

Teton County WPLI Advisory Committee

Meeting Summary

May 9, 2018

USFS Building, Jackson, WY

Draft for Review	Approved
<p>Committee Members Present: Gregory Buchko John Heberger Jr. Mike Mielke Don Saner Dan Smitherman Bruce Hayse Lloyd Dorsey Tony Ferlisi Steve Kilpatrick Rob Shaul Tom Turiano</p> <p>Members Absent:, Jim Woodmencey, Siva Sundaresan, Abby Moore, Lisa McGee, Harry Statter, Mike Brennan, David Sollitt</p>	<p>Others Present: Tom Segerstrom, <i>Teton Conservation District</i> Linda Merigliano, <i>USFS</i> Mike Merigliano, <i>public</i> Mark Newcomb, <i>Teton County Commissioner</i> Kathleen May, <i>Great Old Broads for Wilderness</i> Jon Shick, <i>High Mountain Heli-Ski</i> Ann Harvey, <i>public</i> Peggie dePasquale, <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>Agenda Old Business / Administrative Matters</p> <p>Presentation: WWA (sponsored by Bruce Hayse)</p> <p>Working Session: Disaggregated Proposals</p> <p>Clarifying New & Revised Proposals (10 max minutes per presentation) Updated Proposal(s) from Tom Turiano, Len Carlman, Susan Marsh Rob Shaul new proposal(s)</p> <p>Discussion about Proposals – Focus on Palisades, Select Options from April, Sticky Wall Voting on Disaggregated Proposals, Discussion of Strategies & Options with some Potential</p> <p>Next Steps: New/revised proposals under development, June meeting</p> <p>5:30 – 5:50 PM Public Comment</p>	<p>Handouts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agenda 2. WWA factsheet
<p>Actions Taken</p>	

1. Get details of Turiano-Carlman-Marsh proposal with specific management prescriptions. Will be distributed after next MAWG meeting
2. A column for comments to explain contingent fours and fives will be added to the spreadsheet
3. Rob Shaul's options in spreadsheet format for voting purposes
4. Tony Ferlisi will share the proposal from the mountain bike constituency in the next week

Old Business

The April minutes were approved.

Mark Newcomb, Teton County commissioner thanked the committee and said [the Board of County Commissioners] would do the best they could with whatever the committee produces.

Peggie dePasquale, Community Organizer Wyoming Wilderness Association (WWA)

dePasquale presented a statement for the committee.

Link: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1M5brwJqicoNbVD8YkbXQh1L5HpAZUoUa>

Lloyd Dorsey asked about the WWA position on Palisades that the "majority should be wilderness", and if there was a discussion amongst WWA if that was 90, 95, 80 percent, and where that geography was. dePasquale said WWA has not settled on an exact percentage, but there has been discussion of areas on the borders of Palisades. They are waiting to see the proposals that come out.

John Heberger Jr. asked if there were efforts underway currently or in recent years by WWA or other environmental organizations to effect this change in status. Ann Harvey said she was a long-time member of WWA and answered that the main thing in the last seven or eight years were efforts to protect the WSA from incompatible activities and elevate public knowledge. She said there hasn't been a formal proposal. Harvey continued that it was hard to put forth formal proposals without the Forest Plan Revision process going forward. After a follow-up question from Heberger, Ann agreed / clarified that indeed there has not been and is not now any effort underway to move the WSA from "Study Area" to full Wilderness status. Bruce Hayse said he was sorry that WWA had not been on committee in first place. He mentioned the original proposal for Mt Leidy wilderness, and asked what the acreage was. He said it was thrown out at the time because of oil and gas interests, but would be good to include as a proposal.

Mike Mielke asked for clarity on who the presentation was on the behalf of. dePasquale said on behalf of the WWA. Mielke asked if presentations have been opened up to any non-profit. Deb Kleinman said the presentation was sponsored by Bruce Hayse.

Dorsey said for clarification, the wilderness proposal for the Mt. Leidy area is before the committee in the Sierra Club proposal.

Kleinman brought up the timeline, and said she is pushing for a conclusion of the WPLI effort by July. Turiano asked if multiple proposals would be submitted to the BOCC. Kleinman said that is a conversation the committee needs to have.

Steve Smutko explained the purpose of the spreadsheet method to vote on and view options, of which there are over 70.

Greg Buchko noted there were some options missing from his summer motorized proposal. He said it seemed biased towards conservation.

Smutko continued his explanation of the voting system. He said the committee will have conversations about what people need in order to change their vote from a five to a four, etc. From there, proposals can be recombined and brought forward. The idea is to fully understand what is in every proposal.

