NWCO OUTDOORS ALLIANCE

Public Meeting & Steering Committee Record

Most Current to Earliest | September 2025-June 2026

Craig • Meeker • Rangely

A unified archive of meeting agendas and corresponding notes, arranged in reverse chronological order. The record documents the transition from community-wide public input sessions into the Alliance's ongoing, open Steering Committee governance process.

Prepared June 2026

1. How to Read This Record

This archive is intentionally organized in descending order, placing the newest meeting first. When an agenda was supplied, it appears immediately before the corresponding notes. Where no agenda was supplied, that absence is identified rather than reconstructed from memory.

> *The three February 2026 meetings used the same agenda and substantially repeated the same Alliance update in Craig, Meeker, and Rangely. This was deliberate: the Alliance was maintaining direct engagement in each community while receiving Steering Committee submissions, refining the Charter, and moving toward appointments. The shared agenda is shown once, followed by the separate notes from each community.*

Meeting Index — Newest First

Date	Community	Meeting Phase	Materials
June 11, 2026	Craig	Steering Committee	Draft agenda only; notes not yet available
May 18, 2026	Rangely	Steering Committee	Agenda + notes
April 9, 2026	Meeker	Steering Committee	Agenda + notes
March 18, 2026	Craig, Colorado	First meeting of the newly appointed Steering Committee	Notes; no separate agenda supplied
February 11, 2026	Rangely	Public Input Round #2	Shared February agenda + local notes
February 4, 2026	Meeker	Public Input Round #2	Shared February agenda + local notes
February 3, 2026	Craig	Public Input Round #2	Shared February agenda + local notes
October 29, 2025	Rangely	Public Input Round #1	Notes; no separate agenda supplied
October 23, 2025	Craig	Public Input Round #1	Notes; no separate agenda supplied
September 24, 2025	Meeker	Public Input Round #1	Notes; no separate agenda supplied

2. Meeting Records — Descending Chronological Order

June 11, 2026 — Craig

Meeting Agenda [DRAFT AGENDA]

2:00-4:00 p.m.
Moffat County Board of County Commissioners Board Room
1198 W. Victory Way, Suite 10, Craig, CO 81625

Outcomes

- Discuss current Alliance deliverables, including the Draft Plan, website, Outdoor Asset Map, and early wins.
- Provide a Letter of Intent and next-grant-phase update.
- Introduce the project scoring-matrix framework and continue project discussion.

Agenda Schedule

Time	Item
2:00 p.m.	Welcome / Establish Quorum
2:05 p.m.	Approve notes from previous meeting
2:10 p.m.	Draft Plan - Jon
2:15 p.m.	LOI Update and Next Grant Phase - Mistalynn
2:30 p.m.	Signage Project Update - Mistalynn
2:45 p.m.	Project Scoring Matrix Framework - Kari
3:00 p.m.	Asset Map Update - Kari
3:15 p.m.	NWCO Alliance Updates and Website Update - Jon
3:25 p.m.	Meeker Chamber of Commerce Letter of Support - Kari
3:30 p.m.	Presentation - Melanie Kilpatrick, City of Craig
3:45 p.m.	Future Meetings Discussion - Kari
3:50 p.m.	Public Comment
4:00 p.m.	Adjourn

Meeting Notes

Meeting notes were not included in the supplied materials. This section is reserved for the final record after the meeting.

May 18, 2026 — Rangely

Meeting Agenda

2:00-4:00 p.m.
Rangely District Hospital Conference Room
225 Eagle Crest Drive, Rangely, CO 81648

Outcomes

- Review future Alliance deliverables, including the website, Outdoor Asset Map, and early wins.
- Advance the Draft Plan and prepare it for CPW submission.
- Review the next grant phase, expectations, and deadlines.
- Introduce the ongoing project list and discuss prioritization tiers.

Agenda Schedule

Time	Item
2:00 p.m.	Welcome / Establish Quorum
2:05 p.m.	Approve notes from previous meeting
2:10 p.m.	Presentation - Larry Hoover
2:30 p.m.	Draft Plan and Develop Action Team - Jon
2:50 p.m.	Next Grant Phase - Mistalynn
3:10 p.m.	Project Prioritization and Project List
3:30 p.m.	NWCO Updates and Website Introduction - Jon and Kari
3:50 p.m.	Public Comment
4:00 p.m.	Adjourn

Consolidated Meeting Notes

Steering Committee Meeting #3 — May 18, 2026

Time and location: 2:00-4:16 p.m., Rangely District Hospital Conference Room, Rangely, Colorado.

