

## Teton County WPLI Advisory Committee

### Meeting Summary

April 11, 2018

USFS Building, Jackson, WY

Draft for Review	Approved
<p><b>Committee Members Present:</b>  Gregory Buchko  John Heberger Jr.  Lisa McGee  Mike Mielke  Don Saner  Dan Smitherman  Len Carlman, <i>stand-in for Tom Turiano</i>  Bruce Hayse  Lloyd Dorsey  Harry Statter  Mike Brennan  Tony Ferlisi  David Sollitt  Steve Kilpatrick  Abby Moore</p> <p><b>Present via Zoom Call:</b> Lloyd Dorsey</p> <p><b>Members Absent:</b> Tom Turiano, Jim Woodmencey, Siva Sundaresan, Rob Shaul</p>	<p><b>Others Present:</b>  Tom Segerstrom, <i>Teton Conservation District</i>  Linda Merigliano, <i>USFS</i>  Wade Kaufmann, <i>AMPL</i>  Benj Sinclair, <i>public</i>  Mike Merigliano, <i>public</i>  Kathleen May, <i>Great Old Broads for Wilderness</i>  Jon Shick, <i>High Mountain Heli-Ski</i>  Kasey Stewart, <i>public</i>  Peter Aengst, <i>The Wilderness Society</i>  Morgan Graham, <i>Teton Conservation District</i>  Ann Harvey, <i>public</i>  Kim Springer, <i>Wyoming Wilderness Association</i>  Ben Read, <i>Wyoming Wilderness Association/public</i>  Deb Kleinman, <i>UW Ruckelshaus Institute</i>  Steve Smutko, <i>UW Ruckelshaus Institute</i>  Nicole Gautier, <i>UW Ruckelshaus Institute</i></p>
<p><b>Agenda</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business / Administrative Matters</li> <li>• Approve Agenda</li> <li>• March Meeting Summary</li> <li>• Alternates @ Meeting</li> <li>• June Meeting Date</li> <li>• Additional announcements</li> <li>• Proposals for Discussion</li> <li>• Clarifying New &amp; Revised Proposals (10 max minutes per presentation) o Sponsored by Bruce Hayse: Wyoming Wilderness Association Proposal o Tom Turiano/Len Carlman/Susan Marsh o Dan Smitherman/The Wilderness Society</li> <li>• Discussion about Proposals</li> <li>• Next Steps</li> <li>• New/revised proposals under development</li> <li>• Strawman session tentatively April 25</li> </ul>	<p><b>Handouts</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agenda</li> <li>2. Proposals from Len Carlman</li> <li>3. Voting slips</li> </ol>

## **Actions Taken**

1. Nicole Gautier will distribute the spreadsheet that captures the votes from today's meeting, and distribute the Palisades list of options
2. Reschedule June meeting date?

## **Meeting Summary**

2:05 Deb Kleinman convenes meeting

### **Old Business**

The March meeting summary was approved.

Dan Smitherman gave an update on the lawsuit filed in Idaho in the BT, which was a distraction early on. He said that lawsuit was going away. Smitherman said it was never about snowmobiling, but about travel planning, and they got what they wanted, a map revision.

Deb Kleinman announced a need to reschedule the June meeting because herself, Steve Smutko, and Nicole Gautier will be attending a conference.

Len Carlman is serving as Tom Turiano's alternate, and they have been working on proposal together.

### **Updated and New Proposals**

#### **Len Carlman**

Len Carlman presented a proposal drafted by Tom Turiano, Susan Marsh, and himself. Susan Marsh is a local historian, and worked as a Recreation Management Specialist for the National Forest Service. He provided a packet of nine outstanding roadless areas and a separate recommendation packet. They are available here: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1\\_IM3s6DNyfb4oegDcZ5yXKYKjApaPvm](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_IM3s6DNyfb4oegDcZ5yXKYKjApaPvm)

Carlman went through the handouts and pointed out errors and corrections. He clarified that his advocacy for the nine roadless areas did not mean "protect IRAs and release WSAs". Carlman pointed out that six of the Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) are 100 percent in Teton County, and the only one that is inter-county is Willow Creek (partially in Lincoln County).

