WIR Board of Directors
Fall Meeting
October 2-4, 2013
Minutes

October 3

(8:05) Convene/call to order

(8:06) Welcome – Colorado Mesa Univ. President; Mayor Susuras, Grand Junction, Colo.; John Justman, Commissioner, Mesa County

(8:19) Mike Gordon – motion to approve minutes

(8:21) Frank Hutfless, Attorney, Garfield County, Colo.: Overview of draft legislation amending the Land & Water Conservation Fund and Payment in Lieu of Taxes program

(9:00) Ryan Yates – PILT Legislative Proposals:
- Include offshore revenue sharing with coastal communities in coalition
- Include critical habitat as entitlement acres
- In LWCF formula, allow new use of funds for maintenance of purchased lands
- Keep door open for SRS/timber payments
- LWCF – news standards of “community impact” prior to acquisition

(9:46) Dr. Vince Matthews, Geologist: Speaking on the importance of public lands and natural resources to the U.S. economy and local environments

(11:25) Speaker: Discussion of Colorado’s Federal Mineral Lease District and the Colorado Federal Mineral Lease District Act
- Mike Samson, Commissioner, Garfield County, Colo.
- Gregg Rippy, President, Garfield County Federal Mineral Lease District
- Andrew Gorgey, General Counsel, Garfield County Federal Mineral Lease District

(12:15) Break for lunch


(1:41) Shane Worrell: speaking on proposed private sector biomass reduction and recovery plans
- Includes plans to harvest, remove, and convert vegetable biomass into marketable byproducts, thereby turning the hazards of excess overgrowth on public and private lands into a viable natural resource

(2:20) Frank Hutfless: Proposed Historic Routes Preservation Act of 2013 (effort to reform RS 2477 legislation)

(3:20) Lesley Robinson: WIR Fall Board Meeting in Phillips County (Malta), Montana, Oct 1-3, 2014

Adjourn for the day
October 4, 2013

(8:11) Reconvene
(8:12) Pledge of Allegiance

Breidenthal: bill in Oregon prohibiting counties from regulating GMO seeds

Rapozo: county legislation allowing counties to enforce pesticides/GMO regulations
- could lose 800-1000 agriculture jobs
- counties would have to create own Dept. of Agriculture to manage enforcement – major cost impact to counties
- In Hawaii county, looking at a proposed total ban of GMOs

Jackson county officials cited concerns about timber sales, international and domestic trade, and impacts to rural economic growth

FAA issues – two possible resolutions:
- Hawaii route closed from Japan to Kona
- Alaska – prohibit small planes from landing at night

Discussion of the Tongass Forest Plan and the need to cut “new growth” while preserving “old growth”

Tim Josi: Talked about listing of the marble murrelet, a N. Pacific sea bird. In California, environmental groups sued a timber company over the marbled murrelet and won, and are now suing the state of Oregon. The lawsuits have taken 90% of the forest land off the market, such as Elliot state forest in Oregon, and have the potential to shut down all forests within 50 miles of the coast.

Doug Thompson: Discussed the efforts to list the Sage Grouse, noting that the National Technical Team Report is driving much of the listing efforts. The report has been criticized by the mining industry

Clint Farlee: Counties are looking at bankruptcy, need PILT-like funding for tribal lands.

(9:56) WIR Priorities: Demar Dahl led a discussion of land transfers
- Kevin Cann – Add ESA reform – look into asking NESARC to survey counties and costs

Motion to adopt priorities and add ESA Reform approved

(10:18) Financials – motion to approve financials approved

(10:47) Adjourn