Attendance: Eleven of thirteen Steering Committee members were present, establishing a quorum. The meeting also included facilitators, advisory and agency participants, stakeholders, and members of the public.

Meeting purpose: Review a community project concept, advance the regional plan, prepare for Phase III funding, and establish a repeatable method for prioritizing projects.

Administrative Action

- April meeting notes were reviewed by email before the meeting and unanimously accepted by the Steering Committee.

Public Project Presentation: Cross Mountain / Little Snake Staging Concept

Larry Hoover presented a multi-use staging and access concept near the Little Snake River and Cross Mountain area. His supporting materials include a hand-drawn location map and a written proposal for an approximately 40-acre State of Colorado parcel near County Road 10, County Road 25, County Road 133, the Little Snake River, a gravel pit, and the North Cross Mountain Wilderness Study Area.

- Proposed uses include OHV and dirt-bike staging, trail access, camping and picnicking, horseback riding, hiking, hunting, fishing, bird watching, rafting, canoeing, and other river recreation.
- Potential infrastructure includes a vehicle-and-trailer parking area, boat ramp, horse corral, water source or well, pit toilets, shade trees, and basic sanitation facilities.

- The adjacent gravel source was identified as a possible practical advantage for constructing the staging area.
- The concept is intended to serve multiple user groups while improving organized access to Cross Mountain, East Douglas Mountain, and the Little Snake River corridor.
- The presentation prompted questions and discussion about land ownership, partnerships, access, conservation, implementation feasibility, and multi-use design.

Draft Plan Update and Action-Team Approach

- Jon presented a more developed version of the regional draft plan.
- CPW provided written questions and suggestions through Tori Manogue.
- Kari committed to forward the CPW feedback and draft plan to members.
- The committee discussed forming an Action Team to work more intensively on revisions between full meetings and return an updated version to the Alliance.

Phase III Grant Strategy

- The Phase III Letter of Intent deadline was identified as May 29, with the full application due July 22 and a workshop or review process expected in September or October.
- Capacity lane: approximately $50,000-$150,000 for one to two years of partnership and convening capacity.
- Plan and Early Win lane: approximately $50,000-$350,000 for one to three years of plan development plus early implementation.
- Regional Impact lane: approximately $250,000-$2.5 million for one to three years of on-the-ground work with landscape-scale impact.
- Strong proposals should demonstrate broad support, multiple jurisdictions or sites, recreation and conservation benefits, equitable access, implementation readiness, and clear match or momentum.

Conservation and Field Project Concepts

- Use wildlife-habitat outcomes as a central project frame, with wildfire mitigation presented as a complementary benefit where appropriate.
- Explore fencing partnerships with the Cattlemen’s Association, U.S. Forest Service, conservation districts, counties, and other land-management partners.
- Consider seeding, erosion control, weed management, habitat restoration, and post-fire remediation using tools such as root balls, rock bedding, and woody material to slow water and stabilize affected areas.
- Investigate opportunities around County Road 16 in Moffat County, sage-grouse habitat, critical wildlife areas, and conservation easements.
- Coordinate with CPW, BLM, NRCS, conservation districts, pest districts, and possible NIFWIF-related funding sources.
- Identify volunteer groups and partners that are ready to implement work and may provide in-kind match.

Project Prioritization Matrix

The committee established the following preliminary ranking criteria, in the order discussed:

- Impact-to-cost ratio
- Multiple benefits
- Implementation readiness / shovel readiness
- Maintenance versus new development
- Alignment with community priorities
- Number and strength of partners
- Cash or in-kind match
- Easements or land acquisition

- Habitat benefit or impact
- Total cost

Communications and Follow-Up

- The framework for the new NWCO Alliance website was introduced, with launch anticipated within approximately one month.
- Follow-up tasks included circulating CPW comments, organizing an Action Team, continuing project development, and contacting CPW regarding conservation-easement questions.

