

Public Lands Coordination Commission

July 31, 2012

PLCC Commissioners present: Zane Odell, Drew Gordanier, Slim McWilliams, Dennis Atwater, Frank Greene, Travis Greenlee, Matt Clark, Casey McClelland

PLCC Commissioners absent: Frank Greene

Citizens Present: one

Federal Agency Representatives:

Forest Service; Derek Padilla, Debbie Kill **BLM**; Marietta Eaton, Connie Clementson.

7:00 PM Meeting was called to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

First item of business was approval of agenda & minutes.

Ongoing coordination was discussed with the agencies. The agencies expressed concern over the level of coordination that has been established since the subject keeps coming up during PLCC meetings. Previous letters to the agencies from the BOCC had stated that coordination was happening, that it was improving and that the BOCC was pleased with the progress. The agencies and the agencies wanted to know if the PLCC felt that coordination was still happening or if things were slipping.

Drew Gordanier stated that since Derek was brand new to the District much of the discussion regarding coordination was to give background information and help in understanding the situation.

Derek noted that the County had been given a response on the coordination protocols and the comments from the County on Boggy Glade noted that coordination was happening and that the county wanted to continue with coordination. He just wanted to reaffirm that coordination was happening and the agencies were doing their part. Connie Clementson reaffirmed the same question.

Zane Odell noted that he felt that yes we are coordinating.

Derek noted that the original coordination protocol letter asked to coordinate in a specific way and that the agency would not follow those protocols. The agency will coordinate based on the direction from the Secretary of Agriculture which is what is happening now.

Derek noted that the State Enabling Act is what gives the forest service the authorization to manage lands under its jurisdiction.

Frank Greene noted that he was bothered by the language in the response letter from 2011 that the specific coordination steps requested by the county would not result in any added benefit to the decision making process. Frank added that that is why we are here...we want in on the decision making process. And we want to add value.

Derek responded that the process the county would go through to close a road...first to propose it, then requiring a public hearing for closing each road and then depending on how many people comment on it in that public forum and then make a decision on whether or not to close that road...if we had to go through that for every single road project or road in the TMP process we would never come to an agreement. We already have a process in place where we gather that information through public comments...the scoping process. We take information from the public and then generate different alternatives for the proposed action...based on the scoping process. Then people have another opportunity to provide comment on the alternatives that were developed from the scoping process. We already have processes we are required to go through so adding another layer of process would further delay how long it takes to get projects done and we really do not gather that much new information by adhering to the county's protocol.

Dennis Atwater responded that what the forest service is really saying is that we have a process that works for us but we don't want to take the time to let the people have a voice in this. To close any road in the County it must go to public hearing. That is the law. For Stiles to say that he has found nothing in FLPMA...the research you just handed us...they found it. It's on the third page.

Zane Odell noted that one thing that Commissioner Chappell pointed out is that the BOCC will share the sweat with the agencies if they are in on the decision making...at the ground floor. Instead of just you guys taking all of the heat from the public. I know this all got started 20 years too late but it is a starting point.

Frank Greene added that while the forest Service takes input from the public we want in before the public...before plan A B & C etc.

Marietta added that she too received a letter thanking her for coordination but why are we still so far apart on what coordination means? We are all here as Federal Land Managers trying to smooth that way. You don't want us to have another layer of process because it is more money for the taxpayers so at what point do we say we are coordinating? Since this is always the conversation we keep having... how do we get to the next level.

Connie Clementson with the BLM gave an overview of BLM Lands for disposal. It was decided to schedule a special work session to review the map and make a recommendation. Part of the BLM objective is to move lands that no longer fit their mission back into the County Tax base.

Connie also noted that they would like to sell one property to start the process because the proceeds from the sale can be used to fund additional property transfers.

CANM Manager Marietta Eaton provided an overview of the parking situation at Sand Canyon. The current parking is currently too small to handle the use that the trail gets. In particular there are problems with horse trailers. The line of sight on RD G is also a problem there and the Castle Rock massacre site is very sensitive to the tribes who see it as bad karma to send visitors through there. The line of site and safety issues are the primary motivation for relocating the parking area.

The Thomas residence has been purchased by BLM and may offer opportunity for a contact station or something similar which would also require parking. A site east of the Thomas residence is being evaluated for that purpose.

Debbie Kill gave a power point update/overview of the Glade/Boggy TMP. Debbie describe the costs associated with some of the road up keep and the land capabilities that the TMP is designed to protect. Debbie noted that the dispersal of use and stream crossings that cumulatively affect the proper functioning of the watersheds. Debbie identified the loops that the PLCC identified that would be left open.

Derek Padilla noted that the Forest Service would be trying hard to gather input from the single track trail users for the Rico West Dolores TMP and would then come back to the Glade Boggy to see if some of the ideas from single track users could be implemented there.

Dennis Atwater was concerned that a decision was being made that was not balance. Derek replied that there were many opportunities for motorcycles on 50 inch tracks as well as on roads. The Forest Service wants to provide experience that they desire but it would require starting the process over and dragging the process out even longer. There has already been two opportunities to address ideas. The Forest Service recognizes the lack of single track as a legitimate concern but the current process needs to move forward, a decision needs to be made and we need to get through Rico West Dolores and then come back to revisit the deficiencies in Boggy Glade.

Slim McWilliams noted that if the process comes to the PLCC first then it may streamline the process as it goes through public input because some of the questions may be already answered.

Debbie also noted that 8 small spur roads were being added back into the Cortez Mancos plan which is a small example of the fine tuning that can be done after a TMP decision is made.

Discussion was also had surrounding the game retrieval boundaries and it was suggested to make the Dolores Rim one boundary.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30