



STOR Committee Meeting Agenda

March 27th, 2025: 2 – 4PM

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/86913079445?pwd=w7cZK6GjdM8kHatroi9aOUvNdcJ2nd.1>*

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| 2:00 pm | Call to Order & Agenda Preview – <i>Jake Jones (Committee Chair)</i> |
| 2:03 pm | Selection of new Chair and Vice Chair |
| 2:10 pm | Approval of January 2025 Minutes. <i>Chair Person.</i> |
| 2:15pm | Update on Existing Strategic Plan - <i>Nick Catmur</i> |
| 2:35 pm | Discussion for new Strategic Planning Initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education and Signage• Public Lands Maintenance and Management Collaboration |
| 3:20 pm | Updates on local fallout from recent federal actions – <i>Johnathan Houck, Nick Catmur</i> |
| 3:50 pm | Letter of support for CB Land Trust – Time for questions/concerns, vote of support or no support |
| 4:00 pm | Adjourn |



STOR Committee Meeting Minutes January 30, 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:

Gabi Prochaska, Steve Guerrieri, Cathie Pagano, Kim Schappert, Jake Jones, Nick Catmur, Chris Parmeter, Andrew Sandstrom, Tim Kugler, LB Mullin, Derrick Nehrenberg, Brandon Diamond, Dave Ochs, Marisela Ballesteros, Steve Duke, Jeremy Johndrow, Jim Lovelace, Jennifer DeBoer, Hedda Peterson, Roman Kolodziej

Jake Jones (Committee Chair) called to order

Approval of December 2024 Meeting Minutes

Prochaska made a motion to approve the minutes and Sandstrom seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Duke Abstained

Gunnison County Stewardship Fund: 2025 Funding Recommendations

Catmur presented funding criteria and the strategic plan, requesting project proposals. He confirmed that GOCO and GCSF grants were awarded, ensuring all applicants could receive funding.

Hinsdale County Restroom Installation: \$15,000 for one restroom at Gunnison CR 26/Hwy 149. BLM to manage maintenance.

Leave No Trace Program: \$728 to integrate Leave No Trace education/camp into the Taylor Challenge for eighth graders.

Avalanche Outreach Program: \$8,000 for community education, search and rescue training, and outreach.

Crested Butte Conservation Corps: \$40,000 hire 10-12 full-time seasonal employees, maintain trails, remove trees, and improve campsites.

USFS Janitorial Services: \$40,000 to continue restroom maintenance from June to October and continue promoting health and safety.

CB/Mt CB Trailhead Porta Potty Program: \$18,000 for maintenance at eight high-use trailheads from June to September.

Public Lands Stewardship Program: \$8,512 for AmeriCorps interns to work with BLM on cheatgrass mapping and land stewardship.

Stock Growers Assoc. Sustainable Gate Infrastructure: \$13,240 for rangeland management, gate installation, and signage in partnership with BLM. The committee discussed reestablishing a subcommittee to discuss locations, materials, and signage.

Gunnison Trails Crew: \$25,000 for staffing, outreach, and temporary signage on trail conditions, wildlife restrictions, and camping areas.

Verzuh Ranch Ecological Education: \$30,000 for educational outreach and signage. The committee decided not to fund this project due to alignment concerns and suggested funding alternatives.

Supporting Documents: Gunnison County Stewardship Fund 2025 Project LOIs

Action: Recommend projects for full application and funding amounts

The Committee reviewed GOCO funding criteria and deadlines, confirming \$129,800 from the Stewardship Fund and \$146,000 from GOCO. They prioritized funding projects addressing human waste and infrastructure. The Verzuh Ranch project was deemed misaligned with STOR goals and recommended seeking alternative grants.

The committee voted to approve funding for all projects except the Verzuh Ranch. Sandstrom made a motion to approve, Roman seconded, and Jen abstained. The motion carried unanimously.

Jones adjourned the meeting.



STOR Strategic Planning

Foster a culture for residents and visitors that demonstrates an ethic of environmental stewardship and respect for our community.

Problem: Trash, human waste, unattended campfires, and camping outside designated sites continue to be major issues for our valley. Yet we seem reluctant to try alternative solutions

Challenges

- Knowing if the information is getting to people
- Even when it is, what effect is it having
- Do we keep pushing it, or just make sure it's available to those who seek it out
- Messaging camping availability and or plan B
 - Providing a legitimate plan B
- Providing tools/infrastructure to encourage better behavior

Opportunities

- Commit to ongoing stewardship messaging
- State level blueprints to create messaging for our most vital issues
- Provide other camping opportunities
- Focus more on infrastructure and tools than messaging and education
- Strategically update signage, starting with maps
- Discuss broader strategy for visitor management, disperse or consolidate?