Key governance milestone: The committee shifted from general project brainstorming to an explicit project pipeline: public presentation, technical refinement, Action Team development, scoring criteria, grant-lane alignment, and future funding decisions.

April 9, 2026 — Meeker

Steering Committee Meeting Agenda

6:00-8:00 p.m.
Town of Meeker Town Hall
345 Market Street, Meeker, CO 81641

Outcomes

- Introduce and discuss the CORA/privacy policy and Charter definitions; adopt changes as needed.
- Review Alliance deliverables, including the website, Outdoor Asset Map, and early-win stewardship/signage campaign.
- Advance the Conservation/Recreation Draft Plan for CPW submission.

Agenda Schedule

Time	Item
6:00 p.m.	Welcome / Establish Quorum
6:05 p.m.	Approve notes from previous meeting
6:10 p.m.	Charter Addendums: CORA/Privacy Policy and Definitions
6:35 p.m.	CPW Presentation - Tori Manogue
6:55 p.m.	NWCO Update and Draft Plan
7:50 p.m.	Public Comment
8:00 p.m.	Adjourn

Consolidated Meeting Notes

Steering Committee Meeting #2 — April 9, 2026

Time and location: 6:00-8:10 p.m., Meeker Town Hall, Meeker, Colorado.

Attendance: Twenty-seven total attendees. Twelve of thirteen Steering Committee members were present, establishing a quorum.

Meeting purpose: Approve governance refinements, orient the committee to the statewide Regional Partnerships Initiative, review the substantive strategic plan draft, and advance early-win implementation work.

Administrative Approvals and Charter Additions

- Notes from the March meeting were unanimously approved without change.
- The committee unanimously approved an Engagement paragraph for the Charter. The policy confirms that official public engagement should occur through public comment, written communication to facilitators, and the Alliance website rather than direct, unstructured outreach to volunteer members.
- The Engagement language acknowledges AGNC's obligations under the Colorado Open Records Act while protecting and redacting personal contact information for volunteer committee members when appropriate for privacy and safety.
- The committee approved a revised mission statement emphasizing informed planning, balance among conservation, recreation, and agriculture, and protection of private property rights.
- The committee discussed "rural" versus "frontier." It retained "rural" in the mission statement while recognizing that "frontier" may be useful in grant narratives and other contextual materials.
- Members were assigned to identify terms that may require formal definitions, including "sportsmen," so future readers interpret the Charter consistently.

CPW Regional Partnerships Initiative Orientation

- Tori Manogue, CPW Western Slope Regional Partnership Coordinator, provided a statewide overview of the Regional Partnerships Initiative.
- The presentation described 24 regional partnerships covering most of Colorado and outlined the progression from capacity building to plan development, early wins, and implementation funding.
- The Colorado Outdoor Strategy Resource Hub and Codex mapping platform were introduced as tools for comparing recreation assets with wildlife and conservation information.
- The committee was oriented to the potential scale of later implementation funding once the regional plan and partnership capacity are sufficiently developed.

Strategic Draft Plan Review

- Jon Miller presented an expanded strategic plan draft created by consolidating prior public input, survey findings, land-use plans, and existing regional documents.
- The “maintenance first” theme was highlighted: residents strongly favor taking care of existing assets—such as vault toilets, signs, roads, and damaged trails—before pursuing extensive new development.
- The plan reflects a desire to avoid the “Moab Effect”: unmanaged high-volume visitation, loss of solitude, degradation of the frontier experience, and increased pressure on housing and local quality of life.
- Hunting, OHV use, and camping were identified among the region’s most prominent outdoor activities.
- Aaron Grimes of the U.S. Forest Service discussed landscape-scale habitat work in areas including Miller Creek, Hay Flats, and Papoose Creek, using prescribed fire, mastication, and related treatments to improve forage for wildlife and livestock.
- The committee discussed the importance of identifying and protecting agricultural production areas, including lambing and calving areas, when recreation projects and access are considered.
- Committee editorial feedback on the draft plan was requested by April 23.

Website and Early-Win Projects

- Contracts were in place for the Alliance website, with an initial launch targeted around the next meeting.
- An early-win signage project was underway for 18 BLM kiosks, an OHV area near Rangely, and a recreation area near Meeker.
- The group confirmed the need for a transparent scoring matrix to compare and prioritize future projects.

