Northwest Colorado Stewardship (NWCOS)
Combined Subcommittee Meeting
July 6 and 7
Meeting Summary

Action Items

BLM/Jeremy	BLM will get clarification on Claire's comment regarding requirements that BLM apply the least restrictive stipulations to all alternatives *(July 14, 2005)*
BLM/Jeremy	Try to answer question about how much flexibility and specificity there is regarding surface disturbance in RMP *(July 14, 2005)*
BLM/Jeremy	Check on the idea of having a separate, flexible document of current sage grouse science, and have the RMP refer to this document without locking in any science or stipulations *(July 14, 2005)*
BLM/Jeremy	Check on lease waiver, exception, and modification criteria *(July 14, 2005)*
	Check on Alternative D all the way through for closures of CWP areas to OHVs and leasings—looking for consistency. [Facilitator's Note: Some, but not all, participants in the group believe that the Special Designations Subcommittee agreed to this as one of the goalposts for Lands with Wilderness Characteristics.] *(July 14, 2005)*
BLM/Jeremy	Talk to Beverly Rave about access to state lands and minerals and valid existing rights *(July 14, 2005)*
BLM/Jeremy	Check on need to specify in the RMP whom, how, and whether BLM will participate in Memoranda of Understanding partnerships *(July 14, 2005)*
BLM/Jeremy	Get details on white-tailed prairie dog ACEC. Is size from Fish and Wildlife Service's Conservation Assessment or from environmentalists' proposal? If no ACEC is created, how will BLM protect prairie dogs? *(July 14, 2005)*
BLM/Jeremy	Check on need to specify special species in RMP. Is this a directive from State Office? *(July 14, 2005)*
BLM/Jeremy	Find out if BLM has the authority to limit crafts on the river *(July 14, 2005)*
BLM/Jeremy	Clarify role of NWCOS in impact analysis. Is there a problem due to the impact analysis being pre-decisional information? *(July 14, 2005)*
BLM/Jeremy	Find out if BLM has to do a new analysis if mix and match occurs after preferred alternative is identified in the draft RMP *(July 14, 2005)*
BLM/Jeremy	Find out if there is funding available for monitoring of adaptive management? What are the possibilities for partnership funding? *(July 14, 2005)*
BLM/Jeremy	Check on BLM's preferred language regarding desired plant communities and desired future conditions in RMP *(July 14, 2005)*
BLM/Jeremy/BAH	Work on assessing idea of use thresholds for off-highway vehicles and on Sand Wash Special Recreation Management Area ideas *(July 14, 2005)*
BLM/Jeremy/BAH	Get a rough outline of Appendix X to subcommittees by July 13 *(July 14, 2005)*

Keystone	Post to the NWCOS website data on prairie dogs in the Rangely Field [Facilitator's Note: This document has been posted and is available at http://nwcos.org/Subcommittees/Areas of Spec Desig/Rangely EA's WRFO.pdf.] *(July 14, 2005)*
Keystone	Post nominations for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) to the NWCOS website. [Facilitator's Note: These documents have been posted and are available at http://www.nwcos.org/7155.html.] *(July 14, 2005)*
Keystone	Post responses to BLM's assessment of wilderness characteristics to the NWCOS website. [Facilitator's Note: These documents have been posted and are available at http://www.nwcos.org/7155.html under "Miscellaneous NWCOS Member Comments".] *(July 14, 2005)*
Steve Hinkemeyer	Organize discussion of Sage Grouse Working Group and prepare report for discussion on July 19 or 20. *(July 14, 2005)*
Suzanne Jones	Organize discussion of Vermillion Basin Working Group and prepare report for discussion on July 19 or 20. *(July 14, 2005)*
Jeff Whilden	Organize discussion of OHV Working Group and prepare report for discussion on July 19 or 20. *(July 14, 2005)*

Attendance

Jennifer Bates, Steve Bonowski, Vanessa Cameron, Jeremy Casterson, Jeff Comstock, Fred Conrath, T. Wright Dickinson, Stephen Flaherty, Dean Gent, Tom Gray, Rick Hammel, Steve Hinkemeyer, John Husband, Suzanne Jones, Jim May, Reed Morris, Claire Moseley, Tim Novotny, Ann Oliver, Kasey Pearson, Brad Petch, Marianna Raftopoulos, Randy Ray, Rob Schmitzer, Brian Smith, Renee Taylor, Liz Twomey, Jeff Whilden, Jane Yazzie, Kristi Parker Celico, and Heather Bergman.

