

Teton County WPLI Advisory Committee

Meeting Summary

March 14, 2018

USFS Building, Jackson, WY

Draft for Review	Approved
<p>Committee Members Present: Gregory Buchko John Heberberger Jr. Lisa McGee Mike Mielke Don Saner Rob Shaul Siva Sundaresan Dan Smitherman Josh Metten, <i>stand-in for Tom Turiano</i> Bruce Hayse Lloyd Dorsey Harry Statter Mike Brennan Tony Ferlisi David Sollitt Jim Woodmencey Tom Turiano (late arrival)</p> <p>Members Absent: Steve Kilpatrick, Abby Moore</p>	<p>Others Present: Tom Segerstrom, <i>Teton Conservation District</i> Linda Merigliano, <i>USFS</i> Paul Vogelheim, <i>Teton County Commissioner</i> Morgan Graham, <i>Teton Conservation District</i> Wade Kaufmann, <i>AMPL</i> Len Carlman, <i>public</i> Benj Sinclair, <i>Wyoming Wilderness Association</i> Debra Patla, <i>public</i> Phil Hocker, <i>public</i> Mike Koshmrl, <i>Jackson Hole News and Guide</i> Christopher Combs, <i>AMPL</i> Elizabeth Hale, <i>public</i> Mike Merigliano, <i>public</i> Cameron Elliott, <i>public</i> Meg Jenkins, <i>JH Airport</i> Franz Camenzind, <i>public</i> Kathleen May, <i>Great Old Broads for Wilderness</i> Deb Kleinman, <i>UW Ruckelshaus Institute</i> Steve Smutko, <i>UW Ruckelshaus Institute</i> Nicole Gautier, <i>UW Ruckelshaus Institute</i></p>
<p>Agenda 2:00 – 2:15 PM Business / Administrative Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approve Agenda, February Meeting Summary• Additional announcements <p>2:15 – 5:30 PM Proposals for Discussion</p> <p>Review Negotiation Process, Strategies, Tools</p> <p>Proposals - Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strawman Group (Shaul et al)• Motorized Proposal<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Winter, Multi-Use (AMPL)○ Summer (Buchko)• Wilderness Proposals (Dorsey, Hayse)• Additional Proposals? <p>Next Steps</p>	<p>Handouts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Agenda

5:30 – 5:50 PM Public Comment	
5:50 – 6:00 PM Next Steps / March Agenda	
<p>Actions Taken</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Benj Sinclair will share a digital version of a paper mentioned by Bruce Hayse concerning snow levels in western Wyoming. 2. Steve Smutko will share the results of the poll with the committee 3. The next strawman meeting is scheduled for March 21st 4. Subsequent to the meeting, a Doodle poll was circulated by Deb Kleinman with potential dates to reschedule the April meeting. As of April 4, the meeting remains scheduled for April 11. 	

Meeting Summary
Paul Vogelheim shared updates from the Board of County Commissioners. Steve Smutko presented some reminders about negotiation and asked the committee about their BATNAs/MLATNAs. Discussion followed. Committee members shared out the various recommendation proposals on the table. Questions followed. The proposals were polled using an anonymous online tool. The committee debriefed the results of the pool. The question of Wilderness or no Wilderness in Palisades was heavily discussed. Public comment was given.

2:05 Deb Kleinman convened the meeting.
The February meeting minutes were approved.

Updates from Paul Vogelheim, Teton County Commissioner
Paul Vogelheim shared updates from the Board of County Commissioners meeting that took place on March 13th. Deb Kleinman and Dave Sollitt shared the status of WPLI with the Teton County Commissioners. Vogelheim said the commissioners are still in full support of the WPLI. Vogelheim said one issue the commissioners are struggling with is the timeline/deadlines. He said Rep. Cheney is going to continue to move forward with their bill, and a couple counties are joining with her. It is scheduled for March/April right about now. At the same time, Barrasso stands ready to take a bill. Three or four counties are on board for a Barrasso bill with a May timeline. Vogelheim said that fits with the original schedule of delivering a recommendation between January and May. He said there is some urgency associated with the recommendations, and both have paths forward. Vogelheim said as for the attitude “Let’s let USFS work this out”, he mentioned Forest Service Planning in the Shoshone Forest still sitting on the shelf. Phil Hocker interjected that was not correct, that there was a plan revision completed by the Forest in 2014, it went through appeals, and there is a plan in place to get it in formal form. Vogelheim said what he’s heard from commissioners in that neck of woods is that is the plan is not yet implemented. He asked for questions from the committee. Siva Sundaresan asked to confirm the expected timeline. Vogelheim responded the sooner the recommendations, the sooner they can put something on the table. He said the Cheney train is leaving the station, and the next one is Barrasso. The Forest Service recommendations he mentioned earlier did not have a path forward to be implemented. Deb Kleinman mentioned the timeline and roadmap be revisited at the end of meeting. Rob Shaul clarified that May was the deadline for recommendations. Vogelheim responded that was the original plan, and Barrasso’s timeline for legislation. Shaul asked about a June timeframe. Vogelheim said it takes time to write legislation. Shaul asked if other counties are holding public hearings. Vogelheim replied Johnson County has completed the process. Dan Smitherman asked if there was sense from Barrasso if he would co-sponsor Cheney’s. Smitherman said word on the street was that Cheney couldn’t find a co-sponsor in the Senate. Vogelheim said he had not