Camping Info

- Top five pages when google “crested butte camping”
 - Travel CB
 - TAPP
 - Rec.gov
 - USFS
 - CBMBA
- All of them have the right language and message, small tweaks could be made but the information is out there for those who care to look and listen...

Strategic Goal Ideas

- Utilize the CTO's Do Colorado Right campaign and the destination stewardship to create and share critical messaging for human waste, trash, campfires, camping (including plan B), and top places to recreate and share with our partners. Utilize this language and styling to inform our next signage update
- Work with partners to identify and implement overflow camping opportunities as an interim to a better solution
- Explore opportunities for small infrastructure/tools for people to properly dispose of waste

Support collaboration between federal land management agencies, state and local government, nonprofits, and user groups to improve management of recreation and natural resources.

Problem: Agency capacity is a big unknown, but maintenance is critical to the longevity of our recreation amenities and can greatly impact the visitor experience, but is supplementing our federal government sustainable?

Challenges

- Agencies may see smaller budgets and staff
- Lots of unknowns at this time
- If we can't maintain what we have it's hard to comprehend adding more
- Most of our funding is currently going to this leaving little for other work

Opportunities

- Lots of great non profits willing to step up
- Already have some great systems in place
- If we want to commit to funding this work maybe we can be more deliberate on what management and maintenance needs are prioritized?

Strategic Goal Ideas

- Continue to make annual awards from the Stewardship Fund that help support the maintenance needs of our federal partners
- Consider or pursue what capacity our local municipalities could help out?

STOR Committee

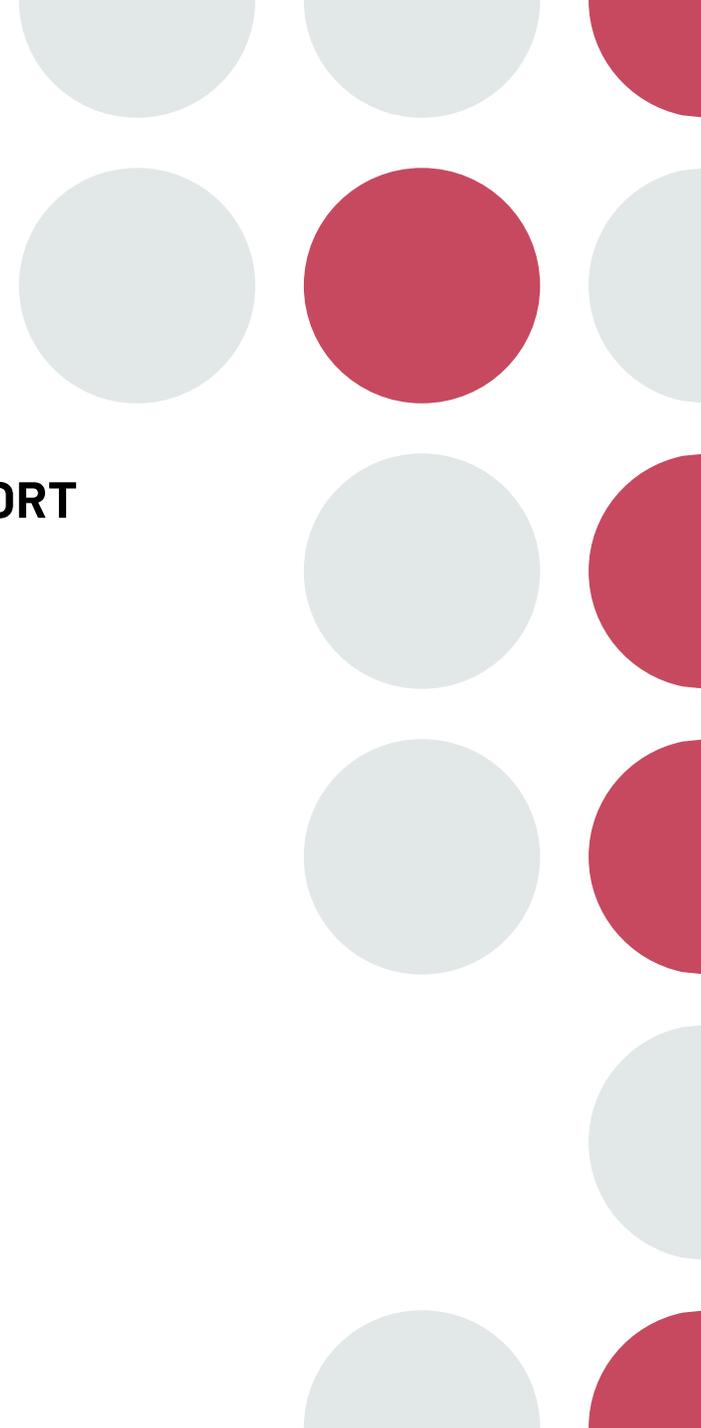
Strategic Plan Update



A. Promote a sustainable, resilient community that supports thriving natural ecosystems and native wildlife resources, a vibrant rural and ranching culture, and a diverse recreation economy.