Carlman suggested committing to an overriding theme for Teton County, and send a message to DC and the world about the importance of habitat protection. He said they had lifted language from the Teton County Comprehensive Plan to commit to "preserve and protect ecosystems". Carlman said if we keep a wildland ecosystem big enough and strong enough, it runs itself. He explained various items in the proposal, including taking oil and gas off the table for all lands in Teton County. 345 thousand acres was the cumulative acreage of the IRAs.

Steve Kilpatrick asked for clarification on item five, about recreation activity complying with standards. Carlman said that gets updated over time.

2:27 Bruce Hayse arrives

Dan Smitherman asked if it was fair to say Carlman's proposal is just about IRAs, with no new wilderness designation outside of what is existing. Carlman said yes, for now roadless area protection would be a significant forward step, and gets the committee into the realm of workability.

Mike Mielke asked Carlman to elaborate on why the Shoal Creek and Palisades WSAs were left out, that he thought it was mistake to do so.

Smitherman asked if the Shoal Creek IRA is included, or if it was just the IRA outside the WSA boundary? Carlman said he would follow Dan's lead on that, but personally Carlman would put one boundary around it and protect it. Smitherman clarified that Carlman's recommendation for IRAs only includes areas outside of Shoal. Carlman said the recommendation did not address Shoal.

Bruce Hayse brought up a letter for county commissioner Pete Obermueller published that day, stating the purpose of WPLI was to focus strictly on creation of recommendations for the WSAs. Carlman responded that Obermueller should read his own WCCA charter.

Bruce Hayse noted the topic of user permits for these areas was left out. He said one guy has a permit for mountain biking in Mount Leidy, and that individual is not going to let any of that be wilderness. He said there was nothing in the Carlman proposal in terms of USFS existing permits, and those permits eliminate potential for wilderness. Carlman said that was purposefully left out because that is USFS level planning.

Rob Shaul had asked the facilitators to share highlights from his proposal in his absence. Shaul's proposal included dividing Shoal WSA into northern and southern areas, with the south re-designated as an IRA, and the northern part being additions to Gros Ventre wilderness. Kleinman asked if anyone who was part of that conversation wanted to clarify.

John Heberger Jr. said Shaul's proposal came out after last workshop, but did not represent a consensus proposal from the whole group. Smitherman said he would second that, the proposal is Rob's stand alone, not representative of the workshop. Heberger Jr. commented that Shaul's proposal focused explicitly on the southern part of the county, to the exclusion of recommendations he had made before, such as in the Mt. Leidy Highlands area and the Bacon Ridge area up the Gros Ventre River.

Greg Buchko commented that he's had conversations with Rob Shaul, and doesn't know where the electric vehicle thing is coming from. Buchko said it is not practical, which he has mentioned to Shaul several times. Benj Sinclair said he thought Shaul wants it be standard starting in 2030, and Shaul knows it not practical now, but it could be in the future.

#### **TWS - Dan Smitherman**

Smitherman said the proposal he was about to share came from The Wilderness Society, but told the committee not to assume it represents conservation. Smitherman said he wouldn't talk about Palisades to respect Kleinman's request to table Palisades from the day's conversation. The presentation can be found here: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KLLk3vxvigWDpBBGF\\_crPF9tuXqO9Gd](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KLLk3vxvigWDpBBGF_crPF9tuXqO9Gd)

Smitherman spoke to the necessity of expanding decision space, then went through the TWS proposal.

Benj Sinclair asked how usage levels would be determined. Smitherman said that is the USFS's area of expertise.

#### **Proposal Clarification and Straw Poll**

Kleinman explained the premise for this afternoon's discussion. Palisades is not being thrown out, just put off to the side for the afternoon. A list of existing options and proposals for Palisades were displayed for reference. Two sticky walls served to display disaggregated ideas and options from existing proposals. Kleinman asked the committee to do a quality check of the options on display before voting. She explained the purpose of the exercise is to see where there are areas for potential shared gains, with minimal losses. The committee was given green (1-3 vote) and yellow (4 vote) slips to vote with. Steve Smutko said if there is potential an option could work, put a yellow slip, and if there is no potential, don't put anything up – that would count as a vote of "5".

Nicole Gautier will distribute the spreadsheet that captures the votes from today's meeting.

John Heberger Jr. suggested the same process could be used for Palisades. Kleinman said that would probably not happen today, but if this system proved useful, yes. Heberger Jr. requested that the Palisades set of options be distributed as well.

