

AGENDA AND MAP INPUT FROM APRIL 23, 2002, MEETING OF THE UNCOMPAHGRE WORKING GROUP, COMMUNITY CENTER, NORWOOD, COLORADO, 6:30 PM TO 9:30 PM, CO-HOSTED BY UP AND GMUG

[Facilitator: Kathy Bond; Facilitation Assistants: Carmine Lockwood, Daniela Howell, and Rick Sherman]

Agenda [the following agenda was distributed as a handout]

- 6:15–6:30 Registration
- 6:30–6:45 Welcome/Introductions; Review of Last Meeting; Review of Tonight's Agenda; Review of Meeting Objectives; Review of general framework for meetings
- 6:45–6:55 Questions/clarification of UP/FS efforts
- 6:55–7:15 Review of issue category identification
- 7:15–7:25 Review of geographic map activity
- 7:25–7:35 Break
- 7:35–8:00 First small group
- 8:00–8:25 Second small group
- 8:30–9:10 Reporting back to large group
- 9:10–9:15 Wrap up
- 9:15–9:20 Evaluation/Adjourn

Next Meeting [a suggested next meeting date and time were distributed as part of the agenda handout; the group agreed to the location but changed the starting time to 7:00 p.m.]:

Tuesday, May 21, 2002, 7:00–9:30 PM
Redvale Community Center,
Redvale, Colorado

Group Input Onto Maps

[Participants divided themselves into 6 tables. Some groups had a person who recorded major points of the conversation. All tables used sticky notes to place their concerns on maps of the Uncompahgre Plateau (map numbers are for tracking purposes only and have no significance). After the meeting, Forest Service Interdisciplinary Team Members identified geographic landmarks for comments that were site-specific. If no location name is cited below, the comment is assumed to apply to the Uncompahgre Plateau as a whole.]

MAP 2, ROADLESS, WILDERNESS, SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS, TRAVEL/ACCESS
[the transcriber has used the table recorder's notes from this group to

augment/clarify the brief comments on the sticky notes]

By cutting down on access to different parts of the Plateau, does this mean that forest permits have been cut also?

No more special area designations needed here. Wilderness advertises for city folks.

The Travel Plan will effect the business in our towns. This will cut down on hunting licenses sold which will cut down on Colorado Division of Wildlife revenue. Older people and some young people will stop coming to Colorado to hunt. [Appeal period ends May 6]; a judge said roads closed between 86 and now were illegal – not applied to this forest. Road closures across whole area. Supposed to be public involvement. ATV travelable roads. Big Red Trail closures. Roads closed to stop poachers – poacher still out there.

States Draw: motorcycles on Labor Day; Earth First campers; bicyclers angry with cow trails

Don't close roads to create new roadless areas

Leave existing roads open

Lack of road maintenance and management to needed standards

Better coordination between the Forest Service and county is needed

Improper management of special events such as the Rainbow Family gathering

Losing rights of access for use and to access resources for multi-resource development. When roads are closed it infringes on all multiple use—from the basic definition to the broadest sense. City folks could outvote us because they are not knowledgeable to our ways of life.

Road closures are reducing access to forest users who don't have horses or can't ride horses [aging people can't hike, resulting in loss of access]

Tabeguache Special Area does not get used as Wilderness on BLM; fire in '94 – FS and county; drove equipment into area. Now roadless, trees thick and unharvestable. Landowners can access; Congress includes language to protect existing rights; roaded portions eliminated; update inventories to show lands that are roaded. Never saw a hiker in Tabeguache Special Study Area – not used as a Wilderness Area. Road through meadows in Tabeguache Wilderness Area – private property sign – 4 miles – stay on road – from top down – Guires – upper end. Lower end says [private] property keep out – conflicting signs. 1988 Floyd Reed and Cook built a road through to log – 1000 acre special use permit – now road closed – but special use permit still in use

[West Tabeguache area boundary] Inconsistent signing; closed road that [should] be open to gate

Double standards for access into Roubideau and Tabeguache Special Areas [by / for] Forest Service administrative use and private land owners

Lack of enforcement of regulations [on] littering, etc.

