

Fremont County WPLI Advisory Committee Minutes

FINAL

March 27, 2017 | 6:00 p.m. | Fremont County Commissioners Chambers

Meeting called by	Douglas L. Thompson, FCPLI Chairman	Advisory Committee: Travis Becker, Reg Phillips, Gary Horton, Rick Mickelsen, Josh Milek, Nick Dobric, Ginger Bennett and Julia Stuble
Type of meeting	Regular	Absent: Andy Blair
Note taker	Amy Amack	Public: Louis Herbst, Bill Bartlett, Kim Wilbert, Dick Inberg, Rob Hendry (Natrona County Commissioner) Agency: Jared Oakleaf (BLM) Press: Daniel Bendtsen, Riverton Ranger

AGENDA TOPICS

Welcome | *Chairman Doug Thompson*

Doug welcomed everyone to the meeting and had Advisory Committee members and members of the public introduced themselves.

Approval of Agenda | *Chairman Doug Thompson*

The agenda for the meeting was reviewed. Julia requested an addition to the Agenda. She would like the committee to discuss setting up a site visit for the Sweetwater Rocks Complex. Travis moved, Gary seconded, to approve the Agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes | *Chairman Doug Thompson*

The minutes of the regular meeting held February 27th were reviewed. Doug asked for approval of the minutes. Nick moved, Julia seconded, to approve the minutes from the February 27th meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Lander 2 Discussion | *Chairman Doug Thompson*

The committee discussed the Lander 2 meeting. The committee members who attended the meeting found great value in the speakers, discussions, networking with other counties, and how this process has worked for others. The committee also felt that they were on the right track to accomplish the goals of this committee.

The committee discussed the mapping tools presented at the meeting and will look into incorporating them into the website and using them throughout the recommendation process as well as for public comment. The only reservations with using the mapping tools up to this point that committee members have found is being mindful of making sure the correct layers are turned on before making an evaluation of the land being viewed within the mapping tool.

The Fremont County presentation created for the meeting was also viewed so committee members who were unable to attend were able to see what was contributed by the committee. Doug stated that Natrona County had

asked the committee to come to one of their county commissioner meetings to give this same presentation so their commission and public could attend and understand the process better. Rob Hendry, Natrona County Commissioner, was present and expressed great interest in the process and would like to also include advertisement of this meeting and also the Sweetwater Rocks Site Visit since it is a shared complex between the two counties.

Doug stated that the goal of this process is to not just get these WSA's out of this status but to give it management direction without micromanaging the area.

Recommendation Development: Copper Mountain Outline | Chairman Doug Thompson

The committee began discussion on the outline for Copper Mountain starting with the "Cultural" category moving through "Illegal Uses." This document will be the administrative record to be saved and documented within the FPLI Google Drive.

During Copper Mountain Outline discussion the committee would like more input or research done for the categories of "Cultural" in the aspect of cultural sites located within the WSA. Doug is hopeful that the public will use the site comment form, attend a meeting, or contact a committee member to bring that information to the table. The committee agreed more research needs to be done on the "Current Uses and Activities: Grazing, Mining, and Oil & Gas" categories for Copper Mountain WSA. The committee chose to revamp the draft recommendation outline by renaming the "History of WSA designation" category to read "History of WSA Recommendation" and the subcategory "Wilderness recommendation 1991 and rationale" to read "BLM 1991 Wilderness recommendation and rationale." Also "Current Uses and Activities" category was updated as well. "(Significant, moderate, minimal, seasonal, occasional)" was dropped, "Non-use" subcategory was removed, and "Illegal Use or Encroachments" was renamed to read "Illegal Use."

Recommendation Development: Copper Mountain Narrative | Chairman Doug Thompson

The committee discussed how to proceed to the narrative stage and thought it best to finish the outlines for the WSA's before proceeding to the narrative stage.

Recommendation Development: Sweetwater Canyon Outline | Chairman Doug Thompson

The committee did not discuss the Sweetwater Canyon Outline during the meeting due to the draft outline not being complete on Copper Mountain WSA.

Site Visit for the Sweetwater Rocks Complex | Julia Stuble

Julia would like to have the committee set up a date for the site visit for the Sweetwater Rocks Complex as long as it didn't conflict with landowner's cattle and seasonal closures in the area. April was discussed but unpredictable weather makes it not a good time of year to visit. May 13th or May 20th were discussed in depth but no decision was made during the meeting.

Next Steps for Recommendation Development: Process on how and when to take public input on each WSA | Chairman Doug Thompson

The committee would like the public to continue to bring their comments to the committee members then the members can bring them to the table. Also encouraged the public to leave comments on the website or during

public comment at the meetings.

The committee discussed Zee Mapping which was a tool presented at the Lander 2 Meeting. It would be beneficial for collecting public comment if the tool could be fine-tuned in the aspect of GEO tagging with coordinates, the categories being personalized to the committee's needs, and the commenters information being available to the committee so it could be referenced in the WSA's Final Public Comment Folder. More research needs to be done before the committee utilizes this tool and makes it available to the public.

Next Steps for Recommendation Development: When to Start Part 2 of Recommendation Development |

Chairman Doug Thompson

The committee consensus at this time was to finish the outlines for all of the WSA's before moving onto the narrative stage and then on to the Recommendation Stage. The committee also agreed to continue to populate the Google Forms for the WSA's that have had site visits so as to keep moving forward through this process and maximize the time at the meetings for committee collaboration.

Public Comment | Audience

Dick Inberg brought a published Citizens Wyoming Proposal (Julia was going to make this available to the committee also so it could be put on the website). Dick thought the information within this publication would be very useful to the committee as it has information on oil, gas, drilling, mining, other minerals, and in-depth information about the Copper Mountain WSA.

Kim Wilbert thought that the information Dick provided should be included in the outline as well as the history of the WSA should include the criteria of becoming a WSA. Also he has used the WYGISC mapping tool and found it very useful.

Bill Bartlett had questions about how public comment would be incorporated into the recommendation. Doug gave him the resources available to do so and that they would be included in the Final Public Comment Folder to be included with the final recommendation.

Next Meeting, Committee Comments and Adjournment | *Chairman Doug Thompson*

The next meeting is set for Monday, April 24th at 6 pm.

The committee will continue work on populating the Google Forms for the other WSA's, researching the mapping tools discussed at the Lander 2 meeting, and appreciated Rob Hendry, Natrona County Commissioner, for being present at the meeting.

There being no further business, Reg moved, Nick seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m.