The committee took about an hour to review all options and vote.

Smutko ran quick statistics on the votes to display the count, average, mode, and number of 'five' votes. It was clarified that Bruce Hayse did not cast any votes. Hayse said he had some quibbles with the process, so it was fine to throw out his votes, and remove his vote from each option column. Smutko subtracted a single five for Hayse from each column.

The committee then discussed the implications of the voting, and whether they thought they could move forward from these results. Time was given to talk about why people voted fives. Smutko pointed out there weren't many options that someone doesn't object to, although there were no fives on oil and gas, and no fives on National Park Wilderness. Smutko opened the conversation, asking what was workable.

### **IRA Option Discussion**

Harry Statter asked if there were any fives on Carlman's proposal. Heberger Jr. said there are two fives. Mike Mielke said it was Greg Buchko and himself that voted fives or fours. Mielke said he agrees with some of what Carlman proposed, but there are some grazing things he didn't understand. His understanding was when an IRA gets designated, ranchers get kicked out. Carlman, Hayse, and McGee all said that was incorrect, there was no effect on grazing. Steve Kilpatrick said there are existing grazing leases all over designated Wilderness. Carlman said the only time grazing has been taking out was through a voluntarily buy-out in Black Creek, and IRAs don't nix grazing, so that is not a reason to vote a five.

Hayse commented that there is nothing in Carlman's IRA proposals to protect these areas in terms of future wilderness potential. He said recreational permits destroy the possibility of future wilderness, and that if there was something to the effect of the curtailment of recreational permits, he might have participated. Mielke suggested Wade Kaufmann (in audience) might be able to speak to recreational permits. Ann Harvey (public, in audience) asked why Wade gets to talk? She said the public doesn't get to speak during the regular committee meeting.

Smitherman said the roadless rules only effects new roads and road construction. The roadless rule doesn't affect grazing or recreation. It basically prevents the construction of new roads. Smutko suggested thinking about ways to move five votes to four votes.

Statter asked about pegging use at current use levels. Mielke asked if there was a way for USFS to figure that out or to put a cap on it. Lisa Merigliano said there can be a limit or prohibition on permits. Hayse said right now someone could get a permit, and without some kind of provision, it creates a condition where one guy has a tour for a single route through Leidy, and wilderness won't be allowed if that one guy controls the permit. Tony Ferlisi said that doesn't mean it can't be part of discussion moving forward, and nothing says the committee can't have a discussion down the road about boundaries.

Mielke said the purpose is to put protections on the ground now, and he didn't put Woodmencey or himself up there, but that it would likely be two fours (not two 5s). Statter said that was the meat of Len's proposal.

Don Saner said if the WSAs were to be managed as they are right now, there are some gray areas, they are not being managed in accordance with the 1984 Wilderness Act. Saner said he didn't vote a four, but a three, and said if it's going to be managed as a WSA, let's manage it as a WSA. Carlman said if you were to enforce the terms of 1984 usage levels, it is not the same, and doesn't resolve the problem. He said it lets the USFS continue to ignore the Wyoming Wilderness Act.

Saner said there is a question as to the amount of usage allowed by the '84 Act, and mountain biking is not mentioned at all. Smitherman said the problem with the Carlman proposal is that only one element of the proposal is up there, and what Don Saner is talking about, the permitting, is not being talked about here. Heberger Jr. said at the same time, if the committee could agree on something like this, it would be a win. Smitherman said we need to build on that. We can agree to protect IRAs, agree on no oil and gas, let's go up a little bit.

Mielke asked Smitherman, going back to grazing, if it differs across forests, or if it is nationwide thing. Smitherman said there are organic rules that protect grazing that are the same across forests. No designation kicks out grazing, and all state grazing shall be permitted in accordance with existing law. The USFS does have the opportunity to go in and adjust operations, but the grazing activity itself is consistent.

Mielke asked Carlman, if there were no fives voted on the IRA option, why would you not throw Palisades in the same group? Carlman said he not include Palisades, because his expectation is Palisades would be capital W wilderness. Mielke said looking at charter, the committee is assembled to deal with WSAs, and in his mind, Palisades should be included. McGee asked if Palisades were included in the proposal, if it stays a WSA. Mielke said the purpose is to try and get WSAs out of limbo. Carlman said limbo has been successful. Mielke said there is still constant threat, and part of the definition of compromise to him was certainty. McGee asked about a path forward. Mielke replied his suggestion now is that Palisades gets included in Carlman's proposal.