heard. Sundaresan asked if all the commissioners were present. Dave Sollitt said Natalia Macker was the only commissioner not present.

Negotiation Reminders, BATNA/MLATNA Discussion

Deb Kleinman reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

Steve Smutko presented reminders for effective negotiation and the seven factors of successful negotiation. Most Likely Alternative to Negotiated Agreement (MLATNA) outside of this process, prospects for doing that. The goal is to maximize gains for all parties through negotiation. He asked the committee if the seven factors of successful negotiation were happening with the Teton WPLI negotiations, and if they could be improved.

John Heberger Jr. asked the group if there was any agreement at all about the MLATNA. He said there are people who feel that doing nothing and having the WSAs stay the way they are is the MLATNA, while other think Rep. Cheney's legislation is likely to be the answer. He said there probably is a group that could be a basis for negotiation, but he really feels the committee members are in very different places in respect to MLATNA. Heberger Jr. said he thinks it is fundamental to have an accurate assessment of where the committee is at. Rob Shaul responded to Heberger Jr. that everyone might have different opinion moving forward, and Shaul was not sure the committee needs a consensus opinion on the MLATNA. He asked if that answered Heberger Jr's question. Heberger Jr. responded that it was not a question, but something he sees as a fundamental barrier to making gains through collaboration. He wanted to put it out there for discussion, because if he is correct, there are hurdles to get past to negotiate in good faith.

Siva Sundaresan asked if it was accurate to say, if anyone at tables feels that their MLATNA is better than sitting here, then that person should quietly leave, if that is what Heberger Jr. was implying. Heberger Jr. said it may well take him to that point, that it would be tested later during the meeting. He said he doesn't think everyone sees this process as way forward anymore

Sundaresan posed a question to Steve Smutko. He asked if, hypothetically, if someone thinks there MLATNA is better than being at the table, if they could come to Steve, and share the decision to push for their MLATNA outside this room. Steve Smutko said that is an individual decision. The committee was testing if they can achieve their interests better here than elsewhere.

Lloyd Dorsey asked if John Heberger Jr. was speaking regarding only the two WSAs. Heberger Jr. said he thinks it goes beyond that. He has heard people say this process is a waste of time and doing nothing is the way forward. There are parties firmly locked into their positions, and uncertain number of people in the middle. Dorsey said there is vigorous discussion in this committee about decision space, process and geography. Constraining the committee to work to with just the WSAs was limiting, so there was reasoning behind creating greater decision space in process and geography.

Heberger Jr. said he doesn't think the positioning is defined to the WSAs, although it is most clear in light of the WSAs. At the workshop, he did not hear the flexibility that lead him to believe that people think they can move off their positions to a middle ground. Heberger Jr. said it was not just this committee, but comments made at several public meetings, not least of which was yesterday's Board of County Commissioners meeting. He said he doesn't want to spend the next four hours and subsequent meetings if there really is an impasse. Mike Mielke said he doesn't entirely disagree with John. Mielke asked Steve Smutko for clarification on Siva Sundaresan's comment about quietly stepping away if a stakeholder believes their MLATNA is better outside room. Smutko said if the group can't reach consensus, or if members can't get needs met, there is the option of voting a five. A committee member can vote a five with the understanding that the recommendations will move forward, but the individual who voted a five can exercise their right as citizen to make sure the recommendation doesn't pass. Smutko explained that if people drop off, it becomes tougher for the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). They will have to ask themselves what they are going to do with proposal that doesn't have everyone on board. Smutko said these negotiations are the informal process that informs the formal process. The committee is making recommendations to the BCC, which they take and move forward to Congress. It is a slam dunk for the BCC

if everyone is on board. As one person drops, two people drop, it becomes a harder decision. Smutko said this idea of BATNA/MLATNA exists in every negotiation, and is a power point. If you think you can do better elsewhere, you have some power. If everyone has same MLATNA/BATNA, the power is equalized. MLATNAs/BATNAs can continue to be explored and improved throughout the negotiations. Heberberger Jr. said he was hoping for more discussion around his concern over MLATNAs. He continued that some think Cheney's bill will go through, but he doesn't think it will. Heberberger Jr. said that feels so fundamental to him, and he wanted to hear from group if he is off base. He asked if people have a common BATNA.