Kleinman asked committee members to add in “contingency fours” to support that conversation. She said she wanted emphasize [the facilitators] need help doing quality control, and making sure what the committee is voting on is clear.

Planned Process Steps:

- Clarify Palisades options
- Add Options not there
- Vote (strawpoll)
- Discussion

Tom Turiano presents Turiano-Carlman-Marsh Proposal

Tom Turiano said the proposal he was presenting also represented the work of Len Carlman and Susan Marsh, and the intent is to serve people, wildlife and landscapes. Turiano said federal statutes are powerful, and he wants to make sure recommendations are not altered as they move up the chain up command. He noted there are three lawyers on the committee (Brennan, Moore, McGee) that can work to write stipulations, and Len Carlman is available to support that. He said this proposal can be taken as is, or disaggregated into its components. They’ve come up with thirteen areas, and each area, as far as a title, would become a National Backcountry Conservation Area. Each area would have a baseline of regulations that would govern it. In addition, individual areas would have individual stipulations attached. Turiano said Len plans to write details for each of the NBCAs, and the getting down to the nitty gritty is the only way to advance a new designation. The goals of the NBCA is to give the public and USFS clear direction, to stop new roads, end oil and gas, terminate commercial logging, and trump the Teton to Snake fuels reduction project. He mentioned three land types with established management directives: wildland rec, areas of cultural importance, and primitive areas that have managed modes of use. He said each zone would have an appendix with specific prescriptions to fit the local area, and would be subject to seasonal use restrictions, in consultation with WY Game and Fish. Turiano said prescriptions can give recreation groups certainty for future access. He said in Palisades, there would be support of trail networks for mountain bikes, snow machines, and dirt bikes. Turiano projected a map. [On the map] Any area where there is sliver is a currently open roads.

Link: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_IM3s6DNyfb4oegDcZ5yXKYKjApaPvm

Buchko asked if roads would remain open. Turiano said the proposal pays attention to the existing travel plan. He said there is a roadless zone, but we paid attention to existing roads. He mentioned 150 thousand acres of wilderness in the core of Palisades, and listed wilderness additions: Grizzly Lake, Boulder creek, Camp creek, a little bit on Beard, and Game Creek are non-motorized areas.

Dorsey asked a process question, wondering if next month is the time to present a modified proposal from the aggregated proposals. He said he wants to make sure the results of meetings at Rob’s gym get a hearing before this committee.

Dan Smitherman asked Turiano if his proposal included the other IRAs on the backside of the Jedediah Smith Wilderness. Turiano said they didn’t address them. Smitherman asked if there was a specific set of management prescriptions for each backcountry rec area, and how the committee is supposed to vote on them if they don’t know what they are. Turiano said Len is working on them, but they don’t currently have detailed prescriptions.

Dorsey asked if they were trying to designate certain tracks or categories to mimic the ‘64 Wilderness Act. Turiano said they will have established management directives for the three lands types.

Dan Smitherman said primitive area is a BLM term. Scab Creek was a primitive before it was a WSA.

Dorsey asked in regard of terms if the purpose was to mimic wilderness stipulations but not call it Wilderness. Turiano replied as close as we can, with the inclusion of managed motorized and mechanized uses.

Smitherman said Sublette ran into the same thing, using a NCA to allow for chainsaws and aerial spraying. Steve Kilpatrick suggested looking at the current DFC descriptions.

John Heberger Jr said he agreed with Dan, that this is a significant set of proposals...and each could be quite different, with unique attributes, so he wanted to understand what could be done today.

Mike Mielke said with due respect to Len, pulling all this together is huge effort, and that one of our tasks is to guide forest planning, but we are not the planners. Heberger J said if it were written into legislation, it would be a directive to USFS. Turiano said they don't want to overprescribe. Smitherman said BLM has adopted NBCAs and has a manual that defines them. He said Len using is that, but is also pulling things from roadless rules. Heberger Jr. noted Len sent the committee that CO & ID language. He said there was intent to have a third column that is Teton county, but the committee doesn't have that yet.

Heberger Jr. noted that five committee members are absent today and was disappointed in that. He said he agreed with Dan, that for a bunch of this stuff, he didn't feel like he had enough information to cast a vote.

Kleinman asked Tom if he had a sense of Len's turnaround time for management stipulations. Tom Turiano replied he didn't expect that we would write all prescriptions, but expected to gather ideas. He said they could have them in a week, after the meeting at Rob's.

Greg Buchko said when he met with Len a couple weeks ago, his understanding was that Len was using CO and ID roadless rules, which generally allow multi use and would be managed by USFS. That is what yellow areas were going to be. Detailed specifics in those areas?

