

# Draft Agendas for Subcommittees

## **Subcommittee Times:**

(All meetings will occur at the BLM offices in Craig.)

- Friday, May 27, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm: Vegetation and Habitat Management, Including Grazing, Wildlife, and Wild Horses Subcommittee (Please bring your own lunch.)
- Tuesday, May 31, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm: Areas of Special Designation, Including Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Subcommittee
- Tuesday, May 31, 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm: Vegetation and Habitat Management, Including Grazing, Wildlife, and Wild Horses Subcommittee (no dinner provided)
- Wednesday, June 1, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm: Minerals and Energy Subcommittee
- Wednesday, June 1, 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm: Travel Management and Recreation, Including RS 2477 Subcommittee

***The Planning Committee recommends that each of the Subcommittees follow the same basic format, with specific modifications as noted below:***

## **1. CRITERIA FOR ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT (15 minutes)**

**Assignment:** As noted in the email sent on 5/26, please come to the meeting with specific suggestions for changes if you are not satisfied with the proposed list below.

- Goalposts as wide as possible, within reason (legally possible)
- Combination of alternatives represents full range of options
- Each alternative is implementable/affordable
- Range of alternatives recognizes the specific unique areas within the LSRA and supports the uniqueness while allowing for multiple use. (Managing for “Best/Predominant Use” of an Area, and determining what other uses can be accommodated.)
- Range of alternatives incorporates adaptive management, when appropriate
- Follows all existing laws about valid existing rights, multiple use, environmental laws, etc.

**Goal:** Review and discuss proposed criteria below for developing alternatives for the RMP. The goal is not to reach consensus, but rather to develop some general, guiding principles to help direct alternative development.

## 2. DATA NEEDS

- Additional data requests/data reviews planned by BLM in near future
- Responses to specific data requests from prior meetings. Specific requests for each subcommittee are included here in attachment A.

**Goal:** For NWCOS to respond to past and future data needs to help ensure that the RMP process is as science-based as possible and that the science is as based on joint fact-finding as allowable by time and finances.

## 3. DISCUSSION OF ALTERNATIVES DOCUMENT

For each specific section in a subcommittee (e.g., wild horses during the Habitat Subcommittee), we will discuss the following issues:

- **Question and Answer** period regarding the current draft
- **Goalpost Discussion**—NWCOS participants were asked to bring specific recommendations for change in writing to the meeting.
- **Proposed New Ideas**—NWCOS participants were asked to bring specific ideas in writing to discuss.
- **Goals/Objectives**—NWCOS participants were asked to bring specific proposed changes in writing to the meeting. We will share these proposed changes, but will not spend time at this meeting word-smithing the goals and objectives.
- **Other Areas/Topics**—Are there other areas or topic ideas that are not included in this draft that fall within the subcommittee area?

**Goal:** To refine the alternatives document to reflect the interests and concerns of NWCOS.

During this discussion, Keystone will keep track of the following items that may emerge:

- Items that require special attention during the socioeconomic analysis
- Items where NWCOS may want to talk a different direction than BLM
- Questions to raise with John Husband
- Key cross-over issues that other subcommittees should consider

## 4. NEXT STEPS

- Discussion regarding maps or other resources that are need for future discussions
- Next Steps for this Subcommittee
- Report back to NWCOS

# ATTACHMENT A

## **Habitat and Vegetation Subcommittee:**

BLM: Please provide clarity whether sagebrush goals in first alternatives shell are mandatory due to existing policy requirements.

## **Special Designations and Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Subcommittee:**

Josh—explain what is gained by creating a prairie dog ACEC that cannot be achieved with other management tools. Marianna Raftopoulos has asked that Renee Taylor be provided an opportunity to comment on this issue too during the discussion.

BLM—provide the proposals for the Research Natural Areas submitted by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program for the 1989 RMP

BLM—provide assessment by archaeology expert of protection needs in the Resource Area

BLM—get data on prairie dog populations in Ranglely Field

BLM—check on regulations regarding changing routes or levels of use designations in WSAs.

## **Energy and Minerals Subcommittee:**

BLM provide maps that have clear legends, consistent units, etc. to address:

- Oil and gas leases (as up-to-date as possible)
- Timing stipulations—different layers for different stips, but able to overlay to see complete picture.
- Clarify on oil and gas potential in Vermillion Basin.
- Clarify what “potential” means on different oil and gas maps.
- Information on number and percentage of leases protested, number of appeals, exact number of days BLM has to determine merit of protests, reasons that are cited for protests and how often stips are waived and exceptions to stips are granted.
- Determine if buying out and/or swapping of leases is an RMP level decision.
- Determine what the agency’s assumption is about spacing of pads in the RFD
- Provide RFD for coalbed methane and identify specific areas where CBM is available

## **Recreation and Travel Management Subcommittee:**

Rob S—Notify group when BLM has completed its coordination of multiple data sets regarding trails in Sandwash

Cap: Bring 2002 map of Sandwash trails