

**Northwest Colorado Stewardship (NWCOS)
Vegetation and Habitat Subcommittee
Special Meeting on Livestock Grazing and Wildlife
June 22, 2005
Meeting Summary**

Action Items

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| BLM (Jeremy) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Try to incorporate both definitions of adaptive management (BLM's definition and that provided in the meeting) into the June 27 version of the alternatives document. 2. Redraft goals and objectives for livestock with language that reflects that management actions will seek to benefit both producers and resources. 3. Include adaptive management components for sage grouse in Alternative C in 6/27 version of alternatives matrix. |
| T. Wright Dickinson, Brad Petch, and Ann Oliver | Work together to draft possible objectives for Goal C under Livestock Grazing. Forward suggestions to Jeremy Casterson at Jeremy_casterson@blm.gov or (970) 826-5071. |
| Ann Oliver and Tom Gray | Work together to draft alternative language for Goal E under Fish and Wildlife Habitat. [Facilitator's Note: This has been done. Suggested language has been forwarded to BLM.] |
| T. Wright Dickinson and Andrea Minor | Work together to write some common language to address Common Reserve Allotments in the RMP in a way that the interested parties will find acceptable. [Facilitator's Note: This has been completed and ideas were forwarded to BLM.] |

Attendance

Vanessa Cameron, Jeremy Casterson, Jeff Comstock, T. Wright Dickinson, Stephen Flaherty, Tom Gray, Andrea Minor, Claire, Moseley, Tim Novotny, Ann Oliver, Brad Petch, Marianna Raftopoulos, Jean Stetson, Kristi Parker Celico, and Heather Bergman.

Agenda Items (Each item is discussed below.)

- Livestock Management Goals
- Livestock Management Alternatives
- Wildlife Goals
- Wildlife Alternatives

[Facilitator's Note: For each of these issue areas, the changes the group agreed to, as well as ideas that were discussed but not agreed to, are recorded in the current draft of the alternatives matrix, which available at

<http://nwcoss.org/Subcommittees/Veg%20Hab%20Mngmt/Hab%20Mgt%20Alts%20from%206-22%20subcom.pdf>]

Livestock Management Goals

The group discussed the goals and objectives for livestock grazing. The absence of specific objectives under Goal C ("To the extent possible, maintain the stability and sustainability of the

livestock industry.”) was troubling to some, so T. Wright Dickinson, Brad Petch, and Ann Oliver agreed to get together to draft a few appropriate objectives. Some participants were concerned about the language of some of the other goals and objectives, which might suggest that resources need to be protected from livestock grazing. Jeremy said that BLM would try to rewrite some of these with language reflecting that management actions seek to protect both livestock grazing and other resources.

Livestock Management Alternatives

The group discussed alternatives for livestock grazing management, including the appropriateness of including a plan for Common Reserve Allotments (CRAs) in the RMP. These are livestock grazing areas that are not available for permitting and are made available by BLM to permittees for use when their grazing areas are damaged or in need of rest. Some participants felt that 1) CRAs pose a risk to existing ranching operations because BLM might retire existing permits to create them, and 2) CRAs are difficult to implement successfully. Others felt that CRAs are a useful tool for managing livestock grazing and are helpful to ranchers who may need a place to graze livestock in times of wildlife or drought. T. Wright Dickinson and Andrea Minor agreed to work together to write some common language to address CRAs in the RMP in a way that they and other interested parties would find acceptable.

Wildlife Goals

The discussion of goals and objectives for wildlife focused on the wording of Goal E (“Reduce manageable forms of wildlife disturbance.”). Some participants were concerned about this wording and the possibility that it would be implemented by BLM without an assessment of whether or not a particular “disturbance” was in fact harming wildlife. Ann Oliver and Tom Gray agreed to work together to draft alternate language that would be acceptable to interested parties.

Wildlife Alternatives

Most of the discussion of the wildlife alternatives focused on adaptive management (AM). In response to the definition of AM that a participant provided for the group’s information, Jeremy Casterson of BLM said that this definition and BLM’s own definition of AM will both be included in the Resource Management Plan (RMP). The group discussed whether the definition and specifics of AM should be reiterated in each relevant resource section or only put in one section to avoid repetition. Jeremy Casterson said that BLM will prepare an appendix (Appendix X) in which it will outline how the agency will implement AM. Appendix X will not be available until the draft RMP is completed, but the two definitions of AM will be incorporated into the June 27 draft of the alternatives document [Facilitator’s Note: This document is now available at http://nwcoss.org/Resources/BLM Documents/BLM Draft Alternatives_6-27-05.pdf.] In response to a request from some participants, BLM also agreed to include AM components for sage grouse in Alternative C in the next version of the alternatives matrix.