

FLIPCHARTS AND AGENDA FROM MARCH 25, 2002, MEETING OF THE UNCOMPAHGRE WORKING GROUP, WHITMAN EDUCATION CENTER / MUSEUM OF WESTERN COLORADO, CORNER OF 4TH ST. AND UTE, GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO, 6:30 PM TO 9:30 PM, CO-HOSTED BY UP AND GMUG

[Facilitators: Maggie McCaffrey, Rick Sherman; Recorders: Maggie McCaffrey, Rick Sherman, Carmine Lockwood, Groups Members]

Agenda [the following agenda was distributed as a handout]

- 6:15–6:30 Registration
- 6:30–6:45 Welcome/Introductions; Review of Last Meeting...What We Learned from You...; Review of Tonight’s Agenda; Review of Meeting Objectives
- 6:45–7:10 Brief overview of UP and GMUG Forest Plan Revision (shared objectives)
- 7:10–7:15 Explain Issues and Concerns Exercise; How this information fits into framework for meetings
- 7:15–7:30 Break
- 7:30–8:00 Issues and Concerns (Small Group Exercise)
- 8:00–8:30 Report back from Small Groups
- 8:30–8:45 Geographic Area Maps (Tie Issues and Concerns with places on the ground) [this was delayed until the next meeting]
- 8:45–8:55 Wrap Up; Summarize Accomplishments
- 8:55–9:00 Evaluation
- 9:00–9:15 Adjourn – with time for additional discussion

Next Meeting [the following meeting information was distributed as part of the agenda handout]:

Thursday, April 25, 2002, 6:30–9:30 PM
Delta High School Cafetorium
1400 Pioneer Road, Delta, Colorado

Meeting Objectives

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Clarify why you’re here

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Develop a range of issues and concerns about the current and future condition of the landscape

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Identify 4 to 6 “high priority” issues

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Locate those issues on real pieces of ground [this was delayed until the next meeting]

Ground rules [as proposed by and agreed upon by the group at the March 5, 2002, meeting]

1. Listen openly and actively.
2. Withhold judgment until the other point-of-view is understood.
3. Ask questions for understanding before speaking.
4. Give everyone an equal opportunity to speak.
5. Focus on concerns and interests, not positions.
6. Explore future improvement rather than focusing on the past.
7. Emphasize the situation rather than the people.
8. Value disagreement and constructive arguments.
9. Look for ways to address mutual concerns.
10. Respect each other's views and regard them as legitimate.
11. Know all groups who have interests up there (ID stakeholders).
12. Need to see/hear others' perspectives.
13. Stop using acronyms.
14. Temper your emotions with facts.
15. Deal with change.

Proposed Framework

- I. Introductory Meeting
- II. Issues and Concerns
- III. Science Expo
- IV. Develop a range of landscape goals (re: issues)
- V. Field Trip(s)
- VI. Dialogue and Deliberation about the feasibility of landscape goals
- VII. Dialogue and Deliberation about suggested measurable outcomes
- VIII. Action Planning

Group Activity Flipcharts from Individual Tables of 5 to 6 Participants

[Each table had up to 9 participants. A representative from each table recorded their table's top 4 to 6 concerns onto flipchart paper. Then, all meeting participants were given 7 dots to use to indicate their top

concerns from among all the tables' concerns. A person could use 1 dot on 7 different concerns, or use all 7 dots on a single concern, or anything in between. A letter has been randomly assigned to each table's list of concerns.]

of dots

TABLE A: TOP CONCERNS

[details in parentheses are from Table A's note cards and are linked to top concerns to the best of the transcriber's ability; issues without dots are Table A's lower priority issues that were not submitted for consideration by the larger group]

10 Maintain large blocks of land for wildlife habitat and migration (to give large and small game animals a refuge from continual human pressure)

5 Limit roads for the necessary uses (proper management planning)

13 Prioritize ecosystem health from a non-anthropocentric point of view. (No special interest issues unless based on natural elements or species.)

6 Good diversity of vegetative age classes. (Is there a healthy mix of seral stages represented in the various vegetative communities? currently the vegetation is made up of late seral stages or old age communities. What should a healthy ecosystem look like? What are the vegetative communities we want to occur on the Plateau? Is there a healthy mix of seral stages represented in the vegetative communities?)

9 Is existing ecosystem meeting wildlife habitat requirements (need for change and how much?)

of dots

TABLE B: TOP CONCERNS

[issues without dots are Table B's lower priority issues that were not submitted for consideration by the larger group]

11 Need to allow sustainable timber harvest on areas determined to be suitable and acceptable for timber production using least impacting techniques

9 Management of Plateau to help preserve remote characteristics

15 Fire should be used as a management tool - need to determine the natural regime in different vegetation types and need to use adaptive management (monitor / experiment as you go)

- 18 Need to manage livestock grazing to improve watershed health, maintain native plant species and reduce noxious weeds
 Big game, birds; welfare of both game and non-game; pay attention to how plan impacts wildlife
 Development of private lands near federal lands; not enough infrastructure to deal with impacts (roads, sewers, water protection, fire)
 Forest health, especial pinyon - juniper; overgrown and catastrophic fire; harms the soil
 Use the issues to identify acceptable ranges of "change" for vegetation, wildlife and land development. Then we can determine proper role of fire, grazing, timber, etc.
 Higher usage of the forest; trails deeply worn; need to work to reduce negative impacts of trails by properly maintaining them.
 Lack of enforcement of existing laws (hunting and travel)

of dots

TABLE C: TOP CONCERNS

[details in parentheses are from Table C's note cards and are linked to top concerns to the best of the transcriber's ability; issues without dots are Table C's lower priority issues that were not submitted for consideration by the larger group]

