is determined.

- Conservation documents were discussed and the importance of each document and its implementation were reviewed.

The County Coalition is in for the long term with its conservation commitments.

10:42:35 AM **SIGNAL PEAK RECREATION AREA PLANNING UPDATE:**

- Houck reviewed issues associated with this area. Recreational status and access were discussed. What does the Committee want the subcommittee to pursue?

- The focus needs to be Sage-grouse related. All Interests need to be tied back to the Sage-grouse. This will give the Committee guidance on how to bring the discussion back to the issue at hand.

- BLM's accounting system was discussed. Trails planning and their goals and plans were discussed. Written recommendations from the Trails Committee need to be drafted and submitted for approval. All updates should be submitted for review or information. When this is ready, submit it to be put on the agenda. Conceptual ideas have been reviewed by BLM and the USFWS in the CCA. This would be a good place to start.

- High Country Conservation Advocates has withdrawn their position on the Subcommittee. WSCU would like to be involved in the subcommittee process. Procedures for adding a member were discussed.

- Navidi indicated that additional trail areas in this region may not be accepted in a favorable manor. Public notice was discussed for all meetings reviewing recreational sites on public lands regarding Sage-grouse. In order to create a trails system the goals needs to be recognized. All uses of the trails need to be stated, reviewed, and a protection plan in place.

11:18 35 AM **BLM RESOURCE MANGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT PROCESS:**

Leigh D Espy, Project Manager with BLM commenced her review.

- Notice in the Federal Register will be out in the next few days. There will be a press release and a meeting here in this area. Language was discussed. 11 separate planning units are involved in this process. The goal is to have this from start to finish in 2 (two) years. Team members and their qualifications were discussed. BLM would like to have a draft to the public by next spring, 2015. Final to be reviewed by 2016. Climate change has been identified as a threat to the grouse. Other issues include fragmentation, recreation impacts, solar fields, trails, and travel management. Gunnison County BOCC asked for cooperating agency status as of their last meeting. Involvement from the beginning is best. This website is setup and currently live to the public. The link is set up on the State BLM website.

11:20:17 AM **PREDATOR CONTROL INVESTIGATION SUBCOMMITTE;**

- Peter Caloger commenced his review. Raven predation was discussed. Landfills were reviewed. The Gunnison County landfill may be inspected in the future. Red Fox are making an impact also. This committee may need to apply for a scientific collection permit to study this impact. This is a very complicated issue. Ground squirrels, weasels, were also mentioned as predators. A report on the red fox, coyotes, etc was discussed. Raven colonies would be a good source point for collection of DNA food data from ravens. Hunting seasons would be another collection time.

11:40:25 AM **LEK ACCESS PHOTGRAPHIC PRODUCTS- issue raised by participant;**

- Review of the complaint by Cochran. Informally Gunnison Sage-grouse photographs taken as part of the Committee's lek access program are in a repository with Seward. The photographer was to be given credit for the photograph. In the national article it was not given and the person who had taken the photo was not compensated. Compensation was discussed. Associated Press used the photo. The photos are to be used for conservation education.AP is a commercial entity. The Committee discussed the issue of whether the article did address conservation education. Any party can do a Colorado Open Records Act request and this would have to be provided to the requestor. These photographs are open records. There is a signed application in which he turned over his rights. The Committee will review the current policy for clarification at a future meeting.

11:48:55 AM **FUTURE MEETINGS:** Future meetings will occur on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Planning Commission meeting room, located at 221 N. Wisconsin, Gunnison, Co. 81230, unless changed for a specific reason.

Date	Time	Notes	Building and location
8/20/14	10-2	Regular Meeting	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2nd floor meeting room
9/17/14	10-2	Regular Meeting	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2nd floor meeting room
10/15/14	10-2	Regular Meeting	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2nd floor meeting room
11/19/14	10-2	Regular Meeting	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2nd floor meeting room
12/17/14	10-2	Regular Meeting	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2nd floor meeting room

No changes.

ADJOURN: MOVED by Stahlnecker to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The June 18, 2014 meeting of the Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committed adjourned at 12:04 P.M..

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Ken Stahlnecker, Chairperson

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Greg Peterson, Secretary

Minutes Prepared By:

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/S/ Michelle Spain
Administrative Assistant
Gunnison County Community Development