[Highway 90 south of Divide Road] Kelly Creek: junk pickup truck bed [that] Forest Service won't remove; [been there] 10 years
Big Red Canyon Trail closures; good ATV trail lost; new motor cycle trail
Elk are not valid reason to close roads; the elk don't care they'll use habitat
Road closures in Sanborn Park to necessary [?]
Rock (gravel) resources need to come from on Forest; too many weeds on private; rock sources need to come from that area to keep noxious weeds from invading areas
Lack of effort to harmonize uses, e.g., grazing and mountain biking
Dave Wood Road conflict between Forest Service and County; conflict since county graveled road during a timber sale; Forest Service closing when needed for use
Punishment (loss of routes) to general forest users because of abuse by the few
Divide Road: 200 cars a day now. When Divide road was built, maybe 20 cars per day.
Highway 90 - County Road: road counters can show whether road needs upgraded or not
Code RS2477, Record of decision; counties can make claims [on a] road by road basis; management would change; [initiative would?] come from local government
No need for special area - never has been roadless
Elk will go where habitat is good for them irregardless of cars, people or blasting

MAP 4, RANGE MANAGEMENT

[Forest Service, Deadhorse Point; BLM, south of Deadhorse Point]: Pinyon-juniper control (treatment) west of 1990 Horsefly wildlife
[BLM north of Naturita Division plus north portion of Forest Service Naturita Division]: Pinyon-juniper treatment for wildlife, livestock, watershed, fire control
Need additional water; better coordination with archeology, threatened and endangered species
More flexibility in LEX [land exchange] to accommodate logical, broad scale objectives, i.e., wildlife, water, entire area
Map needs changing to reflect land exchange [southeast corner]

MAP 5, WILDLIFE

By cutting forest permits the concern over elk and deer competing for food will no longer be a concern. If people are kept out all livestock should be, too (Wilderness area and other areas)
Game damage: reverse the Animal Unit Month (AUM) fee for livestock operators for elk competing on private land. Not available to landowners just protecting elk herds.
How does the arrival of all the geese affect the ecosystem? (water treatment; introduce plants, graze pasture)
[SE Plateau, Forest Service / private land interface] Too many elk on private [land]; they won't move to public land
[Delta-Nucla Road, BLM area] Too many elk winter; need treatment in pinyon-juniper to keep elk on public land

MAP 6, TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Why charge for locals to clean up and thin by firewood collecting in insect areas for dead timber
Stewardship timber contracts are a very smart way to deal with thinning and forest health
Need for (must be consistently offered) small timber sales so as to encourage small long-term sustainable operations
Cumulative impacts of large aspen clear cuts
Let us drive to the dead trees to cut and load and not be limited on size that we can cut
[On Hanks Valley Road, Sanborn Park area] Trash dump
[Craig Point] Good timber sale
[Ed Joe] Oak worms, dead oak
We need to be able to cut standing dead ponderosa, as there is plenty dead trees that we cannot get to to cut for the wildlife.
Keep the roads open.
[Brewster] Snowmobile parking access
[Brewster] Plowed, narrow county road

MAP 7, FOREST VEGETATION, ECOSYSTEM HEALTH

[the transcriber has used the table recorder's notes from this group to augment/clarify the brief comments on the sticky notes]
Grazing rotations; riparian improvements; beaver pond management [?]; wetland/water storage
Watershed management for fisheries and water storage
Education opportunities for students; riparian importance
Tabeguache area, recycling of fire needed; change in pine after fire

[BLM south end of Tabeguache] 1993 fire recovery
[BLM land at Mailbox Park and Forest Service land at Dry Park and Telephone Draw] Treatments, resting livestock, more ponds to disperse cattle in low pines
Tamarisk / Russian Olive control along San Miguel River riparian habitat and other drainages
Ponds in pinyon-juniper and low pine country to disperse livestock / wildlife (water sometimes will keep wildlife from migration schedules)
Provide alternatives to permittees when treatments (seedings) are happening (either alternate grazing areas or monetary)
Different type of plants instead of crested wheat [?]
How does the arrival of all the geese affect the ecosystem?
Knapweed
Acron Æ environment – bear
Beaver / fish; '80 holistic range management: helping overall [?]
ecosystem
Fire, pinyon, oakbrush
More acreage in the Norwood District for vegetative treatment
Pinyon-juniper Æ long term major areas of acreage for deer / elk to shop for winter migration

MAP 8, WATER

Road location, water quality / sediment impacts
Fuels management, burning, etc., to maintain water quality, reduce catastrophic fire
Arrival of all the geese are affecting the area
How can Norwood get more water? From where? how can we protect our watershed?
[BLM land, Bramiers Draw area] Veg recovery after fire
Gurley source water