



**Time and Location:** Delta County Admin Building, 4-5:30 pm May 13  
**In Attendance:** Meghan Kent, Chris Herrman, Karen Mahoney, Scott Powers, Dave Postle, Wendell Koontz, Christie Aschwanden, Rick Murdica, Jeff Bates, Mike LeMaster, Zack Kelley, Melanie Rees, Amber Swasey, Libby Collins, Rachel Sralla, Morgan Rossway, Tatiana, Caroline Kilbane, Janie VanWinkle, Judith Lopez, Keith Miller

**Adobe Badlands Volunteer Day** Wendell shared information for Delta County's upcoming Adobe Badlands Cleanup on May 17th. Volunteers will meet at 8 am at the intersection of Trap Club Road and Fairview Rd in Austin for a 4 hour cleanup. The site has been tagged by BLM for hazmat. This opened a conversation around the increasing barrier of Hazmat for cleanups. Judith Lopez was also present at the meeting and was recognized for her ongoing efforts with the Adobe Badlands WSA. She reports there has been improvement with dumping in the area over time.

**Hazmat Certification for Volunteer Events** Chris Herrman brought up a recent conversation with Jeff Bates and Grand Mesa Jeep Club. What would it take to get more people certified for hazmat? Is that a training WSOV could provide? Hazmat is a barrier/delay to doing cleanups. Montrose has 1 staff that can do the hazmat portion, but this is collateral duty rather than priority. They are the geologist for the field office. The Grand Valley office does have one staff for hazmat, but she is shared among 6 offices. BLM shared that to become certified requires a 40 hour training, and then an annual refresher. While it may be possible for non-BLM staff to become certified, it would be a significant investment. Amber Swasey, Natural Resources Director for Mesa County, shared that she is Hazmat certified. Still, there is a question of liability for trained volunteers with hazmat. Longer conversation is warranted for the next meeting.

**WSOV** Morgan Rossway presented about the [West Slope Outdoor Volunteers](#), a regional stewardship collective to harness volunteer energy for on-the-ground projects. The group was awarded a GOCO grant to help fund this work over the next 3 years, and has grants for partners with volunteer projects of up to \$1600 for capacity and supplies. Additionally, the group will offer trainings for volunteers including Authority of the Resource and practical skills. Already, they have hosted a free LNT Level 1 training. In addition, they host a central website for volunteer opportunities on the Western Slope (Mesa, Montrose and Delta counties). Groups can send them events to share on their calendar as well as on social media. WSOV will not take over RSVP or intake information, but will make it easy for interested volunteers to RSVP how the hosting group wants them to. WSOV meets quarterly. The next meeting will be July 9th, hybrid, from 3-4:30. Anyone who wants to attend can ask Morgan to be added to the email list, [morgan@canyonsassociation.org](mailto:morgan@canyonsassociation.org). For future meetings outside Grand Junction, Wendell offered for WSOV to use the meeting room that WSOA uses in the County Admin building in Delta.

## Projects

Multi-Use and Grazing Sign: Janie provided an update on the multi-use and grazing signs, see below for most current version:

She shared that they will be stand-alone signs using angled sign holders provided by the BLM. The first signs will be installed at Little Park Rd, Lunch Loops, and 18 Road. She is looking for volunteers to help install the signs. The first 3 of 18 signs are hoped to be installed by the end of May; may need help installing. Additionally, Janie is looking for volunteers from WSOA for 3 field days of evaluation: proposed for June 13, 15, and 21 from 7 am to noon. A question came up related to the signs asking if the signs could also be used outside Mesa County? Jumbo would be a good location. The tentative answer was 'yes' - to be confirmed. Mike LeMaster shared that for future projects, Stay the Trail has a grant for paying for signs.

