



STOR Committee Meeting Agenda
May 22nd, 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>*

- 2:00 pm **Call to Order** – *Tim Kugler (Committee Chair)*
Approval of April 2025 Minutes. *Tim Kugler.*
- 2:05pm **Finalize Strategic Plan Results** – Cathie Pagano and Tim Kugler
Action: Adopt Strategic Plan
- 3:35 pm **USFS Seasonal Staff Hiring Initiative Update** – *Dave Ochs & Matt Quinn*
- 3:45 pm **Adjourn**



STOR Committee Meeting

Minutes April 24, 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:

Kimberly Schappert, Derek Nehrenberg, Nick Catmur, Tim Kugler, Andrew Sandstrom, Laura Puckett-Daniels, Jake Jones, Jay Whitacre, Cathie Pagano, Jen DeBoer, Marisela Ballesteros, Steve Duke, Brian Brown, Jeremy Johndrow, Brandon Diamond, Tori Manogue, David Ochs

Tim Kugler (Committee Chair) called to order

Approval of March 2025 Meeting Minutes

Jones made a motion to approve the minutes and Sandstrom seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

BLM Update

Brian Brown, Assistant Field Manager with the BLM, informed the committee that the agency is undergoing a consolidation process, which may result in significant changes to offices and staffing. Despite these changes, they still plan to hire seasonal employees this year and will be responsible for managing 40 toilets.

Strategic Plan Goal Setting

Catmur reviewed Strategic Goal A, and the committee agreed to update Result 1 to include infrastructure specifically for wildlife crossings on Highways 135 and 50, reflecting community support for land conservation and the need to assess feasibility in those areas. They also decided to use the new wildlife map to support decision-making and public outreach. For Result 2, Catmur shared that progress is ongoing with the installation of 20 gates. The committee also agreed to identify a point of contact within the Stock Growers Association to improve coordination and communication regarding special events and cattle movements.

In reviewing Goal D, Catmur introduced a potential grant opportunity through the Colorado Outdoor Strategy. The committee agreed to pursue the grant to support recreational development and discussed possible projects it could fund. They plan to update their by-laws to clarify how funding decisions will be made. The committee also agreed to add new goals

focused on creating a fee schedule to support the stewardship fund, identifying revenue streams, increasing fundraising efforts, and building more outdoor recreation infrastructure.

Pulse Check on Strategic Results, are we missing anything?

The committee reviewed the strategic goals and agreed to add generating funds as a new goal, as well as reinstate advocacy as a dedicated goal in the strategic plan.

STOR Advocacy Letter review

The committee decided to revise the letter by changing the reference to "recreation programs" to include "recreation, range management, and wildlife programs." They also agreed to send additional letters through an advocacy subcommittee to highlight specific areas within recreation and raise greater awareness.

Daniels made a motion to approve the letter for distribution. Schappert seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Funka abstained. Representatives from the BLM and Forest Service were absent.

Update: Funding for USFS Season Staff

Catmur informed the committee that funding has been secured for USFS staffing, with \$45,500 received so far out of the \$60,000 requested. Catmur will continue reaching out to additional organizations to secure the remaining funds.

Kugler adjourned the meeting.

STOR Committee 2023-2025 Strategic Plan

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.

1. By December 31, 2026 the STOR Committee will work with CPW to support the development of wildlife crossing structures through establishment of community support, identification of priority lands for conservation, and data collection to assess feasibility.

Lead: Brandon Diamond, CPW and Nick Catmur, NFF
Team:

	Task & Updates	Estimated Completion	Date Completed
1			
2			
3			
4			

2. By December 31, 2026 the STOR Committee will work with land managers and agricultural operators to replace five (5) fence openings with new gates to mitigate recreation impacts to agricultural operations

Lead: Jake Jones, CBLT; Steve Guerrieri, Stockgrowers
Team:

	Task & Updates	Estimated Completion	Date Completed
1	Identify gate priority locations from land managers and Ranchers	10/25	
2	Work with local stakeholders to identify entities to implement the gate installation and encourage to apply to GCSF	12/25	
3	Award funds for installation	2/26	
4	Gates installed	Summer-26	

Commented [CP1]: Let's be more specific. STOR will install x gates in collaboration with land managers and agricultural operators to mitigate recreation impacts to agricultural operations.

Do you have an estimate for how many? I just guessed.

Commented [NC2R1]: I'm hesitant to put a number on it, I think expanding the project out to other land agencies and ranching operations is enough. Do we constrain ourselves with a number? And if we are fine going over then it seems arbitrary.

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

1. By March 31, 2026 the STOR Committee will develop a Visitor Use Management framework that identifies the most critical management issues on public and conserved lands and identifies methods and opportunities to mitigate negative impacts and improve the user experience.