Turiano said there would be specific prescription for each one.

Smitherman asked if there are global things that would apply? Turiano yes, and he can send that out.

Tony Ferlisi said there was a mountain bike meeting the next day, where they would focus on management prescription recommendations for the Palisades.

Heberger Jr. said what Len is reaching for is something that will draw as many yes votes as possible from this committee. He is trying to thread needle by bringing in as many different perspectives as possible while including surety for future which is what legislation presumably would do.

Turiano referring to primitive zones, getting those as close to wilderness

Dorsey asked about the global prescriptions (mineral withdrawal etc) if they went back to a presentation from Lisa McGee on areas of potential agreement. He asked if Tom et. al. felt that there were improvements to be made on the 2001 roadless rule that the USFS polling process wouldn't address. Turiano said that Len was going to use of Idaho and Colorado roadless rules, and tuning them to be more well suited to [Teton County's] roadless areas.

Heberger Jr. pointed out that the proposal Len Carlman previously presented proposed codifying IRAs as they exist, and setting aside Palisades; that was a very simple possible solution. Smutko said that the earlier Len Carlman codification of IRAs proposal was still included in the options matrix.

BREAK

The committee took about 25 minutes to vote on the sticky wall. Column AA had a typo: needed to be 'subtraction' not 'addition'.

Kleinman asked for reactions.

Dan Smitherman said he was not willing to de-designate Palisades. It either stays WSA or goes all Wilderness.

Hayse said he endorsed that position. Dorsey said that has been captured, and asks if it has to be hundred percent? 90 or 95 percent? He said the Sierra Club has been firm all along, the more wilderness the better, but would be willing to entertain something less than hundred percent, if the preponderance of Palisades was wilderness.

Kleinman asked what would get Dorsey to a place of less than 100 percent wilderness.

Dorsey mentioned the area adjacent to the highway going over Teton Pass, and said quantification of that acreage could come from mountain bike constituents. He mentioned the Hayse proposal for the Bert Raynes Wilderness which did not quantify how much of that area could be something other than Wilderness.

Kleinman asked about the 'five' votes on column B.

Jon Shick commented that he voted exactly how Woody voted.

Mike Mielke said his five came from his firm belief in being tasked to the WSAs. He said perhaps he should have put four and star, but could say just the opposite of Dan's comment. Mielke said he was here representing an awful lot of people, and nobody was wanting to destroy wildlife habitat. He said he considered himself an environmentalist. He said flying in a plane over these areas, he kept noticing we can't go here, we can't go there. On the same trip, he said he saw forty head of elk right along the runway as we landed, and they could have cared less. Mielke said he loves wilderness, that he hikes there.

Kleinman asked about the potential of a four star vote. Mike Mielke said looking at Tom's map, where his green sections are, several of them, there would be no effect if that were to be included in the Gros Ventre. That is where the four star could have come from. But at this point, he said his vote was not changing.

Buchko asked if Mosquito Creek would be included in the proposed new Palisades designation [and therefore exclude motorized use]. Turiano said yes.

Buchko said he can't support that. Motorcycles have three trails in Teton County, and that would take another one away. He said 8.8 million acres are protected from motorized.

Ferlisi explained his five. He said there was potential management for rather than exclusion of particular use. Ferlisi said mountain bikers have trails in some but not all of those areas. He said the concept of loss is hard to swallow, but we have effective management tools.

Rob Shaul said he was with Greg and Mike. He said Palisades is bordered by highways, and he can't support [column B].

Dorsey said to clarify for Greg, there are three trails for motorcyclists to ride on public lands in Teton County, yet motorcycles can ride on ATV trails, USFS gravel and dirt roads. He said the BT north zone travel contains 480 miles of motorized routes. Buchko said he is representing off road motorized vehicles. He said a family for instance can't ride on roads. He said he doesn't like to ride on dirt roads, because of dust clouds. He said his constituents don't consider dirt roads a motorcycle trail. He said there are some trails in ID that would be affected, and his third point is that Teton County ID expressed their interest in keeping it multi use.

Shaul asked Turiano if along the Snake River Canyon if the idea was just to designate for backcountry skiers. He asked if there was any sledding in that area?

Mike Mielke said there is. Shaul said he'd move to a five if there was sledding in the area. Turiano said that was one of options produced early in the process, as a tradeoff for letting Palisades be de-designated. Shaul said it depends on the bigger package.

Column T: Palisades

Turiano said he didn't know where those routes were, and was missing information to make decisions.

Buchko said he didn't know what that involves, the process...how the Game and Fish input goes into the Forest Management Plan. He asked how it would affect the outcome.

