

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests &
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News Release

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Thunder Basin Learning Series Public Workshop and Cooperative Working Group Meetings Rescheduled for Sept. 6-7 in Douglas, Wyo.

(DOUGLAS, Wyo.) August 11, 2017 – Along with the University of Wyoming Ruckelshaus Institute, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) will host the next set of collaborative meetings in early Sept., in Douglas, Wyo.

The first will be a public learning workshop on Wed., Sept. 6, from 1-4 p.m. at the Eastern Wyoming Collage in Douglas. The second meeting will be the government cooperative working group meeting on Thurs., Sept. 7, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., at the Converse County Library.

The meetings were originally scheduled for Aug. 23-24, but rescheduled to avoid conflicts surrounding the solar eclipse.

Both meetings have similar agendas, are open to the public, and will primarily focus on collaborating and cooperating on prairie dog colony management on private, state, and Federal lands within and near the Thunder Basin National Grassland (TBNG).

The meetings are part of a collaborative effort in northeastern Wyoming, which encourages open, inclusive, transparent, and consistent communications with all interested parties, specifically neighbors and users of National Forest System lands within and near the TBNG.

The cooperative working group meeting on Sept. 7 will be the fourth of six scheduled gatherings for 2017. In order to meet Federal guidelines regarding cooperative working group meetings, only local, state, Federal, and tribal government representatives may participate in this particular group. These other government agencies have shared responsibility and interest in the Thunder Basin National Grassland. The meeting is open to the public and anyone interested is encouraged to attend and observe the dialogue.

Both outreach efforts by the USFS are in response to requests from state and local governments, as well as a summary report from last year's public engagement sessions, for the agency to establish multiple collaborative venues for community-based information sharing.

Online information on Thunder Basin Prairie Dog Colony Management by the U.S. Forest Service can be found here, fs.usda.gov/goto/MBRTB/PrairieDogs. Online information from the Ruckelshaus Institute on Thunder Basin Collaboration can be found here, uwyo.edu/haub/ruckelshaus-institute/collaborative-solutions/thunder-basin/.

The Douglas Ranger District administers the Thunder Basin National Grassland.

For more information about management of the Thunder Basin National Grassland, call (307) 358-4690 or stop by 2250 East Richards Street in Douglas between 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

The University of Wyoming Ruckelshaus Institute of Environment and Natural Resources has a history of assisting agencies with land and resource management issues. Their collaborative solutions program supports natural resource stakeholders, policy makers, and managers in making decisions about the future.