

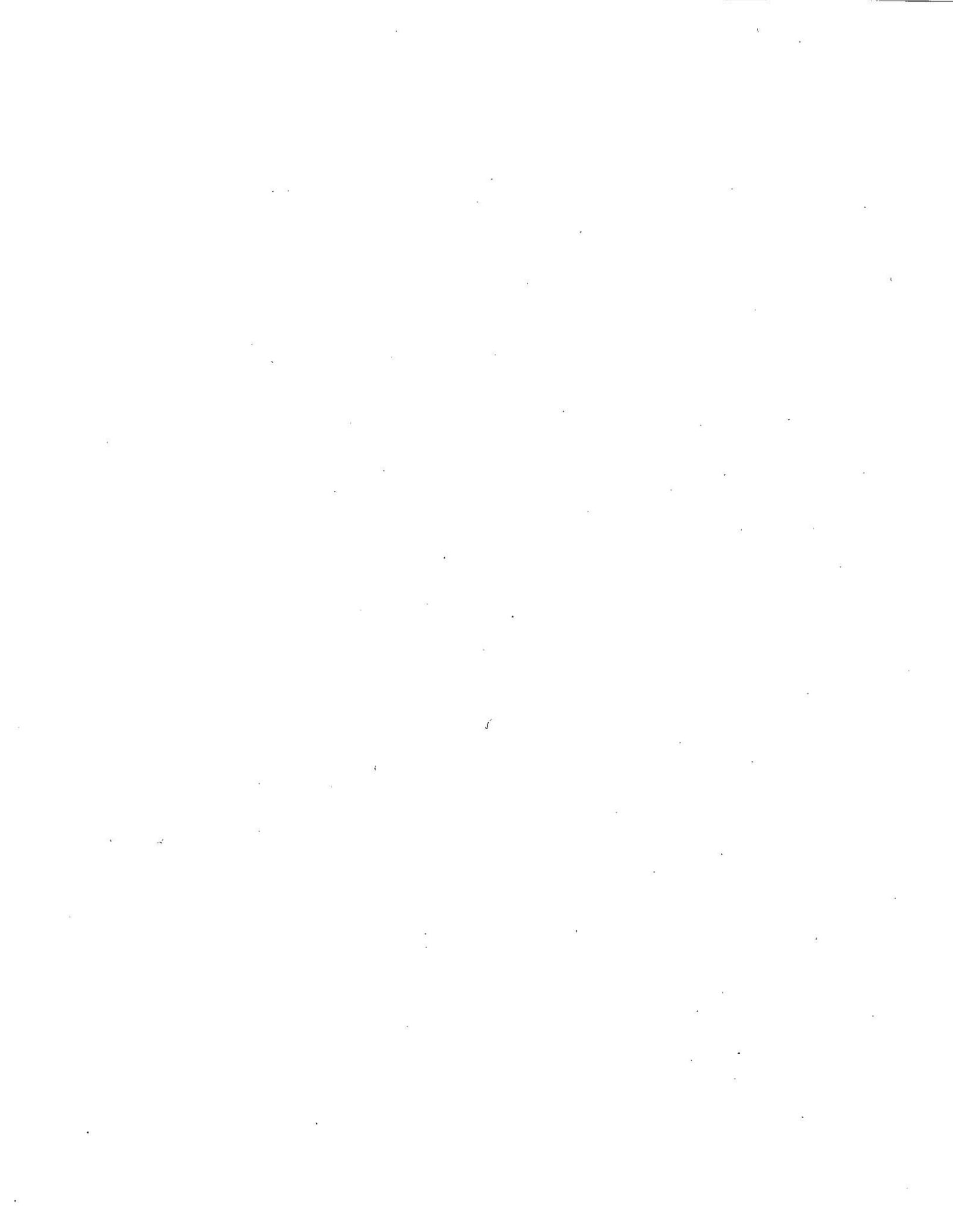
**GUNNISON BASIN SAGE-GROUSE STRATEGIC COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

DATE: Wednesday, February 18, 2015

PLACE: Planning Commission Meeting Room, Blackstock Government Center

- | | | | |
|-----|---------|--|--------|
| 1. | 10:00am | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Call Regular Meeting to Order; Determination of Quorum; Public Notice of Meeting | Verify |
| 2. | 10:05 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Agenda Approval | |
| 3. | 10:10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Election of Officers<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Chairperson- Vice-Chairperson- Secretary | |
| 4. | 10:15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Approval of January 21, 2015 Meeting Minutes | |
| 5. | 10:20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Committee Member Comments/Reports | |
| 6. | 10:30 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Subcommittees<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Review- Confirmation- Appointments | |
| 7. | 10:45 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● BLM Resource Management Plan Amendment EIS<ul style="list-style-type: none">-status report | |
| 8. | 10:50 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Waunita Watchable Wildlife Site Subcommittee<ul style="list-style-type: none">-report-recommendations | |
| 9. | 11:00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Common Raven Use of Human Subsidized Resources Report by Dr. Pat Magee | |
| 10. | 12:00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Lunch | |
| 11. | 12:30 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Lek Access (Photography) Applications | |
| 12. | 1:00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Post Listing Issues – Immediate Concerns<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Gunnison Basin Weed Management Program | |
| 13. | 1:25 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Future Meetings | |
| 14. | 1:30 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 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 STRATEGIC COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 18, 2015**

The February 18, 2015 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:

Regular Members:

Ken Stahlnecker, Chairperson, National Park Service (NPS)
J Wenum, Vice-Chairperson, Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife (CPW)
Sue Navy, High Country Conservation Advocates (HCCA)
Peter Caloger, Public At-Large
Matt Vasquez, United States Forest Service (USFS)
David Wiens, At-large Recreation Community
Jonathan Houck, Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)

Alternate Members Present:

Polly Oberosler, Recreation Community At-Large-Alternate
Tom Spezze, Public At-Large – Alternate
Liz With, (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service- Alternate

Members by Phone:

Elinor Laurie, Saguache County Alternate

Staff Members Present:

Jim Cochran, Gunnison County Wildlife Conservation Coordinator
Michelle Spain, Administrative Assistant

Others in the Audience:

Creed Clayton (FWS)
Elijah Watters (BLM)
Pat Magee (WSCU)
Bryant Wilds
Theresa Childers (NPS)
Jim Mendonca
Leigh Espy (BLM by phone)
Jenny Nehring (Saguache County, Poncha Pass Working Group, by phone)

Others present as listed in text.

10:01:42 AM CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Stahlnecker called the February 18, 2015 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.

10:03:49 AM ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Laurie nominated Ken Stahlnecker as chairperson, 2nd by Wenum. Motion carried.

CHAIRPERSON: Ken Stahlnecker

Navy nominated J Wenum as Vice-Chairperson, 2nd by Houck. Motion carried.

VICE-CHAIRPERSON: J Wenum

Navy nominated Greg Peterson as Secretary, 2nd by With. Motion carried.

SECRETARY: Greg Peterson

10:06:29 AM APPROVAL of January 21, 2015 MEETING MINUTES:

Laurie requested title be changed as she is the alternate from Saguache County.

Stahlnecker requested time stamp change on opening of meeting.

Navy indicated numerous errors but unable to request corrections with her current software.

With requested the following addition to the minutes as a correction, page (2), Minutes 01-21-2015, With-
"The Listing of the Gunnison Sage Grouse has increased coordination with CPW."

Moved by Wenum and 2nd by Houck to accept the January 21, 2105 meeting minutes with requested corrections. Motion carried.

10:10:19 AM COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS/ REPORTS

Navy reported on the Stewardship Award. Pictures will be reviewed and hopefully have it ready for the March meeting. Discussion on the time line to present this. Betsy Neely had been emailed requesting her attendance.

With reviewed the committee report for the conservation efforts and easements that have been attained. NCRS is still looking to fill the DC position that is vacant.

Caloger asked about the funding dollars and where did they come from. With responded it is a recap of funds spent or committed to be sent.

Wenum stated that the terrestrial biologist position is still vacant. 2 meetings coming up. Tonight the Sportsman's Round Table meeting is being held. Wenum passed out a 2015 Strategic plan with meetings to be held. Ranching for Sage Grouse meeting tomorrow 02-19-15 at the Fred Field Center. Interim Guidance for CPW from the executive director's office was circulated. (Attached.)

Discussion of this guidance from DNR followed.

Cochran indicated that without the recovery plan CPW may not be willing to invest future funds.

Wenum indicated that the Fish & Wildlife Service now has management of the bird and CPW would like the funding to go along with this status.

Elijah Watters reviewed his reason for attending this meeting. He will be acting field manager until 04-04-15. There will be another acting manager before the final candidate will be announced. Mr. Watters is from Alaska. Creed Clayton (FWS), will be covering for John Toolen who has moved to BLM. Clayton will be attending these meetings until the two FWS Committee nominations are announced and appointed by the Gunnison County BoCC. There are now a total of 4 positions that need to be filled.

Houck asked about the recovery planning process. Clayton will be working on an outline of the recovery plan. Clayton has been with the Grand Junction office for 9 years.

Cochran noted that members must be nominated before they can be appointed. Therefore formal nominations must be submitted. Saguache County needs to update their appointments. Nominations may be by email or letter. These will then be appointed by the Gunnison County BoCC.

Caloger expressed concern on the shift of local control to Federal control.

Clayton indicated that this Committee should continue with the efforts. CPW should continue with its efforts.

Navy voiced concern on the letter from DNR for its lack of funding commitment.

Houck discussed the listing and how funding is allocated from all agencies.

Clayton responded that CPW still has management of the bird.

Spezze responded that CPW funds need to be reviewed and see where and how much money from license game cash can go to litigation and protection of a non-game bird. This will be an issue in the future.

Cochran reviewed the current litigation actions. Gunnison County will be considering litigation "next steps" in the near future.

30+ roads will be closed on March 15 and notices will be posted. All procedures will remain the same. Russ Japuntich will be the BLM lead for these closures. Antler shed season will also open on March 15.