Steve Kilpatrick spoke about wildlife. He said Game and Fish is focused on winter range for large ungulates, nesting for raptors. He said other species are difficult to comment on, there is simply too little data. He said recreational activity DOES though impact wildlife, and as we populate the county more, there will be more and more impacts on wildlife. He asked as a community, where do we draw the lines. He suggested using the best science to say where people can go.

Kleinman noted additional detail was needed.

Kleinman pointed out column I (i) had a couple yellows, but no hard blocks.

Smitherman said there was missing information, what are they, how many, what are you trading for...

Smutko noted that most of Tom's stuff is all red and yellow...what going on with that. why not a good idea?

Smitherman said with a lack of information, any type of NBCA implies de-designation, non-wilderness.

Don Saner said he agreed with Dan that there was not enough info, and it was dependent on what we get out of Len. There is no mention of wilderness in there.

Hayse said he liked Len's original proposal, but the roadless rule in Teton County makes this an absurdly complicated thing, something that can't be enforced in the Palisades. He suggested just making sure the roadless rule is kept in place. Hebbberger Jr. noted that option is on the other part of spreadsheet.

Smutko asked Turiano if there was anything you will reconsider for a new proposal, based on feedback?

Turiano said he would discuss it with Len and Susan.

Kilpatrick brought up chronic wasting disease inching its way into Teton County. The last presentation he went to suggested that in ten or twenty years, feed grounds might be gone as a result of CWD.

Turiano asked if Kilpatrick can put together a proposal. Kilpatrick said we need some winter ranges.

Hayse noted many species here that are confined: wolverine, lynx. These animal, we don't know where they are, but do know that they are sensitive to disturbance. Kilpatrick said we've all heard the word food web, the whole thing is dependent on a prey base.

John Hebbberger Jr. asked if the committee should we have short discussion about acceptable product outcome. Smutko suggested holding off on that conversation, and asked the committee if they saw a way forward. Turiano suggested looking at big picture proposals. Dorsey spoke to the complexity of the options spreadsheet. He said there is usefulness in pointing out, there is unanimity on a couple categories. He said it was not a small thing, to have complete mineral withdrawal for certain areas. Dan Smitherman noted there are seven categories with agreement.

Dorsey mentioned the timeline.

Shaul commented that what he was hearing was we need to do something in Palisades, or not agree to anything. He said leaving Palisades as is would dramatically impact mountain biking and sledding.

Mike Mielke said he wouldn't disagree with that. He said when he signed up, it was because [Palisades] is where he spends his time in the winter, it's personal to him. Mielke said he respects where Lloyd, Bruce and Dan are coming from. He said Palisades and Shoal are the main things he signed up to deal with in the WPLI process, although some of these other things, the other little wilderness sections, he might be fine with that. He said, with all due respect, Dorsey has his heels dug in, only accepting a ten percent sliver on the south side of the pass. Mielke said he is completely on the opposite end of that. He said his BATNA is a better outcome and would take him that route. Dan Smitherman said so you don't see leaving Palisades as WSA as an option.

Jon Schick said the status quo is no longer acceptable. It has been a WSA since '84 which is not acceptable anymore. He said you can't go after and eliminate snow machines like you did to me (heli-skiing use). Schick said the committee needs to deal with it, make it wilderness or release it to multiple use.

Mielke said he was pretty much on board with Jon Schick, and that Palisades is extremely pivotal in all of these deals. Smutko asked if the pivot was the ability to maintain uses, [allows motorized] to engage with and consider proposals outside the WSAs. Mielke said exactly, and if it goes the legal route, maybe that is when compromise happens.

Tony Ferlisi said in regards to Palisades and mountain biking, that mountain bikers are conservationists. In Palisades they've developed outstanding working relationships with the agency to build, maintain, and repair trails. He said it is an excellent way for us to get other folks to get involved in stewardship of amazing public lands. Ferlisi said if Palisades were to be managed to '84 levels, mountain bikers would be in trouble. The forest has been managed for mountain biking for a long time. For mountain bikers to maintain access and maintain that working relationship is critical. He said he doesn't want to lose that constituency.

Hayse said so mountain bikers won't support conservation unless they have access to the Palisades. Ferlisi said it is more unlikely they will participate moving forward.

Don Saner listed some mountain biking statistics. He said as someone who supports wilderness, he'd like to not worry about encountering mountain bikes or motorcycles on trails, which is where his group stands. Saner said they are willing to make trades on Palisades...the chunk off north end perhaps...but he would have a hard time getting behind something that doesn't have wilderness for Palisades.

