

**Northwest Colorado Stewardship
Planning Committee
May 18, 2005
Meeting Summary**

Action Items

Planning Committee	Schedule a NWCOS retreat for September or October, providing the group with as much notice as possible.
T. Wright Dickinson	Follow up on whether or not there is an Instruction Memorandum requiring BLM to accept a community's consensus recommendation for a preferred alternative.
Kristi, Jeff, and Reed	Start working to mobilize local funds for facilitation
Keystone	Get Socioeconomic Subcommittee up and running and schedule meetings with professors from Colorado State University to discuss methodology for socioeconomic analysis.
Kristi and Reed	Draft a preliminary list of what is working in, and ideas for improvement of, the RMP revision process.
Planning Committee	Send comments on this meeting summary to Heather Bergman by June 7 (hbergman@keystone.org; (800-574-8157, x 5806). Comments received by this date will be incorporated into the final draft. If no comments are received, this draft will become final on June 7.

Attendance

Jeff Comstock, T. Wright Dickinson, Stephen Flaherty, Rick Hammel, Steve Hinkemeyer, Suzanne Jones, Reed Morris, Jane Yazzie, Kristi Parker Celico, and Heather Bergman.

Agenda Items

- Ideas for retreat
- Agenda ideas for encouraging collaboration
- Funding issues
- Socioeconomic analysis and workgroup
- Clarke visit
- Next Planning Committee meeting

Ideas for Retreat

The committee discussed the idea of holding the May 31 and June 1 subcommittee meetings at a location in the field, such as at the home of Marianna Raftopoulos and/or T. Wright Dickinson. Most people felt that a retreat is a good idea and would benefit NWCOS as a whole, but there were concerns about it adding time, distance, and accessibility problems to meetings; about there not being enough notice; and about the subcommittees needing the technology (computer, big screen, etc.) available at the BLM office. After some discussion, it was decided that a retreat is a good idea, but that it should not overlap with subcommittee meetings and should not occur until September or October. The May and June subcommittee meetings will take place at the BLM office in Craig, and the Planning Committee will revisit the retreat idea at a later point in time.

Agenda Ideas for Encouraging Collaboration

Kristi presented several ideas for how to encourage more collaboration in the subcommittee meetings. Her ideas included setting general criteria that all alternatives should meet, coming up with labels for the alternatives, and encouraging pairings of people from disparate groups to get together and work out ideas. The committee was supportive of setting criteria and encouraging unique pairings, but did not think that having the subcommittees discuss labels for the alternatives would be helpful. There was also discussion about the need to remind the subcommittees that collaboration is about generating a range of alternatives and then finding creative ways to get people's needs met within that range. The consensus alternative that NWCOS recommends to BLM will include a mixed and matched set of ideas across the four alternatives that BLM generates. It was also suggested that the subcommittees be reminded at the beginning each meeting what is an RMP-level decision and what is an implementation-level decision. There was also a brief discussion about whether or not there is an Instruction Memorandum (IM) requiring BLM to accept a community's consensus recommendation for a preferred alternative. [Facilitator's Note: BLM staff have been unable to verify that such an IM exists. T. Wright Dickinson will pursue this issue further.]

Funding Issues

Kristi reported to the group that getting foundation funds to support Keystone's work in NWCOS will be difficult, because foundation will view the work as something BLM should be funding itself. However, it still may be possible to get additional funds from members of NWCOS and/or the larger Moffat/Routt community, and Kristi, Reed, and Jeff will work together to try to mobilize these funds. It was suggested that several members of the planning committee visit John Husband and/or Ron Wenker together to explain to him why it is important that BLM fund Keystone's ongoing facilitation of NWCOS.

Socioeconomic Analysis and Workgroup

Because NWCOS has specific issues it wants to have covered in the socioeconomic analysis to be done by Colorado State University (CSU), the cost of the project has increased. Additionally, CSU and BLM have not yet come to an agreement about overhead fees. Nonetheless, Jeremy feels that BLM is still likely to fund the full amount of the contract. However, because the price of the contract cannot go up any more, the group identified three primary issues of concern: recreational, rural landscape, and contributions of oil and gas to the economy. The committee agreed that CSU should go ahead with its survey of recreational use, but should not continue to plan to use a focus group as the primary tool for analyzing the importance of the rural landscape. The committee also expressed an interest in having a greater role in deciding the methodology for the socioeconomic analysis, and agreed that the Socioeconomic Subcommittee should get up and running as soon as possible and start having discussions about this with the professors from CSU.

Clarke Visit

The group discussed what format should be used for Kathleen Clarke's June 22 visit to NWCOS. They agreed that it will not be a free-for-all in which people will bring any and all concerns they have about BLM to discuss with Clarke. Rather, it will be a structured event in which Clarke will be invited to give some opening comments, some NWCOS representatives will provide a prepared briefing on what is working and their ideas for improvement, and then the discussion

will be opened up to a larger audience. Reed and Kristi will work together to begin generating a list of what is working and ideas for improvement. One participant strongly encouraged Keystone to meet with Clarke separately to discuss the RMP revision process.

Next Planning Committee Meeting

The next Planning Committee meeting will be a conference call on June 7 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.