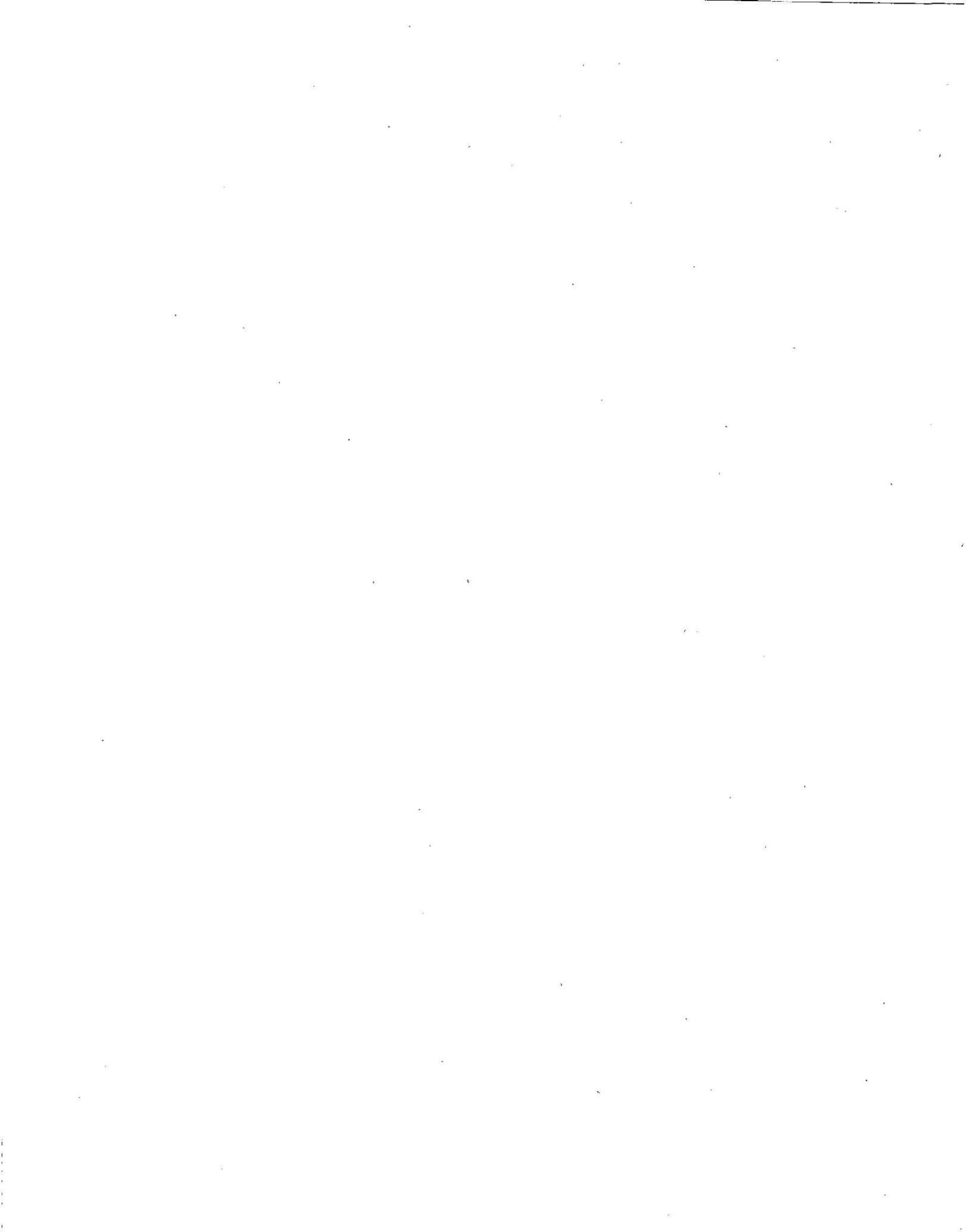
10:47:55 AM SUBCOMMITTEES

**Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee
Subcommittees
2015
Appointments/Authorization at 02-18-2015 Regular Meeting
Updated 02-18-15**

The review of each subcommittee commenced.

Standing Subcommittees

Executive Subcommittee



Ken Stahlnecker, NPS, Chair
J Wenum, CPW
Greg Peterson, GCSA

Confirmed

Technical Subcommittee

Brian St. George, Chair
Liz With, NRCS
Russ Japuntich, BLM
Matt Vasquez, USFS
Pat Magee, Western State College/Sisk-a-dee
Nathan Seward, CPW
Theresa Childers, NPS
Tara de Valois, BLM
Gay Austin, BLM
Brandon Diamond, CPW
Charlie Sharp, USFWS
Vicki Spencer, GCEA

Cochran asked that this Subcommittee be reviewed. Discussion that Brandon Diamond be replaced.

With nominated Vasquez for chair of this committee, 2nd by Wenum. Confirmed.

