

Teton County WPLI Advisory Committee

Meeting Summary

August 8th, 2018

USFS Building, Jackson, WY

Draft for Review	Approved
<p>Committee Members Present: Gregory Buchko John Heberberger Jr. Mike Mielke Don Saner Paul Spittler (<i>alternate for Dan Smitherman</i>) Lloyd Dorsey Tony Ferlisi Steve Kilpatrick Rob Shaul Tom Turiano Jim Woodmencey Abby Moore Lisa McGee Harry Statter Mike Brennan David Sollitt Bruce Hayse</p> <p>Present via Zoom call: Siva Sundaresan</p> <p>Members Absent: Dan Smitherman</p>	<p>Others Present: Linda Merigliano, <i>USFS</i> Mary Moore, <i>USFS</i> Mike Merigliano, <i>public</i> Mark Newcomb, <i>Teton County Commissioner</i> Jon Shick, <i>High Mountain Heli-Ski</i> Len Carlman, <i>public</i> Ted and Peggy Sobey, <i>public</i> Peggie dePasquale, <i>Wyoming Wilderness Association</i> Don Ruzicka, <i>public</i> Don Athey, <i>public</i> Deborah Patla, <i>public</i> Bill McNamara, <i>public</i> Ann Harvey, <i>public</i> Kathleen May, <i>public</i> Monty Griffith, <i>public</i> Tyson Grow, <i>public</i> Brendan Newton, <i>public</i> David Knuus, <i>public</i> Silas Streeter, <i>public</i> Jesse Combs, <i>AMPL</i> Benj Sinclair, <i>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 2:00 PM Old Business / Administrative Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve Agenda, June Meeting Summary • Other Old Business <p>2:10 – 5:30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Words from BTNF – Linda Merigliano • Commissioner Mark Newcomb • Confirm what will go to BOCC after voting • Brief words from proposal teams: <i>Focus on what changed (10 minutes per proposal, followed by questions)</i> <p>Motorized Alliance Final Proposal (Aug 1) Teton Wildlands Conservation Plan (August 1) MAWG Final Proposal (July 31)</p>	<p>Handouts N/A</p>

<p>Public Comment Before Votes <i>Estimated start time between 3:15 and 3:30</i></p> <p>Final Voting on Proposals Before Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review consensus voting scale, process for vote • Final Voting on Proposals <p>Motorized Final Proposal V2 (August 1) Teton Wildlands Conservation Plan (August 1) MAWG Final Proposal (July 31)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion <p>Discuss 4s and 5s and dissention statements Identify areas of common ground / broad consensus Final Thoughts from Committee Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Steps – Compiling the Report, BOCC Proc Public Comment Period <p>5:30 Additional Public Comment (if needed)</p> <p>6:00 PM Adjourn</p>	
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- Actions Taken**
1. Nicole Gautier will post the final proposals to the Teton WPLI website
 2. Mark Newcomb will be in touch with the committee about upcoming dates and the public comment period
 3. Dissent statements need to be sent to Nicole Gautier by 5PM Aug. 15th. She will compile them and pass them on to the Teton BCC. They will also be included in any final reports.

Meeting Summary

This was the final meeting of the Teton WPLI committee. Mark Newcomb addressed the committee about next steps in the process. Three final proposals were presented: the Teton Wildlands Conservation Proposal, the Multi-Use Proposal, and the Mountain Athlete Working Group (MAWG) Middle Ground Proposal. Public comment was received. Clarifications on the proposals were addressed, and the committee cast final votes, on a scale from 1-5 (1 meaning ‘fully support’, 5 meaning ‘cannot support’). Based on the voting, a consensus recommendation was not reached. Committee members gave final statements. All three proposals will be presented to the Teton County Commissioners on Aug. 20th 2018.

Old Business and Updates

2:04 Deb Kleinman convened the meeting. The June meeting minutes were approved.

Dave Sollitt explained the process for public comment.

USFS Recreation Manager Linda Merigliano addressed the committee. She said she wanted to convey to the committee members convey that public land management is messy, and she hopes as [the committee] goes forward they feel good about what has been learned from the process and the relationships. Merigliano said the next step is Forest Planning, and some of [the Teton WPLI committee’s] work will get fed in. She said it was incredible to see the passion people have for this place, and the concern for wildlife and access for a bunch of different activities. She said don’t discount that those agreements actually mean something. Merigliano continued that public lands are important to all, she hopes they can figure out a way to continue working, and it has been a pleasure.