Key governance milestone: The committee expanded its Charter to define public-engagement channels, received formal RPI orientation, and began translating community input into a substantive strategy and visible early-win work.

March 18, 2026 — Craig — First Appointed Steering Committee Meeting

No separate agenda was included in the supplied files for this meeting. The record below is based on the consolidated meeting notes.

Consolidated Meeting Notes

Steering Committee Meeting #1 — March 18, 2026 — Craig, Colorado

Location and attendance: Held in Craig, Colorado. Twelve of thirteen newly appointed Steering Committee members were present, establishing a quorum. This was the first meeting of the appointed Steering Committee. The meeting also included Advisory Committee members, CPW technical advisors, and a public stakeholder. The supplied notes identify Carly Thomson as absent.

Meeting purpose: Convene the newly appointed Steering Committee for the first time; establish working norms; review project-management expectations; adopt the Alliance Charter; and begin formal development of the regional draft plan.

Committee Formation and Working Norms

- Kari Brennan reviewed the appointment process. Thirteen members were selected from 35 applicants using criteria that considered user-group representation, commitment, willingness to travel, geographic balance, and the overall mix of perspectives needed around the table.
- Jon Miller emphasized the need to move from engagement into “speed and traction” while retaining an open, transparent process.
- Members and participants introduced themselves and their backgrounds to establish working relationships and group cohesion.
- The committee adopted the “thumbs method” as its voting mechanism and affirmed that all members should have a reasonable opportunity to speak.
- Meetings were confirmed as open to the public. In-person attendance is encouraged, with remote access available by request when needed.

Project Management and Deliverables

- The immediate deliverables were identified as an adopted Charter, a regional draft plan, an outdoor asset map, and a public-facing website.
- The Charter and draft plan were expected to be completed for submission by the end of April 2026.
- The new domain nwcoalliance.org had been secured. The website kickoff was scheduled for March 19, with meeting records and draft materials intended for public access.
- Reece Milton was identified to lead development of the Outdoor Asset Map, with committee input expected as project ideas take shape.
- The group recognized compressed timelines and the need for members to review materials and provide feedback between meetings.

Charter Review and Adoption

- The draft Charter was reviewed collaboratively on screen, section by section, with edits discussed in real time.
- The committee maintained the four core pillars throughout the document: Conservation, Agriculture, Recreation, and Economy.
- The mission was refined to emphasize wise use of public and private lands and balance between conservation and sustainable use.
- Language was added or strengthened around hunting, fishing, trapping, rivers, water resources, wildlife habitat connectivity, stewardship, and local traditions.

- The Charter was unanimously adopted by a 12-0 vote, with explicit recognition that it may be reviewed and amended as the Alliance matures.

Draft Plan Direction

- The draft plan framework follows CPW's "Key Planning Elements" and was introduced through its table of contents.
- Members recommended placing the mission statement near the beginning of the plan and explicitly including hunting, fishing, and trapping in the recreation section.
- Facilitators committed to circulate examples from other regional partnerships and the CPW planning guide.
- Members were asked to review the outline, consult the interests they represent, and begin identifying possible early-win and on-the-ground projects.

Key governance milestone: The Alliance moved from public formation into formal committee governance by adopting its Charter and assigning between-meeting responsibilities for plan development and project identification.

February 2026 — Three-Community Public Meeting Series

These were three intentionally redundant community meetings held in Craig, Meeker, and Rangely. The same core presentation, agenda, grant update, survey review, Asset Map discussion, and Charter introduction were repeated in each location so residents could participate locally while Steering Committee applications were being submitted, reviewed, and moved toward appointment. Each community record below preserves the distinct attendance, questions, and feedback received at that event.

Shared Public Input Meeting Agenda

Craig - February 3, 2026
Meeker - February 4, 2026
Rangely - February 11, 2026
6:00 p.m. in each community

Outcomes

- Provide Alliance, Asset Map, current grant-phase, and 2026-2027 schedule updates.
- Introduce the Charter as the governance framework for the next phase.
- Review survey results and the overall needs assessment for both counties.