Information and Education (I&E) Subcommittee

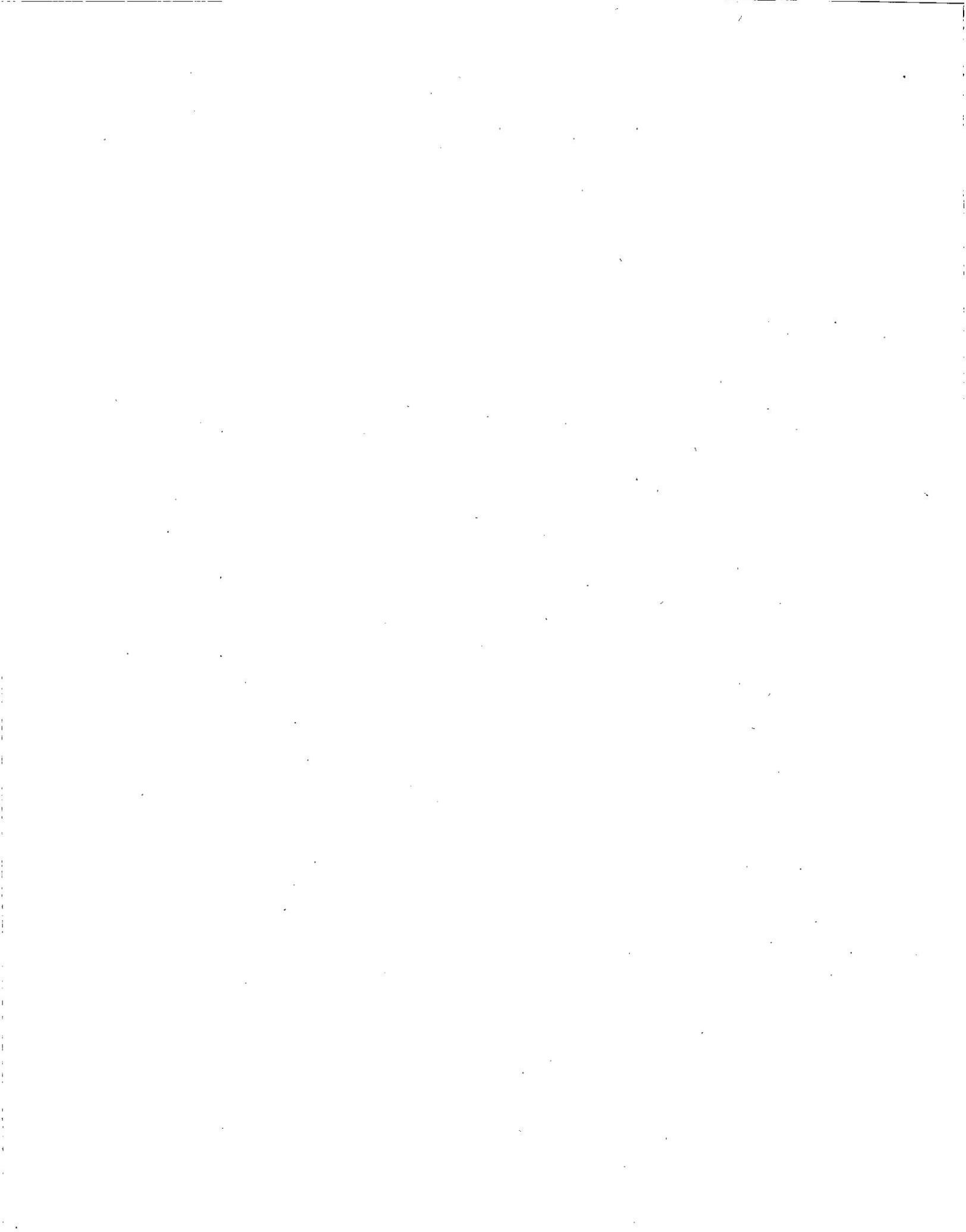
Sue Navy, HCCA, Chair
Pat Magee, Western State College/Sisk-a-dee
Sonia Esliit, USFS
Kristi Murphy, BLM
Chris Parmeter, CPW
Dave Wiens, Recreation Community At-large
Erich Ferchau, Development Community At-large/City of Gunnison
Nathan Seward, CPW
Ellen Petrick, NPS

Confirmed

Project Based (ad-hoc) Subcommittees

Predator Control Investigation Subcommittee (*Appointed 7/18/12*) (*Re-authorized 2/19/14*)

Peter Caloger (Public At-large Regular), Chair
Erich Ferchau (Development Community At-large Regular)
Matt Vasquez (USFS Alternate)
Chris Bove (NRCS Regular)
Tom Spezze (Public At-large Alternate)
Pat Magee (WSC)
Allen Moores, (Gunnison County Public)



Caloger wanted the Predator Control Investigating committee to stand.

Review of members reauthorize and remove Chris Bove and Allen Moores.

Confirmed

Action Plan Subcommittee (Resurrected 5-18-11) (Reauthorized 2/15/12) (Reauthorized 2-19-14)

Erich Ferchau, Development Community At-large (Chair)
Russ Japuntich, BLM
Jonathan Houck, Gunnison County BOCC
Peter Caloger, Public At-large
Dave Wiens, Recreation Community At-large
Ken Stahlnecker, NPS
Russ Forest, Gunnison County Community Development
Department
Brian St. George, BLM
Chris Bove, NRCS

Discussion to leave it on at this time.

Motion by With to disband at this time, 2nd by Wenum, discussion ensued. Action plan discussed and has been approved by BoCC. Caloger tried to review the necessity of disbanding this committee. Wenum indicated that CPW will not be involved. USFWS wanted CPW to be involved. Wenum confirmed his 2nd.

Motion carried.

Subcommittee not confirmed

Signal Peak Recreation Area Planning Subcommittee (appointed 5-21-14)

Jonathan Houck, Gunnison County BOCC, Chair
Dave Wiens, Recreation Community At-large, regular
Alli Melton, HCCA Alternate
Nate Seward, CPW Alternate
Doug Washburn, GCSA Alternate
Russ Japuntich, BLM Alternate
Polly Oberosler, Recreation Community At-large,
alternate
Liz With, NRCS Alternate (pending confirmation by
Chair)

Discussion on members. Remove Alli Melton, Russ Japuntich. Add Julie Feier, WSCU – Alternate and Jim Lovelace, BLM.