Carlman clarified that what was being proposed was to change the WSA to an IRA, direct management get the "study" part of the title out. Saner asked if that means modifying the '84 act, so it stays exactly like it is, but is not designated as a WSA. He said [the equestrian's group] recommendation is to leave it alone, or the other thing the committee could do, is call it a National Conservation Area, and direct USFS to manage it according to '84 act. That way it would stay managed, but not be a WSA, but you could come and designate it as wilderness in future, and keep management at '84 levels.

Abby Moore said so if there is no snow in 50 years, it becomes wilderness. She said there are acts elsewhere that have provisions that areas become wilderness at a later time.

McGee asked Mielke what he thought about the second option. Mielke said potentially. Heberger Jr. asked what if you set accepted use levels for the WSA as they are today. McGee clarified that that would make the fight about use levels of snow and mountain bike use go away. Heberger Jr. said he was just throwing it out as an option. Mike Brennan said the argument would not be avoided all together, as the USFS doesn't know levels of use now. He said personally he thought the idea of directing management with the '84 Act was interesting. The possibility of using 2018 usage levels was an opportunity the committee hasn't talked about, and was the closest to a practical solution he's heard on Palisades.

Kilpatrick suggested the idea of creating and writing new Desired Future Conditions (DFCs), to be managed like it was in '84, just add new DFCs. Smitherman asked how that is different than releasing it to the USFS to go through the planning process. Kilpatrick replied it would let the DFCs suggest how it be managed. The committee writes how it is managed, rather than going through ten years of planning.

Mielke said he is mountain biker too, and was curious to know what Tony thinks.

Tony Ferlisi said for us it doesn't work at all, because mountain biking wasn't happening, maybe not at all in that area in 1984. Since then it has become a widely accepted use in Palisades, and the mountain bike community has become stewards of those trails. He said would be really challenging, and he thinks about best desired future conditions, moving forward from today's use as a possibility, but from the '84 standpoint he can't say so. Carlman asked if mountain biking was permitted from Teton Pass to Mosquito Creek, if that would address those concerns. Ferlisi said there is a bit on the west side, by the Mike Harris campground. Carlman said that is still a relative fraction of the Palisades. Ferlisi said he would like to establish some certainty with regard to those trails, and even some of those established trails to access deeper into the Palisades.

Smutko asked about other thoughts on DFC options, and if it was simply a way of describing management stipulations?

Ferlisi said the mountain biking community can work to facilitate some sort of mechanism for getting that data, or ballpark at least, because without numbers on a page it's hard to say.

Hebberger Jr. clarified that the proposal would be saying the area is not a WSA, but puts conditions on the use of the forest, while taking away the WSA label. Kilpatrick said DFC6 is WSA, so the committee could write something up and give it a name. Lloyd Dorsey said the '84 Act does have language in it about levels of use pertinent to WSAs, and also has language about protecting wilderness character. He asked what gives people the assurance USFS enforce a similar designation under a new act, if they did not enforce the '84 act. Hebberger Jr. said if we assume that the Forest Service can never do anything right, there is no point to this whole process.

Smutko noted the conversation was shifting to Palisades.

Hayse said he did not think this was fair, that WWA wanted to talk about Wilderness for Palisades, and they did not have chance to give their presentation, which he didn't think was correct, and he thinks this whole discussion is inappropriate. He said he'd be glad to talk about Wilderness for Palisades.

Statter wanted to clarify with the motorized reps that the only reason they could agree to IRAs as presented by Carlman was to get certainty in Palisades, was that correct? Mielke said that is how Palisades came up, it is a critical piece of land, and the committee was tasked to deal with WSAs. Statter asked if Mielke would throw a five if the proposal didn't deal with the WSAs. Mielke said that was kind of putting him on the spot, but potentially yes. He said his rationale was rooted in what the committee was tasked to deal with, and was getting ignored. McGee said Palisades was not being ignored, rather the committee is stymied. She said she didn't like the idea of things the committee agrees on held hostage. Buchko said the committee is tasked to deal with WSAs, and he is strongly against proposals that kick the can down the road.

