

COLORADO CANYONS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA
Wilderness Working Group Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2002

Attendees:

Doralyn Genova	Dusty Dunbar	Celeste Marsh	Bill Schapley
Gene Arnesen	Terry Gray	Neal McKinstry	Bob Sherrill
Duane Carr	Bill Hamman	Dave Price	Harold Snyder
Steven Cohn	Kris Hjelle	Jane Ross	Julie Stotler

Greetings and Introductions

Bill Schapley opened the meeting and then addressed administrative issues. Five group members, Dave Price, Celeste Marsh, Bob Sherrill, Neal McKinstry, and Bill Schapley, were on the April 13 field trip. Pictures from the field trip were passed around the table.

Working Group Discussions

Harley Armstrong, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Paleontologist, gave a brief history of the area and addressed the issues of permitting and collecting. The next field trip is a full-day trip scheduled for April 20. Participants are meeting at 8:00 a.m., at the BLM office, or 8:45 a.m., at the Glade Park Store.

Bob Sherrill reviewed the history of the Pollock Canyon area, along with its private-property issues:

- 1896 Pollock brothers homestead
- 1920s Beard ran sheep
- 1960s Sold to investors
- 1980 Horsethief bought by private investors
- 1982 Pollock Estates was founded (currently five houses)
- 1989 State Wildlife Area bought by Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)
- 1990s Devils, Pollock and Flume transferred to government ownership

Good history references are Footprints in the Trail and More Footprints in the Trail, both authored by the area's well-known settler, Will Minor.

Bob added that Pollock Canyon Estates is concerned with the BOR maintenance of the road and sediment periodically blocking the gate. The homeowners are working with the BLM to allow access through the gate for emergency purposes. Pollock Canyon currently has 19 tracks with 14 owners, and a total of 640 acres in holding; there are six families, along with three part-time residents.

Bill Schapley asked what were the biggest problems for Pollock Canyon Estates – the Division of Wildlife (DOW) parking area, trespass through the area by people ignoring posted signs, and the gate being blocked by sediment? Bob indicated “yes.” Bill Schapley then turned attention to trailheads. Pollock Bench is in good shape; however, Devils Canyon needs to be brought up to the same standard as Pollock Bench.

Dusty Dunbar emphasized that the Fruita City Council wants to participate, but scheduling Tuesday night meetings does not work for them. The city has issues with the interface, and Dusty stated that she thought parking for access to Devils Canyon is within the Fruita city limits.

Bill Hamman noted that five points exist for entering the Wilderness area—the hunter access roads, BS road, Colorado River, State Highway 340, and the Colorado National Monument. In the Wilderness itself, there are several roads on the west side, as well as the Old Ute Trail.

Dave suggested a framework for bringing together Wilderness issues, then addressing them. The framework first addresses the problem—what resources are affected and any negative impacts created—then gets to the essence of the problem (Uses - Impacts - Alternatives).

The group developed the following issues:

Recreational Use (Inside)

- Hiking
- Horseback riding
- Rock climbing
- Camping
- Hunting
- Collecting

Recreational Use (Edge)

- All of the above
- ATV
- Mountain biking
- 4-Wheeling

Administrative Use

- Law enforcement
- Search and rescue
- Wildlife management
- Grazing
- Research

Commercial Use

- Commercial site
- Grazing
- Outfitting

Private Property**Tribal Access****Fire****Resources to Protect**

- Wildlife
- Range (soil and vegetation)
- Water
- Paleontological
- Social
- Geological
- Archaeological/Cultural
- Economics

Jane Ross, Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area (CCNCA) Planning Team Leader, advised the Working Group to also address issues on both formalizing the no cattle-grazing policy in the canyon bottoms and prohibiting sheep grazing altogether.

The group viewed Congressman McInnis's video discussing the intent of the CCNCA enabling legislation, as well as the history leading to the National Conservation Area (NCA) designation. The May 7 meeting will be a collaborative meeting with the River Corridor Working Group.

Bill Schapley adjourned the meeting after asking members to think about prioritizing the issues for the next meeting, emphasizing to the group to focus on both current and future uses, especially in the area of recreation.