

Thunder Basin Collaborative Learning Workshop 3

May 19, 2016 – Gillette, WY

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Ruckelshaus
INSTITUTE

A DIVISION OF THE
HAUB SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Agenda

- 1:00 Introductions
- 1:20 Jessica Clement, Ruckelshaus Institute:
Overview of this workshop.
Report on Interviews with conservation groups
- 1:30 Jack Butler, US Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Forest and Grassland Research Laboratory, Rapid City, SD: Ungulate-Prairie Dog Interactions
- 2:00 Break-Out Groups Discuss:
What are the desired conditions for the next 20 years on the Thunder Basin National Grassland?
- 3:00 Report Back
- 3:15 Next Steps, Q & A with Dennis Jaeger and Shane Walker and Wrap-Up
- 4:00 Adjourn

Collaboration and Collaborative Learning

Collaboration

A process in which interdependent parties work together to affect the future of an issue of shared interests.

Collaborative learning

- A framework to create shared learning within a Collaborative Process.
- Consists of events (meetings, field trips, etc.) to promote creative thought, constructive debate and effective implementation of proposals.
- The purpose is to learn together about an issue including the various perspectives, values, experiences and knowledge.

Thunder Basin Collaborative Learning Process

- First Workshop: Discover **History and Values**
- Second Workshop: Discover **Current Conditions and Knowledge**
- Third Workshop: Explore **Future Desired Conditions**
- Ruckelshaus Institute will compile the thoughts and discussions from the three meetings in a report in July for the public and the USFS.

Agreed Meeting Guidelines

1. We all have an interest in the Thunder Basin and its National Grassland – we will use respectful behavior.
2. It's okay to disagree.
3. We will seek to understand while seeking to be understood: ask “why?”.
4. We will all participate in making this a successful collaborative learning opportunity – we will not interrupt others, dominate or withhold information.
5. We will be constructive: Discuss less what does not work and more what we think will work.
6. Side conversations are disruptive.
7. If possible, we will turn off cell phones and pagers. If we can't, we will take the call outside the room.

Interviews with Conservation Organization members

- Interviewed 6 individuals from 6 different organizations.
- Question 1: What is important to you about the Thunder Basin National Grassland?
 - Biological Diversity Value
 - Economic Value
 - Life Sustaining Value
 - Intrinsic Value *

Interviews with conservation organization representatives

Question 2: What issues should be focused on regarding the TBNG?

- Prairie dog management: decrease hostility between stakeholders and prevent conflict, cattle, pasture and range management, use multiple species approach, incentives for landowners, black footed ferrets.
- Sage grouse: relationship with fire, sage brush, timing of fires.
- Goods and services provided for local and national economy: coal, oil and gas, other energy production. Wildlife based-tourism and recreation. Healthy Grasslands for all species.

Interviews with conservation organization representatives

Question 3: What are the gaps in knowledge regarding conditions on the Thunder Basin National Grassland?

- An up to date ownership map with the categories and most up to date colony layers: important for resolving conflicts.
- Coal mine restoration approaches might benefit prairie dog town restoration efforts.
- WGFD conservation strategy as reference: vegetation conditions and other ecological information.
- Economic importance of uses on the Grassland including recreation.



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