Mary Moore, the new district ranger in Jackson, introduced herself. She commended the committee for their tremendous effort and thanked them for coming to table to discuss a sticky topic the [USFS] deals with daily. She said the fact they are all sitting at the same table speaks well of this group, and she would like to see the effort continue. Mary Moore was offered the position of district ranger in late June, and has been with USFS for 18 years.

Steve Smutko described the voting process. If a committee member votes a five, a dissention statement must be written. A dissention statement is encouraged for a four vote.

Committee members introduced themselves. Paul Spitler from The Wilderness Society was filling in for Dan Smitherman.

Nicole Gautier will post the final proposals to the Teton WPLI website as soon as finalized language is received.

Mark Newcomb

Teton County Commissioner Mark Newcomb addressed the committee. Newcomb thanked the committee and said he hoped they would do their best today to achieve a consensus outcome. Newcomb spoke about next steps and the associated dates. He asked the Teton WPLI committee to present to county commissioners on August 20th. A thirty day public comment period will open August 17th. The commission will take it up on Sept. 18th. He said if there is not one [consensus] recommendation, he cannot honestly say what the commissioners are going to do. Newcomb will keep the WPLI committee up to date on the agenda for Sept. 18th. Newcomb clarified each proposal will need a spokesperson to present [on Aug. 20th], and the commissioners will have the opportunity to ask questions.

Tony Ferlisi asked about submitting public comment. Newcomb said most public comment is submitted in two ways, either via website submission, or verbally during the commissioner meetings. He said it is helpful to make comment on a day when WPLI is actually on the agenda. Newcomb shared previous discussion amongst the commissioners about what was to be done with non-consensus recommendations.

Steve Smutko said his take on the charter was that a five vote does not block a proposal from going to the BCC (Board of County Commissioners). It does have to include a dissent statement in the report that goes to the board. Abby Moore said that was her understanding, and she was uncomfortable with thought of five blocking the BCC from ever seeing [the proposal]. Moore noted that [the BCC] are the decision makers and the [Teton WPLI committee] are the working group. Lloyd Dorsey said he felt strongly against creative interpretations of the charter. He spoke to a BCC meeting in which the WPLI charter was discussed, and how he came away with the sense [the BCC] wants to see [the WPLI committee's] work. He said he feels the committee's work belongs to the BCC. Mielke said he doesn't necessarily agree, but was willing to see how it plays out. He asked for clarification on public comment, speaking to an area on the landscape with a constituent base he has not reached out to.

Jesse Combs (AMPL) commented. He said it would be a real disservice to the public if the BCC asks for comment on all three proposals. He said that is going to be extremely complex for the community, and with all due respect he thinks [Newcomb] is the only commissioner that understands what has been going on for the last two years. He said it is the commissioner's responsibility to put a single recommendation out for the public to comment on.

Lisa McGee noted that in other counties if a consensus recommendation was not reached, it could get sent back. Newcomb replied there is a remand option. McGee said she agreed with Jesse that asking for the public to comment seemed premature.

The timeline in regard to public comment was discussed further. Kleinman suggested that public comment begin two days after the meeting on Aug. 20th. Newcomb said he would check in with the clerk, and be in touch with the committee.

Final Proposal Presentations

Kleinman noted this was the time to make sure each proposal was fully understood in order for committee members to vote in an educated way. All proposals listed below can be found here: <https://tetonwpli.org/information/draft-proposals-for-wsa-designation-and-management/>

Multi-Use Proposal

Mike Mielke presented the Multi-Use Proposal. He said the proposal was the product of numerous meetings and volunteers educating users. Mielke noted it is the only proposal with more than 1500 grass roots public comments in support, and continued that the multi-use proposal has measures to control human presence and restrictions for wildlife. He said it is not listed in proposal, but that he has stated in WPLI meetings, that there is willingness for wilderness expansion. He said that was dismissed as not enough of a compromise. Mielke said he wanted to make clear the multi-use proposal prohibition of mineral mining is only acceptable upon the release of Palisades and Shoal Creek. He said he has stated numerous times that the WSAs are what the committee was tasked to resolve. He said both WSAs were avoided until the 11th hour, which has been a frustrating as (other lands) took precedent. He said multi-use intentionally only spoke to Teton County WSAs.

Greg Buchko, representing summer motorized, spoke. He said he signed onto the multi-use proposal because he strongly believe these lands can be protected through USFS management and travel planning, and they don't need to be legislated wilderness to be protected. Buchko said [the multi-use proposal] has some valuable offerings to conservation, including removal of mineral extraction oil and gas. He said it is often implied motorized users taking over lands in county, and he listed a few numbers to show that is not correct. He said of USFS lands in Teton County, 788 thousand acres are already designated wilderness, and in 2009 summer motorized lost 240 thousand acres of public land. He said of this acreage, there are only three motorcycle singletrack trails left. That is approximately 35 miles, with only 25 miles of that open for two months of the year. He said he wanted to make it clear to conservation groups that summer motorized has not taken over, and that they have 45 acres where off-highway vehicles are permitted to travel out of 1.3 million.