Agenda Items

- Review of where we are in the RMP Process and Discussion of June 27 Alternatives
- Oil and Gas, including Sage Grouse Stipulations
- Vermillion Basin
- Travel Management and Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs)
- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) and Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWCs)
- Other Reviewed Comments (Not Hot Topics) [Facilitator's Note: Due to limitations of time, the group agreed to forego discussion of other reviewed comments that did not relate to hot topics.]

Review of Where We Are in the RMP Process and Discussion of June 27 Alternatives

In ordered to orient the group, Kristi repeated the summary of the process that she has provided in other subcommittee and NWCOS meetings. Her review of the process is available on the NWCOS website at http://nwcos.org/Subcommittees/Introductory%20info%20for%20April%20Subcom%20meetings.pdf. John Husband of BLM offered from clarification on this issue from his perspective. John said:

- BLM fully intends to listen to the community

- NWCOS should try to ensure that there is a specific alternative on the table that BLM can, in good conscience, select as its preferred alternative. Neither NWCOS nor BLM will be engaged in a mix-and-match process to create a preferred alternative that is different from the four alternatives already being discussed.
- BLM can mix and match after all four alternatives have been analyzed and published in the draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) in order to create a proposed alternative for the final RMP. If it is substantially different than the preferred alternative from the draft RMP, the proposed alternative in the final RMP will trigger a new analysis of its impacts.
- NWCOS should stay away from bartering and should look to find consensus on issues where they can find common ground without bartering.
- BLM has concerns about NWCOS involvement in the impact analysis, for legal, financial, and timing reasons. BLM will continue to assess the possibilities of NWCOS involvement and will get back to the group.
- While BLM cannot guarantee that it will incorporate a consensus from NWCOS into the draft RMP, he believes that BLM would be foolish not to consider something that comes out of the community. A NWCOS consensus will give John something concrete to advocate for with BLM at the state and national levels.

In response to a question about BLM's ability to pay for adaptive management (AM), John said that the group should assume that BLM's budgets in the future will be static or declining. With that mind, he encouraged the group to keep its discussions on AM general and not specify too many AM tasks or outcomes in the RMP. A representative from the energy sector stated that energy companies might be willing to pay for adaptive management in and around areas that they are leasing or developing.

Group Discussion of Hot Topics and Other Ideas

Over the course of this two-day meeting, the group discussed a variety of NWCOS proposals for changes to BLM's June 27 version of the alternatives document. The majority of these ideas addressed the "hot topics" that were on the agenda: oil and gas stipulations, Vermillion Basin, travel management and Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs), and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) and Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWCs). Most of these ideas had been vetted by NWCOS participants from different perspectives, although not all. All of the ideas/comments refer to the June 27 version of the alternatives, which is available at http://nwcos.org/Resources/BLM Documents/BLM Draft Alternatives_6-27-05.pdf. Comments are available on the NWCOS website, and direct links have been inserted below for easy reference. **Please refer to both of these documents for the exact language and intent of participants' ideas.**

- Steve Hinkemeyer's reviewed comments are available at: http://nwcos.org/Resources/NWCOS%206-27-05%20Alts%20Comments/SH-BS%20RMP%206%2027%2005%20Comments.pdf.
- Jane Yazzie's reviewed comments are available at: http://nwcos.org/Resources/NWCOS%206-27-05%20Alts%20Comments/JaneYazzie%206-27-05%20Alts%20Comments.pdf.
- Rick Hammel's reviewed comments are available at: http://nwcos.org/Resources/NWCOS%206-27-05%20Alts%20Comments/RH-RM%20Sage%20Grouse%20Alternative.pdf.