Smutko asked the committee about the collaborative factors, and if they could be improved. Kleinman commented that the conversations would go beyond this afternoon, and they are asking questions each person on the committee will have to take and think about deeply.

Mike Mielke said he would elaborate on the questions posed by Steve Smutko. Mielke said he is here in good faith, but he thinks there is little chance of the committee coming to agreement.

Tony Ferlisi said in his short time as part of committee, the process almost seems more valuable than perceived outcome, and in his past work, he hasn't seen such diverse group of stakeholders coming together. Ferlisi said he has seen the third factor demonstrate [of the seven negotiation factors]. He said so much learning is happening in this process. Siva Sundaesan said he is a little more optimistic than Mike Mielke.

Steve Smutko said the committee would find out today if there is room for maneuvering. Sundaesan said he thinks it's going to take introspection among the committee as individuals, to consider what could happen if the committee doesn't do this [WPLI]. He said it was important to be critical of one's own position before we look at others, and each committee member must ask themselves if their position has potential for gains. He agreed with Heberberger Jr. about the challenges.

Mike Brennan said there is a missing a piece in the conversation if the committee doesn't compare notes on what might happen if [WPLI] were to end. He agreed with Heberberger Jr. it is a pivotal point. He thought it would be a good idea for the group to share notes on what they think might happen, and do a self-check.

Phil Hocker commented that he thinks Heberberger Jr's point is on everyone's mind, whether they sit at the negotiating table or not. He said he was in awe of the effort and sincerity of the committee, sees everyone present negotiating in good faith. He encouraged the committee to get creative, and there would be a chance this process would be the best choice rather than other ways.

Steve Smutko said he doesn't see any unidimensional people in the room. We will do some test polling, and see where people stand. Len Carlman encouraged the committee to get on with test polling.

Proposal Presentations

Deb Kleinman said there would be time to understand the content of the proposals ask the lead author clarifying questions. Time for reactions would come later. Greg Buchko clarified that the document he sent was part of the motorized proposal.

Lloyd Dorsey, Sierra Club Proposal

Dorsey explained his proposal, emailed to the committee on Feb. 27th. Link: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/171ve4UhTeICjCtnbWSAzckJUNBzz0jyt>

Dorsey recognized his proposal spanned counties.

Mike Mielke asked Dorsey where heli-skiing was in his proposal. Dorsey said it was not included (Later Lloyd corrected that a small amount of heli-skiing is currently permitted in some Roadless Areas in the Sierra Club's proposal that may continue) , and is not the context the Sierra Club looks at. Lisa McGee asked Dorsey if the that map adequately illustrates the IRAs in Teton County proposed for mineral withdrawal, and which roadless areas Dorsey wanted to codify rather than turn into wilderness. Dorsey responded the roadless areas he did propose for wilderness include Pacific, Black Rock, Curtis, and Philips Ridge. Jim Woodmencey asked if the Google Earth layers are color coded. Morgan Graham responded there was no color code.

Bruce Hayse Wilderness Proposal

Hayse mentioned a reversion back to the original USFS proposal, and said it is best if the Palisades is Wilderness. Hayse said people say it's changed, but all that's happened in 50 years is diminished wildlife populations. He said this proposal is the only one congruent with Teton County planning process.

Kleinman asked if another way to phrase his proposal is Wilderness designation for Palisades.

Hayse said 20 thousand acres or so would be carved out. He said another objection is that he doesn't think snowmobiling has a future in the Palisades, as there won't be snow in the lower elevations.

Dan Saner asked if Hayse plan addresses landscapes outside the WSAs. Hayse responded it was basically just Palisades, and it includes Lincoln County in order to have an intact functioning ecosystem.

Jim Woodmencey asked where Hayse got his information about snow 50 years from now. Hayse responded that a good paper that just came out about snow in ID and west WY in the Journal of Science that looked at the last 25 years, and the scientists were surprised to find less snow at low and high elevations in western Wyoming. Those trends are predicted to continue in the future. Woodmencey said the last ten years were snowier than the last thirty. Benj Sinclair offered to share the digital version of the paper.

Dorsey pointed out a minor addition to his map: three other roadless area, Camp Creek, Granite and Little Granite, and Cache Creek.

