

DRAFT
Daggett County Public Lands Advisory Committee
March 2, 2015
6:00 PM at the Daggett County Courthouse

Meeting Minutes

Members Attending: Chair: Ross Catron, Vice-Chair: Jon C. Wilde, Hank Gutz, Ryan Mosely, Jack Lytle, Dave McDonald, Jerry Steglich, Matt Henry, Mike Mussleman.

Members Excused: Chuck Bennington, Chad Reed,

Public Attending: Jean Dickinson, Carol Gardiner, Hugh Straatman, T. Wright Dickinson, Rowdy & Valree Muir, Jesse Jackson, Aaron Rees, Dave Allison, Glen Tinker, Clyde Slaugh, Brian Raymond

Welcome and introductions: Chairman Catron did not make introductions as many had been here before. The minutes were reviewed and discussed. Ross states that we need to make sure we capture the gets we discussed last week. Jon made a motion to accept the minutes and Mike seconded that motion. All agreed and motion carried.

Update concerning Uintah and Summit County efforts: Nobody here from either county. Jack gave a brief overview of what he knew and Jean Dickinson said that the Sweetwater Conservation District will be meeting with Forest tomorrow.

Review public comments and take additional comments: Jack has been unable to find all the information requested for the Clay Basin. Matt asked about the \$98 deficit to the road and transportation district and where that came from and Jack explained that was from Chad and Troy Ostler. Jack listed the questions that Ross had put forth concerning the Clay Basin exchange. Ross said that we need that information before we can truly decide the value or costs of that part of the proposal.

Jack states that we have been inundated with letters in support of the designation of Scenic on the Green River; so many that they are being compiled in a drop box. Matt asked what is the benefit of designating the river as Scenic? There is discussion over how the river is now managed as Scenic, but many people would like it codified. Dave explained his understanding that it is already being managed and that when it is designated it will require a management plan that could have unintended consequences. Ryan comment that he tries to not go one way or the other, but if it is listed you don't know what will come up in the future, so the language will be very important. There is discussion about the C section and its current Recreational status. This status does not

allow them to do streamside maintenance. Jean discusses how this necessitates the need to find how this affects the community in the C section. There is discussion with Rowdy concerning the MOU between the Forest Service and the BLM. Dave states that the problem with the letter writing is that the people sending them do not understand these issues. T. Wright said he sees the removal of the designation in C section as a benefit to his property and the Radosevich property. Dave A. explains the difference between how it is managed now and that it allows for change, the Scenic designation defines it and shores up the management. The critical part is to get what you want in writing in the bill. Ross says we need to decide if this is a plus that we want. Mike does not think so. Ryan asks is the county willing to have any Wilderness designation. If not what is our currency to make trades? Ross believes that there are areas in Daggett County that Wilderness can be designated without infringing on others (hunters, ATV, grazers, etc).

T. Wright said Daggett County should look at what kind of community they want to be and get ahead of the SUWAs and other groups, so that we are trying to get ahead of the conservation groups in actually doing conservation. Ask the Forest Service and BLM what they can do in management to create the same economic value as this process is supposed to create. Use the proposal to give us that latitude. Think outside the box and don't let them dictate the process.

Ross asks the Committee where they want to go. Jerry says he agrees with T. Wright, but that the elephant in the room are the environmentalists. They will kill everything.

Dave says he wants to restate what T. Wright said. It is about getting out in front of the environmentalist. We need to ask them to allow us to manage for conservation of range management, watershed and wildlife. If we go about this with a multi-faceted management plan, it may give Bishop some clout in Washington. Putting a designation on parcels of land does not allow for this level of management. Go steps further than the conservation groups and have the land managed properly.

Ross doesn't know whether we have that much scope. We can't tell the Forest Service how to manage. He believes that we have to take advantage of the opportunity which is at hand. Daggett County doesn't have the kind of money it would take to do what is needed.

Dave says that we could ask for outside help.

Ross says that yes we can do that in the future, but now we have to figure out what can be done with this. We need to be realistic of what we can bite off now. Ask for less roadless, however, that doesn't mean the Forest Service can jump in and start doing something in that area right now. We need to look at the long term plan.

Jack says that when we start looking at the resources that we can affect or can be affected by what we do now, we need to think about the stewardship we can have on our County. We should not categorize as too small or too few. We are just as valuable as anyone else. We need to stay on track and not return to the previous paradigm of tit for tat.

Ross states that economic development will come from private land. That is where the jobs come from. We need to gain more private land. That is where the real growth will come from. A lake development could do that.

Mike states that he is against one acre of lake front development.

Jean invites everyone to a meeting on the 3rd at 9:30 in Mountain View with the Forest Service to discuss how things can be managed differently. What has happened with roadless and Wilderness designations. There once were sawmills here. It is the conservation's responsibility to continue on with this and be concerned with the water coming off the North Slope and land management. Don't ever think of Daggett County as too small, we need to shoot for the moon.