- Claire Moseley et al's reviewed comments are available at: http://nwcos.org/Resources/NWCOS%206-27-05%20Alts%20Comments/Energy-Minerals%206-27-05%20Alts%20Comments.pdf.
- Beverly Rave et al's reviewed comments are available at: http://nwcos.org/Resources/NWCOS%206-27-05%20Alts%20Comments/Comments%20Form%20Discussion%20Group.pdf.
- Jeff Whilden et al's (OHV) reviewed comments are available at: http://nwcos.org/Resources/NWCOS%206-27-05%20Alts%20Comments/OHV%206-27-05%20Alts%20Comments.pdf.
- Suzanne Jones's reviewed comments are available at: http://nwcos.org/Resources/NWCOS%206-27-05%20Alts%20Comments/SJ%20EDITS%20TO%20ALTERNATIVES.pdf.
- Reed Morris's individual comments are available at: http://nwcos.org/Resources/NWCOS%206-27-05%20Alts%20Comments/RM%20combined%20comments.pdf.
- Julander Energy et al's individual comments are available at: http://nwcos.org/Resources/NWCOS%206-27-05%20Alts%20Comments/Year%20round%20drilling%20proposal%20062805%20v2.pdf.
- Steve Bonowski's individual comments are available at: http://nwcos.org/Resources/NWCOS%206-27-05%20Alts%20Comments/SB%20Comments%20on%20Alternatives.pdf.

The ideas that were discussed and the group's action each are summarized below. The ideas are categorized according to the level of agreement reached by the group on each. The remaining of this document is the basis of what will be a Keystone report to BLM regarding NWCOS comments on the RMP alternatives. A final draft will include more substantive detail as oppose to referring to the documents.

<u>Agreed by Consensus</u>

- Comment from Claire Moseley et al on use of term "wild lands" on page 50 of the June 27 alternatives; on page 2 of the group's comments. Booz Allen staff clarified that this title in the RMP currently reflects the NWCOS subcommittee names and will not be in a final document.

<u>NWCOS Narrowed Issue and Agreed to Let BLM Work on the Issue Further and/or Decide</u>

- Idea from Beverly Rave et al about changing the range of alternatives on page 81 of the June 27 alternatives, on page 12 of this group's comments.
- Idea from Beverly Rave et al about allowing new cell towers on Lookout Mountain, on page 20 of this group's comments, referring to page 53 of the June 27 alternatives.
    - Note: Reed Morris was not in favor of deferring to BLM on this issue.
- Idea from Beverly Rave et al about needing greater range in the alternatives on issue of prairie dog ACEC, referring to page 54 of the June 27 alternatives and on page 20 of this group's comments.

    - Note: BLM staff said there is no need to do this as BLM will not be legally vulnerable due to the lack on a range on this issue. BLM's State Office has directed the Little Snake Field Office (LSFO) to include the prairie dog ACEC in at least one alternative.
- Idea from Beverly Rave et al about changing the language on page 70 of the June 27 alternatives document to specify that BLM will provide access to state and private lands and minerals. On page 22 of this group's comments.
    - BLM staff stated that there is already an overarching goal addressing valid existing rights, so they won't make a change here. However, BLM will talk with Beverly Rave about her specific concerns regarding access to state lands.
- Idea from Beverly Rave et al about inserting coordinating agencies in reference to Memoranda of Understanding for protecting unique resources on page 51 of the June 27 alternatives. On page 19 of this group's comments.
    - BLM staff stated that this item this refers to in Alternative A is not an RMP decision and will be removed.
- Jane Yazzie's idea about requiring a Desired Future Condition study for vegetation; on page 1 of Jane's comments, referring to page 46 of the June 27 alternatives.

<u>Agreed to Wait for More Information from BLM: BLM Will Check on Policy/Guidance and Get Back to Group</u>

- Claire Moseley et al's comment that BLM is required to apply the least restrictive stipulations to oil and gas leases, not referring to any particular page of the June 27 alternatives; on page 1 of the group's comments.
- Claire Moseley et al's comment that BLM needs to specify its criteria for waivers, exceptions, and modifications to oil and gas leases, referring to pages 77 and 78 of the June 27 alternatives; on page 3 of the group's comments.
- Idea from Beverly Rave et al regarding not specifying particular special status species in the RMP, referring to pages 18 through 41 of the June 27 alternatives; on pages 7-8 of this group's comments