Mike Mielke, Motorized Proposal

Mike Mielke explained that the motorized proposal has the WSAs going into other management, and there is no additional wilderness. He said there are mineral protections from oil and gas

Lisa McGee asked Mielke if he wants to see additional motorized trails. Mielke deferred to Greg Buchko.

Buchko said he is interested in having some existing trails designated for motorcycle single track use. He gave examples at the Jan. meeting. The eastern boundary of the Palisades for ATV type trails. Mosquito Creek to Fall Creek was part of the proposal. Buchko said in terms of offering things of value to conservation, there were protections from oil and gas, and no new roads. He said he was not asking for new trails, but access to existing trails. Mielke said the motorized proposal is not trying to take away existing Wilderness.

Jim Woodmencey clarified for the group that if heli-skiers were to be allowed to use Palisades as prior to 2005 lawsuit, the permit for the whole area had 1200 user days (ID and WY). After the EIS, only 65 skier days can be used in Palisades. Woodmencey said it wouldn't go from 65 to 1200 overnight, and the use gets spread out over whole forest. There were 700-900 hundred skier days historically, and heli-skiing operates maybe 50 days in winter due to weather, avalanches, and lack of people. Those 1200 skier days get concentrated into 50 days. Woodmencey clarified it was not as grandiose as it sounds when the papers say heli-skiing would increase 20-fold.

Buchko wanted to make it clear his constituents are not looking for full motorized. He said they are interested in the trails in Palisades as connectors. Dan Smitherman asked Mike Mielke if the motorized groups had recommendations outside of the WSAs. Mielke responded they had no recommendations outside the WSAs other than one little thing at Shoal that came up at the last strawman session. He said as far as access on Idaho, that was also more Wade Kaufmann's wheel house, but his understanding was the motorized community was not in support of additional wilderness in Pinnacles. Lisa McGee asked if the motorized group had a chance to talk about roadless designation. Mielke said the motorized community doesn't see a need for new roads to be punched in, and deliberately left timber out of the proposal. McGee asked Mike and Greg if there was wiggle room around seasonal closures for wildlife. Mielke responded the motorized reps need to discuss that as a group. Buchko commented there are two existing trails open only two months a year for summer motorized. When reading the meeting summary, Lloyd Dorsey noted that according to the Jan 2009 News Release and BTNF North Zone Travel Plan Revision, there are 480-miles of roads and trails for motorized uses.

Woodmencey responded to Bruce Hayse's comment about climate. Woodmencey projected a graph that shows snowfall record in town of Jackson, and the last decade or so as above average snowfall years. The data can be found on Woodmencey's website. Woodmencey also projected the heli-skiing area map at the request of Lloyd Dorsey.

Strawman Proposals

Shaul shared there have been four "strawman" meetings to date. At the last two meetings general accord was not reached. The last meeting was well attended. He said the last proposal that had general accord was the proposal that dealt with lands only inside Teton County. Deb Kleinman asked what Shaul meant by general accord. Shaul said he meant the proposal could be talked about as a whole, although individuals might not agree with particular components.

Wade Kaufmann said he and Tom Turiano talked about Ramble Mountain. Turiano wanted to move the boundary down to Beards, and Kaufmann said his constituency doesn't have an issue with that because it is not an area of interest. There was discussion of two-month access at the bottom of Mail Cabin, which is currently closed through the Targhee Winter Travel Plan. That was a winter motorized request to Turiano. Lisa McGee added there was a need to look at wildlife data and do an overlay of summer motorized and mechanized. She said the group wanted to continue to talk about seasonal wildlife closures.

Harry Statter mentioned GIS layers displaying seasonal habitat use, and explained the wildlife layers the committee has access to. Statter pointed out seven snow machine access points into the interior of Palisades that are largely identified as not being critical winter habitat. He suggested identifying corridors to access the interior.

Rob Shaul Proposal

Shaul said he would judge the middle ground by how mad Mike and Lloyd get. Presentation, expansion of mountain sledding, and some wilderness. His most recent proposal is just inside Teton County. Shaul said a grand bargain is an exchange of certainty for sledders and wilderness for conservationists. Shaul's recommendations included allowing sledder access on Mill Creek all winter long. He said he doesn't understand why sledders can't go through that ski terrain to get to the high country. Shaul commented that the heli-skiers went directly to Cheney behind the WPLI process. Woodmencey replied that is was not behind the back, but had been going on for ten years and just surfaced.

Shaul continued that his stipulations included no commercial timber harvesting. He recommended all motorized vehicle use be electric only by 2030, which is the way the industry is going. He shared some Wilderness additions outside the WSAs and brought up creating connectivity through Burnt Creek.

