GUNNISON BASIN SAGE-GROUSE STRATEGIC COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

DATE: Wednesday, August 20, 2014
PLACE: Planning Commission Meeting Room, Blackstock Government Center

1.	10:00am	● Call Regular Meeting to Order; Determination of Quorum; Verify Public Notice of Meeting
2.	10:05	● Agenda Approval
3.	10:10	● Approval of July 16, 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	● County Coalition Report
7.	10:55	● BLM Resource Management Plan Amendment EIS
8.	11:15	● Signal Peak Recreation Area Planning Update
9.	11:30	● Riparian Restoration and Resilience Project Update
10.	11:45	● Predator Control Investigation Subcommittee -report
11.	11:55	● Future Meetings
12.	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.

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GUNNISON BASIN SAGE-GROUSE STRATEGIC COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 20, 2014

The August 20, 2014 Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee meeting was conducted in the Gunnison County Blackstocks 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)
Peter Caloger, Public At-Large
Matt Vasquez, United States Forest Service (USFS)
David Wiens, At-large Recreation Community
Susan Linner, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Chris Bove, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Eric Ferchau, At Large, Development Community
Jonathan Houck, Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)
Russ Japuntich, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Alternate

Non-voting:
Nathan Seward, Colorado Division of Parks & Wildlife (CPW) Alternate
Elinor Laurie, Saguache County Alternate
John Toolen, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Alternate

Staff Members Present:
Jim Cochran, Gunnison County Wildlife Conservation Coordinator
Michelle Spain, Administrative Assistant

Others present as listed in text.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Stahlnecker called the August 20, 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 not 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.

10:24:42 AM **APPROVAL of July16, 2014 MEETING MINUTES:** **Moved** by Houck and seconded by Stahlnecker to accept the July 16, 2014 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

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10:01:42 AM **COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS/ REPORTS**

- Houck started his review of a meeting he attended. BOCC crafted new language on the reclamation permitting process. Specifically stating requirements for Sage Grouse habitat. Senator Mark Udall met with various community representatives to review our process on protecting this area.
- Houck will submit a copy of the BOCC resolution to this committee.

10:08:42 AM **GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE ESA LISTING DECISION EXTENSION- update on activities;**

- Susan Linner started her review. Not much new to report. Currently in the process of finalizing the listing document. The comments have been received. They have been grouped into categories. 20- 25 substantive issues have been listed. 120 different comments will be addressed. 3 potential listing options, all with possible litigation. Informally in regional office for review. Discussion of the review process. Part of the rational for the 6 month extension was the option to explore the 4d rule. The 4d rule is not out so it will not be possible to add this to the regulation. Questions for Linner.

10:11:42 AM Jim Cochran enters meeting.

Greg Peterson, Linda Joseph, John Toolen on the phone. Quorum stated.

10:15:42 AM Erich Ferchau enters meeting.

- NRCS funding was discussed by Liz With. With discussed hiring for a sage-grouse biologist, the position formerly held by Christina Santana. Matt Vasquez asked about the position and who will fill or if this will be filled. There is an announcement out for this position.

- West Flat Top pictures passed around by Vasquez. Cochran described

Drift fences. Short fencing to change the trailing patterns of the animals. Vasquez reviewed the fencing components used. Vegetation recovery was excellent using this fencing method. Ranchers were cooperating with this concept.

Linda Joseph from Saguache County discussed the Poncha Pass updates. Bison located at the Great Sand Dunes National Park was discussed.

10:39:42 AM **COUNTY COALITION REPORT**

- Houck asked Cochran to discuss his latest meeting.

- Cochran responded. BLM & EIS process and deadline were reviewed. Comments from the Coalition are now being gathered. Populations were being reviewed in other areas. Dove Creek was visited and Utah's governor sent their representative to this meeting. Trying to determine how to deal with reporting Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) enrollments. No FSA representatives were at this meeting.

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- Linner asked about the County Coalition of the Gunnison Sage Grouse. Cochran indicated that this is the best way to bring new technology and science to analyze the threats.

10:52:01 AM **BLM RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT EIS**

- BLM is scheduling a teleconference. Gunnison and Saguache counties have asked for cooperating agency status. Other agencies were trying to get on board. Very much in the planning stage at this time.

10:58:14 AM **SIGNAL PEAK RECREATION AREA PLANNING UPDATE**

- Houck commenced his review. He requested the WSCU representative, Julie Feier, Associate Vice-President of Finance and Administration, be nominated and added as a contact person for this committee. This committee will be trying to keep on tract for Sage Grouse. This area has been a designated recreational area for some time. This will be a good opportunity to review this area with students and staff from WSCU. Habitat: grazing, big game, and antler shed collection will need to be reviewed and looked at for a long term plan and management. Wiens indicated the lek close to town has been there for years with heavy recreational traffic. Limiting access for certain times was discussed. Hartman Rocks seasonal closures were discussed. Vasquez discussed the question of reproduction on this lek. Is it stable? He wanted at least seasonal closure. Houck wanted guidance on how to measure this. Cochran indicated that nesting habitat is the hardest to manage. Leks are the easiest to manage. 9am rule reviewed. Wiens asked about that in this area. Cochran indicated that this could be in the draft plan. Vasquez indicated that good management is a key for this recreational area. This is an opportunity to gain in this area. Caloger discussed two other leks for possible studies. Do we have the money to set up this study? WSCU would like to build a useful, formalized trailhead for recreational use. Gunnison Nordic club will also be contacted.

11:26:15 AM **RIPARIAN RESTORATION AND RESILIENCE PROJECT UPDATE**

- Cochran commenced this review. Wolf Creek area was inspected. The upper Gunnison River Water Conservation District (UGRWCD) has endorsed this. BLM is very involved in this project. Cost of this project was discussed. Watersheds are so important. CSU would like to inspect these projects. The initial projects started with two on private lands. Last year was on public lands. This year four projects. Two on private and two on public. 85 rock structures were built last year. 80 this year so far. Houck indicated that the partnership with WSCU is so positive. They are currently having student groups out on clean up and educational groups for these areas. Getting these students for 3+ days is so much more beneficial to this type of project. Youth Corp was discussed.

11:42:20 AM **PREDATOR CONTROL INVESTIGATION SUBCOMMITTEE- REPORT**

- Caloger commenced his review. Boarman is an author that keeps coming up for this type of raven control. Caloger will try to contact him. Caloger would like this Committee to take the BOCC on a site visit to the Gunnison County Landfill. Come back with recommendations. Houck indicated that the manager of the landfill should be contacted to give this committee a review on its operation. Caloger indicated that the raven depredation permit has not been renewed. Indications are that the process is at a standstill. Linner will look into the request for this permit. Bald eagle permits are overwhelming this group. Stomach contents of ravens, pellet collection may be part of the depredation permit. 200-250 birds could be collected by the current permit. This permit has been issued to Gunnison County in the past. Ravens are a high source of sage-grouse kill. By decreasing

the raven population during high road kill times, it may be possible to decrease their population. Vasquez thanked Caloger for this work on this item. Recycling at landfills could be another area to research. Jessica Young is a good source for this review also. Cochran will meet with the Public Works director and manager of the landfill to set a time for them to join this meeting.

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
09/17/14	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

ADJOURN: **MOVED** by Stahlnecker to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The August 20, 2014 meeting of the Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committed adjourned at 12:08 pm.

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Ken Stahlnecker, Chairperson

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Greg Peterson, Secretary

Minutes Prepared By:
Michelle Spain, Administrative Assistant

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