GUNNISON BASIN SAGE-GROUSE STRATEGIC COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

DATE: Wednesday, November 18, 2015
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 October 21, 2015 Meeting Minutes
4.	10:15	● Committee Member Comments/Reports
5.	10:30	● Litigation Update
6.	10:40	● BLM Resource Management Plan Amendment EIS -status report
7.	10:50	● Waunita Watchable Wildlife Site
8.	11:00	● Conservation Poster
9.	11:15	● Conservation Easements
10.	11:30	● (added) Lek Access Program
11.	11:55	● (moved) Future Meetings
12.	12:00	● (moved) 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.

Teleconference Information:

Dial In Number: 970-641-7698
Access Code: 0166520

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GUNNISON BASIN SAGE-GROUSE STRATEGIC COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
November 18, 2015

The November 18, 2015 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 Members:
Ken Stahlnecker, Chairperson, National Park Service (NPS)
J. Wenum, Vice-Chairperson, Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife (CPW)
Greg Peterson, Secretary, Gunnison County Stockgrowers' Association
Peter Caloger, Public At-Large
Matt Vasquez, United States Forest Service (USFS)
Jonathan Houck, Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)
Eric Ferchau, At Large, Development Community (arrived at 10:15 a.m.)
Sue Navy, High Country Citizens Alliance
Gina Glenne, USFWS, Alternate
Elinor Laurie, Saguache County Alternate (by phone)

Others in the Audience:
Jacob Spendelow, Public (by phone)
Theresa Childress, NPS
John Scott, Public
Nathan Seward, CPW

Staff Members Present:
Jim Cochran, Gunnison County Wildlife Conservation Coordinator
Rebecca Ricord, Administrative Assistant

Others present as listed in text.

10:00:09 AM **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Stahlnecker called the November 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: Agenda approved as circulated.

APPROVAL of OCTOBER 21, 2015 MEETING MINUTES: Moved by Peterson, seconded by Navy. Approved as distributed.

10:03:12 AM **COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS/ REPORTS**

Houck reported that he is working with the County Coalition to make sure all the Counties involved are on the same page regarding conservation easements. Cochran reported that if the owners don't take advantage of the funds then they will miss out on the conservation easements this year. Cochran and Houck will be meeting with the NRCS State Conservationist in December. They are not sure when the meeting will be. The deadline for applications is January 15, 2016 and they are trying to find out if there is any flexibility in the deadline. The State is on board to try and figure out how to make it work.

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Glenne reported that the draft of EIS report will hopefully be done by January for comments. FWS is working on putting together a species status assessment.

Vasquez reported that they are working on updates to the Habitat Prioritization Tool and will be working with the Technical Subcommittee this winter to decide what works best. Cochran reported that Mike Pelletier has also been working on the tool and would like more involvement, soon. John Scott requested to be a member of the Technical Subcommittee. Stahlnecker appointed John Scott as a member of the Technical Subcommittee.

Navy reported that Seward recommended that Betsy Neely get the Gunnison sage-grouse Stewardship Award and Navy wanted to also recommend her. Moved by Navy, seconded by Peterson to present Betsy Neely with the 2015 Sage-grouse Award. Approved. They will present the award to Betsy at the 2016 Summit.

Wenum reported on the status of the 2016 Summit in March, 2016.

10:26:45 AM **LITIGATION UPDATE**

Cochran reported that the parties had to review and agree on the completeness of the Administrative Record and that deadline has passed. All litigants submitted requests and questions regarding the record. The biggest issue was the number of documents being redacted. There was no resolution or response from the Federal Attorneys regarding the redactions. The attorneys have until December 4, 2015 to present their responses.

10:34:15 AM **BLM RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT EIS STATUS REPORT**

Cochran gave update. They have been having discussions among parties regarding buffers outside of any Gunnison sage-grouse habitats to protect against any unintended degradation of habitat or impacts to the grouse inside actual habitat. BLM gave out revised draft of the EIS to all the agencies with responses to questions. There will be a meeting in Montrose December 1, 2015 regarding the lek buffers and other subjects. The draft EIS is still on schedule to be sent out March 19, 2016 to be out for a 90 day public review. Halfway through that they will have public meetings for review and comments.

