

## **Preliminary “Hot Topics” for 7/6 – 7/7 NWCOS subcommittee meetings**

These are the 6 topics proposed for discussion during the July 6 and 7 NWCOS subcommittee meetings. In addition, any comments submitted by NWCOS and approved by another person will be considered by BLM and Keystone Center for inclusion in a subcommittee meeting. These areas are shaded in light gray in your matrix.

For most of these issues, NWCOS should spend the majority of their time on Alternative C. However, discussion may move to Alternatives B and D as new ideas arise that need to be shifted to other alternatives, or if NWCOS recommends moving decisions from Alternatives B and D.

### **1. Alternative C Adaptive Management Stipulations concept**

Discuss the BLM AM strategy of applying stipulations to oil or gas leases, then granting exceptions, modifications or waivers based on application of specific criteria.

Questions to address:

- What are the details of this process? How can it be efficient and effective?
- Who should be at the table to consult with BLM in making the determinations whether to grant an exception? What should this board or group look like?
- What criteria should the group use to determine whether an exception is appropriate in a particular circumstance?

### **2. Sage grouse stipulations**

Questions to address:

- What are the most appropriate stipulations to protect sage grouse habitat?
- How can we protect sage grouse habitat while still allowing flexibility for BLM and resource users?

### **3. Travel Management Designations**

BLM’s adaptive approach in Alternative C is to designate areas as Limited to Existing Roads and Trails until certain criteria are triggered. After this, BLM would begin transportation management planning and change the designation to Limited to Designated Routes.

Questions to address:

- What are your reactions to BLM’s adaptive travel management strategy?
- What areas should be Open to OHVs? What areas should be Closed?

### **4. Special Resource Management Areas (SRMAs)**

Questions to address:

- What areas should BLM emphasize for recreation? What recreation niche are these areas filling?
- What are the outcomes we want to manage for in these areas?
- What are the appropriate prescriptions to achieve those outcomes?

### **5. Vermillion Basin**

BLM and Booz Allen have not discussed alternatives for Vermillion Basin in any more detail since the original “shell.” However, we welcome NWCOS creative solutions for BLM to consider.

Questions to address:

- Are energy development and protection of wilderness characteristics absolutely mutually exclusive in Vermillion Basin? If not, what are some creative ways we can have both?
- If they are mutually exclusive, how can we divide Vermillion Basin to satisfy both objectives?

**6. Special Designations, including areas with wilderness characteristics**

This discussion will include designation of ACECs (page X in Special Designations section) as well as the section pertaining to areas with wilderness characteristics (page X in Special Designations section) and areas with prescriptions but no special designation (page X in Special Designations section).

Questions to address:

- What areas should be protected by a special designation?
- What should the outcome or objectives for that area be?
- What should the prescriptions be to achieve that outcome?