Brennan asked what would it take to sign on with the Carlman proposal. Mielke responded maybe if it fit with Palisades. Brennan suggested dealing with what's on the wall, and recognizing that the committee will have a whole month of discussion on Palisades. Brennan would like to see if there is more potential agreement, and try to aggregate where Smitherman's proposal ended up.

Smutko asked Mielke if could set Palisades aside for now, understanding it is not off the table, just not on the table today. It is a temporary suspension of disbelief, to see what other things are palatable. Smutko turned to other columns with low number of fives.

### **Land Exchange Option**

McGee suggested talking about the state section swap option. Smutko asked Lloyd Dorsey if he gave the state section option a five. Dorsey said he would not vote a five on that. Greg Buchko voted a four for the land swap option. Brennan said he voted a four because he doesn't know what is on other side of the equation. He wasn't voting a five, but he'd like some parameters. He said he doesn't know how you assess viability of exchange without that information. Lisa McGee said having tracked other county processes, it would be place holder language, and be an encouragement that people want discussion to start happening. There is thinking out there it might inspire action.

Smitherman said he met with OSLI, they were receptive to directive land exchanges. Hebberger Jr. asked if the possibility of an exchange was restricted to just Teton county. Brennan said you start in state, but theoretically it can be anywhere. Carlman said he voted ones almost everywhere, but he put a three on this proposal for the same reasons Mike and Lisa articulated. He said it was worth giving it a shot, the inholdings are a problem and we don't want them sold off, but there needs to be a next level of refinement. Brennan said he agreed, that someone buying Antelope Flats to put up condos was a real risk. He recognizes the status quo as precarious and to treat him as a 3 or 4. He said placing some parameters around it is important. Smutko asked Greg Buchko for his thoughts. Buchko said his first thought, coming into this

dealing with the USFS lands, that it complicates it dealing with different land agencies, and that he is just not educated on details of transfers, so more information might move his vote.

### **Smitherman Proposal Discussion**

Smitherman said if possible he'd like to discuss the Shoal Creek WSA proposal because the Sublette meeting is tomorrow. (Shoal proposal: about 4000 acres added to Gros Ventre wilderness, the south end designated as Special Management Area). Brennan said there may not be a substantive difference between the Shaul and Smitherman proposals. Smutko suggested evaluating Dan Smitherman's proposal. He said there were four fives voted, and he didn't see motorized or Woodmencey. He asked about the rationale behind fives. Mielke responded without saying 'Palisades' we are here about compromise, and to agree to give Smitherman that, in return, let us use Palisades. Smutko said so that would be the condition. Mielke responded, if that came into discussion, potentially so. Smutko asked if that would be the only condition. Mielke said it would be a strong four.

Smitherman said if you count part of that extension in Sublette, there is only about 400 acres of wilderness and almost ten thousand acres released to snow use. Steve Kilpatrick asked if Smitherman could summarize where the Sublette committee is sitting. Smitherman said we are going to discuss tomorrow, but the committee is pretty much in agreement with 55 hundred acres of wilderness (in Sublette County), but that they refused to talk about Teton, so he has no idea there. He said that was based on a conversation he had with Mike Mielke, and a conversation with Bill Lanning and the Graze Association about maximizing those uses. Mielke clarified Smitherman did talk to him, but they were not looking at map, and did not draw lines together. Smitherman said that was correct, he did not send a map. Smitherman said he did have long discussion with the Roberts family, that has a major allotment for grazing, and is the biggest obstacle for wilderness for Shoal, and at the end of the discussion they were not at odds. The Roberts have the Fisherman Creek allotment.

Smutko asked Mielke if his concern was the placement of line, or just adding wilderness without compensation.

Smitherman said for his understanding, if he wants to take this conversation to Sublette, Palisades is part of the give and take. Buchko said he was a five because he would need to see some benefit to summer motorized, in Palisades. It would have to be a part of larger agreement. Smitherman said all existing motorized is protected in this proposal, including illegal existing motorized. Mielke said that the WSA falls under the same rules as Palisades, and where Smitherman drew the line took out is best snowmobiling in that northern part. Smitherman said he took out about ten percent. Deer Ridge, Tincan, West Dell, everything coming out of Elkhorn remains open.

