

**Northwest Colorado Stewardship (NWCOS)
Socioeconomic Subcommittee
May 31, 2005
Meeting Summary**

Action Items

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>
All NWCOS	Submit comments on the sample recreation survey and survey sites to John Loomis by June 17 (john.loomis@colostate.edu or (970) 491-2485). The sample survey (with list of possible survey sites) is available at http://nwc.os.org/Resources/Loomis%20%20South%20Fork%20Survey%205-25-04.pdf or from Helen Littrell at (800) 574-8157, ext. 5825.
CSU	Incorporate NWCOS comments on recreation survey and redistribute.
Jeff Comstock	Get CSU the name and contact information of someone from the Moffat County tax office who could provide data on land values.
Andy Seidl	Write a brief proposal for what CSU will do for the open space/rural lifestyle aspect of the socioeconomic analysis (within budget) and send it to the subcommittee.
Brad Petch	Work with Steve Davies of CSU to gather useful data from the Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW) on animal populations and hunting licenses in the LSRA.
Jeff Comstock and Marianna Raftopoulos	Forward survey data from the Economic Development Partnership to CSU.
Vanessa Cameron	Send to CSU data on the negative impacts on the public of some leasing stipulations for the protection of wildlife.

Attendance

Vanessa Cameron, Jeremy Casterson, Steve Davies, Stephen Flaherty, John Loomis, Reed Morris, Brad Petch, Marianna Raftopoulos, Tamara (from CSU), Jane Yazzie, Kristi Parker Celico, and Heather Bergman.

Status of Contract for Socioeconomic Study and Analysis

Prior to the discussion of the items on the agenda, Jeremy Casterson of BLM updated the subcommittee on the status of BLM's contract with Colorado State University (CSU) for the socioeconomic study and impact analysis. Jeremy reported that BLM was able to negotiate with CSU to reduce the indirect costs charged to the contract from 44% down to 10%, which will help keep down the overall cost of the project. The contract provides a set fee to CSU for the general tasks of performing the baseline study and doing the impact analysis. The specifics of the tasks (including the nature of any non-market analysis) will be discussed with this subcommittee and provided to CSU at a later time—only the price is locked in; the rest of the details of the project are negotiable. Jeremy said that he would get the contract to BLM's State Office by the end of the day.

Agenda Items (Each item is discussed below.)

1. Discussion of Non-market Values for Recreation

2. Discussion of Open Space/Rural Lifestyle/Agricultural Impact, etc.
3. Tracking on Baseline Issues
 - a. Use Available Data
 - b. Break-out of Data (tabled for discussion at next meeting)
 - c. Oil and Gas Data in General (tabled for discussion at next meeting)

1. Discussion of Non-market Values for Recreation

John Loomis discussed a sample survey that is similar to the one he would use to assess the economic value of recreation use of the Little Snake Resource Area (LSRA). A draft of this sample survey is available at <http://nwcoss.org/Resources/Loomis%20%20South%20Fork%20Survey%205-25-04.pdf> or from Helen Littrell at (800) 574-8157, ext. 5825. The subcommittee asked a variety of questions about the expected content of the survey that CSU would actually use and made several recommendations for items to include in that survey. Of particular interest are suggestions for the “scenario” questions (in Section D on page 4 of the sample survey) regarding how changes in the management of certain resources would affect recreational use. Additionally, CSU welcomes comments on or additions to its list of potential survey sites, as researchers are hoping to take advantage of NWCOS ideas on where CSU might expect to distribute large numbers of surveys and where there might be too few users to expect any reasonable return for their effort. Comments on these or any other aspects of this survey should be sent to John Loomis by June 17 (john.loomis@colostate.edu or (970) 491-2485). CSU will incorporate NWCOS comments on the survey to the extent possible and distribute a draft of the LSRA recreation survey.

2. Discussion of Open Space/Rural Lifestyle/Agricultural Impact, etc.

The subcommittee discussed the various options for measuring the impact of open space and the rural lifestyle (including the value of undeveloped agricultural land) to the local economy. Although CSU had previously suggested using a focus group to get at this information qualitatively, the subcommittee expressed its interest in seeing quantitative data on this. In particular, the group would like to see information on the impacts of 1) public land use decisions on the use and value of private lands in the area, and 2) private land use decisions on the use and value of the public lands. The subcommittee recommended several possible sources of relevant quantitative data (including a realty assessment of Moffat County recently completed by ValueCheck), and Jeff Comstock agreed to get CSU the name and contact information of someone from the Moffat County tax office who could provide data on land values. Andy Seidl of CSU will write a brief proposal for what CSU will do for this aspect of the analysis and send it to the subcommittee.

3. Tracking on Baseline Issues: Use Available Data

The subcommittee briefly reviewed the list of resources that Jeremy Casterson of BLM has sent to CSU for inclusion in the socioeconomic analysis. Brad Petch agreed to work with Steve Davies of CSU to gather useful data from the Colorado Division of Wildlife on animal populations and hunting licenses in the LSRA. Jeff Comstock and Marianna Raftopoulos agreed to forward survey data from the Economic Development Partnership to CSU. Vanessa Cameron agreed to share data that she has on the negative impacts to the public of some leasing stipulations for the protection of wildlife.