

Park County WPLI Advisory Committee | MINUTES

June 15, 2017 | 5:30 – 8:00 pm | Park County Library – Cody – Grizzly Hall

Meeting called by	Bucky Hall, WPLI Committee Chair	Attendees
Type of meeting	WPLI Advisory Committee	Chairman Bucky Hall, Facilitator Tara Kuipers, Secretary Shaunna Romero, Committee Members JD Radakovich, Chris Pfister, Jenny DeSarro, John McGee, Christine Bekes, Karinthia Harrison, Phyllis Preator, Doug Smith, Rick Harrison, Hap Ridgway, Dustin Rosencranse, Greg Mayton, John Gallagher, Rori Renner
Facilitator	Tara Kuipers, Tara Kuipers Consulting	Other Attendees: Bert Miller, Brenda Miller, Cody Snowmobile Association; Shaleas Harrison, WY Wilderness Association; Sean Leach, Backcountry Horsemen; Linda Raynolds; Barry Reiswig; Paul Spitler, The Wilderness Society; unknown (illegible signature)
		Absent: Bob Jackson, Joe Kondelis, Lee Livingston

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, August 16 – 5:30 p.m.
Cody Library - Grizzly Hall

AGENDA TOPICS

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the May 17 meeting were approved.

McCullough Peaks Roads Inventory

Committee member Karinthia Harrison presented McCullough Peaks roads inventory data she collected. This roads data inventory resulted from the committee's consideration in their May 17 meeting of options for existing trails, including potentially removing dead-end roads or extending them to form loop roads, where possible. **Harrison pointed out her observation of points of erosion and of regrowth between the tracks.** The committee discussed the appearance of the roads at the time Harrison conducted the inventory as compared to the roads' appearance at different times of the year, and the inherent erosive nature of the McCullough Peaks.

It was noted that no roads going to stock ponds do not extend into the WSA beyond the ponds. Though some of these stock ponds in the WSA are silted in, they are included in the BLM's survey. Under Rangeland Improvement, the permitted grazer is given discretion to use them actively in the future.

Public Land Legislation: Designation Options and Other Issues

Crafting Comprehensive Public Land Legislation: Tools for Wyoming Advocates, was presented by Paul Spitler, The Wilderness Society's Wilderness Campaigns Director (Bozeman). Spitler provided different options for land designations, as well as "The Art of Collaboration," "Lessons for Success," "Rules to Live By," and cautioned about things to avoid in writing legislation. Spitler highlighted rules to live by in this process: 1) Broad stakeholder

support is essential; 2) Stay committed to win/win; 3) Communication is key – maintain transparency; 4) Avoid poison pills; 5) There are no shortcuts; 6) You have to want it. You will have to explain it again and again; you will have to defend it to the stakeholders again and again.

Spitler said, from Congress' perspective, DC is divided, often operates by consensus, is inclusive, and does not favor creativity. DC follows rules (often unspoken rules), likes the laws it has written, and keeps tight reins on the cash. Congress cannot spend money included as part of a legislative proposal.

Spitler reminded the committee that Congress writes the rules, then BLM implements them. BLM must amend the RMP to conform to Congressional legislation, if needed. Spitler said the RMP is not all that important because at the end of the day Congress decides management.

Spitler responded to questions about mineral withdrawals and grazing. He noted that in every designation, grazing is always grandfathered, meaning existing permits can be transferred and inactive permits can be reactivated. He pointed to other successful models in Washington County, UT; Lincoln County, NV; and the Owyhee Initiative in ID. Recommended resources include the Wilderness Act Handbook, Fact Sheets on Wilderness Management, and Public Lands Designation Options. A copy of Spitler's presentation is available on the Wyoming County Commissioners web site and on the Park County web site.

Public Comment

Comments from members of the public were made. Linda Reynolds, a Cody resident, is in favor of quiet recreation, and said silence is a huge component of her pleasurable experience when recreating on public lands. Also commenting was Barry Reiswig, who advocates petitioning the Park County Commission to include lands outside of the WSAs in the WPLI committee's process.

McCullough Peaks WSA Draft Recommendation

Facilitator Tara Kuipers reminded the group that the purpose/outcome of the meeting is to have a draft recommendation to put out for public/constituent response. Kuipers asked the group to consider Spitler's presentation and previous discussions.

The committee continued discussion of the boundary, roads/ways/routes/trails, and designation options. Chairman Hall asked for agreement for an overall designation. Proposed were National Conservation Area with some area of Wilderness designated, or Special Use Area with some area of Wilderness designated. Spitler reminded the committee that, to be designated as Wilderness, an area must meet the criteria of a roadless area of five thousand contiguous acres or more. (<https://wilderness.nps.gov/document/wildernessAct.pdf>)

Chairman Hall asked for volunteers from the committee to form a subcommittee to work on the draft recommendation. Members who will serve on the subcommittee are Dusty Rosencranse (Motorized Recreation), John Gallagher (Non-motorized Recreation), Jenny DeSarro (Conservation), JD Radakovich (Agriculture / Ranching), and Karinthia Harrison (General Public). The full committee will consider the subcommittee's draft recommendation at its August 16 meeting.

The meeting adjourned.

Actions