T. Wright states that we need to protect our interests.

Mike states that he likes us staying small.

Dave says he doesn't think everyone understands what T. Wright said. He is talking about building a stewardship program that is getting in front of the conservation group. He feels Bishop could sell that and he would be will to go where ever needed to put it in front of him.

Rowdy says that there are many ways the Forest Service could work with a stewardship program. He states that there are options with roadless; there are no options with Wilderness. There are the opportunities to do many things, but not with Wilderness. He states that there are Forest Service lands that could be turned over to the County. He feels that there is room to do some small things that could be beneficial to the County overall. Water rights will affect many people, so the watershed must be managed on the North Slope.

There is discussion on roadless and logging. Rowdy also clarifies that the NRA is an act that was done by Congress. The Forest Service has policies that it must follow.

T. Wright says that you need to be careful about building houses. For every house that is built it cost a \$1.25 in services. Building more houses is not going to provide jobs.

Dave talks about what happened in Steamboat Springs and that now it is too expensive for the locals to live there. If it starts in Daggett County, it will spread quickly and we don't have a lot of private land.

Rowdy talks about the lack of ability to manage the Forests in a way where they can continue to increase AUMs. They will have to begin at looking at decreasing AUMs if they aren't allowed to manage it how they did in the past. Rowdy and Rick are looking at working across boundaries as far as timber harvest and management.

Continue determining what gains are best for Daggett County and what we are willing to give up:

Matt states that we have a County plan that specifically outlines a lot of what we are talking about and we need to abide by that. He says that winter recreation on 6800 acres is ludicrous when we have a much cheaper way of doing snow machines at the high altitude areas that could be used if it was promoted. But if you lock it up in Wilderness that will not be possible.

Mike would like to see a lodge built on the Geological loop to promote winter recreation in the area.

Ross states that we are not limited by the County plan; it is a good resource to use as a reference. He feels the 6800 acres are off the table.

Dave said we need to prioritize the things we want and look at a map with the grazing and other stuff and get to the specifics. He says there may be areas in the High Uintah's that could potentially be Wilderness. We don't want to tie up land that is used for other purposes. What are we willing to give up and that may be very little.

Jack had started to do a list on a thumb drive, but he forgot to bring it tonight.

Dave says lets go for the low hanging fruit.

Matt said that he would like to see more Daggett County ability to manage the lands through conservation stewardship.

Jean states that Counties in Wyoming are participating in timbering in several counties (Lincoln, Sublet, and Uinta), so it is possible, but it took 6-7 years. This needs to be defined-Active management of the Forest and BLM to be able to meet your goals. Utah has a law, but that's not what T. Wright is talking about. Develop a cooperative management paradigm-could be a pilot program. Utah's Watershed initiative is a way to maybe look at something like this.

Dave said Relief from Roadless designation issues.

Hank said release of all WSA designations.

Ross said he would like to look at the Clay Basin exchange. We would need some more discussion in how it would affect things. We would have to decide how much we are willing to give for that. Mike said he would like to see if we could get more than \$300,000 out of it. Over 10,000 acres has to have the approval of the legislature. We just need to explore the possibilities.

Lakeside private development-lots of issues involved with this one like the lowering lake levels brought up earlier, BOR ownership. Jack also put up NRA lands reduction / reshaping as a possibility.

Jerry states that he feels that the Jarvie and Swett Ranch should be put back into it.

Jean said that she would like to see some of the small items that Rowdy mentioned. USFS Special Use Permit lands transfer to County/Private ownership. There are other issues about the BLM/Forest Service/ MOU Wild and Scenic. The BLM designations and interests need to be investigated. The BLM is unaware of a lot of the past proposal as management has changed.

Hank asked if the cabin in holdings should be considered for privatization. Ryan asked if this had to be done legislatively. Some felt it should be, but Dave states that one he did, did not have to go through the legislature. The homeowners put this of high importance, however if we go by comments, the designation of the Green is too.

Mike asks about the cell phone towers and it is determined this is covered by the bullet for the Forest Service.

Ross also wants the Greendale area privatization within the NRA for development added. They could do this if they incorporated. Craig has said he has lots of people asking for lots, but they are all sold. There is the possibility of increasing private land if they were incorporated.

Consider privatization of Dutch John land between the County's property and the canyon rim plus the campground as well. Dave discusses the statute that is in place to transfer land as the community grows. However, it would be much easier to do this now legislatively.

T. Wright said that the Grazing rights for everybody are a critical thing. We need less designation for all land within Daggett County.

Determine next steps and meeting time and date: Take a look at the list and look at your priorities. What are you willing to give up for those priorities? We will meet next after we get the information we need from SITLA. Maybe John Andrews could attend and see if something could be worked out under the new proposal.

Jean said the needs of the resource are going to need to be balanced with wish list. Expanded designation doesn't bode well for wildlife and there is a need for less.

Next meeting is March 9th at 6 pm.

Adjourned at 9:25 pm