

FLIPCHARTS AND AGENDA FROM APRIL 4, 2002, MEETING OF THE UNCOMPAHGRE WORKING GROUP, COMMUNITY CENTER, REDVALE, COLORADO, 6:30 PM TO 9:30 PM, CO-HOSTED BY UP AND GMUG

[Facilitator: Kathy Bond; Facilitation Assistants: Maggie McCaffrey, Rick Sherman, Carmine Lockwood]

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; Review of general framework for meetings
6:45–7:00 Brief overview of UP and GMUG Forest Plan Revision (shared objectives)
7:00–7:15 Explain Issues and Concerns Exercise; How this information fits into framework for meetings
7:15–7:30 Break
7:30–8:20 Issues and Concerns (Small Group Exercise)
8:20–8:45 Report back from Small Groups
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 dates and times were distributed as part of the agenda handout; the meeting location was discussed]:

Tuesday, April 23, 2002, 6:30–9:30 PM
Redvale Community Center,
Redvale, Colorado

Group Activity Flipcharts from Individual Tables of 7 to 8 Participants

[A representative from each table was asked to record their table's top 6 concerns onto flipchart paper. Some tables then presented these top concerns to the entire group, while other tables presented all their concerns. All meeting participants were then 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

- 0 Too much public access – too many people (#1)
- 6 Motorized vehicles stay on roads and appropriate trails (#1)
- 13 Clearcuts – need law against – bring roads to and from which further impacts (#6)
- 0 Existing roads (not 2 wheel / ruts) stay open; free access to snowmobiling in winter (#1)
- 0 Traveling and closures – perceptions and myths of non-recreational people towards recreational people (#1) (#3)
- 1 Recreation – hunting and fishing – how to manage wildlife accordingly (#3)
- 10 Livestock grazing permits kept open responsibly on plateau (#4)
- 0 No more designated wilderness areas (#2)
- 0 Manage a 50/50 buck/doe, bull/cow ratio (#5)
- 0 Keep up on current research trends, i.e., chronic wasting (#5, 7)
- 0 Checkerboard fires in the pinyon / juniper increases in patches (#4, 5, 6)
- 0 Let natural fires burn responsibly especially in lower elevations (#6, 7)
- 0 Mule deer population stabilization – chronic wasting (#5)
- 16 Health of ecosystem and its diversity (#7)
- 1 How to provide adequate but responsible access for interest groups (#1)
- 2 Fragmentation of the forest (#1, 6)
- 2 Loss of native plants and increase of weeds (#7)
- 5 Better understanding of soils and fungi in forest regeneration (#7)

of dots

TABLE B: TOP CONCERNS

- 6 Continue multiple use concept
- 8 Too many elk; distribution
- 1 Livestock grazing – degradation; damage to aspen seedlings
- 7 Watershed protection, quality
- 10 Road closures / motorized access
- 0 Evaluation / decision on roadless areas
- 1 Utilization of trees vs. burning
- 13 Compensation for cutbacks on USFS permits
- 0 Enforcement for preservation of antiquities
- 4 Recognition of connection between private and public land
- 0 Regeneration of aspen

- 4 Wildlife habitat / sustainable
- 5 Knowledge of baseline capacity for grazing
- 1 Continue grazing animals

of dots

TABLE C: TOP CONCERNS

[Details in italics are taken from file cards and colored sticky notes that the transcriber was confident belonged to Table C's top concerns]

- 7 Concern about too many roads closed. What is FS going to do about obliterating and rehabilitating these closed roads?
- 7 Concern about increasing elk population, decreasing deer population, sage grouse habitat, elk and deer damaging private land
- 7 Maintain cattle grazing on Plateau
- 0 Concern that there will be more homebuilding on Plateau
- 15 How do we preserve private property rights during planning process? [How private land ownership play into entire Uncompahgre Plateau plan, i.e., private property rights vs. public land, etc. (keep private enterprise alive).]
- 0 Is Divide Road going to remain open year-round? If so, concern that vandalism to private grazing will increase.
- 0 Would like to see more logging to provide wood for homebuilding
- 4 Increase prescribed burning to reduce chance of catastrophic fire and increase wildlife habitat.
- 0 Land trades need to remain a viable tool to solve resource problems {Keep land trades between private lands, Forest, BLM, State? An option to solve some resource issues}
- 0 Concern about increasing recreation use on Plateau
- 0 Concern about developers filing for water rights on national Forest lands in order to develop adjacent subdivisions

of dots

TABLE D: TOP CONCERNS

- 15 Travel Management: (1) Keep roads open, (2) Manage safe use (not putting too many uses on one road)
- 2 Manage all wildlife not just big game
- 4 Manage winter range so big game will stay on public land
- 7 Manage timber toward restoration, stand health (pine plantations)
- 8 Manage noxious (invasive, competing) weeds
- 7 Balance wildlife and livestock use of vegetation

