

# Park County WPLI Advisory Committee | MINUTES

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January 18, 2017 | 5:00 – 8:00 pm | Park County Library – Cody – Grizzly Hall

Meeting called by Bucky Hall, Park County Commissioner and WPLI Committee Chair

Type of meeting Advisory Committee

Facilitator Tara Kuipers, UW Extension NW Area Community Development Educator

Attendees

Committee Members: Bucky Hall, Chris Pfister, Jenny DeSarro, Bob Jackson, Karinthia Harrison, Phyllis Preator, Doug Smith, Rick Harrison, Hap Ridgway, Dustin Rosencranse, Greg Mayton, Rori Renner, Facilitator Tara Kuipers, Committee Secretary Shaunna Romero

Other Attendees: Delissa Minnick, BLM Cody Field Office Manager; Paul Rau, BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner / McCullough Peaks WSA Use Management; Gib Mathers, Powell Tribune; Loren Grosskopf, Park County Commissioner

Absent: JD Radakovich, John McGee, Michael Hirsch, Chris Bekes, Wes Allen, John Gallagher, Joe Kondelis, Lee Livingston

## NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, February 15 – 5:00 PM  
Cody Library – Grizzly Hall

## AGENDA TOPICS

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### *Approval of Minutes |*

The November 22 WPLI Advisory Committee meeting minutes were unanimously approved as presented to the committee via email.

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### *Discussion: Changes to WPLI Positions and Meeting Time; Public Comment Submission Method*

Committee Chairman Bucky Hall noted that the Park County Commissioners approved his continued role as chairman of the WPLI committee. Also continuing in their current roles are Tara Kuipers, Committee Facilitator, and Shaunna Romero, Secretary.

Moving to a start time of 5:00 p.m. for the WPLI meetings will better fit Hall's and Romero's work schedules; Hall asked the committee members to let him know if this later start time would be inconvenient for them.

Several committee members said they've been approached by the public with questions about the committee's purpose and activities. Park County's IT has established a dedicated email address for public comment related to the WPLI effort. Chairman Hall will maintain the folder in his county email account. The address is [WPLI@ParkCounty.us](mailto:WPLI@ParkCounty.us).

Minutes and resources / information from the committee's meetings are posted on the county's web site at <http://www.parkcounty.us/commissioners/wppli.html>. WPLI committees' activities state-wide, including those for

Park County, can be found at <http://wyo-wcca.org/index.php/initiatives/wpli/>. Links to the participating counties' information is at the bottom of the WCCA page.

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*Discussion: McCullough Peaks WSA additional information and desired uses*

Following the committee's Saturday, October 22 field trip to the McCullough Peaks WSA, members requested additional information to gain a better understanding of the WSA's geology & ecology, its current uses and management.

Delissa Minnick and Paul Rau with the BLM provided responses:

- Are there any existing oil leases and their status?  
*Rau: There are no active leases, nor active interest anywhere within the WSA.*
- Grazing and potential impact of different use designations  
*Rau: All of the WSA is part of grazing allotment.*
- Existence of archeological sites and status  
*Minnick: Class 3 inventories have not been conducted routinely in the WSA. If a water tank or pond is put in, that specific area is cleared and inventory done.*
- ACEC (Area of Critical Environmental Concern)
  - it was noted that the ACEC is not within the WSA (location is SW of the WSA)  
*Rau confirmed that the three ACECs in Park County are outside of the WSA boundaries.*
  - status / activity of the ACEC (climate research project)  
*Paleocene Eocene Thermal Maximum ACEC (stratigraphic contact zone) – information sheet can be found on the BLM ACEC document library*
  - access needs  
*The WSA has no impact on the ACEC.*
- Wild Horse Management Area
  - water sources needs  
*Minnick: Water sources are always an issue. Hauling from reservoirs instead of tanks is preferred. Grazing permittees would like to put in additional stock ponds. This would require going through the NEPA process.*
  - horses' range  
*Minnick: The wild horse management area was enlarged under the 2015 RMP*  
*Rau: The management area now encompasses the entire McCullough Peaks WSA. No fences exist. (did not change to the herd management size objective)*
  - potential management impact of different use designation  
*Chairman Hall asked Minnick to confirm that the wild horse management area exists on a parallel track from the WSA management.*
- Split Estate Parcel: Possibility of "trade" (Surface is State-owned, mineral rights Federally-owned)  
*Potential to exchange the split estate section was discussed. Minnick said it is very difficult to find like values. The State has the option to sell the parcel; a mechanism exists to for transfer of ownership.*
- Management enforcement  
*Minnick / Rau: BLM is required to manage WSAs as wilderness. Any changes to the current designation would not impact the agency's resources. Wilderness designation would require signage that doesn't currently exist. The existing management under the RMP will remain the same, unless it's designated as wilderness. Existing roads would not need to be re-routed, BLM's management of the designated roads and trails now is very similar to wilderness management.*

### Additional discussion

The committee discussed designation labeling options. Kuipers reminded the group of Pete Obermueller's (WCCA Executive Director) comments about the freedom of the WPLI committees to determine their own designation labels, and pointed the group toward focusing on the best options for use, naming later. Management designations naming conventions exist, but they don't have to be used.

Rau said if the WPLI members decide to go with a designation, he would encourage them to use an existing designation. Rau said this would keep management within BLM planning standards; otherwise there will be a lot of guesswork between BLM and the committee as to how management should be defined and implemented.

Committee members worked in three groups, marking up maps of the McCullough Peaks WSA, considering current designations as a baseline and identifying desired uses. Preliminary discussion around the following points was as follows:

- Maintain the 8,000 acres (and up to 10,000 acres) originally recommended in the RMP.
- Boundary change to include Deer Creek Draw in the 8,000 – 10,000 acres. See attached map (pending).
- No new roads
  - Dead-end road usage needs to be researched
- Keep the existing designated trails and 5.1-mile road (with no expansion and restricted width).
- Release remaining acres.

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### *High Lakes WSA Field Trip*

The High Lakes field trip is targeted for a Saturday in mid-March or early April, probably two groups (morning and afternoon). Dates TBD. The committee will request assistance from Ken Ostrom (USFS) on mapping information when the High Lakes WSA is visited.

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### *Update on US Forest Service High Lakes WSA presentation*

The Forest Service will present on the High Lakes WSA at the February 15 meeting. Game & Fish presentation will also be requested.

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### *Public Comment*

### *Closing*

Hall and Kuipers thanked the BLM for their assistance and coordination with the group. The meeting was adjourned.