

**Northwest Colorado Stewardship (NWCOS)
Travel and Recreation Subcommittee
June 1, 2005
Meeting Summary**

Action Items

BLM (Jeremy/Tim)	Determine whether or not existing projects and programs to protect the black-footed ferret supercede anything that would be included in the RMP. Are those projects/programs more restrictive than anything that would be considered in this RMP?
BLM (Rob)	Provide subcommittee and Keystone with the consolidated travel/trail data for Sandwash Basin as soon as possible.
BLM	Clarify whether or not new trails (for hiking or OHVs) can be created in existing Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). [Facilitator's Note: David Blackstun of BLM has determined that no new trails of any kind can be created in existing WSAs.]
Keystone	Create a single, central calendar on the NWCOS website of all deadlines for comments to BLM. [Facilitator's Note: A central calendar is now available on the front page of the NWCOS website. We are working on getting all the information posted to it ASAP.]

Attendance

David Blackstun (intermittently), Steve Bonowski, Jeremy Casterson, Jeff Comstock, Ron Cox, T. Wright Dickinson, Rick Hammel, John Husband (intermittently), Jim May, Reed Morris, Brad Petch, Marianna Raftopoulos, Rob Schmitzer, Jane Yazzie, Kristi Parker Celico, and Heather Bergman.

Agenda Items (Each item is discussed below.)

- Criteria for alternative development
- Data needs
- Discussion of alternatives document
- Next steps

Criteria for Alternative Development

The group reviewed a list of criteria that participants were encouraged to keep in mind during their discussion of alternatives for the Resource Management Plan (RMP). The approved the following list (which includes the group's additions):

- Goalposts as wide as possible, within reason (legally possible)
- Combination of alternatives represents full range of options
- Each alternative is implementable/affordable (though the group agreed that something must be obviously unaffordable to not be considered)
- Range of alternatives recognizes the specific unique areas within the Little Snake Resource Area (LSRA) and supports the uniqueness while allowing for multiple use. (Management for "Best/Predominant Use" of an area, and determining what other uses can be accommodated.)
- Range of alternatives incorporates adaptive management, when appropriate

- Follows all existing laws about valid existing rights, multiple use, environmental laws, etc.
- Must be an RMP-level decision

The subcommittee agreed not to assume that all existing policies were written in stone, because some of these policies (or certain aspects of them) may be negotiable. The group also discussed the extent to which the RMP can drive funding for the LSRA (i.e., if something is written into the RMP, will its inclusion assure that funds are provided to fund it). When John Husband was consulted on this, he said writing something into the RMP will not guarantee funding for it, but that it will be easier to do something later if it is in the RMP, even if funds for it are expected to come from outside of BLM (i.e., from stakeholder partnerships).

Data Needs

Rob Schmitzer of BLM informed the subcommittee that BLM is almost finished consolidating and coordinating its various datasets on trails in Sandwash Basin. He will let NWCOS and Keystone know when that consolidated data are available.

Discussion of Alternatives Document

The discussion of alternatives centered on the alternatives matrix, which was projected on the wall for the group to see, discuss, and alter. The subcommittee discussed the overall goals and objectives for recreation, as well as the various management alternatives relating to existing Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs). The changes that the group agreed upon, as well as some ideas that were discussed but not agreed upon, are recorded in a revised version of the alternative matrix, which is available at <http://nwcoss.org/Resources/BLM%20Documents/Draft%20Alternatives%206-01-05.pdf> or at <http://nwcoss.org/44201.html> (in the middle of the page, under “Alternatives”).

Next Steps

Prior to discussing what the next steps for the subcommittees should be, the group briefly shared their ideas on what’s going well in subcommittee meetings and what could be changed. The list of what’s going well included getting to the substantive issues, having Booz Allen Hamilton represented in meetings, having John Husband and BLM staff in meetings, making progress in discussions, having a better understanding of how BLM writes RMPs and how hard it is to do so. The list of areas where change might be useful included getting things done faster, stretching out BLM’s deadline, working in smaller groups, keeping momentum, prioritizing topics, giving specific topics for discussion to participants in advance, being more goal-oriented, and possibly doing a pretend land assessment to increase awareness.

The group agreed to have Keystone propose a series of smaller working groups to the Planning Committee. The idea is that smaller groups could tackle specific issues and then bring their work product back to the full subcommittee for discussion. It was believed that this might help the group to accomplish more and proceed at a faster pace. After this discussion, the group agreed to a revised meeting schedule, in which subcommittees will be meeting again on July 6 and 7. Exact scheduling details will be distributed to NWCOS as soon as they are available.