- 4 Enforce present regulations
- 0 Manage recreation uses
- 4 Public education

of dots

TABLE E: TOP CONCERNS

[Details in italics are taken from file cards and colored sticky notes that the transcriber was confident belonged to Table E's top concerns]

- 1 Chronic wasting disease
- 10 Quantity and quality of water
- 0 Instream flow vs. decreed water
- 0 Changes in use patterns as related to transportation improvement of major roads. How does the public want the major roads to look and be used?
- 9 Forest Service and BLM lands managed in a more integrated way
- 4 Elk numbers as related to deer and livestock forage/pasture; lack of sufficient elk licenses
- 2 Prevent excessive fragmentation
- 1 Good management practices to include historic range of plants and animals
- 11 No fees to access public land; government should fund public lands
[Fees to enter public lands is a great concern. These lands are funded through tax dollars and if there is not enough money available to fund it, the government needs to re-examine its budget. A child doesn't pay an extra fee to enter public school, for example.]
- 3 Maintain existing roads for multiple use
- 23 Maintain multiple use of the forest
- 2 Maintain access to natural resources

FILE CARDS AND STICKY NOTES FROM TABLES

[The following are issues written on file cards and colored sticky notes that were not considered higher priority concerns by the tables or these concerns contain more detail than on a table's list of concerns]

Grazing of livestock and increasing elk herds grazing put pressure on the same plants. All comments have been so far directed to improving wildlife habitats. Does this mean an increase then of wildlife or wildlife and livestock or how will this be analyzed?

The tree plantings that were done about 15–20 years ago on the southerly portion of the Plateau are very close together. Possible they will

shade grass and become infected with beetles if not managed properly.
Nature does not plant trees that closely.

Grazing management depends on viable fences and gates. How will these be maintained with the use of fire as a tool to manage the range?

Concern that the decades of fire suppression have resulted in an unnaturally high density of gambel oak under the pine.

There is a high density of "closed" roads and trails on the Plateau (with the new travel plan decision) that need to be closed or rehabbed.

Lack of vegetation between aspen and ag land.

Manage vegetation for all wildlife

Sustainable watershed protection including establishing a baseline

Sustainable wildlife habitat

Seeing trash and garbage left in Uncompahgre Plateau

Being able to see diverse animals while traveling the Uncompahgre Plateau

Invasive, competing, non-native vegetation is increasing

Economic stability of local communities based on diverse economy

Big game and domestic livestock interaction

Road closures – some roads have been in use before turn of century

ATV proliferation (I have one myself) but I don't use it when and where I shouldn't

Elk have increased tremendously since late 30s, early 40s. Will be a food problem. They spend too much time on unhuntable private land; DOW can't manage.

Equal access to current areas. Balance for hiking, horseback, 4 wheel

Balanced management for game and non-game species

Education: better information to school

Lack of winter feed for increasing elk populations. year-round feed supply is a must for animals to survive. By having private ranchers supply the feed for free, the rancher's can't survive.

No enforcement of all the regulations. The trend seems to make more rules, not enforce the ones already on the books.

Roadless lands on USFS – links to BLM areas

Capacity for animals – both wild and domestic

Private land development on south end; also inholdings; access to private lands, links to surrounding communities

Current ecological condition of fire dependent forests / brush fields

Continued grazing use – cattle, sheep; predator control – bears / coyotes / lion

I'd rather trees be used as lumber resource rather than burned

Continued recreation for mountain bikes, horses, camping

The number of elk have increased but they have learned to move onto private property to avoid hunting pressure. Then the private people complain about too many but don't want anyone on their property. The new travel plan seems to punish the good for the bad deeds of a few. Hunting is a big issue with me. I live to hunt.

Resource extraction on public lands concerns me greatly, primarily because I believe as the nation develops, public land will become the only refuge for nature and wildlife. But they can only serve as a refuge if the ecosystems are intact. Also, the economic payoffs of extracting resources has never outweighed the total cost if environmental / habitat costs are considered.

Over-logged; user-created roads; overgrazed? over hunted? Is there room for all uses? Should we protect the resource?