Guzzlers Dean and John were not able to attend the meeting, but Meghan shared their progress in inventorying guzzlers in Mesa County and that she was able to upload known locations to OnX. This will enable other group members to assist in the inventory as they are out recreating. Janie offered to share a photo of the guzzler on land she grazes. Meghan will look into putting together a form to make it easy to record information on them, but group members are also comfortable taking a photo with their phone and screenshotting from the compass app in case their location data isn't shared. Dean and John plan to continue to get locations for guzzlers from the other counties, and have more information to share at the next meeting. Rachel Sralla of CPW filled in some of the gaps from her recent meeting with them, including that she introduced them to Alyssa (I didn't catch last name) for guzzler siting because they have a guzzler ready to put on the landscape, in addition for rehab of guzzlers around

Montrose. One question CPW is interested in when we inventory these is if they are suitable for a diversity of wildlife.

Rimrocker Trail: Jeff and Rick shared that GMJC volunteers will GPS the trail at the end of the month; once that's done it will be close to ready. The question was posed of how does WSOA tie in? One proposal was that once information is shared on the GMJC website, group members can highlight different aspects of it that might appeal to other outdoor users. Additionally, public information around LNT/Responsible Recreation and seasonal closures can be a way that WSOA interfaces with this project.

Other: Escalante Ranch: Chris shared that The Conservation Fund would like a letter from WSOA supporting the transfer of the Escalante Ranch to BLM ownership. There is no requirement from BLM/Gov't at this point for the letter, but the letter could help The Conservation Fund down the road. The question for the group is what we would need to decide whether or not to write a letter. After discussion, the group decided to have Christine with The Conservation Fund as well as Jana with BLM (if available) present at the next virtual meeting about the project. The group requests a short (3-4 slides) presentation with more time for discussion and questions rather than lecture-style. A draft letter will be prepared for the group to review and make modifications to and base discussion from.

**Event Recap- WSOA/GVORC Campfire Session** Meghan shared pros and cons from the event in April. Overall, she felt it was a success and was good exposure for WSOA. Multiple steering committee members participated in the event; their feedback was overall positive but included getting rid of the stage time for each group to talk, as well as rethinking the live music. Montrose Rec District is interested in repeating the event with WSOA in Montrose, potentially with a broader scope of organizations involved.

**Event Recap- RPI Summit and Partners in the Outdoors** Meghan shared her highlights from these two events which ran in April in Colorado Springs. She had the chance to meet with other RPIs and see the high variety in their scope- some included affordable housing- as well as size- ranging from 1 county to 6 counties. Cindy Williams of Envision Chaffee offered to share design files for LNT-messaging on Portapotties, which could be a future project for WSOA. Most of the Summit and Partners in the Outdoors conference was centered around the Colorado Outdoor Strategy, a broad framework that will be a guiding star as WSOA puts together its ask of GOCO over the next few years. The planning committee will be putting together what that ask will be, proposed to start with a smaller 'early wins' grant and then a larger ask. Another takeaway from the conference was the River Map effort, a new initiative that may be partially focused on the Gunnison River.

**COPMOBA- Smith Mountain** Peter Brown of the Delta Area Mountain Bikers (DAMB) chapter of COPMOBA presented to the group about the proposed trails at Smith Mountain. While the entire trail concept is 100 miles, the group is starting with a 25 mile system. He shared an online map that included data from CPW. Part of one trail overlaps with Golden Eagle nesting site, and there is threatened cactus in the area. The trail overlapping Golden Eagle habitat is proposed to be moved elsewhere. Some of the trails have already undergone an archaeological survey and an (expired) biological survey. The system will use existing parking lots and is within a triangle of

jeep roads, although parking lots would likely need expanded for capacity. There is sheep grazing from January to March, and Peter was recommended by Janie/Wendell/producers in the group to reach out to the lessee early to start conversations. BLM stated they would prefer conversations with the lessee to go through them first, rather than from the mountain bike group directly. The next steps for COPMOBA is to finish the proposal for BLM, and then seek funding for surveys. BLM shared that they appreciate WSOA's input on these things because WSOA can help figure out the community support/need. As BLM works with the three COPMOBA chapters, each might have its own trail proposal and there is a need to know which of the proposals is priority and will receive funding. BLM shared that there is a shovel-ready mountain bike project already in Delta CO that has not moved forward because of funding. What projects have community support and permittees on board?