THE STOR COMMITTEE WILL COMPLETE THE WILDLIFE DECISION SUPPORT TOOLS FOR RECREATION.

- DRAFT OF THE FINAL VERSION IS DONE, GETTING FINAL EDITS



A. Promote a sustainable, resilient community that supports thriving natural ecosystems and native wildlife resources, a vibrant rural and ranching culture, and a diverse recreation economy.

STOR Committee will work with the ranching community to identify important opportunities to reduce impacts of recreation on ranching; the STOR Committee will evaluate the opportunities presented and determine an implementation plan as appropriate.

Mitigation Options presented and agreed upon by STOR:

- This Strategic Goal must always be part of STOR process, this is not a onetime action item
 - Updating the Code of the West
 - Gate replacement project funded
 - Working to establish points of contact for messaging
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B. Foster a culture for residents and visitors that demonstrates an ethic of environmental stewardship and respect for our community.

The STOR Committee will work with partners to develop a multilingual communication plan and signage needs assessment that includes but is not limited to: locating camp sites; leave no trace principles, e-bikes, and stewardship messaging.

- For the summer of 24' we ran a \$5,000 marketing campaign specifically for stewardship messaging related to designated camping, campfires, and human waste.
 - Spanish versions of Kiosk have been funded, currently finalizing the design. Will be implemented this summer
 - LEO Funding for 2024
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C. Support collaboration between federal land management agencies, state and local government, nonprofits, and user groups to improve management of recreation and natural resources.

The STOR Committee will prioritize annual funding recommendations for the Gunnison Stewardship Fund based on this strategic plan and overall STOR Committee mission.

- We continue to make awards annually from the fund to projects that help achieve our strategic goals
 - Four awards made in 2024 and nine in 2025



C. Support collaboration between federal land management agencies, state and local government, nonprofits, and user groups to improve management of recreation and natural resources.

The STOR Committee will work with state and federal partners to identify and prioritize opportunities for funding support for ongoing maintenance of resources on state and federal lands.

2024 Accomplishments

- Toilet cleaning contract for greater Crested Butte area
- CBCC cleaning West Maroon TH toilet
- Trail and campsite maintenance through CBCC and Gunnison Trails
- Volunteer day support through GOCO grant
- Improvements to the designated campsites around Crested Butte
- Tent pad construction in Gothic
- Road Improvements
- Law enforcement funding



D. Minimize degradation of natural resources and enhance accessibility of recreational amenities by focusing recreational development close to population centers with transit connection and emphasizing conservation and wildlife habitat preservation in outlying areas.

Identify and prioritize additional recreation infrastructure funding needs for high use areas to support a fee proposal on high use federal and other public lands.

- The FS began charging Fees for the designated campsites in Gothic in 2023, added tent pads in 2024
- There is interest in pursuing a traditional campground at either Musicians camp or Tent City – Will take time and funding
- Best to continue to support the smaller infrastructure improvements to harden high use areas and set “carrying capacity” to allow for better data collection on use



D. Minimize degradation of natural resources and enhance accessibility of recreational amenities by focusing recreational development close to population centers with transit connection and emphasizing conservation and wildlife habitat preservation in outlying areas.

Help the County develop a plan for the Crested Butte to Crested Butte South recreation path.

- 10% design plans have been completed
 - Extra time was committed to understanding community needs and exhausting other options
 - STOR formally supported the design plans that put the path adjacent to highway 135
 - Met Rec may take over the project but STOR is happy to assist in planning, contracting, and finding funding
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D. Minimize degradation of natural resources and enhance accessibility of recreational amenities by focusing recreational development close to population centers with transit connection and emphasizing conservation and wildlife habitat preservation in outlying areas.

The STOR Committee will identify areas and a plan for implementation in the upper valley drainage corridors (Kebler, Slate River, Washington Gulch, Gothic, Brush Creek) that require additional infrastructure and/or transit to accommodate recreation demand and protect natural resources and recreation amenities.

- STOR pursued two pilot programs for this goal and decided not to pursue either due to feasibility and cost
- Overall, we do not feel that we can get the structures in place to make a user-friendly transit system that will be utilized enough to justify implementation costs at this time
- We need a stronger narrative and data to support the notion that use is high enough to trigger a need for this demand

D. Minimize degradation of natural resources and enhance accessibility of recreational amenities by focusing recreational development close to population centers with transit connection and emphasizing conservation and wildlife habitat preservation in outlying areas.

The STOR Committee will identify additional infrastructure needs to accommodate recreation demand and a plan for implementation at Hartman Rocks Recreation Area.

- Completed a comprehensive placement of boulders throughout Hartman Rocks to better delineate parking and camping areas.
- Installed a vault toilet at Behind the Rocks day use area