Smutko asked if Lloyd Dorsey was a five as well. Dorsey said to clarify, the spreadsheet he was using evidently was missing some of the categories, so he did leave those blank. He said he had expressed willingness on Shoal Creek not all becoming wilderness, and would be open to looking at that a bit closer. Smutko asked if he could be a four? Dorsey said a 4 or 3.

Smutko said we don't know about Woodmencey, so he is the last remaining five. He asked Bruce Hayse where he would stand. Hayse said he would probably concur with Lloyd.

Smutko asked about the stipulation language, if the management language is that workable? Mielke said he needs to look at the management, but potentially.

Lisa McGee asked for clarification, that motorized would be okay with Dan's proposed management prescriptions for southern part? Mielke said it was tough one to spitball. Smutko asked but it is not off the table? Mielke said as long as it is still allowing snow machining. Smitherman said he doesn't see anything that should bother motorized. Greg Buchko said assuming it is part of a larger agreement, he has no problems with the way it is managed. Smutko asked if it was just a matter of where the line is. Buchko said no, for him to agree for wilderness he needs to see something in return.

Lisa McGee said to Greg and Mike M. that this is what is problematic about the premise, is that we are splitting small area, just looking at Shoal Creek, if there was an aversion to wilderness even in areas motorized is not using? She said she can't imagine a snowmobile on some country. Mielke said he's had his

daughter at the foothill where the proposed wilderness line is. McGee asked about certainty for the southern portion. Mielke said he was better off to take chances on his MLATNA.

Don Saner asked about how much usage occurs? Mielke said it is not super heavily used, there is access from Fishermans, he has been there maybe six times this year, at most, five vehicles there, not heavily used. Saner said there is particular type of guy that wants to ride that country, that they are holding a chunk of ground hostage for 14-16 use days. Mielke asked what is the harm that is happening now?

Saner said if you are allowing motorized use, it is going to eventually expand, and get more and more motorized. Mielke said in response, snow mobile sales nationwide peaked in late 90's early 2000's, since then have declined. The nationwide picture is flat lined now. From mid '90's to early 2000's was the peak period for snow mobile sales.

Lisa McGee asked if there is any part that is not snow machinable? Mielke said to the last tip of the horn. Hayse said snowmobile sales are down 14% in last two years. McGee asked how Dan's proposal for Shoal would effect mountain bikes. Smitherman said he and Tony had talked, and right now Shoal Creek is not a mountain bike area. He said there is some discussion in Sublette to not allow mountain biking in Shoal Creek, or not giving it the opportunity to expand. He said he didn't think it was significantly contentious issue.

Steve Smutko asked if there were enough possibilities to keep the conversation going?

Don Saner said he thought so, the committee made good headway today and cut some fives to fours.

Statter said at end of day we have a majority. There are some dissenting fives, but as written in the WPLI charter we can still send a recommendation to the commissioners with a description of why 5s are 5s, and let the county commissioners sort it out. He said there are conditions to get there, and a significant discussion, but so long as we continue that conversation and exhaust it, the committee can move forward.

Hebberger Jr. said based on the conversation today, there was discussion about Palisades that gave him confidence there are things to talk about he would like the committee explore further. Dan Smitherman said he agrees with Mike and Greg, Palisades can't be dodged forever. He said taking Carlman's proposal as foundation, building and adding on it was a reason to continue. Abby Moore said I think we should continue, and she liked the puzzle idea. She said voting on pieces of puzzle doesn't mean voting for final puzzle. Mielke pointed out that the 'three' votes weren't discussed.

Bruce Hayse said he has to disagree with John Hebberger Jr. a bit, he said he was upset because we are not supposed to talk about wilderness in Palisades, and then listen to him say we should get rid of wilderness in Palisades. I really don't think that was fair or appropriate. Hayse said for him, that's not a workable option [no wilderness in Palisades].

Mielke said it was highly likely he would not be here next month, but Wade Kaufmann would be his alternate.

Kleinman clarified there was a working group meeting scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Don Saner yes it opened door for conversation, put name out there with a number, defend your number. He said the committee discussed only five columns, there are a whole bunch more that can be done with this exercise.

