



STOR Committee Meeting Minutes November 21, 2024 Hybrid Meeting

For STOR Committee Members & Guests: *This meeting will be held in-person at the Blackstock Building – 200 W Virginia Ave, Gunnison, CO 81230.*

For the General Public: *The meeting will also be held virtually on Zoom at the following link:*
<https://gunnisoncounty-org.zoom.us/j/87637105265?pwd=Rkt2d2NoM3NubTJWMIZ5bnJzNjVvUT09>

Committee Members Present:

Jake Jones, Kimberly Schappert, Cathie Pagano, Nick Catmur, Laura Pucket-Daniels, Jennifer Deboer, Chris Parmeter, Tim Kugler, Brandon Diamond, Dave Ochs, Andrew Sandstrom, Gabbi Prochaska, Hedda Peterson, Derek Nehrenberg, Jon Hare

Matt Quinn, Bella Biondini, Hailey Trech, Michelle Flenner

Jake Jones (Committee Chair) called to order Approval of October 2024 Meeting Minutes

Kugler made a motion to approve the minutes and Nehrenberg seconded the motion. Jones abstained

The motion passed unanimously with amendments.

Wildlife Planning Tool Draft Review

Diamond and Catmur presented the new mapping tool and explained the changes and additions they have implemented. Diamond described the tool's focus on assessing land ownership and human disturbance, including impacts from roads, trails, human occupancy, radio towers, and other infrastructure. The tool also features a wildlife map illustrating species assemblages and migration patterns, such as elk movements and activities.

Michelle Flenner provided an overview of the data layers used in the tool, which include wetlands, big game species, and various habitats. Diamond noted that while other counties have used similar tools, Gunnison County's tool is unique due to its inclusion of Gunnison Sage-grouse and other distinct species. She presented an example of the elk layer, which highlights production areas, winter ranges, migration corridors, and summer alpine ranges. She explained that the tool aims to align with similar efforts in other counties and would incorporate additional data that could benefit those counties in the future. Flenner discussed how the tool calculates wildlife sensitivity to human impacts, combining habitat value with species responses

to disturbances. Diamond elaborated on how differences in map data are displayed, noting that denser timber areas typically show lower human impact, while more open areas reflect higher human impact. The committee discussed interpreting the map, including the significance of specific data layers. Pagano clarified that this map serves as a broad planning tool and would be used in conjunction with other layers. Diamond noted that highly impacted areas on the map could indicate the presence of multiple species rather than a single factor. Flenner presented a recreation planning map showing varying levels of habitat disturbance and undisturbed quality.

Wildlife Planning Tool Future Use Discussion

The committee debated aspects of the map, including color choices and the need for better clarity. Daniels pointed out that the color scheme might be contributing to confusion, and Diamond agreed, explaining that adjustments could help improve usability. Catmur added that map data, such as trails and roads, could be adjusted, if necessary, based on committee feedback. The committee also discussed focus on the quality of map details when zoomed in and the importance of accessible, high-resolution data for effective planning and development. Diamond offered insights into understanding the map's layers and their representation of species and habitat data. Nehrenberg emphasized the need to highlight high-value, undisturbed areas for protection, and the committee discussed how to best represent values and disturbances. The committee agreed that a narrative accompanying the map would help users understand its layers and overall purpose. Catmur proposed reviewing color choices, creating a detailed breakdown of the map, and developing a narrative. Diamond suggested consulting with Chaffee and Lake Counties on alpine areas. Catmur shared examples of how similar tools are used in those counties, including trail planning, wildfire protection, land use planning, and recreation management. The committee expressed concerns about ensuring the Gunnison Basin, especially the area bordering Saguache, was fully represented on the map, and Catmur reassured them that it would be included. They suggested removing "recreation" from the map title to better reflect its broader applications. Catmur and Diamond explained that the tool could be ready within a month or two and they plan to finalize the narrative and share it with the committee for review and edits in December.

Jones adjourned the meeting.