Jim Woodmencey commented that he has spent the last 20 years here, and worked as heli-ski guide in the '80s, and mid-2000s. He said he used to work for the Park Service, and he has a passion for wilderness too. Woodmencey said we have a lot, and for some it is never enough, that from the recreation side of things, to lose anymore [is unacceptable]. He said fortunately or unfortunately mechanized has no place in wilderness which keeps the mountain bike community out. Woodmencey said multiple use is inclusive of everyone, been a good job being able to share so far with less conflicts then I'm aware of. WSAs that we are talking about, primarily the Palisades, he has been using since 1982 before they were WSAs, and hasn't seen huge changes except for Teton Pass. He concluded that the Palisades is a great place for people of all uses.

Mielke addressed the committee members, saying he understands their passion, and he hopes they can understand his. Mielke said he is an environmentalist as well, and that is one of things he tries to promote throughout the user base. He requested the general public please go to the website and read the multi-sue proposal.

Questions

McGee asked about wildlife closures, and what might be acceptable. Mielke responded it was not up to [the committee] to dictate, and that is why we have the USFS to make those calls, and Game and Fish.

Moore clarified that the multi-use group is not willing to support mineral withdrawal without release of the WSAs. Mielke replied yes, that is a contingency.

Brennen asked for clarification on areas where oil and gas/mining mineral exploration are not allowed.

Mielke replied Palisades and Shoal, and said the multi-use proposal is specific to the WSAs. However, he said they were to consider that being a county wide stipulation.

Bruce Hayse asked if thoughts about climate change were incorporated. Mielke replied there was meteorologist, input, but if it doesn't snow, then snowmobiling won't be a problem.

Teton Wildlands Proposal

Lloyd Dorsey presented and thanked Peggie dePasquale of Wyoming Wilderness Association and Bruce Hayse for their involvement. Dorsey noted the proposal strives for balance in the practical approach to long term conservation in Teton county. He said updates to the proposal include less wilderness than previous proposals, 298 thousand to 254 thousand acres. Teton Conservation Areas (formerly codified roadless) increased from 102 thousand to 124 thousand acres. County wide there would be federal mineral withdrawal except for sand and gravel, and commercial timber withdrawal.

Dorsey showed master map with an overview of proposed wilderness acreage. Dorsey described the Palisades northern carve out, Mosquito Creek Road to Highway 22. Dorsey explained Teton Conservation Areas: they maintain roadless stipulations, maintain existing motor/mechanized use, and are included in timber withdrawal countywide. Dorsey noted the USFS has a strong history of implementing existing laws, and the Teton Wildlands proposal complies with the existing county plan.

Questions

Mielke asked about the Gros Ventre overlay with winter range. Dorsey said he did not have them associated and noted seasonal closures in summer/winter range are a consideration.

Buchko asked about the Mosquito Creek cut out. There was discussion of the boundary, and a new trail on the eastside of Cotton Wood Creek Road.

Tom Turiano asked why the South Fork of Fish Creek was not in wilderness. Dorsey replied that portions not in actual polygon are recommended for wilderness in their proposal. Hayse commented that Union Pass Road crosses the South Fork of Fish Creek. Dorsey noted that is not in Teton County.

McGee asked about WUI treatments in Teton Conservation Areas. Dorsey replied they chose not to weigh in on WUI, as agencies have fire management plans that apply to wilderness. He said they did not get into aside from recommending changes.

Steve Kilpatrick asked if the Jackson Hole Conservation Areas allow for prescribed fires to enhance wildland habitat. Hayse said that was up to USFS and Fish and Game. Dorsey added that is up to the Forest Plan for each forest and the wilderness requirements. He said prescribed fire is typically not allowed in wilderness areas. Kilpatrick said it is theoretically allowed, but suppression happens.

Buchko asked about the Leidy Horsetail cutout and the trail that goes around the perimeter. He asked how it could be ensured people wouldn't be complaining about the trail and trying to get it removed in a few years.

Dorsey replied an informative kiosk could ameliorate that concern.

Woodmencey noted there is a loop for mountain bikers that goes up Ditch Creek. Dorsey said there could be an opportunity for a friendly amendment there.

Mielke asked if new trails can be built in the blue areas on the map. Dorsey replied that was subject to USFS Travel and Forest Planning.