<u>No Agreement /Agreed Not to Discuss Further</u>

- The group had a lengthy discussion about ACECs (pages 50 though 54 of the June 27 alternatives), drawing from ideas/comments submitted by Beverly Rave et al, Suzanne Jones, Reed Morris, and Claire Moseley et al. The group was very divided on this issue and was unable to come to a decision.
    - Ideas from Beverly Rave et al on this topic are on pages 9 and 10 of their comments.
    - Ideas from Suzanne Jones are page 1 of her comments.
    - Ideas from Reed Morris on this topic are on page 1 of his comments.
    - Ideas from Claire Moseley et al on this topic are on 3 of the group's comments.
- The group discussed a variety of comments/ideas/questions about a white-tailed prairie dog ACEC (page 54 of the June 27 alternatives), and was unable to agree on a path forward on this topic.
    - Ideas from Beverly Rave et al on this topic are on page 10 of their comments.
    - Ideas from Claire Moseley et al on this topic are on page 2 of their comments.

    - Keystone will post to the NWCOS website data on prairie dogs in the Rangely Field [Facilitator's Note: This document has been posted and is available at http://nwcos.org/Subcommittees/Areas of Spec Desig/Rangely EA's WRFO.pdf.]
    - BLM will clarify what measures the agency can take to protect prairie dogs if no ACEC is created.
- The group had a lengthy discussion about the lands in the Citizens' Wilderness Proposal (pages 60 through 62 of the June 27 alternatives), based in part on ideas from Suzanne Jones and Beverly Rave et al. The group did not reach consensus about what to do on this issue and decided to allow BLM to work on it further. However, there was some general agreement about the range of ideas to be discussed.
    - Ideas from Beverly Rave et al on this topic are on page 10 of their comments.
    - Ideas from Reed Morris on this topic are on page 2 of his comments.

<u>Still under Discussion</u>

- Sage grouse (stipulations, protective radius, etc.). A working group is currently exploring these issues and ideas. The working group will provide a report on its progress during the subcommittee meetings on July 19 and 20.
    - Steve Hinkemeyer's idea to put a 1- to 2-mile protective radius around sage grouse leks and use adaptive management to monitor; on page 1 of Steve's comments, referring to pages 15 and 77 of the June 27 alternatives.
    - Jane Yazzie's idea about changes to the language of Alternatives C and D on page 71 of the June 27 alternatives document; on page 2 of Jane's comments, referring to page 71 of the June 27 alternatives.
    - Rick Hammel's idea about restrictions on oil and gas development in grouse areas; on page 1 of Rick's comments, referring to page 15 of the June 27 alternatives.
    - Idea from Beverly Rave et al about changes to the language of Alternative C and on page 77 of the June 27 alternatives document; on page 12 if the group's comments.
    - Other ideas were brainstormed during the group's discussion, and a summary of these ideas was given to the lead person in the working group.

- Vermillion Basin (pages 60 and 81-83 of June 27 alternatives). A working group is currently addressing these issues and ideas. The working group will provide a report on its progress during the subcommittee meetings on July 19 and 20.
    - Claire Moseley et al's comment that there is no justification for closing Vermillion Basin to leasing; on page 3 of their comments.
    - Beverly Rave et al's idea about removing Zones 1 and 2 and changing the language on page 80 to indicate management to protect existing characteristics; on page 12 of the group's comments.
    - Reed's idea about no surface occupancy in Vermillion Basin in Alternative C on page 2 of his comments.
        - Other ideas were brainstormed during the group's discussion, and a summary of these ideas was given to the lead person in the working group.

- Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs) – pages 93 through 103 of the June 27 alternatives. A working group is currently addressing these issues and ideas. The working group will provide a report on its progress during the subcommittee meetings on July 19 and 20.
    - Jeff Whilden's ideas on a variety of OHV issues, starting on page 1 of his comments.
    - Ideas from Beverly Rave et al on a variety of OHV issues, on page 14 of their comments.
    - Steve Bonowski's ideas are on page 1 of his comments.
    - Reed Morris's ideas on this topic are on pages 4 and 5 of his comments.
    - Other ideas were brainstormed during the group's discussion, and a summary of these ideas was given to the lead person in the working group.