Confirmed

Waunita Watchable Wildlife Site Subcommittee

(appointed 1-21-15)

Greg Peterson, Chair

J Wenum

Matt Vasquez

Peter Caloger

Jonathan Houck

Pat Magee

Confirmed

11:03:10 AM BLM RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT EIS

Status Report

Espy gave her report on the status of their plan. They are currently reviewing the digital information they have with possible data layers. Land health assessment, fence line, etc. This information will be pulled together by the end of June 2015. A deadline extension is being requested at the Headquarters Office in Washington D. C.

11:10:36 AM WAUNITA WATCHABLE WILDLIFE SITE SUBCOMMITTEE

Report Attached. Wenum reviewed the Lek count information and data. The areas were discussed. Housing, noise, industrial uses were discussed. Continued Sisk-a-dee counts will be used and all other counts will be gathered. Recommendations from Sisk-a-dee will be analyzed. Thresholds were discussed. Review of old Planning Commission documents did not indicate a "no commercial use" condition. Mendonca discussed the interpretation he got from these past meetings. He indicated that there are people still using this area for possible profit. Sites were discussed. County plowing of this area was discussed. Man power issues by CPW were discussed. Bird count and the decline of this population was stated by Mendonca. Mendonca requested a better management plan from CPW.

Wenum responded that it is legally opened from March 15 – April. The group felt that the commercial activity monitored by Sisk-a-dee and that the current expenditure by CPW be continued.

Caloger asked if a cable could be installed.

Wenum indicated that the special use permit with Sisk-a-dee allows CPW to utilize other staff in other areas.

Navy asked about the low count now and how much lower will it go before more staff can be utilized in this area.

Cochran responded to the Navy count request. One of the areas was the USFWL commitment to this area. Monson Creek fencing was discussed.

Houck responded that this area could be closed but this has been advertised as the one place for outsiders to come and view the Gunnison sage grouse.

Mendonca stated that the disturbance is taking place at the first sign of seeing light. 24 / 7 is not necessarily needed. The new property owner cares about this species.

Stahlnecker recommended to continue this Subcommittee. Motion by Wenum to keep the Waunita Watchable Wild life Subcommittee for 2015 in place and make recommendations to the Committee, 2nd by Houck. Motion carried.

Mendonca indicated that he counts birds on his own and has since 1998, starting in March annually. This data is then compiled and turned into CPW.

11:34:47 AM COMMON RAVEN USE OF HUMAN SUBSIDIZE RESOURCES

Report by Dr. Pat Magee

No Minutes Taken.

Break...LUNCH

12:42:15 PM LEK ACCESS (PHOTOGRAPHY) APPLICATIONS

One current application from John Swartz. Web site Bird Pics.com. Purpose of sharing photos with others on this site.

Cochran indicated that Seward researched the language in the Certificate of Inclusion (CI) document. If this application is approved, the CI would cover this activity.

Magee indicated that the applicant's interest is not compatible with the Committee's goals concerning educational values on sage grouse issues.

Stahlnecker indicated that it does give more people access to photos and may stop them from acquiring their own.

Magee and Navy indicated that we have plenty of pictures now.

Houck questioned the applicants need to have us supply a bird blind for his access.

Cochran reviewed the application requirements and reasons for this process.

Wenum reviewed CPW's role in this process.

The land owner has the final say as to whether this access is allowed. So now the USFWS has a more regulatory response to this application.

Question on the language in the CI.

Motion by Houck to deny the application presented today from John Swartz, 2nd by Navy. Motion carried.

Cochran indicated that only two applications per year can be approved. This program is on private land only, with an appropriate CI.

1:03:55 PM POST LISTING ISSUES – IMMEDIATE CONCERNS

Gunnison Basin Weed Management Program

Cochran reviewed the last meeting of the Gunnison Basin Weed Commission. Weed management needs to be continued annually, otherwise the progress will be lost. USFWS noted in their listing determination that weed control may result in take. Clayton was concerned with the chemicals that were being used, human disturbance, ATV use, mowing, burning. These are a few of the outstanding questions that he has on this.

Cochran indicated that Section 7 process for federal agencies will take care of itself.

Clayton indicated that weed control is important and they also do not want to see a year lost.

Clayton's questions will be emailed to Cochran for review and response.

Wenum indicated that the annual Section 6 letter will address weed control as well.

Clayton requested that the federal agencies get a consultation set up with USFWS for approval prior to this spring.

Clayton asked to what extent is weed control done and at what time. If the chicks are able to fly way from any oncoming vehicle this is the best case scenario.

Cochran responded that spot treatments are the preferred applications.

Proposed 4 (d) Rule will address various issues and will be published for comments.