Deb Kleinman opened it up to questions.

Benj Sinclair asked if Shaul spoke to anyone in Lincoln County. Shaul said if he went over the county line it was by mistake. Benj Sinclair asked if there was further addition to Grayback. Shaul responded this proposal only considers Teton County, and said he didn't want to camouflage certainty with loss of acreage for the sledders. He said he hoped new acreage of Wilderness in Teton County would be an easy sell for Dorsey and the other conservationists.

4:17 BREAK

4:33 RESUME

Proposal Poll

Steve Smutko facilitated an anonymous online poll for the proposals on the table.

The results can be found here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/171ve4UhTeICjCtnbWSAzckJUNBzz0jyt>

Steve Smutko sent an email with the results on March 16, 2018.

Deb Kleinman pointed out the poll is not binding, rather an opportunity to sense the lay of the land

Not all of the proposals had the same number of votes (some had 14 votes some had 15). Abby Moore and Steve Kilpatrick were missing.

Poll Debrief Discussion

Smutko said the big question was, “do you see ability to get interests met through one or more of these proposals?” An important follow up question for the committee was “If you drafted a proposal that does not get adequate support, what do you do?”

Dan Smitherman responded that no more Wilderness in the motorized proposals was a non-starter. Smitherman said maybe he was just as positional, but his desire for Wilderness is movable. Smitherman commented that Bruce, Lloyd, and Rob all had Wilderness proposals, although Rob’s was DOA. Siva Sundaresan said he was surprised so many people that couldn’t support strawman because he assumed that was what the group was working on in general. Sundaresan said he anticipated threes or fours but was surprised to see fives. Lisa McGee said she was surprised not to see more threes. Dan Smitherman said he thought it was a context issue, that there is a lot of gray area and not enough concrete specifics under each element. Greg Buchko responded to Siva’s comment that at the last strawman meeting, time ran out, and there was not any kind of consensus from group.

Bruce Hayse said the idea of taking away already established Wilderness was a total nonstarter, that Wilderness has basically never been declassified. He said it would set an unconceivable precedent.

Jim Woodmencey said he agree 100% with what Hayse just said. He said no one asked to give back wilderness to motorized. Buchko said he also disagreed with taking away from existing wilderness, and the motorized community is not looking to take away existing Wilderness, they are just not looking to lose existing motorized areas.

Steve Smutko asked where there is room to maneuver.

Josh Metten said a major issue from the back-country skiing perspective was losing Taylor out of the Jedediah Smith, which was a non-starter, as was additional motorized use in Coal Creek. Lisa McGee said she voted a three on both strawman proposals. Mike Brennan asked if the February strawman was worth working on. He said he thinks there is a lot there. Mielke said he would need to revisit it, but his recollection was no. Sollitt asked about other elements that couldn’t be lived with. Dan Smitherman asked if the Palisades is protected now, why go for an unprotected Palisades. Lloyd Dorsey asked if there was a way to capture the poison pills, to find out how many of them there might be.

Mike Mielke said Rob’s proposal has some good things. However, Mielke said the non-starter was Willow Creek going into Grayback, and the head of the Snake, which was the start of push going down Grayback.

Tom Turiano arrived at 5PM.

Bruce Hayse said he was dubious about adding Burnt Ridge to Wilderness. Rob Shaul said he could cross off the Jedediah addition and look for ideas to find Wilderness elsewhere. Dan Smitherman said the release of Palisades is not a starting point, but a good conversation on Shoal Creek at the last strawman meeting. He said the group went back and looked at Spread Creek IRA, and existing snowmobile off the BT Nat. Forest from the Snowmobile Association of WY. He said the area to the west of Spread Creek, slightly northeast of Slide Lake, about 25 thousand acres came up as a possibility for Wilderness or something else. Smitherman asked if that was something to have a conversation about. Mielke asked about seasonal game closures but said there might be potential for conversation. Smitherman asked if that was not an absolute no for Mt Leidy.

Shaul mentioned looking into the idea of finding some Wilderness designation that won’t affect sledders. Smitherman said what he was looking for was room to talk about Leidy/Spread Creek from the motorized and wilderness perspective.