MAWG Presentation

Rob Shaul presented the Mountain Athlete Working Group (MAWG) proposal. Shaul explained that everyone was invited to come to his gym and work on this proposal, every committee member and their alternate or representative. He said compromise was mandated, and the workshops were made transparent, after every workshop he sent an email to everyone with updates. Shaul said in terms of participation, every committee member and/or their alternate attended at least one workshop. The

workshops started in January. He said the goal was to develop a broad and wide spread middle ground proposal. Shaul went through a slideshow that demonstrated comparisons between the three final proposals. He explained the MAWG proposal does not recommend wilderness in Palisades, and splits Shoal Creek WSA. Shaul continued that the southern part of Palisades motorized recreation would be restricted to July/Aug. He said there is currently no summer motorized in Palisades WSA, so [the proposal] actually improves that, and adds a trail connector to ID. Looking at Shoal, he explained the intent to continue to allow heli-skiing in the Willow Creek/Grayback area. Jim Woodmencey suggested that language. There would be snow mobile access via Mail Cabin after April 1. This would help reduce conflict between sledders and skiers. Shaul noted that there is room for improvement, the proposal has taken 100s of hours of work, but it can be better, and everyone is welcome to help. Shaul said it was hard to describe the work Tom and Len have put in and how much they addressed current motor bike and other types of uses.

Paul Spitler asked about the wilderness deletion. Turiano pointed it out on the map in the Jedediah Smith Wilderness. He said it was a boundary adjustment, and would be sort of an exchange. Turiano explained there was discussion with snowmobile groups, and to gain wilderness elsewhere, there were tradeoffs in the Mail Cabin area. Snowmobilers expressed interest in accessing (that area) from Fox Creek.

4PM Break

Public Comment

Tom Athey. Athey said he is a multi-use person. He said he credits being here growing up as a boy scout, and wilderness fostered love of outdoors. Technology has changed, interests have changed, a mountain biker, number one access. Same experience, same net benefit. Don't want to lose. Athey said to him the [WPLI] charter has been really confusing as far as what the committee was tasked with, and said he was disappointed [the committee] was talking about anything outside Shoal and Palisades. Athey said that goes beyond the charter. He thanked the committee for their time.

Don Ruzicka. Don said he has been a mountain biker here about 27 years. He said he doesn't see the need to close down Ditch Creek, and doesn't see the reason for more wilderness. He would like to see no change.

Bill McNamara. McNamara said he agreed with Tom Athey, and his interest is in Palisades and Shoal Creek WSAs. He said he is a mountain biker, and that [mountain bikers] are not out there adding more harm than other users. He said [mountain bikers] get out there to see and appreciate areas just like anyone else. McNamara said getting out on bikes, [people] see the issues like beetle kill and climate change, and people wouldn't see that except for getting out on a mountain bikes. He said it was hard to understand because those areas are already been used so little. McNamara said he was not in support of the middle ground proposal mostly because of Palisades. He said there are not a lot of users, and they are not killing wildlife, not making rouge trials, and using existing trials. He said mountain bike could maybe be used to protect areas and get more people to fight for that area. He concluded that having a passionate user group is a benefit for all.

Len Carlman. Carlman thanked the WPLI committee for their commitment and effort. He said [this area] is internationally significant and locally valuable. Carlman he had a point of clarification on the charter, which he proceeded to read from: the purpose the committee was appointed for was a collaborative review of the WSAS and other potential land use issues in Teton County. The recommendations can be for WSAS as well as any other areas for consideration and are not restricted to WSAs or Palisades. Carlman said it is quite plain in charter, [the committee] has full scope of access to areas within Teton County. Carlman said he wished the multi-use proposal had included an invitation for feedback. His impression was there wasn't any give and take, and had the same feeling about Teton Wildlands proposal. Carlman said he hope [the committee members] vote five on non-collaborative proposals.

Kathleen May. May said that [we] have a wonderful local and limited resource, but asked [the committee] to think beyond local regional use. She said we need to think about kids in Chicago or Jersey. May said the land ethic has changed dramatically from when her grandparents founded the Mountain Club in CO. She asked the committee to think about the limited resource, and keeping it for people, not necessarily people's machines.