10:39:33 AM **WUANITA WATCHABLE WILDLIFE SITE**

Cochran reported that they met with Marlene Crosby with Public Works to identify where the no-parking signs will be on the County road. They agreed that they will begin immediately north of the Watchable Wildlife Site and end at the cattleguard north of the Double Heart Ranch house. Discussion followed on the different types of signs being put on both sides of the road. Marlene will be working on the verbiage of the signs. In 2016 the Watchable Wildlife Site will be open 5 days a week and will be closed for 2 days. Western State students will monitor the site and use along the County road during the closed days. The sheriff office agreed to increase law enforcement presence. They will be reaching out to State Patrol to to see if they'd be willing to be in the area for enforcement. The Committee Discussed collection of fees and making sure they are consistent with CPW policies. Fees will be discussed more in December.

10:50:46 AM **CONSERVATION POSTER REVIEW**

Seward does not have updated estimates on costs but will have them soon. He is looking at 4,000-6,000 posters with a cost between $3,000 and $4,000. The intent is to design a high quality poster that is as professional looking as possible. Bob Gress is willing to donate his time even if another photographer is used. Seward discussed possible photo ideas and fees. The Committee discussed whether they'd have permission to use the poster and photographs for future use on website etc. Seward reported on funding possibilities and believes it is do-able. He is working on getting the proposal funding ready. Navy thought the number of posters was a lot but Seward stated he hasn't figured out an exact number yet. Houck

reported that the more ordered, the less the costs. Caloger recommended asking the photographer for permission to sell them on the website too.

Peterson wanted to know where the proceeds would go. Seward recommended that they go to the Mitigation fund. Cochran stated that he thought it would be more appropriate to have the proceeds go to the I&E fund. Cochran recommended that there be a prepay option for the poster included in the Summit packet and sign up as an optional donation.

Seward will work on the draft of the poster and Navy agreed to review and put it in front of the I&E Subcommittee for review. Navy would like photos from photographers on a donation basis. Peterson requested some sort of proposal from Seward showing potential funders and if possible, how much they are willing to donate by the December Committee meeting for review. Caloger requested that Seward find out if Bob would be willing to allow the posters to be sold for profit. Seward will work on the proposal.

11:12:04 AM **CONSERVATION EASEMENTS**

No further information.

11:12:15 AM **LEK ACCESS PROGRAM**

Cochran reported that there have been a number of inquiries from photographers regarding the Committee's Lek Access Program. The Committee has had the program in place since 2012. It is a limited program. There have been no more than two applications approved each year, a guide is required, access is on private lands and coordination with the landowner is necessary. In 2015 there were two applications but none were approved. The packet provided includes requirements. The application is straight-forward and due by February 15th of each year and reviewed by the Committee. Cochran reported that the question now is what the Committee wants to do for 2016. Discussion followed. Seward and Glenne will review the language of the application and process. Glenne will review the process with the intent of having FWS make a "take" determination. Seward will review the CCAA Certificates of Inclusion (CI) for properties that have leks on them that might participate in the program and determine if lek viewing/photography is an allowed activity, and if it is, under what conditions.

11:33:11 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. Glenne noted that no FWS member will be at the December, 2015 Committee meeting.

Discussion followed on what is going to happen once Cochran leaves the committee. Cochran reported that the intent is not for him to stay on for another year and that December will theoretically be his last meeting. Houck and Cochran will keep everyone up to date and have a plan to put in front of the committee in the December meeting.

Date	Time	Notes	Building and location
12-16-15	10-2	Regular Meeting	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2nd floor meeting room
01-20-16	10-2	Regular Meeting	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2nd floor meeting room
02-16-16	10-2	Regular Meeting	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2nd floor meeting room
03-16-16	10-2	Regular Meeting	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2nd floor meeting room
04-20-16	10-2	Regular Meeting	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2nd floor meeting room
05-18-16	10-2	Regular Meeting	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2nd floor meeting room
06-15-16	10-2	Regular Meeting	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2nd floor meeting room

11:39:17 AM **ADJOURN:** **MOVED** by Peterson to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The November 18, 2015 meeting of the Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee adjourned at 11:39 A.M.

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Ken Stahlnecker, Chairperson

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Greg Peterson, Secretary

Minutes Prepared By: Rebecca Ricord, Administrative Assistant

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