Agenda Schedule

Time	Item
6:00 p.m.	Welcome and Introductions - Kari
6:05 p.m.	Current Grant Phase and Asset Map Update - Jon
6:20 p.m.	Survey Results - Kari
6:40 p.m.	2026 Schedule and Meeting Projections - Jon
6:45 p.m.	Charter Introduction - Kari
7:55 p.m.	Q&A and Public Comment
8:00 p.m.	Adjourn

February 11, 2026 — Rangely Notes

Rangely Public Meeting #2 — February 11, 2026

Attendance: 12 in person and 4 online.

Charter feedback:

- Replace “protect local ways of life” with “protect local customs and cultures.”
- Use language recognizing conservation stewards.
- Replace “reduce harm” with wording such as “minimize impacts,” “mitigate negative impacts,” or “manage impacts.”

February 4, 2026 — Meeker Notes

Meeker Public Meeting #2 — February 4, 2026

Attendance: Approximately 20 participants.

Charter feedback:

- Remove “volunteer” from the phrase “supporting volunteer conservation efforts.”
- Expand the mission beyond public lands to recognize private lands.

- Prefer language focused on minimizing impacts.
- Reconsider language related to closures.
- Consider “enthusiasts” rather than “advocates.”
- Clarify language about promoting or protecting wildlife already present in the region.
- Develop regional conservation through stewardship.
- Define voting quorum requirements.
- Establish a method to address conflict before and within formal group meetings.

February 3, 2026 — Craig Notes

Craig Public Meeting #2 — February 3, 2026

Reported attendance varies by source: facilitator notes record 32 participants, while a separate Craig meeting record dated February 2 records 28. The shared published agenda and combined facilitator notes identify the Craig event as February 3; the one-day discrepancy is retained here as a source-record variance rather than silently resolved.

- Meeting location: Craig Chamber of Commerce.
- Representation: Participants represented a broad cross-section of interests, including CPW, Moffat County CattleWomen, the Moffat County Land Use Board, Yampa-White-Green Basin Roundtable, ranching, the school district, the BLM Little Snake Field Office, tourism and local marketing, trail and snowmobile groups, outfitters, the Wild Animal Sanctuary / wild horse interests, and community members.
- Outdoor Asset Map: The group discussed a regional map incorporating water, wildlife, energy, and outdoor assets, including the possibility of an interactive format. Participants raised numerous questions about its scope and use.
- Grant cycle: Facilitators reviewed the next grant cycle, expected to begin in April 2026 and run for 24 months, with eligibility to pursue the following funding round in the fall.
- Steering Committee formation: The meeting included discussion of how the Steering Committee would be formed, the application and appointment process, and which industries and interests should be represented.
- Application access: Attendees were asked to use a QR code to access Steering Committee application information. Because the code did not work for everyone, facilitators committed to email the link to attendees and the broader contact list and to identify additional distribution channels.
- Discussion referenced crowding and wildlife displacement in the Grand Valley and asked whether some destinations are being “loved to death.”
- Cinnamon Pass and the Silverton/Lake City area were cited as examples of visitor-management and maintenance challenges.
- The principal takeaway was to educate visitors, build appreciation for local conditions, and plan for maintenance before use levels become unmanageable.

October 29, 2025 — Rangely Public Meeting #1

No separate agenda was included in the supplied files for this meeting. The record below is based on the consolidated meeting notes.

Rangely Public Meeting #1 — October 29, 2025

Attendance: Approximately 29 participants.

Community values expressed during introductions:

- Responsible trail use and economic development.
- Keep the area rural, grassroots, wholesome, and open.
- Protect public lands and existing access, including BLM lands.
- Preserve the freedom to get away from crowds and experience large landscapes.
- Enable future generations to enjoy the same opportunities current residents grew up with.

Conservation discussion:

- Conserve places without ignoring how they have historically been used.
- Take care of land, restore it where needed, and protect what is unique.
- Balance stewardship with economic growth and responsible recreation.
- Recognize land's value through practical, multiple use.
- Protect local culture and maintain access for older adults and people with disabilities.
- Use a "wise use" approach: not no-use preservation, but using land correctly and responsibly.