Doug Sobey, Moran/Pacific Creek. Sobey said he was there to speak in support of the Teton Wildland Conservation Plan, the plan most closely aligned with the Teton County Comprehensive Plan. The County Comprehensive plan states a mission of preserving and protect the areas ecosystem. He said rather than get up and talk about the intrinsic value, one thing he hasn't heard at all is the economic benefits. Sobey shared some statistics: according to US Fish and Wildlife, there are 104 million wildlife recreationists in the US. He said wildlife watchers account for twice the number of anglers, and five times the number of hunters. It was originally said that GTNP would be an economic disaster, but in hindsight, how wrong they were. Sobey said protection of these lands prove to be economic boon, and without these protections, the lands would not attract millions of people, and the wildlife would not be there if those protections weren't in place. Sobey ended with a quote "if future generations are to remember us more with gratitude than with sorrow, we must achieve more than just the miracles of technology". He thanked the committee.

Peggy Sobey, Moran/Pacific Creek. Sobey said [the committee] has the opportunity to be on the right side of history, and step in the vast footsteps of those who came before. She said instead of exploiting [the land] for personal fulfillment and gain, [the committee] can save it for future generations. Sobey said she supports the Teton Wildlands plan. She said [the committee] have come so far, please don't allow the county commissioners to make the decision. She thanked the committee.

Deborah Patla, Buffalo Valley. Patla said she supports the Teton Wildland Conservation Plan. She commented she is terrified about what could happen through this process, that we stand to risk wilderness loss as the process rolls out of [our] hands into Congress. Patla continued almost everyone has come from an ecosystem that has been shredded, and it can happen here. She said we need to protect Palisades and Shoal. She concluded that people on this committee have a unique chance to defend wilderness in Palisades and Shoal Creek.

Anne Harvey, Wilson. Harvey said she wanted to say a few words about wilderness, which is what this committee was established to talk about. She reads from the Wilderness Act of 1964 and said we need to think about generations after us and ensure an enduring resource, and the only way to endure is to establish law. She said over two million people are added to the US population every year. Harvey continued that Wilderness is not about recreation preference, but about preserving wildlands intact condition. She said wildness means self-willed, letting natural forces operate without being controlled by humans and these areas are being rapidly fragmented by human activity. Harvey continued that this requires restraint and humility, [these landscapes] deserve to be left intact, and are scarce and increasingly precious. She said what is rare is wilderness like Palisades, and Idaho and Wyoming recognized wilderness qualities back in '78. It was recognized again in '84, when it was designated as a WSA and mandated to manage for existing wilderness character. She said two of the three proposals don't call for a single acre of wilderness in Palisades, and the so called middle ground, designated as motorized/mechanized playground, is open to fuels reduction, which she said is not moderate, it is extreme. Harvey said she didn't see such an outcome, that this committee can't find a single acre [of wilderness], expect for the Teton Wildlands proposal. Harvey said destruction of wilderness is a one way street, we are not getting it back and future generations won't get a chance to set it aside. She concluded that we can't create more land, we can only preserve what we have left.

David Knuus. Knuus said he has lived here for 15 years. He said he is a supporter of wilderness, of all motorized, and of horseback riding. He asked everyone to look outside at the traffic. Knuus said if you close

more stuff, more traffic will be here, and that's a problem. He continued that we can't think about just us and our special needs, but all the people and why people come here. He thanked the committee.

Jon Shick, High Mountain Heli-Skiing. Shick thanked everyone on the committee, and thanked [Jim Woodmencey] for representing our interests. Lived in this valley since 1976, before the Wyoming Wilderness Act. Shick said he worked on the middle ground proposal, but the proposal could put him out of business. If said if the town of Jackson were to be an inholding in wilderness, it would be devastating for local businesses. Shick said we have enough wilderness, that only 18 percent of Teton County is still open for multiple use, and everyone has right to peruse recreation aspirations. Shick said the creation of Jackson Hole Conservation Areas gives him heartburn because they are open to interpretation. He said the middle ground proposal still needs work, and the proposal he is most comfortable with is the AMPL proposal. He said there has never been a study or a push to create new wilderness, so it is time to release these areas. He urged the committee to vote for the AMPL proposal.

Chris Owen. Owen said he moved here in early 2000s to work for NOLS, and spent 150 weeks teaching and living in wilderness. He said he has had amazing experience in beautiful places that are difficult to get to working on the Bridger-Teton trail crew. Owen said he worked for four years with Friends of Pathways, and saw what it takes to take care of infrastructure.

Monty Griffith introduced himself as a lifetime native of Wyoming and a user of the National Forests for mountain biking, skiing, and backpacking. He said he wanted to advocate for the land itself, that [the conversation] has been all about use, and nobody is talking about what is best for the land in and of itself. He said he supports the Wildlands Conservation Plan because it maintains the heart of that ecosystem. He said it is necessary to grab on to what is left.