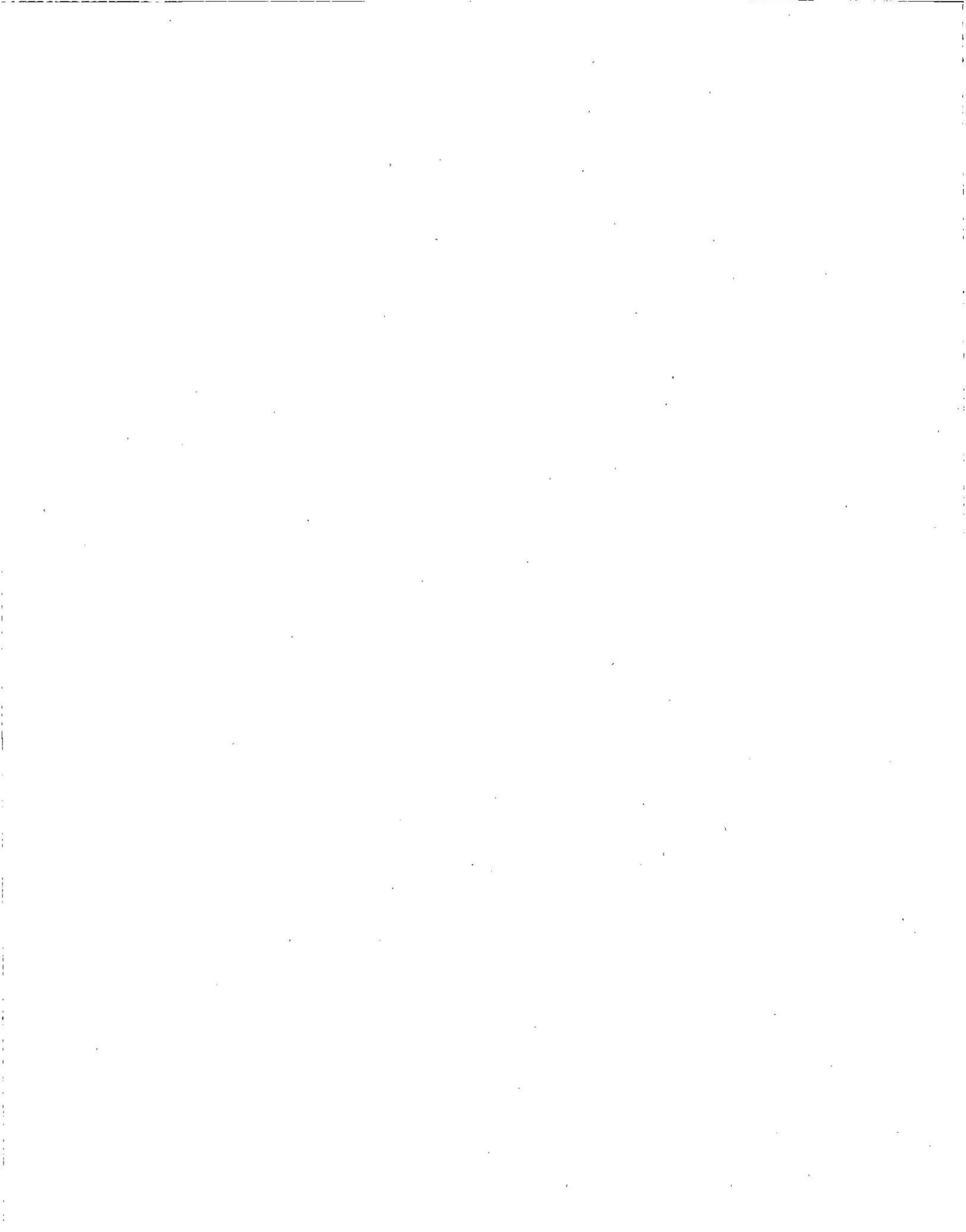
1:21:13 PM Critical Habitat Map reviewed.

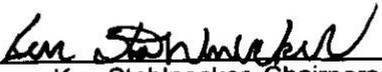
Gray areas discussed concerning conservation easements and properties enrolled in the CCAA program.

1:21:51 PM 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 |
|----------|------|-----------------|---|
| 03-18-15 | 10-2 | Regular Meeting | Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2 nd floor meeting room |
| 04-15-15 | 10-2 | Regular Meeting | Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2 nd floor meeting room |
| 05-20-15 | 10-2 | Regular Meeting | Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2 nd floor meeting room |
| 06-17-15 | 10-2 | Regular Meeting | Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2 nd floor meeting room |
| 07-15-15 | 10-2 | Regular Meeting | Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2 nd floor meeting room |
| 08-19-15 | 10-2 | Regular Meeting | Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2 nd floor meeting room |
| 09-16-15 | 10-2 | Regular Meeting | Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2 nd floor meeting room |
| 10-21-15 | 10-2 | Regular Meeting | Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2 nd floor meeting room |
| 11-18-15 | 10-2 | Regular Meeting | Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2 nd floor meeting room |
| 12-16-15 | 10-2 | Regular Meeting | Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2 nd floor meeting room |

ADJOURN: MOVED by Stahlnecker to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The February 18, 2015 meeting of the Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committed adjourned at **1:22:20 PM**




Ken Stahlnecker, Chairperson


Greg Peterson, Secretary

Minutes Prepared By:

/S/ Michelle Spain
Administrative Assistant
Gunnison County Community Development Department



COLORADO
Department of Natural Resources

Executive Director's Office
1313 Sherman, St., Ste 718
Denver, CO 80203

Interim Guidance for CPW

DNR policy on investments in Gunnison Sage-grouse management and habitat enhancement actions in a post-listing environment

In November 2014, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a final threatened rule on the Gunnison Sage-grouse (GuSG). The FWS is in the process of developing a Recovery Plan for the species, but recent budget language in Washington DC may have hampered their work. While we await the outcome of those efforts, CPW needs to re-assess its ongoing allocation of resources toward habitat and species protection.

As with any species that has been listed under the Endangered Species Act, the GuSG is now, by definition, a federally-managed species. All management actions have therefore shifted from those intended to avoid a listing, to those intended to recover the species. Effective immediately, CPW will re-prioritize its investments accordingly.