Greg Buchko asked about mountain biking. Smitherman said Amanda Carey talked about before she left, and the perception was that area wasn’t particularly popular with mountain bikers. Buchko said it was more like the interior of Palisades, adventure road biking. Bruce Hayse said you don’t see bikes on trails there, that people ride old roads. Tony Ferlisi said he seemed to remember general agreement to leave a section

on the north end of Palisades open to mountain biking. Lloyd Dorsey said that was not in his proposal but was worth discussing. Dorsey clarified for those not at the last strawman meeting, there were 14 or 15 committee members, and this is where they got on Mt. Leidy. He said it was a ripe area for conversation. Buchko commented that motorized has little left, and the amount of land out there significant. He said he has a hard time accepting anything that would reduce off road motorized. Steve Smutko asked if there was any wiggle room. Buchko said in terms of Leidy and Bacon Creek as Wilderness, he would say no. Don Saner said the reason he is so against summer motorized use out there is because he has seen what has happened in the Bighorns and on Munger before restrictions. Saner said it might be different if he had reassurance the summer motorized community could police themselves and stay where they are supposed to stay. Buchko mentioned a 2008 reduction in summer motorized, and how hard it is to find trails. Saner said to look at Munger where the loops are being abused because people are not staying on routes. Buchko said he doesn't know what to do about enforcement. People go off designated trails and it hurts the motorized community. Tom Turiano asked Buchko if he was saying he wanted those areas back open. Buchko replied no.

Smitherman asked about Spread Creek. Buchko said a lot of people mountain bike out there for the backcountry experience. Tony Ferlisi said there is a fair bit of gravel riding in there, and the access point is Ditch Creek. Deb Kleinman asked Buchko if there was conversation potential. Buchko replied that from a consensus perspective, where everybody gets something, he sees people wanting to take away from motorized. Kleinman asked if there was an area where the conservations might go. Buchko said he was open to conversations. Dan Smitherman commented sometimes the committee focuses more on users and developing playgrounds then protecting the resource. He said wilderness can be turned into a playground, but not vice versa. He asked the committee to consider the values of this landscape. Buchko said he was not talking about making playgrounds. His concern is access to public lands for various users.

Smutko asked Woodmencey for his response.

Woodmencey said a lot of the proposals he saw shrank the area for heli-skiing operations even further. Woodmencey said heli-skiers are not interested in losing more than they've lost since 1984. High Mountain heli-skiing is not asking to fly back into Wilderness or the Park, they are just asking to exist where they have in the past. Woodmencey asked if anyone would propose closing Apres Vous and not allow access into the Park. He said that is what is being asked, and that it was no different than Teton Village or Grand Targhee. Woodmencey said an advantage is no permanent infrastructure, and heli-skiing is more environmentally friendly than any other types of skiing. He said people are accessing the Park already through mechanized means. Woodmencey suggested use of the original permit area. He said this spreads use out, and makes for a safer operation. The number of skier days capped at 1200 for whole forest with current permit, and he doesn't see it increasing. It is an expensive sport and won't grow to half a million skiers. Steve Smutko asked if it would fine if it were to remain the same. Woodmencey clarified, the same as before lawsuit, prior to 2005-06.

Sundaresan asked if there was a way, if the interest is use, heli or motorized, to measure in terms of area used, or number of days. He asked if there were other qualitative ways of measuring, if certain trails were more fun than others. He asked hypothetically, would the motorized group be willing to give up a trail in one place in exchange for a trail elsewhere? Buchko said the committee had this discussion when we talked about interests. His question was where, and what do you have to offer. He said nothing else was left. Bruce Hayse said his hardcore biker friends got to Dubois. Buchko said Dubois has nothing to do with this. Sundaresan said what he was trying to ask, is if there was a way to measure the experience in terms of the trail, if there was a way to reduce the number of trails but keep the experience. Buchko asked if anyone would want to go hiking on one trail all summer. Buchko said he already tried to express locations, and put trails on map, but everything he can think of is already closed.

Statter asked about the 20 thousand acres on the north side of Palisades, if there was common ground there. Buchko said he got the sense from people who want wilderness or nothing that wasn't an option. Mike Mielke said there would be conflict of interest on the north side, potentially with mountain bikers, and that combining mountain biking and motorized was a no go. Tony Ferlisi agreed there might be conflict. He said a number of those trails were built and maintained for downhill mountain biking. Ferlisi said he could see a potential for conflict with sight lines and trail width. Buchko mentioned the trails he had on the map further south to get away from the northern strip and connect from Mosquito Creek. Don Saner said he was willing to talk about Mosquito Creek.