Tyson Grow. Grow said he sees both sides of this story, that he values wilderness, and areas like Palisades have remained wilderness, and although they have been used by multiple users, they haven't been degraded, and shouldn't be closed down anymore then they are. He said he wanted to reiterate mountain bikes make little impact and are very important to incoming generations, and allow for different generations to get out there and enjoy it. Grow concluded it is important to have user groups able to remain using [areas] as long as they are not getting trashed.

Brendan Newton. Newton thanked the committee for their hard work. He said at the national scale, public lands are at risk, but he doesn't necessarily think wilderness is the answer to that risk. Newton said sometimes [wilderness designation] makes things worse in the public eye. Newton said as a whole, he cannot support the Teton Conservation Plan, that it goes too far, and doesn't take into account the economic implications. He is concerned what happens to wilderness and the lack of management and funding. He said there has been a 100 year relationship between user groups and the Forest Service. He said he would like to move toward a model where we as user groups work to [meet public lands needs].

Silas Streeter. Streeter thanked the committee, and urged them to think about compromise. Some plans have a lot of compromise, think about different people lot of diff views, step away from self, think about what is best for most people. What we can pass down.

Jesse Combs, AMPL president. Combs said he was there to urge everyone on the WPLI board vote in favor of multi-use proposal. He said it supports conservation and recreation for the community. Recommend blanket restrictions on oil and gas activity in Palisades and Shoal. Ban on extractive mining. Substantive conservation gain. As Mike pointed out earlier, blanket oil and gas across the whole county. Both areas long history of being used all forms of recreation. Importantly, limited 18 percent public land in Teton County open to mechanized and motorized. AMPL spent 100 hours last two year reaching out, 1500 statements, overwhelm to hear how important to these communities it was to connect with the environment. Consider taking into

account, following ways local recreation community been there for the conservation community in the past: they forfeited the ability to recreate on 82 percent of land in the community, and encouraged Cheney to vote against letting mountain biking in wilderness. She was the only [Republican] congressperson to vote again bill. Combs said the only thing we disagree on is the balance of wilderness and multi-use. He said the recreation community has sacrificed enough. He said the wilderness being proposed here today, conservation groups said we would still have back in '84, back then the remaining 18 percent was being used as a compromise. Here we are, 36 years later, and it is in jeopardy again. Appreciate the time.

Benj Sinclair, 29 year Jackson area resident. Sinclair said at the first WPLI meeting, he strongly recommend Grayback ridge be recommended for wilderness. He strongly supports the Wildland Proposal, and suggested a friendly amendment include 39 thousand acres on the West slope of Tetons. Sinclair said you can't have too much wilderness, it is like money in bank and an investment in the future health of the ecosystem. He said [the Wildlands Proposal] recognizes the value of wildlands not just for us as user groups, but for critters and future generations. He said these are national lands that are internationally attractive and don't exist in very many places anymore. He urged the committee and the commissioners to encourage as much wilderness as possible. Sinclair said it was a mistake to use palisades as a bargaining chip. He thanked Mark Newcomb for being committed to the process.

Mike Merigliano, Teton Valley. Merigliano thanked the committee. He commented that 30-50 years ago there was more land to play with, and now we are down to the last 18 percent in Teton county. He said there is a tension between local and national issues, and on the national scale, what we have here pretty good. Merigliano continued that it has become a trail issue, when years ago, it was a resource extraction issue, and now it's a trail use plan. Merigliano commented on the Palisades. He said the county scale approach was a terrible idea, and it really should be looked at in holistic way. Merigliano said he likes wildlands, but it is better to get away from the county perspective, and approach Palisades as one land mass.

Voting

Deb Kleinman recorded committee member's votes for each proposal on an online spreadsheet.

08-08-18 Final Votes Teton County WPLI Advisory Committee

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fx Scale: 1 through (approve) to 5 (block)

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Scale: 1 through (approve) to 5 (block)	Multi-Use	Teton Wildlands	MAWG		
2	Lisa McGee		5	2	3	
3	Greg Buchko		1	5	5	
4	Bruce Hayse		5	1	5	
5	Mike Brennan		4	3	2	
6	John Heberger JR		5	5	2	
7	Jim Woodmencey		1	5	5	
8	Steve Kilpatrick		5	2	2	
9	Mike Mielke		1	5	5	
10	Tony Ferlisi		1	5	5	
11	Harry Statter		5	4	4	
12	Rob Shaul		5	5	2	
13	Don Saner		5	1	4	
14	Lloyd Dorsey		5	1	5	
15	Paul Spittler (Dan)		5	2	4	
16	Abby Moore		5	5	2	
17	Tom Turiano		5	2	1	
18	Dave Sollitt		5	2	1	
19	Siva Sundaresan		5	2	3	
20						
21	Totals		73	57	60	
22						