Routine management activities will continue, especially those that benefit other species in the sagebrush ecosystem in addition to the GuSG. All decisions about which activities to continue and which to discontinue or adjust will be left to CPW, based on whether or not the action will contribute to recovery. Until we have a formal recovery plan from FWS, consider the following:

- Research activities will largely continue
 - Lek counts
 - Easement monitoring
 - CCAA monitoring
- Funding allocation will shift
 - Avoid using wildlife cash for GuSG management
 - Probably OK to use GOCO and SCTF dollars as needed, and per the criteria laid out in this memo
- CPW should not acquire any additional property with the primary purpose of GuSG conservation
 - Investing in sagebrush habitat still fine, so long as additional species benefit
 - Obligated funds, such as those for due diligence on the Mountain Ranch property, should be honored
- CPW should not continue to fund habitat treatments that are specifically and primarily directed at GuSG. Those treatments that benefit additional sagebrush species may continue as appropriate.

When the FWS releases a Recovery Plan, CPW and DNR will reassess this guidance.



Waunita Watchable Wildlife Site Summary Statistics: 2004 – 2014

| Statistic | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
|--|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|--|---------------|
| High Count Males | 17 | 30 | 38 | 34 | 37 | 29 | 32 | 27 | 22 |
| High Count Females | 19 | 27 | 26 | 12 | 33 | 25 | 42 | 30 | 12 |
| High Count Males and Females | 30 | 37 | 52 | 40 | 63 | 53 | 74 | 51 | 25 |
| Days Grouse Present at lek | 30/30 | 39/40 | 37/37 | 40/41 | 38/40 | 40/40 | 40/40 | 41/41 | 34/40 |
| Days Flushed Before Sunrise (out of total monitored days) | X/30; 0% | 5/40; 12.5% | 2/38; 5.3% | 9/40; 22.5% | 3/40; 7.5% | 10/40; 25% | 15/40; 37.5% | 21/40; 52.5% | 38/40; 95% |
| Days Flushed by Humans (out of total monitored days)* | 1/30; 3.3% | 1/40; 2.5% | 2/38; 5.3% | 2/37; 5.4% | 2/37; 5.4% | 2/40; 5.0% | 1/40; 2.5% | 2/40; 5.0% | 3/40; 7.5% |
| Human Totals (including volunteers) | 286 | 374 | 355 | 354 | 351 | 435 | 445 | 536 | 327 |
| Visitor Totals (not including volunteers) | | 318 | 290 | 301 | 282 | 333 | 374 | 470 | 274 |
| Vehicle Totals (including groups and monitors) | 110 | 156 | 134 | 140 | 133 | 184 | 174 | 199 | 141 |
| Vehicle Totals (not including volunteers); % of total vehicles that belonged to monitors | | 102; 34.6% | 85; 36.6% | 97; 30.7% | 80; 39.8% | 109; 40.7% | 115; 33.9% | 140; 29.6% | 98; 30.5% |
| Days at Least One Visitor at Site (out of total monitored days) | 29/30; 97% | 33/37; 89% | 38/41; 93% | 37/40 92.5% | 31/39; 79.5% | 34/39; 87.2% | 37/39; 92.5% | 34/40; 85.0% | 34/40; 85% |
| Percent of Cars that Violated Protocol | 29% 23 | 19% | 12% | 8.9% | 8.3% | 20.7% | 13.2% | 5.7% | 17.6% |
| Number of U.S. States represented | 23 | 31 | 24 | 25 | 30 | 28 | 26 | 27 | 24 |
| Number of Countries represented | 2 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 including 5 Canadian provinces | 9 including 3 Canadian provinces | 4 |

**Gunnison Sage-grouse High Male Counts
Waunita Lek -- 1997-2014**

| CPW Data | | Sisk-a-dee Data | | CPW + Sisk-a-dee Data | |
|----------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Year | HMC | Year | HMC | Year | HMC |
| 1997 | 64 | 1997 | ND | 1997 | 64 |
| 1998 | 51 | 1998 | ND | 1998 | 51 |
| 1999 | 49 | 1999 | ND | 1999 | 49 |
| 2000 | 29 | 2000 | ND | 2000 | 29 |
| 2001 | 40 | 2001 | ND | 2001 | 40 |
| 2002 | 34 | 2002 | ND | 2002 | 34 |
| 2003 | 14 | 2003 | 14 | 2003 | 14 |
| 2004 | 13 | 2004 | 17 | 2004 | 17 |
| 2005 | 34 | 2005 | 30 | 2005 | 30 |
| 2006 | 31 | 2006 | 38 | 2006 | 38 |
| 2007 | 26 | 2007 | 34 | 2007 | 34 |
| 2008 | 33 | 2008 | 37 | 2008 | 37 |
| 2009 | 35 | 2009 | 29 | 2009 | 29 |
| 2010 | 32 | 2010 | 32 | 2010 | 32 |
| 2011 | 21 | 2011 | 27 | 2011 | 27 |
| 2012 | 22 | 2012 | 22 | 2012 | 22 |
| 2013 | 11 | 2013 | 31 | 2013 | 31 |
| 2014 | 7 | 2014 | 19 | 2014 | 19 |
| N | 18 | N | 12 | N | 18 |
| Mean | 30.3 | Mean | 27.5 | Mean | 33.2 |
| CV | 48.8% | CV | 28.6% | CV | 37.6% |
| 10% Below Mean | 27.3 | 10% Below Mean | 24.7 | 10% Below Mean | 29.9 |
| 25% Below Mean | 22.7 | 25% Below Mean | 20.6 | 25% Below Mean | 24.9 |
| 33% Below Mean | 20.3 | 33% Below Mean | 18.4 | 33% Below Mean | 22.2 |
| 50% Below Mean | 15.1 | 50% Below Mean | 13.7 | 50% Below Mean | 16.6 |

CPW counts = these are the data that are used for the annual GUSG population estimate. The lek is counted on four days during the 40 day season. The Waunita lek is counted in a coordinated fashion on the same day as other leks in the area. This may lead to lower HMC compared to other days during the season (Sisk-a-dee counters have done these counts for the last 5 years). In 1997, standardized lek count protocols were initiated in the Gunnison Basin. The watchable Wildlife site was located at Waunita beginning in 1999.