Ideas and opportunities:

- Explore a connected OHV route linking Grand Junction, Rangely, Vernal, Craig, Meeker, and back toward Grand Junction.
- Create more looping trails and opportunities for mountain biking, hiking, horseback riding, 4-H, OHV use, and other activities.
- Partner with BLM and local clubs on trash removal, maintenance, guides, event sweeps, and responsible-use expectations.
- Improve signs explaining game-management gates and whether access is motorized, nonmotorized, or walk-in only.
- Use "Stay the Trail" and similar programs as education partnerships.
- Create a locally grounded "This Is How We Do It in NWCO" responsible-use campaign.
- Use cameras, technology, reporting programs, rangers, Ranch Watch, Operation Game Thief, and community coordination to improve management and accountability.
- Support events and activities that strengthen shoulder-season visitation without overwhelming local capacity.

Resource and land-use concerns:

- Protect cultural sites and archaeological resources from vandalism and unmanaged access.
- Manage access around sensitive places rather than publicizing every location.
- Recognize that some nonmotorized or walk-in areas can protect hunting quality and wildlife refuge.
- Improve communication between recreationists, ranchers, oil and gas operators, and people moving livestock on county roads.
- Teach visitors how to behave around herds and livestock guardian dogs.
- Ensure planning works for recreationists as well as cattle, sheep, agriculture, and working landscapes.

Economic and funding concerns:

- A strong base economy is essential; recreation alone cannot carry the region.
- Matching-fund requirements create a significant disadvantage as oil, gas, and coal revenues decline.
- Project sequencing may need to consider where local match is already available.
- Participants reported prior unsuccessful GOCO applications tied to insufficient matching funds.

October 23, 2025 — Craig Public Meeting #1

No separate agenda was included in the supplied files for this meeting. The record below is based on the consolidated meeting notes.

Craig Public Meeting #1 — October 23, 2025

Attendance: 29 participants.

Conservation discussion:

- Wise use of resources.
- Leave places better than they were found.
- Keep generational roots, history, and local identity appreciated.
- Ensure resources remain available for future generations.
- Use active management and good stewardship.
- Protect open spaces and wildlife habitat at the large landscape scale found in Moffat County.

Future priorities and concerns:

- Protect access to walking routes, motorized trails, roads, and existing public-land opportunities.
- Do not close roads simply for the sake of closure; pursue sustained and better-managed access.
- Avoid becoming a high-volume tourism community like Steamboat Springs or Aspen.
- Protect grassroots values, lifestyle, and heritage while supporting responsible recreation.
- Guide visitors toward appropriate places and away from special or fragile locations.
- Get ahead of future growth rather than waiting for impacts to become entrenched.

Governance and process questions:

- How will projects be prioritized?
- What is the process intended to accomplish?
- When and how will draft materials be made available to the public?
- How will Moffat County be represented fairly on the steering committee?
- How will diversity of interests be maintained so no single group dominates?
- Can projects on BLM or U.S. Forest Service lands be supported? Notes indicate yes.
- Could funding support events as well as physical projects? Notes indicate this may be possible.

September 24, 2025 — Meeker Public Meeting #1

No separate agenda was included in the supplied files for this meeting. The record below is based on the consolidated meeting notes.

Meeker Public Meeting #1 — September 24, 2025

Attendance and context: Approximately 30 participants. Only three attendees were reportedly aware of or previously involved with the project, indicating a need for broader public orientation and outreach.

Process notes: The Colorado Outdoor Strategy was identified as a possible framework. Participants requested links to resources and a shared public index of relevant documents. A question was raised about state or federal grant match requirements; notes referenced a possible 10% minimum.

Conservation discussion:

- Responsible use of land and natural resources.
- Conservation as the foundation for all other goals: without land, soil, and water, other uses cannot function.
- Planned management compatible with multiple use.
- Need for a clear RPI or State definition of conservation and its relationship to preservation and sustainability.
- Potential use of the Rio Blanco County Conservation District Natural Resource Plan and County Land Use Plan.

Future priorities and concerns:

- Maintain agricultural culture, hunting traditions, heritage, and local equity.
- Prevent gentrification and the economic displacement of producers and long-time residents.
- Support agriculture-, natural-resource-, trade-, and hospitality-focused education.
- Build economic sustainability, revenue diversification, and resilience.
- Keep younger people in the community and create pathways for them to work in agriculture and related industries.
- Promote recreation carefully: retain solitude, avoid crowding and day-use permitting, and do not over-market the region.
- Improve education, management, signage, and enforcement before impacts become severe.
- Use youth engagement and public understanding of stewardship as early priorities.

