

Individual Comments from Stickers Vegetation and Habitat

[Facilitator's Note: The following comments have been directly transcribed from individual stickers that folks put on the flip chart sheets at the March NWCOS meeting. No interpretation has occurred, except where necessitated by unclear handwriting. This is not a consensus document.]

Comments on Goals

- Wild Buffalo should be transplanted in the LSRA as a bonified use of the public lands. Buffalo were a natural use and part of our heritage in this area (Colorado & Wyoming). Forage could be made available by reducing livestock use. Less than 3% of red meat produced in the U.S. is from public lands and this includes BLM as well as Forest Service. Include Axial Basin, Great Divide, Sandwash Basin, Vermillion Area, etc. We will see if this Recommendation is ignored.
- Goals (one sticker)
 - Maintain or increase populations of all special status species
 - Maintain health and intactness of rare plant communities and rare plant occurrences
 - Maintain or increase quality (structure, composition, acreage) habitats for special status species particularly w/ respect to habitat conditions for key life stages
- social economic assessments must occur to compare alternatives
- goals need to include more issues related to supporting community ideas, social issues, and economic issues
- goals: need to look @ Moffat County Land Use Plan regarding Vegetation, etc. Desired plant community not just diversity

Comments on Alternatives

- Alternatives can recognize benefits of grazing – grazing is not all negative; include study areas/projects. Learn about benefits and impacts, if there are any.
- Alternatives should include encouraging partnerships w/ land users (example ranchers) to achieve these goals. Let grazing permittees do projects that are win-win scenarios.
- Be sure to consider “Adaptive” proposals.
- Use data and range science (historical and current) to base decisions on for grazing, vegetation, etc. If no data, need to start collecting.
- For Wild Horses, should consider limiting HMA to ORVS – certainly limited to designated routs

Advice to Workgroup

- migrating birds? need more info
- wild horses not managed for drought; elk populations must be reduced to sustain range; wild horses aren't impacted by O & G or rec as long as that development isn't close to water source
- Where is the science to justify the statement by the BLM's statement “Wild horses run the risk of being severely impacted with human development of oil and gas. If the herd is healthy – wild horses How can BLM say severe damage?”

- Is there any science to back up Tim’s claim of “noise stress” to horses and wildlife caused by OHVs – studies I know of indicate non-motors (hikers, bicycles) cause great stress. Science only –not subjective guesses.
- It is important to recognize that in some cases wise stewardship management of the land for producing one resource does not represent wise management for producing another resource
- Identify uses, valid existing rights, (grazing, oil & gas, etc.) before start on issues.