Sisk-a-dee counts = Sisk-a-dee and Western State Colorado University count the Waunita lek every day from 1 April to 10 May. Because counts are completed every day, these data provide a more accurate reflection of male attendance at the lek. Sisk-a-dee's data only goes back to 2003. ND = No Data.

CPW + Sisk-a-dee Counts = here the CPW data are used from 1997-2002 and Sisk-a-dee data are used from 2003-2014.

HMC = high male count; N = sample size (number of years); Mean = average HMC; CV = coefficient of variation or the standard deviation as a percentage of the mean – gives indication of the variability in lek counts among years

| Statistic | 2013 | 2014 | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|--------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| High Count Males | 31 | 19 | | | | | | | |
| High Count Females | 20 | 14 | | | | | | | |
| High Count Males and Females | 37 | 44 | | | | | | | |
| Days Grouse Present at lek | 39/40 | 20/40** | | | | | | | |
| Days Flushed Before Sunrise (out of total monitored days) | 35/40 87.5% | 6/20 30% | | | | | | | |
| Days Flushed by Humans (out of total monitored days) | 2/40 5% | 3/20 15% | | | | | | | |
| Human Totals (including volunteers) | 311 | 357 | | | | | | | |
| Visitor Totals (not including volunteers) | 233 | 297 | | | | | | | |
| Vehicle Totals (including groups and monitors) | 173 | 133 | | | | | | | |
| Vehicle Totals (not including volunteers); % of total vehicles that belonged to monitors | 118; 31.7% | 75; 43.6% | | | | | | | |
| Days at Least One Visitor at Site (out of total monitored days) | 35/40 | 28/40 | | | | | | | |
| Percent of Total Cars that Violated Protocol | 10.2% | 3% | | | | | | | |
| Number of U.S. States represented | 27 | 23 | | | | | | | |
| Number of Countries represented | 9 | 5 | | | | | | | |

* Shaded cells represent highest values recorded since 2004

** This value represents the percent of days the grouse used the traditional lek site, they were present most days in new locations





COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Gunnison Service Center
300 W. New York Ave.
Gunnison, CO 81230
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Gunnison Sage-grouse Lek Access/Viewing Protocol

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and Sisk-a-dee, a local Gunnison sage-grouse advocacy group, volunteered to monitor applicants requesting access to a Gunnison sage-grouse lek (strutting grounds) for conservation purposes through the Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee lek access process. Applicants interested in gaining access to a lek for educational or commercial purposes may contact Jim Cochran, Gunnison County Wildlife Conservation Coordinator, at (970) 641-7604 or through the County website: <http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/162/Wildlife-Conservation>.

CPW and Sisk-a-dee will supervise successful applicants and work with private landowners willing to grant access to assure grouse are not impacted during courtship displays. All individuals conducting activities near a Gunnison sage-grouse lek need to comply with this Lek Access/Viewing Protocol to reduce potential disturbance to the grouse.

Please keep in mind that Gunnison sage-grouse are sensitive to human disturbances. Continued human disturbance could result in grouse abandoning the lek or low attendance. To ensure the future of grouse and to avoid adverse impacts, applicants should adhere to the following recommendations:

Viewing Etiquette:

- Lek access opportunities are available from 1 April to 15 May
- A user will have two consecutive days of lek access and no additional opportunities in one season
- A user will be able to reschedule for weather if the guide is available



- A minimum of five rest days between lek access visits on one lek is required
- Arrive at lek at least two hours before sunrise with guide; guide will escort user to the lek and remain in blind with user
- No pets, especially dogs, are allowed near the lek or in vehicles
- Remain as quiet as possible on approach to lek and when on the lek; no radios, cell phones, horn honking, car door slamming, or other noises should occur
- Head lamps may be used to access lek and blind, once in blind equipment should be set up and lights turned off
- Access is by foot only; no mechanized vehicles should approach closer than 0.6 mile to the lek
- Blind should be placed an adequate distance away from birds to avoid adversely impacting breeding behavior; use of high-powered binoculars, spotting scopes, and zoom lenses is recommended
- User's blind will be set up the afternoon before the lek visit date, location of blind will be determined at the same time
- User should remain still and in the blind and should not leave until all birds have stopped displaying and departed the lek (typically 4 hours)
- Users should be prepared for long stays in blind and for cold temperatures (typical morning temperature is 20 F in April in Gunnison)
- Conversation should be minimal and kept to a low whisper
- No flash photography is allowed
- Additional rules and restrictions may be imposed by landowners

This protocol is enforceable by the CPW. Failure to comply with these recommendations may be considered wildlife harassment with violators cited and fined.