



STOR Committee Meeting Minutes September 25, 2025 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:

Andrew Sandstrom, Tim Kugler, Brian Brown, Laura Pucket-Daniels, Kim Schappert, Hedda Peterson, Jon Hare, Steve Duke, Jake Jones, Roman Kolodziej, Matt Quin (forest service), Gabi Prochaska, Joe Lavorini, Cathie Pagano, Brandon Diamond

Tim Kugler (Committee Chair) called meeting to order Approval of August 2025 Meeting Minutes

Daniels made a motion to approve the minutes and Sandstrom seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously; Prochaska abstained

USFS Recreation Stewardship Crew Update/report

Matthew Quinn reported that three experienced recreation stewards worked May–October, completing trail maintenance, route closures, and other recreation management tasks. BLM staff supported weed management and hosted an intern through December. The committee discussed developing annual funding for seasonal staff and partnerships that support both community needs and career development. Daniels provided an update on the \$500,000 annual Stewardship Fund and noted planning for 2026 will balance short-term staffing needs with long-term projects like wildfire mitigation. Forest Service funds cannot directly pay salaries but can support hiring through partner organizations.

Visitor Use Management Sub Committee

Estep presented the subcommittee's draft framework for visitor use management outlining foundation, direction, management strategies, and processes for implementation and evaluation. Remaining steps include deciding whether to adopt a recreation approach and addressing recreation growth and impacts. The group plans to meet monthly and may involve students, though timing could be affected by school schedules. This work supports STOR's visitor use management goal, with a target completion of June 2026. The committee emphasized reviewing similar examples, prioritizing data collection, defining desired conditions, and reviewing the grant funding schedule to identify potential funding for implementing visitor use management.

Plan B for Camping – Staying in Hotels Report

Sandstrom presented the subcommittee's findings, which included developing alternative camping options, coordinating outreach with the Chamber and Visitor Center, and

creating the Gunnison Crested Butte (Camp GCB) webpage to direct visitors to lodging and designated camping when sites are full. The Plan B campaign targeted online searches for camping in Gunnison and Crested Butte and successfully reached audiences through ads and Reddit threads. The landing page performed well, and future plans include creating a paid traffic page focused on booking lodging. Remaining funds were used to deploy porta potties with promotional messaging. The committee discussed expanding messaging to additional camping areas for next summer, noting that crowding was less severe this year, but visitors stayed longer. Sandstrom plans to reconvene the subcommittee to explore more commercial camping options, including areas like Shady Island and Mount Crested Butte, while addressing transportation and recreation group impacts. The committee also discussed short-term response plans for busy weekends once live data becomes available.

Gunnison Trails letter of support for grant

Kugler presented a draft letter to accompany the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Non-Motorized Trails Grant, supporting Gunnison Trails' 2026 Trail Stewardship application. The letter highlights Gunnison Trails' key role in maintaining trails, promoting responsible recreation, and providing essential capacity to federal partners through the GOCO-funded three-year pilot project that supports CBMBA and Gunnison Trails for non-motorized trail work. Kugler requested STOR's endorsement of the letter in support of the application.

Schappert made a motion to approve sending a letter of support for Gunnison Trails' CPW grant application. Peterson seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously; Diamond abstained.

Sandstrom shared that 20 kiosks with Spanish translations have been added. Daniels provided an update on the Wildlife Vehicle Collision Mitigation Subcommittee, noting that members have been identified, a first meeting scheduled, and a course of work developed. The subcommittee has applied for the RPI grant to support its initial efforts, which will focus on creating a foundation before discussing construction of a wildlife crossing along Highways 135 and 50. Key stakeholders, including CPW, CDOT, State Patrol, National Park Service, wildlife advocates, and GWA, will be invited to participate. The RPI grant decision is expected around mid-December.

Kugler adjourned the meeting.