Rob Shaul Proposal Matrix: Alpha, Beta, Charlie, Delta

Link: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1iMxFMhZ4I8G7-XDoNTT9ChDYbHABD6NT>

Shaul explained his matrix. He said as you move across the table [of options], you move between the extremes. Everything pivots on Palisades. The grand bargain is no wilderness in Palisades for more wilderness someplace else. He explained Alpha, Beta, Charlie, Delta, and said Charlie is trying to thread the needle between both groups. Delta is full release, and what motorized groups want. He said Charlie no one likes, because maintains WSA, managed to 2018 levels. If we could get traction on just one idea, there is an opportunity for conservation and motorized user groups to have certainty. Idea of fairness. We just had a fairness argument. Puzzles me, some ideas of what is supposed to be fair. On conservation side, no oil and gas, not fair, had 34 years to get changed but you haven't. Shaul said his proposal was to vote on these options, see if any traction.

Smutko asked so you would like vote for A-D. Shaul said yes, it might give us more direction for the next meeting.

Smitherman said what he is hearing from Mike Mielke is that Palisades is central, and it all has to be accessible to snow mobile users. Mielke noted that Palisades is shared with three other counties. He said none of other three counties support turning Palisades into wilderness.

Smitherman asked, hypothetically, if there was opportunity to look at lands outside Teton County, the greater Palisades, would you take advantage of that opportunity? Mielke said that would make sense, but hasn't the committee come to the consensus we can't have that conversation. Smutko said he didn't know if you've come to consensus, but it is beyond the purview of this committee. Heberberger Jr. reminded everyone that it is not like we didn't try to deal with Lincoln.

Smutko asked if there was another venue to talk about Palisades that doesn't lock into Teton co boundaries. Shaul said that might be at the next level (WCCA and/or Barrasso's office). Smitherman said it would take trust if it were not sanctioned by WCCA, and the county commissioners.

Shaul said we need some specific areas, circled on a map. Dorsey said that has been done, presented in the Greater Palisade concept.

Smitherman said there is a quarter million acres in Palisades, plus inventoried roadless. Throw in Munger, Mosquito Creek... 275 thousand acres. He said clearly the solution is to look at that wider landscape. Why can't we agree we are going to do that, and everybody wins.

Mielke said the key words are the trust part. He said it is pretty clear that for Dorsey's constituents to sign onto anything, the majority of Palisades has to be wilderness. Dorsey said that is indeed a foundation for us. Hayse said he feels the same way, and it is irrelevant because there won't be snowmobiling in the Palisades in 30 years anyway, due to climate change.

Dorsey said in the Greater Palisades discussion, they mention Munger Mountain, include it in codifying the roadless rule. That protects mountain biking and motorized use. Shaul noted not all real estate is the same. Some areas are more important for riding. He said that is not as clear for him on the conservation side...he asked if there might be some other areas. Dorsey said Palisades as it is now is, a WSA. Shaul replied a WSA, but not wilderness.

Shaul noted indications of where to move forward might be unpacking the contingent four votes and come back next meeting with that more clearly defined. And look at areas outside Teton County.

Mike Mielke said in regard to the Shaul options, he didn't know that I can vote 1-5 on this as it is. He said if you look at Shoal Creek WSA, that row is pretty much same all the way across. It can't be just those four votes.

Don Saner suggested going through and cherry picking.

Dorsey suggested putting it on an excel spreadsheet.

Smutko noted Rob Shaul's proposal will be put on a spreadsheet, and Rob will work with the committee on feedback they'd like to see. Smutko asked the committee to please start work on comprehensive proposals, said that the committee is finished with disaggregation. Next meeting, they will deal with comprehensive proposal.

Tony Ferlisi said that next week or sooner, there will be a mountain bike proposal Palisades, with maps.

John Heberger Jr. asked if it was possible to have scope in the spreadsheet for people to make comments.

Smutko said yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Merigliano said he was there representing himself. He commented on two things. He said the terminology of conservation vs motorized will be confusing for the broader public. A lot of motorized/mechanized users are conservationists. Merigliano suggested using a different word. Merigliano mentioned the wilderness designation vs protecting a broader range of acres. He said think of other conservation gains might be getting. Thirty years from now, if there are road threats or whatever, and it is protected, the committee would gain a lot. Merigliano said don't forget the big picture. The committee is focused on access, but don't forget the other stuff.

Ann Harvey asked if the public get to have copies of this or the proposals?

Deb Kleinman said formal proposals are up on the website, but informal work is not immediately available.

Next Meeting

June 20, 2018, 2-6 pm

USFS Building,

Jackson, WY