Rob Shaul asked Buchko if he would consider potential wilderness in Mt Leidy, or no roads, for certainty of more trails in Palisades. Shaul said he doesn't understand how the motorized community discounts certainty via legislation. Shaul asked if Woodmencey might be willing to trade Willow Creek for increased skier days in Palisades. Woodmencey said that was something you'd have to ask owners. Turiano for skiers, heli-skiers, in Lincoln County the Snake River canyon was an area he'd like to hold strong, all the stuff easily accessed from Snake River Canyon managed as non-motorized. Woodmencey said use occurs down towards Red Creek, but nothing SW of Tri-Fork Ridge. He said that portion of Palisades and Snake River Range only gets flown half a dozen days a year. Woodmencey said he could see setting up a system to send a text message with what areas they are planning on going each day. Turiano asked if they came up with a plan before going out. Woodmencey said yes, a general plan, but it can get pushed around by weather. He said they typically work one or two drainages a day, not the whole Palisades. Woodmencey said it would be relatively easy to set up an alert system for backcountry skiers. Turiano said as far as snow machines, talking about Lincoln County designated routes, Red Creek and Dry Fork to Ferry Peak would be ideal designated route. Woodmencey said heli-skiing doesn't go to Ferry Peak anymore because of wildlife.

Lloyd Dorsey said as he has listened to the discussion and positions from motorized, and considered mechanized use in Palisades. He is still dismayed that in the years since the '84 WY Wilderness Act, the USFS was supposed to manage and protect wilderness character. Dorsey said that in listening to all the uses, there is little to no wilderness characteristics left. He said when no wilderness is offered as fodder for discussion, he is hesitant to go there. Rob Shaul asked if Dorsey would you be willing to make Palisades a Special Management Area if Wilderness could be designated elsewhere. Dorsey said there should be significant areas in Palisades designated as Wilderness.

Bruce Hayse left at 5:15.

Dorsey responded to Buhcko's point that within Teton County the amount of backcountry single track for motorized use or snow machining is limited. Dorsey said he tried to take areas within 60-70 miles of Teton Pass, within an easy drive. He asked about considering a larger area for those enthusiasts to pursue recreation interests.

Harry Statter asked where the boundary was in the Palisades for the proposed 20-thousand-acre release. Lisa McGee said thought it was 10 thousand acres and asked when it became 20 thousand.

Lloyd Dorsey and Mike Mielke had a back and forth.

Mielke asked Dorsey if ten thousand acres of summer use up in Palisades and seasonal closures (limited to Teton County) were something Dorsey could agree to. There would not be wilderness, but ten thousand acres for the mountain bike community and snow machines would be allowed on a seasonal basis. Dorsey said that was not in compliance with protecting wilderness character. Dorsey said he would consider a carve out, but not if the bulk of the area isn't Wilderness, as connecting a greater landscape is consistent with conservation gains. Mielke said he is on the other side of that, and asked if they were ever going to get past that. Mielke said he was not willing to let that go to wilderness and asked where he is going to ride his snowmobile in ten thousand acres. Dorsey said he needs to see significant wilderness gains. Mielke said carving out an island of ten thousand acres is ridiculous. Sundaesan asked if there was a certain amount of

acceptable wilderness, an acreage number, or if the number didn't matter. Mielke said in the Palisades, not all the other places, he would say no.

Dorsey asked what would happen if they can't meet some place, and the committee does not absolutely have to have Palisades in the recommendation to the commissioners. Mielke said a recommendation for Palisades is why the committee is there.

Steve Smutko said the question is whether there is room to maneuver around Palisades, and the only way the committee will reach agreement is to expand the area of potential agreement. Smutko asked the committee for a show of thumbs to continue the conversation.

Lloyd Dorsey commented that there is another strawman meeting on March 21st.

McGee said she was more frustrated than she was an hour ago after listening to the recent discussion. She asked if Dorsey has to have Wilderness in Palisades, and Mielke can't see a way forward with any wilderness in Palisades, if that was it. Buchko asked if there was a way to come to agreement using other areas that doesn't designate Palisades as wilderness. McGee asked Mielke if he doesn't want to see Wilderness anywhere. Mielke said he didn't know if Dorsey would agree to sit down with Smitherman and discuss alternatives.

Dorsey said he is still stunned to hear from user groups that a significant amount of area can never be considered for Wilderness. He said by the '84 act that is the law of the land. He asked why a public interest group like the Sierra Club that fought for that effort, even if it was not implemented by USFS, would give that away. Lisa McGee said there was an argument to be made that [conservationists] should consider doing that. She said no group has made a wilderness effort, and they stand to gain by looking at other areas.

Siva Sundaresan asked if any proposal with Wilderness in Palisades would be a five for Mielke.

Dorsey said it would be a disservice to that landscape to deal with just the Teton County portion. He said the committee would do well to consider the Greater Palisades.

