

Public Lands Coordination Commission

Meeting Minutes April 26, 2011

PLCC Commissioners present: Drew Gordanier, Frank Green, Zane Odell, Dennis Atwater, Slim McWilliams, Casey McClelland (alternate)

Montezuma County Commissioners present: Steve Chappell

Citizens Present: None

Federal Agency Representatives: Connie Clemenston

7:05 PM Meeting was called to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited & ground rules established.

First Item of business was approval of agenda & minutes. Agenda & Minutes were approved.

Connie Clemenston was introduced as the new acting Field Manager for the Dolores District.

The coordination letter to the State and BLM was discussed. Because of staff changes within the Forest Service and BLM the original coordination letter was reworded to restate the County's Coordination Status. The BLM, CANM and Forest Service were addressed in the letter.

Dennis Atwater also drafted a letter and included Colorado Division of Wildlife and Colorado State Parks. Dennis's Letter attached the Coordination Resolution and Protocol.

It was noted that the letter should reference State Statutes requiring coordination.

Discussion surrounding sending the letter to the State was had. The specific Colorado Statutes authorizing coordination was not referenced and that the specific State statutes still need to be provided.

A **motion** was made to send the letter to the Federal Agencies, motion was seconded and passed. James Dietrich will provide the letter to the BOCC.

The process for road inventory was discussed. The Forest Service has requested that the County identify the important roads and provide criteria for those roads. It was suggested that we have a map exercise the next meeting. The exercise should identify the roads that are important to the county for the purposes of commerce and recreation.

Discussion was had surrounding a draft comments letter being formulated by the BOCC in anticipation of the Glade/ Boggy area being reopened for comment. It was suggested that everyone take their copy home for review and discussion at the next meeting.

The Colorado Road Less Rule was discussed. The comment period for the rule is open and will remain open until July 13. The Forest Service Representatives reported that there will probably be some public meetings to provide comment opportunity. Concern was expressed over the coordination requirements. It was pointed out that it would seem that the Forest Service should be coordinating directly with the county on Roads or Road-less areas within the County and that it should occur outside the public comment process.

Concern was also expressed that the Road-less Rule was a tool to remove more multiple use off of public lands, creating de facto wilderness and is basically just the Forest Service Version of DOI Secretarial Order 3310.

The Forest Service agreed to provide road less area layers for review to see if any areas are in Montezuma County. The Forest Service also reported that the Columbine Office out of Durango will be looking at Travel management in La Plata Canyon and Junction Creek. Both areas are adjacent to Montezuma County.

The New SOPA was circulated and briefly discussed. No specific projects were mentioned.

Comments regarding Glade Boggy Draw were discussed and Executive order 13443 was discussed which states that the forest Service will work with the CDOW to promote hunting and economic opportunity.

The Forest Planning Rule was discussed. It was pointed out that Coordination with Counties includes part of the planning and is a whole different process than public input. It was reported that the new planning rule would potentially eliminate coordination and specifically says that county comprehensive plans are too cumbersome to consider.

It was reported that the New Planning rule would not apply to the current planning process. Discussion surrounded the portions of the rule that appear to exclude County Land Management Review and coordination process.

Slim Mc Williams expressed concern that we should have a copy of the State Statutes that authorize coordination before we send a letter notifying them (state agencies) of Coordination Status. Dennis Atwater indicated that he had copies of the state statutes that mandate coordination and would provide them next time.

Next meeting was schedule for May 10.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30

Meeting Adjourned 8:48