

Daggett County Public Lands Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 23, 2015

Committee members present: Ross Catron (Chairman), Jon Wilde (Vice-Chair), Chad Reed (Secretary), Jack Lytle, Dave McDonald, Mike Musselman, Ryan Mosely, Hank Gutz, Chuck Bennington (by phone) and Matt Henry.

Absent: Jerry Steglich

Public Present: Jean Dickinson, David Allison, Woody Bair, Andy Rasmussen, Charles Card, Troy D. Ostler, Pat Aullman, Carol Gardiner, Hugh Straatman, Richie Anderson and Orlan Anderson.

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm: Ross called the meeting to order. Jack noticed that there needed to be a correction to John Andrews name (Andrews not Anderson). Jon made a motion to pass the minutes as corrected and Matt seconded. Motion carried.

Ross summarizes meeting with the Commission and the recommendations from the Commission. There are also some notes from Casey Snyder that will need to be discussed. Jack will discuss the meeting with the Board of Director's of SITLA. Jean discusses the map that contains all of the road detail, management areas and grazing. She will also continue to work on language for the grazers. Discussion occurs in reference to the different types of roads.

Jack brings up the letter to the Commission from Charles Card. Each member did get a copy of this, as Karen sent them out due to Brian being out. Charles addresses the committee and again voices his hopes that the designation is allowed to be put on the A and B section, and the release of the C section. Charles realizes that the Forest Service manages the river as Scenic currently, so this would essentially insure this forever. Ross discusses the research that Warren had done on the Scenic designation of the Snake River and all of that feedback was positive. Matt asks how it would be managed with the designation. Charles says that there would need to be a new management plan. As far as outfitters there wouldn't be anymore, but there also wouldn't be any less. There is discussion of the language that would need to be included. Matt questions how it can be designated if it doesn't meet all of the criteria of Scenic. Charles talks about all of the different levels of designation and that these sections of the Green do meet the requirements of Scenic. Hank asks whether this is a give or a take to the environmentalist. Jack states that the environmentalist will see that as a wash, where A and B are designated and C is released. Discussion of amount of usage of the Green is discussed. Ryan notes that information he has says that it is up. Jack asks whether the issues that surround the designation and that the committee has not ranked it as a high priority, should this be looked at again. Ross states that there is no need to revote and the real value is the release of the C section. The release was asked for by the private land owners on the C section. Dave questions Charlie as to what the land owners reasoning were for the release. Charlie said that they stated it would make their lives much easier. There is discussion about keeping development off the river in the A and B sections. Dave states that

this can be done without the PLI. It is protected by language. Dave says what bothers him about the designation is the new form of management and all of the public that can be involved in that (the environmentalist).

Ross tries to summarize the discussion of the River designation to this point and asks whether the committee wants to pursue this any further. Is it best just to keep it how it is currently managed? Ryan states that the management of the River goes under review periodically now. Jean suggests that the Commission review the General Plan concerning the River and if it isn't listed, that should be updated.

Ross directs the Committee to continue moving down the list. Someone from the audience recommends some roads and trails that need to remain open. He also discusses snowmobile trails that tie between Uintah and Daggett County. There is discussion on the language that will accompany the Uintah PLI concerning this. Some of this is concerning the Carter Creek Military and up to Leady Peak. Ross states that earlier the Committee had decided that the RS2477 roads were not a high enough priority to remain on the list. Matt asks are we going to put this in Wilderness and Ross states that we aren't to that point.

Ross tries to pull the Committee back on point to the ranking list. Everyone agrees that we need to move forward with the list that was voted on. Copies of the language that the cattlemen of Uintah County have worked on for their PLI are distributed.

Ross has the Committee review the recommendations from the Commission. Ross also reviews Casey's note to Karen. In this note Casey outlines that if Daggett County wants any gains, they will still have to use Wilderness to gain it.

Jack addresses the Committee as to the information which he gained from the meeting with SITLA. He made SITLA aware that we would not want any of the grazers to be hurt by this exchange. He discusses the land that SITLA is willing to trade (land and mineral) for the exchange to happen. SITLA does not like the idea of having any designations on their lands. They are supportive of the exchange. SITLA has committed to not sell the mineral rights if the exchange takes place. SITLA does charge more for AUM, but most grazers prefer to deal with them over BLM.

Dave discusses a conversation that he had with Mel Brown. Mel said he would go to bat for us concerning the SITLA exchange. There is discussion concerning whether Wilderness is applicable in this case.

A break is taken and there is no further audio recording.