Mielke said it seemed they were at a pretty big impasse, with Dorsey a five on his end, and Mielke a five on his side. Dorsey said thought it was well worth staying at table, especially considering elements in broader landscape. Dan Smitherman commented that a bigger question, is given the entire county, is there a scenario where Dorsey might accept snowmobile use in the Palisades and Mielke would accept some Wilderness in Palisades. Smitherman said there is a reason the committee decided to go outside of Teton County for more decision space. He suggested maybe setting Palisades on table for a while. Steve Smutko suggested trying to find out if there was a way past the impasse during the strawman meeting on the 21st. Dorsey thanked Morgan Graham for doing mapping work.

5:54 Public Comment

Phil Hocker unaffiliated. Hocker said these kinds of operations work because of people like Rob Shaul. Hocker commented on the idea of establishing certainty. He mentioned a 2006 law in place regarding snowmobiling, a lawsuit from Western Wildland Defenders. He said there is value in what Rob is talking about, considering the best opportunity outside of negotiation. Hocker said Dorsey offered to take Palisades out of deal, which seemed to be unacceptable. He wished the committee luck.

Franz Camezind. Camezind said he was there representing himself, and that he is also on the board of Wilderness Watch. He thanked the committee. Camezind said the committee had maintained civility, which he is not sure he could have done. That said, he asked the committee to talk about areas outside of Teton County. Camezind said Lincoln County had no qualms about telling [Teton County] what to do with the entire Palisades, so he would do the same thing, and at least as a committee send that kind of recommendation on to the county.

Len Carlman thanked the committee for digging in. He said as a local resident deeply invested in the surrounding hills and mountains, he is grateful. Carlman said the public interest would be served if everyone

can attend the outside strawman meetings. He said Shoal and Palisades are not the limit of the charter, which WCCA set up to look at the big picture. He asked the committee to please keep big picture in mind and the ball moving.

Mike Mielke clarified that the strawman discussions that happen outside of normal committee meetings are open to everyone on the committee. Most have been attended by a significant number of the committee members, but attendance has not been complete.

Ben Reed, unaffiliated. Reed said Palisades is part of the big picture. Reed questioned the boundaries of the discussion. Reed said his understanding of the charter was that the committee is tasked to understand wilderness characteristics, including the possibility of adding areas into system, and the committee needed to be looking for viable big W wilderness. Reed said that even to participate, the committee has to be dealing with the topic of wilderness as significant premise. He said without that, the committee can't have the discussion they are supposed to have, and that the committee is functioning outside the rules.

Deb Patla. Patla said she was unaffiliated and lives in Teton County. She asked what [Teton County] is going to look like in 40 years. Patla said the conversation today seemed parochial. She said it was heart breaking to her, and that these areas are not our playgrounds. She asked the committee to think beyond doing things for fun, and of the great crises people are going to be facing. Patla said please keep that in mind, that this was not just about our desires.

Mike Merigliano. Merigliano see he noticed all these meetings have so much discussion about modes of travel. He asked the committee to think about the whole landscape, that what is special is the wildlife, wildlands, and a somewhat pristine area. He said even if you compromise and give up wilderness here and there, if you could keep the status quo, it was still a gain. Merigliano said people used to charge up Leidy with their Jeeps. In terms of impact on the land, he said it was better than 30 years ago. Merigliano said if Dorsey's proposal went through, he'd be happy, but if it didn't go through, and if there were some congressional backcountry designation with a nice label, that kept roads out that would be okay. He said if the status quo were to be implemented, he'd be really happy. Merigliano said one thing that bugs me about the Palisades is the goats, that if they are still there, it is lousy wilderness. He said the goats are competing with native sheep who are barely hanging on and experienced a huge drop in population. Merigliano said not to forget, even if wilderness is being lost, to think about what you still have.

Tommy Eaton. Eaton said he is employed at Hoback Sports in town, and that he is a conservationist. He said the experience of wilderness can happen on multiple modes. Eaton says he is mainly a cyclist, and that preserving recreation and the economy is important to him. He asked the committee to keep that in mind when looking outside of Palisades, and that some low impact rides are just as important as hiking and wilderness.

Kim Springer. Springer said she was there on behalf of herself. Springer said there was a real push for wilderness from a lot of people in Idaho. She said there are a lot of people who don't live [in Teton County] that care about it. She said there needs to be a Plan A and a Plan B, and that maybe Plan B is the dream. Springer said that ecologically and economically wilderness is the best bet. She said it was easy to say we have a lot here, but we don't, and there is no place like it in the lower 48. She asked the committee to look at the bigger picture.

Next Meeting

April 11th, 2018, 2-6 pm
USFS Building,
Jackson, WY