### **Public Comment**

Lisa Merigliano, USFS. Merigliano said she wanted to mention one thing, when you guys are talking about visitor use, she would appreciate if you could talk about visitor use management. Use levels are a small piece. Really good visitor use management includes behavior of uses, timing. She said USFS are not just focused on numbers, that is not the defining characteristic.

Ben Read. Read said he was speaking independently. He asked questions about the consensus decision process. He said he didn't think there was a path forward unless attention was focused on the one to five voting system, and he interpreted the five votes as irreconcilable with the middle ground of the

conversation, while four votes still want to be in the conversation. Read said the facilitator role becomes central, as facilitators come away with a sense of where the middle ground is, facilitators are charged to narrow the range of the discussion. He said if that process isn't hardened up, you end up with a few anodyne points. No way to work toward consensus unless process like that are in play. Read said he thinks consensus is still not widely understood. He asked if the committee could focus entirely on process points for the likelihood of a better outcome.

Kim Springer. Springer said she had planned to speak for Wyoming Wilderness Association (WWA), but would be speaking on behalf of herself. She said WWA works full time to protect WY wildlands, and they have had a staff member or board member at every meeting, and participated in all eight committees around state. We'll be speaking next time. Springer said the greater Palisades isn't just Wyoming. There are 250 thousand acres in ID, and the ID portion was recommended as wilderness, and in Targhee there is officially over 110 thousand acre maintained for wilderness character. Springer said to preserve and protect ecosystems, when looking at greater Palisades, we have to look at bigger picture, and that is her obligation to WPLI process.

Ann Harvey. Harvey said she'd like to ask everyone to step back, and think not just about this room, or the precise concerns of where we like to recreate. She asked the committee to think more globally, long term, and said it was harder and harder to find large landscapes. Harvey said they don't make wilderness anymore, wilderness and wildlife are disappearing at incredible rate. For us to give up on wilderness in areas so globally significant is wrong. Harvey shared several statistics relating to wildlands. In last 25 years planet lost ten percent of terrestrial wilderness, area half size of Australia. Another study looked at satellite images, and in a period of 13 years, intact forest shrunk more than seven percent....she said we are in trouble on this planet. There will be more than 15 million miles of new roads globally by 2050. In eleven Western states, an area larger than Yellowstone was lost. In Wyoming, 496 square miles. Harvey said we are in a race to save these last wild places, and only 12 percent of land in the West is permanently protected. Harvey said a key point for the greater Palisades is its size. As an ecological unit, it is bigger than 250 thousand acres, big enough for natural processes to operate and plenty of room for wildfire to burn. She said it is a key part of GYE, and they are not making any more of it. Palisades was given highest possible score for wilderness. She urged the committee not to cop out, and said make it wilderness.

Mike Merigliano. Agree with what Ann says, but not what I want to talk about. Palisades is a big chunk of ground. A part of me thinks it's just nuts to not make wilderness, but motorized, I get that too. Small thing, Teton park, drawing wilderness boundaries in park, the core has a lot of motorized use every day. Helicopters all the time, part of wilderness is self-reliance, solitude. That's going to be a tough choice, park has gone towards helicopter rescues. There are practical reasons for using helicopters. Is that ok in wilderness to have heli-resuces? He said the Park doesn't tend to stick with wilderness act as strictly as they could. Don't be so cavalier about drawing wilderness boundaries there. What I'm saying not that it would preclude, but what is happening on these lands. The park is not low hanging fruit to me, as you think. Particularly where the core of the climbing is.

Benj Sinclair. Sinclair said he was speaking for himself. He said he was pro wilderness, and doesn't see the manifest destiny of mechanized recreation slowing down. He thinks we are going to have more and more challenges with technology. He recognized that technology like efat bikes can be great tech for older people. At one point we were discussing drawing lines for current uses in Palisades...donut hole for dirt bikes, loop in Indian creek. Carve out some nice big chunk of wilderness instead. Not acceptable to be motorized. I have to agree with Ann, look at big picture, crazy to not make Palisades wilderness. These places are disappearing. In 50 yrs. when everyone has own drone to cruise with, even more problems where to draw lines. Sinclair said he'd like to see as much wilderness as possible.

**Next Meeting**

May 9, 2018, 2-6 pm  
USFS Building,  
Jackson, WY