3. Regional Themes Carried Forward

A. Conservation Means Responsible, Active Use

- Participants repeatedly defined conservation as responsible use, active management, stewardship, restoration where needed, and leaving land and resources better than they were found.
- A clear distinction emerged between conservation and preservation: conservation was generally understood as compatible with multiple use, while preservation was associated with limiting or eliminating use.
- "Wise use" resonated strongly, particularly in Rangely: heavy on both the "wise" and the "use."
- Conservation was described as the foundation for recreation, agriculture, wildlife, water, community identity, and economic resilience.

B. Protect Existing Access—Manage It Better

- Across all three communities, participants strongly opposed unnecessary road or trail closures and expressed concern that planning efforts could reduce existing public-land access.
- The preferred direction was sustained, better-managed access supported by clear signage, user education, appropriate enforcement, trail maintenance, restoration of unauthorized routes, and targeted seasonal or resource protections where justified.
- Participants also recognized that unlimited access can damage wildlife habitat, cultural resources, hunting quality, ranch operations, and special places. The recurring challenge was how to direct people toward appropriate areas without publicizing or degrading sensitive places.

C. Maintain Rural Culture, Customs, and Livelihoods

- Community members want growth and opportunity without becoming another high-volume tourism economy like Aspen or Steamboat Springs.
- Protecting agriculture, ranching, hunting, energy and natural-resource livelihoods, generational roots, and rural independence was consistently framed as central—not peripheral—to outdoor and conservation planning.
- Participants expressed concern about gentrification, rising land costs, the displacement of agricultural producers, cultural dilution, and outside decision-making that does not reflect local conditions.
- In charter language, Rangely participants preferred "customs and cultures" over the narrower phrase "ways of life," while Meeker participants asked that private lands be represented alongside public lands.

D. Education Before Restriction

- Education was one of the most consistent early-action priorities: explain why gates, seasonal restrictions, designated routes, and resource protections exist rather than relying only on rules or closures.
- Signage, visitor orientation, hunter and OHV education, "Stay the Trail" partnerships, guidance around livestock and guard dogs, and locally grounded campaigns were suggested.
- Participants emphasized that education must apply to both visitors and residents. Local user groups, event organizers, guides, clubs, and land managers could help set expectations and model responsible behavior.

E. Guide Growth Instead of Chasing It

- The region wants to be proactive about growth, visitor use, and population change rather than reacting after impacts occur.
- Participants supported directing recreation toward durable locations and existing assets while protecting fragile, culturally significant, or wildlife-sensitive areas.
- There was interest in targeted events, shoulder-season activity, connected routes, and recreation investment—but not indiscriminate promotion or mass visitation.

F. Economic Resilience and Funding Equity

- Outdoor recreation was viewed as one component of economic diversification, not a replacement for a strong base economy.
- Meeker emphasized agricultural continuity, workforce and trade education, revenue diversification, and keeping younger people in the community.
- Rangely participants raised repeated concerns about local matching-fund requirements and the region's disadvantage when traditional energy revenues decline. Existing match availability may need to be considered in project sequencing and grant strategy.
- Participants called for grant and project decisions that account for rural capacity, limited tax base, and the practical ability to maintain new assets over time.

G. Inclusive and Transparent Governance

- Participants want a diverse, well-rounded steering committee with balanced representation across counties, communities, land uses, and user groups.
- Questions centered on how projects will be prioritized, how Moffat and Rio Blanco Counties will be represented, whether a voting quorum will be required, how conflict will be addressed, and how drafts and supporting documents will remain accessible to the public.
- The public expressed interest in continued involvement and in a process that prevents any single interest from dominating outcomes.

4. Ongoing Steering Committee Governance Framework

3. Emerging Ongoing Governance Structure

Across the first three meetings, a durable operating model began to emerge. The model is still developing, but it provides the foundation for how the Alliance can conduct public business going forward.

