



Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests &
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News Release

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Thunder Basin Public Workshop and Cooperative Working Group Meetings to be held Dec. 7 in Gillette, Wyo.

(DOUGLAS, Wyo.) Dec. 5, 2017 – The agenda for this week’s Thunder Basin collaborative meetings in Gillette, Wyo. has been announced. Discussion topics on Dec. 7 include an introduction of new Forest Supervisor Russ Bacon; finalization of options for short and long-term action items; and updates on current and planned efforts in northeastern Wyoming, including the Thunder Basin National Grassland.

The morning portion of the meeting will be a public engagement workshop on Thurs., Dec. 7, from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at the County Fire Dept. Training Center, 701 Larch St. The afternoon portion of the meeting will be the government cooperative working group meeting from 1-5 p.m., at the same location.

Agenda topics for the morning and afternoon session vary slightly, however both meetings 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. Any interested parties are encouraged to attend.

Hosted by the U.S. Forest Service, along with the University of Wyoming Ruckelshaus Institute, 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 Grassland.

The cooperative working group meeting on the afternoon of Dec. 7 will be the sixth of six scheduled gatherings for 2017. As requested at the September meetings, the public workshops and cooperative working group meetings are now held on the same day to accommodate those who travel to attend both sessions.

These 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.

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