Voting Debrief

Steve Kilpatrick, representing biology, ecology and wildlife. Kilpatrick said as many spoke, he didn't hear people talk about what was good for land and wildlife. He hesitated to throw a five, but when [multi-use] said oil and gas and timber withdrawal was dependent on release, that was disheartening. Kilpatrick said all recreation impacts wildlife some, some more than others, the science is clear, and despite what we hear about biking, biking is behind motorized, with walking and horseback behind that. He said we have an incredible resource, and it was hard to disagree with people he really likes, but he is here to represent wildlife, and leave decisions up to people that manage forest. He ultimately wants to gain ground on what is a benefit to wildlife and the ecology of the environment.

John Heberger Jr. said he was asked to comment for Mike Brennan, who had to step out early. Brennan spoke to the uncertainty about what will go forward, and left Heberger Jr. with two votes regarding the Multi-Use Proposal. Brennan would vote a five if all the proposals were forward to BCC, as he felt there was inadequate conservation recognition, but [Brennan] didn't want to block the proposal going forward if that is what a five indicated. Heberger Jr. said he does not subscribe to the description Steve Smutko gave of the five vote. In Heberger Jr.'s estimation, the charter requires this to have been collaborative process, and he said the best representative of that is the MAWG proposal. Heberger Jr. said he likes and respect everyone sitting around table and respects everyone's position. He said there is something he likes in all the proposals, and something he could live with in all of them, but the reason he voted on five was because he was never invited to provide input on the other proposals. Since this is a collaborative process, he was compelled to vote five, but that doesn't mean he would actively oppose those proposals.

Mike Mielke said in response to John and Len, the Multi-Use proposal was put out in March, and has not changed since. He said there have been other means [of providing feedback] and Jesse, himself, Greg and Jim have had conversations with several folks.

Jim Woodmencey said he wanted to echo that. He said he understood how John might feel that way, there wasn't really an invitation, but there would be three MAWGs if everyone went to all three. He said there was flex and fluidity all way the through the three proposals. Woodmencey said there was passion on both sides and they are going to clash constantly and that is not going to change.

Tony Ferlisi thanked the committee for their time, patience, trust and energy. Ferlisi said the tools we have gained through the process can help move forward public lands issues here in Teton county and beyond, and he is proud and honored to be a part of that. He said he wanted to give MAWG and the collaborative process his best effort with regard to mountain bikes. Ferlisi said [mountain bikers] are a functional part of planning and stewards of public lands, and see what makes these places special when they work on trails. Ferlisi shared he was a wilderness ranger for Linda Merigliano in the Gros Ventre, and would go on eight day hitches where he did not see a single person, but could see the town of Jackson: wild places are close. Ferlisi said [he was aware] his voting did not necessarily impress or made everyone happy, but he knows how much each person values this place. He said we are not going to let this place go away, or those values slip through hands. Ferlisi conclude he has full confidence each [of the committee member's] decision-making going forward, and he hopes this is the start of great relationship.

Abby Moore noted that all the committee members who voted five on the MAWG contributed substantively to that proposal. She said she can't deny she is disappointed by those fives. Moore said why she voted fives mirrors what John Heberger Jr. said, that there is a lot she likes in both. Moore said what she would do outside of this process would be entirely different that in this process. She said the committee committed to compromise, and aside from token concessions, there was little collaborative effort outside of member's own groups. Moore said in the end what is difficult to swallow is what you end up with, but both of those proposals are nothing she didn't know six months in. Moore said she expected [the committee] to be much farther along in compromise, and feels a little like it was wasted time. She explained that mediations she participated in as an attorney frequently had concessions, and at the end people are somewhere in middle, with something hard to manage. Moore said here five votes were because she didn't think the process was honored, rather than being based on the merits of the proposals.

Kilpatrick said in response to Abby, in terms of who we are representing, the wildlife are silent voters, and other people on this committee are representing a large number of constituents. He said when an individual has to go to their constituents, compromise can put people in a hard position, and with so many people it is hard to compromise.

Bruce Hayse. Hayse said he was a little disappointed with the way this came about. He said it [should have been framed] by asking what do we want to see in Jackson Hole in 50 years, but it never started that way, and the process was set up by user groups, with people saying "we don't want this taken away", especially commercial use. He said it got off track, which was a fault of process. Hayse said it was a good process overall, and it got people thinking about what is left and what is good for the land.

