

GUNNISON BASIN SAGE-GROUSE STRATEGIC COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

DATE: Wednesday, August 20, 2014

PLACE: Planning Commission Meeting Room, Blackstock Government Center

1. 10:00am ● Call Regular Meeting to Order; Determination of Quorum; Verify Public Notice of Meeting
2. 10:05 ● Agenda Approval
3. 10:10 ● Approval of July 16, 2014 Meeting Minutes
4. 10:15 ● Committee Member Comments/Reports
5. 10:30 ● Gunnison Sage-grouse ESA Listing Decision Extension
-update on activities
6. 10:45 ● County Coalition Report
7. 10:55 ● BLM Resource Management Plan Amendment EIS
8. 11:15 ● Signal Peak Recreation Area Planning Update
9. 11:30 ● Riparian Restoration and Resilience Project Update
10. 11:45 ● Predator Control Investigation Subcommittee
-report
11. 11:55 ● Future Meetings
12. 12:00pm ● Adjourn

NOTE: This agenda is subject to change, including the addition of items up to 24 hours in advance or the deletion of items at any time. All times are approximate. Regular Meetings, Public Hearings, and Special Meetings are recorded and **ACTION MAY BE TAKEN ON ANY ITEM**. Work Sessions are not recorded and formal action cannot be taken. Two or more Gunnison County Commissioners may attend this meeting. For further information, contact the County Administration at 641-0248. If special accommodations are necessary per ADA, contact 641-0248 or TTY 641-3061 prior to the meeting.

**GUNNISON BASIN SAGE-GROUSE STRATEGIC COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 20, 2014**

The August 20, 2014 Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee meeting was conducted in the Gunnison County Blackstocks Government Center, 2nd floor meeting room, located at 221 N. Wisconsin # D, Gunnison, Co. 81230

Committee Members Present:

Voting:

Ken Stahlnecker, Chairperson, National Park Service (NPS)
Peter Caloger, Public At-Large
Matt Vasquez, United States Forest Service (USFS)
David Wiens, At-large Recreation Community
Susan Linner, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Chris Bove, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Eric Ferchau, At Large, Development Community
Jonathan Houck, Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)
Russ Japuntich, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Alternate

Non-voting:

Nathan Seward, Colorado Division of Parks & Wildlife (CPW) Alternate
Elinor Laurie, Saguache County Alternate
John Toolen, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Alternate

Staff Members Present:

Jim Cochran, Gunnison County Wildlife Conservation Coordinator
Michelle Spain, Administrative Assistant

Others present as listed in text.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Stahlnecker called the August 20, 2014, meeting of the Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee to order at 10:00 A.M.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM: Stahlnecker confirmed that a quorum was not present.

PUBLIC NOTICE CONFIRMED: Stahlnecker verified that proper legal public notice had occurred.

AGENDA APPROVAL: No modifications to the agenda were requested. The agenda was approved as circulated.

10:24:42 AM APPROVAL of July 16, 2014 MEETING MINUTES: Moved by Houck and seconded by Stahlnecker to accept the July 16, 2014 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

10:01:42 AM COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS/ REPORTS

- Houck started his review of a meeting he attended. BOCC crafted new language on the reclamation permitting process, specifically stating requirements for Sage Grouse habitat. Senator Mark Udall met with various community representatives to review our process on protecting this area.
- Houck will submit a copy of the BOCC resolution to this committee.

10:08:42 AM GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE ESA LISTING DECISION EXTENSION- update on activities;

- Susan Linner started her review. Not much new to report. Currently in the process of finalizing the listing document. The comments have been received. They have been grouped into categories. 20- 25 substantive issues have been listed. 120 different comments will be addressed. 3 potential listing options, all with possible litigation. Informally in regional office for review. Discussion of the review process. Part of the rationale for the 6 month extension was the option to explore the 4d rule. The 4d rule is not out so it will not be possible to add this to the regulation. Questions for Linner.

10:11:42 AM Jim Cochran enters meeting.

Greg Peterson, Linda Joseph, John Toolen on the phone. Quorum stated.

10:15:42 AM Erich Ferchau enters meeting.

- NRCS funding was discussed by Liz With. With discussed hiring for a sage-grouse biologist, the position formerly held by Christina Santana. Matt Vasquez asked about the position and who will fill or if this will be filled. An important part is the need to list, and if Sage Grouse is listed what does that mean for that position. Will that position continue to exist? Vasquez was concerned about the funding. There is an announcement out for this position.
- West Flat Top pictures passed around by Vasquez. Cochran described Drift fence, which are short fencing to change the trailing patterns of the animals. Vasquez reviewed the fencing components used. Vegetation recovery was excellent using this fencing method. Ranchers were cooperating with this concept.

Linda Joseph from Saguache County discussed the Poncha Pass updates. Bison located at the Great Sand Dunes National Park was discussed.

10:39:42 AM COUNTY COALITION REPORT

- Houck asked Cochran to discuss his latest meeting.
- Cochran responded. BLM & EIS process and deadline were reviewed. Comments from the Coalition are now being gathered. Populations were being reviewed in other areas. Dove Creek was visited and Utah's governor sent their representative to this meeting. Trying to determine how to deal with reporting Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) enrollments. No FSA (Farm Services Administration) representatives were at this meeting.
- Linner asked about the County Coalition for the Gunnison Sage-Grouse. Cochran indicated that this is the best way to bring new technology and science to analyze the threats.

10:52:01 AM BLM RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT EIS