Formal Roles

- Steering Committee: Appointed voting body responsible for adopting governance documents, approving meeting records, directing plan development, prioritizing projects, and making recommendations about grant strategy.
- Facilitators and Advisory Committee: Organize meetings, prepare materials, manage deadlines, synthesize information, coordinate public engagement, and carry approved work forward between meetings.
- Technical Advisors and Agency Partners: Provide subject-matter expertise, regulatory context, mapping, land-management information, and project feasibility guidance without replacing local decision-making.
- Public and Stakeholders: Present project ideas, provide comment, submit information through established channels, attend open meetings, and help validate whether proposed work reflects community priorities.
- Action Teams: Smaller, task-specific groups that can develop plan sections, projects, funding applications, or technical work between full committee meetings and report back for public review and Steering Committee direction.

Decision and Accountability Cycle

- Publish or circulate materials before meetings whenever practical.
- Establish a quorum and approve the prior meeting record.
- Receive public, stakeholder, agency, or technical presentations.

- Discuss issues against the Charter, four pillars, community input, and adopted planning direction.
- Use transparent voting for governance decisions and a documented scoring process for project prioritization.
- Assign named follow-up responsibilities, deadlines, and Action Teams.
- Report progress at the next public meeting and preserve the record on the Alliance website.

Recurring Strategic Themes

- Balance Conservation, Agriculture, Recreation, and Economy rather than treating any pillar as an isolated agenda.
- Protect private property rights, agricultural production areas, wildlife habitat, water resources, and local customs while retaining responsible public access.
- Prioritize maintenance, stewardship, education, and management before creating extensive new infrastructure.
- Avoid unmanaged tourism growth and preserve the region's rural/frontier character, solitude, and quality of life.
- Favor projects with multiple benefits, broad partnerships, practical readiness, and strong value relative to cost.
- Use regional collaboration to overcome limited local match capacity and pursue funding at a scale individual communities or organizations may not reach alone.

4. Recommended Format for Future Public Steering Committee Records

To support continuity from this point forward, future meeting records should follow a consistent structure. This will make decisions easier to track, strengthen public confidence, and build a usable administrative history for grants, audits, and long-term implementation.

5. Current Project and Workstream Register

Workstream	Current Status	Next Step
Regional Strategic Plan	Expanded draft; CPW feedback and Action Team approach underway	Incorporate comments and prepare next version
Outdoor Asset Map	Scope and data layers under development	Define safeguards, sensitive-data treatment, and review process
NWCO Alliance Website	Framework introduced; launch in progress	Publish governance records, plan materials, and public channels
BLM and Community Kiosk Signage	Early-win signage work underway	Confirm sites, content, fabrication, installation, and maintenance
Cross Mountain / Little Snake Staging Area	Public concept presented with map and written proposal	Verify land status, feasibility, partners, permitting, and maintenance
Habitat and Post-Fire Restoration	Seeding, erosion, weeds, and stabilization concepts discussed	Identify lead agencies, priority sites, cost, match, and treatment scope
Fencing and Production-Area Protection	Partnership concepts discussed	Identify locations, conflict-reduction outcomes, and partners

Conservation Easements / Critical Habitat	Sage-grouse and critical areas discussed	Coordinate with CPW, NRCS, BLM, and conservation districts
Phase III Grant Application	LOI and full-application process initiated	Select project package and lane using readiness and scoring criteria

6. Editorial and Records Notes

- Agendas and notes are separated so the planned meeting structure is distinguishable from the resulting discussion, decisions, and action items.
- The record is ordered newest to oldest, as requested.
- The June 11 agenda remains identified as a draft and does not imply that the meeting occurred or that any agenda item was decided.
- The February meetings are documented as one shared agenda followed by three separate community records because the same core content was intentionally repeated in Craig, Meeker, and Rangely during the Steering Committee submission and appointment period. Distinct local attendance, questions, representation, and Charter feedback are retained under each community.
- Project concepts are documented as discussion items unless the notes explicitly record formal approval.
- Duplicate notes were reconciled for readability while retaining meaningful local distinctions and formal vote outcomes.
- The Craig February source set contains a date and attendance variance: the shared agenda and facilitator notes list February 3 and 32 participants, while a separate Craig record is dated February 2 and reports 28. Both are disclosed in the meeting record.