Lead: Nick Catmur, Briget Estep

Team:

	Task & Updates	Estimated Completion	Date Completed
1	Identify a SOW/geographic area for this framework and inventory the rec sites within it and define existing conditions	9/25	
2	Define the desired conditions for each recreations site	10/25	
3	Establish the strategies required for reaching the desired conditions and who would be responsible for the work	03/26	
4	Monitor future conditions	Ongoing	

- By December 31, 2025 the STOR Committee will develop a "plan B" for campers and pursue additional opportunities outside of federal land to accommodate people who can't find a campsite.

Lead: Andrew Sandstrom, TAPP; Dave Ochs, CBMBA

Team:

	Task & Updates	Estimated Completion	Date Completed
1	Implement the lodging Plan B, messaging and Utilize Variable message board to notify visitors when campsites are likely full	6/25	
2	Monitor effects of lodging and message board tactics and consider what other options/messaging would be best to complement this strategy moving forward	10/25	
3	Pursue new overnight accommodations to function as plan B or A for campers including: -Overflow lot -Private camping -Camping on municipal land	12/25	
4			

Commented [CP3]: Start subcommittee in May/June to begin this work. Andrew, Dave, ??

Commented [NC4R3]: I think those two are great to lead this, we will need representatives from all the municipalities on this sub committee

Commented [NC5]: Do we need a goal of identifying viable land/spaces for opportunity and then approaching land owners?

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

- By January 31st of each year the STOR Committee will prioritize annual funding recommendations for the Gunnison Stewardship Fund based on this strategic plan and overall STOR Committee mission.

Lead: Nick Catmur, NFF

Team:

	Task & Updates	Estimated Completion	Date Completed
1	Identify more public places to announce grant opening	Dec	

2	Grant opens	Dec	
3	LOI's due and reviewed by STOR	Jan	
4	Awards made	March	

- STOR Committee members will continue to engage at the state and federal level to advocate for our community on related funding and policy decisions.

Lead: Cathie Pagano, Gunnison County; Nick Catmur, NFF
 Team: Commissioner Laura Puckett Daniels, Gunnison County

	Task & Updates	Estimated Completion	Date Completed
1	Identify advocacy issues with Committee		
2	Identify a faster method for gaining consensus for approval to sign other letters without a Committee vote, also use for letters of support		
3			
4			

- By December 31, 2025 STOR will explore the opportunities for fundraising and/or fee adoption to support publicly accessible lands and the goals of the STOR Committee.

Commented [CP6]: Start fee subcommittee-this is going to need staff support. How will that look? What does Nick envision?

Lead:

Team:

	Task & Updates	Estimated Completion	Date Completed
1	Establish what we are trying to charge fees for. Where will the money go and who will bank the funds. Come to consensus on whether fees or donation based is better model	9/26	
2	Identify the best locations and or amenities and decide on a pilot model for funding generation	2/26	
3	Implement	Summer 26	
4			

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

- By December 31, 2025 STOR Committee will identify high priority infrastructure projects that align with the recreation emphasis zones identified in the GMUG Forest wide plan where projects can be implemented to achieve the above goal and collaborate on grant funding opportunities and applications.

Lead: Nick Catmur NFF & Matt Quinn USFS
 Team:

Commented [NC7]: This is a little clunky I'm open to other ways to word this.

Commented [CP8]: Ask feds and others to propose. USFS to propose Snodgrass at June meeting. Could be for CPW/GOCO funding.

	Task & Updates	Estimated Completion	Date Completed
1	Establish a subcommittee of stake holders and STOR members most closely affiliated with the project	6-25	
2	Host preliminary onsite meeting with stakeholders	Summer-25	
3	Establish a high level scope for the desired outcome of the project	2/26	
4	Apply for funding to support the RFP process and release an RFP for the planning portion of this project	7/26-2/27	
5	Work with hired firm to develop and detailed plan		

2. By December 31, 2026 the STOR Committee will Identify high use non-federal trailheads for improvement and pilot infrastructure opportunities to improve the user experience and accessibility while also improving environmental outcomes through the inclusion of bathrooms, trash disposal, hardening, and other improvements.

Lead:

Team:

	Task & Updates	Estimated Completion	Date Completed
1	Analyze existing locations for opportunity and select the most viable locations to implement solutions and develop list of priority locations	10/25	
2	Identify what infrastructure we want to implement, consider a tie in with the fee/donation strategic goal	10/25	
3	Working with the land owners, identify funding opportunities and management strategies	12/25	
4	Apply for funding	5/26	
5	Implementation	Summer 26	