



STOR Committee Meeting Agenda  
June 26th, 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 May 2025 Minutes, Tim Kugler**
- 2:05pm      **Wildlife Planning Tool Final Review, Brandon Diamond**
- 3:15pm      **Formalize Sub Committee groups for Strategic Action Items, Cathie Pagano**
- 3:35 pm      **GOCO Funding Programs, Cathie Pagano**
- 4:00 pm      **Adjourn**



## STOR Committee Meeting

### Minutes May 22, 2025

### Hybrid Meeting

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**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:**

Tim Kugler, Andrew Sandstrom, Cathie Pagano, Derreck Nehrenberg, Laura Puckett-Daniels, Brian Brown, Hedda Peterson, Kimberly Schappert, Jennifer Deboer, Jay Whitacre, Roman Kolozdiej, Dayle Funka, Jeremy Johndrow, Marisela Ballesteros, LB Mullin, Steve Duke, Brandon Diamond, Dave Ochs, Gabriele Prochaska

#### **Tim Kugler (Committee Chair) called to order** **Approval of April 2025 Meeting Minutes**

Daniels made a motion to approve the minutes and Sandstrom seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with amendments.

#### **Finalize Strategic Plan Results Action: Adopt Strategic Plan**

The committee reviewed and finalized revisions to the Strategic Plan, focusing on Goal C3. They acknowledged that fee adoption through the Forest Service may not be feasible this year and chose to explore alternative funding options through partnerships and non-fee-based mechanisms. They agreed to amend C3 to allow an additional year for completion and revised the goal to focus on broader, more attainable fundraising efforts, supported by tactics like financial planning, cost/benefit analysis, and evaluating revenue and expenses. Minor wording changes were made to Goals D1 and D2, and final edits were added to the plan, including specific project details.

Daniels made a motion to Adopt the 2025 Strategic Plan and Peterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **USFS Seasonal Staff Hiring Initiative Update**

Matt Quinn updated the committee on the hiring initiative, reporting that funding was secured through several organizations, allowing them to hire three trained former USFS employees as rec crew members starting in late May. These employees will assist with trail work, visitor education, and maintenance through September or October. They chose not to hire a fourth

crew member due to time and budget constraints, enabling them to retain the current crew longer. Nehrenberg outlined the contributing organizations and their funding amounts. Briget Eastep from Western Colorado University secured funding for three AmeriCorps positions, placed with USFS and BLM. Ballesteros provided an AmeriCorps update, including current resource limitations. Quinn also reported challenges with toilet pumping funding, noting it would cost approximately \$80,000 to service 45 toilets in the Gunnison and Paonia areas (\$800-\$1000 per pump), with high-use sites most likely closing. The committee discussed funding options, including outreach efforts by Pagano and Quinn asking for potential sponsorships. Quinn informed the committee of contracts submitted that may take 4–6 weeks to process. They also agreed to share the issue with congressional representatives and support it with a formal letter.

Sandstrom made a motion to write a letter of support for the GORP act and Nehrenberg seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Funka, Brown, and Diamond abstained.

**Kugler adjourned the meeting.**

## STOR Committee 2025-2027 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 on Highways 50 and 135 through establishment of community support, identification of priority lands for conservation, and data collection to assess feasibility.
  - 2. By December 31, 2026 the STOR Committee will work with land managers and agricultural operators to replace at least five (5) fence openings with new gates to mitigate recreation impacts to agricultural operations.
  
- 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.
  - 2. 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.
  
- C. Support collaboration between federal land management agencies, state and local government, nonprofits, and user groups to improve management of recreation and natural resources.
  - 1. By January 31<sup>st</sup> 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.
  - 2. The STOR Committee members will continue to engage at the state and federal level to advocate for our community on related funding and policy decisions.
  - 3. By December 31, 2026 the STOR Committee will explore the opportunities for fundraising to support publicly accessible lands and the goals of the STOR Committee.

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.

1. By December 31, 2025 the STOR Committee will identify and pursue grant funding to implement high priority infrastructure projects that align with the recreation emphasis zones identified in the GMUG Forest wide 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 public access while also improving environmental outcomes through the inclusion of bathrooms, trash disposal, hardening, and other improvements.