Rob Shaul said he appreciated how hard everyone worked on MAWG, and said he wanted to acknowledge three individuals who showed courage with their vote: Lisa, Siva, Dan/Paul with TWS. He said there was pressure from the edges, and to even participate took courage, that sometimes standing up to leadership takes courage. He also thanked Tom and Len for working with MAWG. Shaul, as a fifth generation Wyomingite, said he really appreciated the work they did to reach compromise, and the willingness TWS, WOC, and GYC to participate.

Steve Smutko thanked Rob for bringing people together.

Harry Statter noted that if it is a difficult conversation now, imagine having it 40 years from now. He said of the three proposals, on one he voted five, and two he voted four. Statter said as the scale of uses on the

landscape expands, along with population pressures, there was sufficient capacity in the two [proposals] he voted four on to handle that expansion. He said less so with the [proposal he voted] five on, that it is a trail use plan. Statter said he thinks there are elements within the Wildlands and MAWG plan worth coupling in the next few weeks, and he is interested to see how the commissioners move forward, that this was an opportunity to handle at a local government level impacts to the federal landscape. He said that opportunity doesn't come around every day.

Lisa McGee said she was grateful for the relationships developed with all of [the committee members]. She said this was really hard, the vote was hard. McGee said had more of us come together on MAWG, there was a chance she was going to vote against the two extremes. She thought the collaborative nature of what they were trying to do at Rob's gym was so important, and hopes we all feel the discomfort of the middle ground for the good of having something we all worked on. I don't see other end, as Abby said, any different what we knew at beginning. McGee said she was disappointed with [the voting] numbers on MAWG. She said a lot she was doing for others, and others didn't vote for it. She said there is no consensus proposal, but wants to share Harry's sentiment, that pieces might be salvaged, and she is willing to keep working. McGee concluded she feels strongly this is worth continued effort and gave a heartfelt thanks to Rob for convening, and to Len and Tom for doing an inordinate amount of work.

Tom Turiano said the middle ground proposal was the result of entering data into a computer, filtered through Rob, Len, and himself. He said for that reason, he is not super tied to it, aside from the charter's mandate to work together to find consensus.

Dorsey noted that the Teton Wildlands proposal and Multi-Use proposal were being characterized as extremes, but Dorsey had no doubt constituents feel they are right on the money. Dorsey asked what was extreme about 254 thousand acres of proposed wilderness. He said alternately, to come out in favor of continued uses to [the degree recommended in the multi-use proposal], relying on the USFS planning process is an extreme position. Dorsey said he obviously favors the proposal he had a hand in putting forward. The message he has heard from his constituents the last two years is that they are not thrilled with divvying up a contiguous wildland area, Greater Palisades, and he was asked how he could participate in a process that bifurcated that area. He said he was compelled on behalf of the organization he works for to do the best he could. Dorsey continued that there were compromises, and he bets everyone on the committee can recognize how this proposal evolved. He said he was sorry he didn't get together with everybody to the extent he could have. Dorsey said he was confident everyone is reflected in the [Teton Wildlands] proposal. He said one of the best meetings he went to was a one on one in Miller Park with Mike Mielke.

Greg Buchko commented on the MAWG proposal, on which he voted a five. Buchko said he went to many meetings, and appreciates that a lot of his input was taken into consideration. However, he said as it went on, each week the wilderness boundaries would grow, and he didn't feel it was appropriate for that much wilderness in the middle ground proposal. Buchko said was another comment was about the composition of the committee. He said a lot of people here were paid to be here from conservation organizations, while there were four representatives for multi-use, and three of us not are getting paid because we are not at work. He said there could have been national representation, like the US Snow Mobile Association, but the process was designed by WCCA to get local input on the WSAs. Buchko said national organizations were maybe not appropriate, that he was not sure the committee was fairly balanced and representative of the population. He said multi-use is considerably more than the percentage on the committee. Buchko noted the proposed areas of wilderness such as Leidy went too far. He said the WCCA created this to deal with WSAs statewide. Buchko said he enjoyed meeting and working with everyone, and will probably see them again at Forest Planning.

Dorsey thanked the public that have attended these meetings for the better part of two years.

Next Steps

Smutko reminded committee members that those who voted fives need to write a dissent statement with the rationale for why they voted a five, and the commissioners would appreciate a dissent statement for four votes. Smutko clarified that if there are two dissents, two statements are required. These statements need to be sent to Nicole Gautier by 5PM Aug. 15th. She will compile them and pass them on to the Teton BCC. They will also be included in any final reports.

Shaul noted the MAWG proposal requires some minor clarifications. Proposals will not be posted on the website until that final version of the proposal is received.

Deb Kleinman expressed her thanks to the committee.

5:54PM Meeting adjourned

Next Meeting

N/A