

Agenda

MedBow-Routt Resource Advisory Committee Meeting

August 7, 2014
USFS Parks Ranger District Office
100 Main Street
Walden, CO 80480

11:00 a.m. – Chairman Jerry Paxton called meeting to order
Welcome / Introductions

Attending in person: Ron Iversen (Carbon Co.); Linda Fleming (Carbon Co.); Carolyn Upton, DFO (FS); Tahna Naylor (FS); Aaron Voos, RAC Coordinator (FS); Barbara Vasquez, (Jackson Co.); Jerry Schmidt (Albany Co.); Win Dermody (Routt Co.); Jim Ficke (Routt Co.) John Rich (Jackson Co.); Tony Mong (Wyoming Game & Fish Biologist); Matt Hays (UW); Bryan Lamont (UW); and Jerry Paxton, Chairman (Carbon Co.)

Conference call participants: Sonja Macys (Routt Co.); Arla Strasser (Carbon Co.); Duane Short (Albany Co.)

Unable to participate: Jack Berger (Carbon Co., proxy to Arla Strasser), Doug Monger (Routt Co., proxy to Sonja Macys)

Aaron handed out certificates to new members.

Aaron mentioned the Forest Annual Report and handed it out with a packet of information for each of the members. Aaron will send out the information that the people on the phone had not previously received.

Public Forum Discussion (public addressing the RAC)
No one from the public was in attendance to speak.

FY14 Project Proposal Presentations / Explanations

Tony Mong - The FS went into a partnership with UW to inform people of the outcome of the Bark Beetle Epidemic. Tony Mong did a study on how the Bark Beetle affected the wildlife in the beetle killed forest. This project came about because of the RAC. The video [Elk: Beyond Bark Beetles](#) was shown. Tony then did a power point presentation on why we need to maintain a healthy herd of elk and how that will benefit regeneration of the forest after the beetle epidemic. Matt Hays discussed mapping of the terrain on a fine scale. They are asking for funds for more focus on accurately depicting where beetle kill is occurring and what stage it is in. They also want to focus on continued elk data collection.

Discussion of new projects

- Overview of new projects.
 - o Albany County – \$13,036 available.
 - Watershed Health/ORV Management - \$23,000 requested - **\$13,036 awarded**
 - o Jackson County – \$4,494 available.
 - Ellis Trail Reroute - \$4,500 requested - **\$4,494 awarded.**
 - o Routt County - \$10,369 available.
 - Buffalo Pass Road Improvements - \$10,000 additional funds requested - **\$10,369 awarded.**
 - o Rio Blanco County - \$45,670 available.
 - Marvine Creek Road Project - \$45,670 requested - **\$45,670 awarded.**
 - o Carbon County - \$35,072 available.
 - Beetle Kill Effects on Elk/Hunters - \$35,000 requested - **\$20,000 awarded.**
 - East Fork Encampment/Coon Creek Weir Removal - \$20,000 requested - **\$15,072 awarded.**
 - Watershed Health/ORV Management - \$18,700 requested – No award.

- Win made a motion to approve Rio Blanco, Routt, Jackson, and Albany proposals. Jerry seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.
- Discussion on Carbon County projects.
- Linda moved that the RAC fund the East Fork for \$15,072 and Beetle Kill for \$20,000. Ron Iverson seconded. Further discussion: Dave Gloss will be the manager for the East Fork project. Motion carried.
- Carolyn Upton, MBRTB Deputy Forest Supervisor and RAC Designated Federal Official, accepts these recommendations and appreciates everyone's work on this committee.

Status of past projects

Next steps / Future of the RAC – everything we are hearing from the WO is that the RAC will be renewed for at least another year and perhaps there will be a multi-year extension. We will know the dollar amounts later in the fall. A good guess is 5% less than 2014 amounts.

Upcoming time frame – Aaron will call for project proposals in October or November and this group will meet early in the year. The letter from DFO (Carolyn) will go out soon. The letter for project solicitation will go out in email and press release.

Membership needs, recruitment – The committee lost a quorum in category A and had to go through the process of getting new members. Aaron advertised and outreached to the public at large for new members. He received 20 new applications so that puts us in a good place moving into next year. We have an opening in Category B, as well as openings for alternates. We also lack a member in Category C. We will look for one more member in Category A. We are light on Jackson County and Albany County. Aaron will send out a list of the current applicants to the members of the committee.

Travel reimbursement questions (if necessary) – Members should contact Tahna if reimbursement is needed for travel. Win Dermody, Linda Flemming, and Ron Iverson requested forms.

Aaron went over the Status Report for the group. This group has recommended over 1 million dollars in funds.

Aaron showed photos of completed work. If there are any questions about specific projects, they should contact Aaron.

Win reminded everyone that this is the 50 year anniversary of the Wilderness Act. Many events recognizing this are going on.

Jerry adjourned the meeting at 1:12.