- 6 Development of community partnerships and communication (development of a community participation process which will lead to better land management and communication between the community and agencies)
- 3 River access for recreational use [along] large rivers (San Miguel, Uncompahgre, Gunnison and Dolores)
- 0 Habitat damage; mud flows into streams, silting up water sources. (Successive users try to avoid mud, problem gets worse and worse. If high volume of users, the mud expands sideways.)
- 0 User conflicts [resulting in] safety concerns with high speed traffic. Overall safety concerns. (User conflicts: Gravel road across plateau (#??) has some users (trucks) traveling at very high speeds. Rocks thrown are hazardous to vehicles moving slower, behind. There is little or no enforcement? monitoring costs money; who should pay? Should volunteers mount education program?)
- 11 Tamarisk infestation; "It steals water and habitat"
- 8 Habitat improvement for declining species and T & E; sage grouse and Colorado River Cutthroat (wildlife conservation issues: threatened and endangered species, example Canada Lynx)
- 3 Open range grazing results in the destruction of riparian areas.

4 Wildfire fuel reduction (timber management: wildfire fuel reduction and habitat improvement as a result)

Recreation: maintain multiple-use

Travel Plan: to see road creation limited to what is necessary for the various uses. To see new roads created in a logical, thoughtful, legal way as opposed to “pioneering” or trespass. New roads or ways create illegally should not be approved under any circumstance.

of dots

TABLE D: TOP CONCERNS

[issues were grouped by category; # of dots assumed to be only for the category, not for an individual issue in that category]

3 Fire: What’s done when you know certain areas are fire-prone. Mother Nature will take over and correct what humans can’t. Until we have an urgent need, like imminent fire danger, we will not unite. Managing natural fire rather than “put it out,” which is FS’s only choice now.

6 Access: Roads are needed to get in and fight fires (maybe that’s OK). I would like to see the Plateau stay with current road access. Some go right across open land and don’t restrict themselves to legal roads. Implementation of travel management decisions (enforcement) so people focus on “yes” routes and stay out of others.

2 Housing: How to encourage ranchers to keep ranching. Subdivisions don’t make good neighbors with agriculture folks. Potential growth of subdivisions on Uncompahgre Plateau.

2 Long Range: We don’t know what we want the Uncompahgre Plateau to look like in 50 years. Where to timber? Here to let fires burn? What do we want this to look like? Is this plan long-range enough to get something done?

3 In the Field: Well-informed people act better; signage.

5 Common Needs / Place: BLM is successful here in bringing all the different people together into groups; become informed and make better decisions (like controlled burns). Work with landowners and interested people to reach better decisions. Bikers and farmers having new conversations; little steps around specific space. How to have new conversations about Ecology, Humans, Recreation, Economics [interrelationships implied by interlocking circles around these words] Bring in all interested groups and establish compromises. When decisions are deliberated on a specific creek, include the specific people affected. Balance (?) between people who make a living there and people who visit occasionally. Balance means different things to different people.

0 More signs going up saying "Wilderness Study Area." BLM not UP.

of dots

TABLE E: TOP CONCERNS

[issues without dots are Table E's lower priority issues that were not submitted for consideration by the larger group; details in parentheses are from Table E's notes and are linked to top concerns to the best of the transcriber's ability]

9 Current access maintained (keeping open existing, authorized ATV trails. How to run all uses together? Ranching, hunting, ATVs)

4 Water cycle (need for water; small dams in streams and springs? Might help bring the mountain back to original condition)

6 Wilderness (need of quiet recreations areas as in wilderness; areas are disappearing; might improve habitat)

9 Education (for young people and students; Curriculum for schools to teach conservation)

Game management (game management units need to be combined into one to have better game management. Decline in wildlife habitat.)

5 Weeds (invasive weeds particularly by waterways; Tamarisk and Russian olive)

8 Trails (accessibility: maintain access to forest for everyone)

5 Ranching, hunting, OHV interaction. need to be separated
To be able to set up Boy Scout and Girl Scout camps, maybe Boot Camps, to learn conservation work. Help keep youth out of trouble.

Improved management. Combine agencies to better manage these areas (USFS, BLM, Division of Wildlife, etc.)

Who is not at this Meeting?

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Old-time ranchers

*

Mineral extraction groups / industry

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Logging industry

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Private land owners, inholders and adjacent

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Special use permit holders

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Those more directly affected (there is not agreement on this point;
“directly” not defined)

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[note from meeting participant:] No ranchers from the Uncompahgre
were here at this meeting.

How can this process move forward without their concerns and issues
being included?

[A short discussion followed. A suggestion was made for UP and GMUG to
meet with special interest groups. Rick Sherman indicated that meetings
with various interest groups have been conducted.. One participant then
pointed out that encouraging the participation of special interest groups
in this kind of forum allows interaction between the various interest
groups.]