

**WHISKEY MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION CAMP
WORKING GROUP MEETING MINUTES
September 19, 2011
Headwaters Arts and Conference Center**

Working Group Members Present: Ellen Vanuga, Laney Hicks, Suzan Moulton, Carl Koch, Joe Boardman, Andy Blackmun (replacing Carl Koch on board as representative from Ring Lake Ranch), Mary Blackburn, Dita Daub, Reg Phillips, Carolyn Gillette, Cheryl O'Brien, Greg Anderson, Bill Cowling, and Tristanna Bickford.

Public and Media Present: Meredith and Troy Taylor, John Angst, Bruce Thompson, Sally Wulbrecht, and Cynthia Boyman.

Meeting Called to Order: 5:45 p.m.

Welcome and Introduction: The working group and public participants introduced themselves and their organization they represent. Bruce Thompson asked to be considered to be added to the working group. At this time the working group was not ready to invite Mr. Thompson to become a member, but asked that he submit background information for himself so the board could get to know him better and possibly consider his request.

The working group reviewed the agenda that was proposed for the first meeting. Due to the addition of the camp tour, it was recognized that the working group would most likely not be able to complete the entire agenda during meeting and several of the agenda items would need to be moved to next meeting.

The working group also asked Cheryl O'Brien to remain as the facilitator throughout the working group process. Cheryl accepted this responsibility.

Camp Tour: The working group toured the Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp facility. During the facility tour the working group asked the department to look into several questions:

- What is the day use limit for the water system?
- What is the capacity of the current septic system?
- Where does kitchen waste (such as fats) go?
- Have any buildings been listed with SHPO?
- What is the official wording from the PR/DJ money that was used to purchase the camp that limits who can use the camp?
- Are there notes from the July meeting?
- Please share the layout of the Education Building that was proposed in the draft document.

Tour Highlights:

- Original buildings and the plan for renovation
- Buildings that would be torn down, these are buildings that were added after the WGFD took ownership of the property. They are not historical buildings.
- Buildings that are proposed to be moved to a new location
- Renovations to kitchen and dining hall
- Current sleeping cabins and what they are used for. The WGFD has a rule that no adult can be alone in a cabin with a youth. Due to this rule, sleeping arrangements during youth camps can be a challenge with cabins that are designed for small number of people.
- Proposed locations for new buildings, including education facility and dining hall

Post Camp Tour Discussion: After the tour, the working group asked Greg Anderson for a few thoughts from the regional WGFD perspective. Mr. Anderson gave a little background and highlighted the changes that have been made to the *Draft Master Plan* to ensure that the wildlife and the environment were not disturbed. Improvements and upgrades to the camp are needed.

The working group asked Mr. Anderson to define how the region perspective of the camps' current "foot print" as it is referred to in the plan. The definition included the area where buildings are currently structured not to exceed the area between the upper road and the creek.

The working group expressed a concern for the season of use. The current season would allow for use by large groups who host many activities to be limited to May 16th to September 30th. Mr. Anderson made it clear that the primary use of the camp is for Big Game Winter Range, there is very little wildlife use in the summer time. As the biologist in the area, he is comfortable with the summer time frame for camp and construction. Tristanna Bickford stated that WGFD Conservation Education section does not have enough staff to have more camps, summer is enough time for her section to use the camp.

Update and Recap on Process: The working group reviewed the process. The initial plan was developed by the Wyoming Wildlife – The Foundation to solicit funding for the large capital construction projects. What is currently used as the *Draft Master Plan* is a result of comments from the WGFD Cheyenne Headquarters, WGFD Lander Office, and two public meetings held in the Dubois Community. This document can act as a guide to the working group as it moves forward.

Decision of Team Leader: The working group has not decided on a leader. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Facilitator – Formal or Informal: The working group decided Cheryl O'Brien will be the facilitator as the working group moves forward.

Review of Team Charter: The team added a sentence to the **Purpose** section to read as follows:

Purpose:

*To assist the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Services Division, in an analysis of the Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp master plan and engage in meaningful discussions in order to provide the Department with recommendations that may be used to assist them in developing short-term and long-term construction/remodeling plans for the camp. **The final product should ensure the balance of environmental, educational, and wildlife concerns of the camp design and construction.***

The working group discussed some concerns to the **Requirement** section:

Requirements:

Members will be expected to attend public forum(s) designed to increase public understanding and awareness of the role of the Camp in recruiting and retaining hunters and anglers. The working group felt like there is no need for involvement in public forums.

The working group had questions of why the **Timeline** of March 1, 2012 or can the date be extended? Bill Cowling stated that the March 1, 2012 date coincides with WGFD budget time frame, so if there is anything WGFD can budget for, WGFD would have time to review to submit into the budget.

Bill Cowling clarified the under **Scope/Sideboards** section:

Scope/Sideboards:

Use of the camp will be between May 16 and September 30, except as authorized by the Department. These are small groups meetings usually from the WGFD and/or WGFD Commission with approval of the WGFD, usually a couple of day and no more than 10-12 people.

Ground Rules: Changes to the ground rules included that the working group will choose a leader at the next meeting.

Added to paragraph seven - *The group will strive for consensus whenever group decisions are necessary. ~~If and when consensus cannot be reached by simple majority vote by members who are either at the meeting in person or via conference call.~~ **If the working group cannot reach consensus, they will take a majority vote of members who are present either in person or via conference call.***

The section on Meeting Minutes/WGFD webpage - the WGFD webpage and ftp site will be provided at a later date.

The section on Public Comment – the working group thought there should be a time limit to addressing the working group, but not sure if it should be three minutes. The working group will be flexible on time limit.

Review of Draft Master Plan: Moved to next meeting

Discussion on Process and Outcomes: Moved to next meeting

Wrap – Up: Members once again introduced themselves and their background.

Reg Phillips

- Member of the Gun Club
- 26 year Board Member of the Dubois Conservation Program - currently working with education programs

Ellen Vanuga

- Program Director of the Wind River Program, which is the Dubois Arm of the Jackson Hole Land Trust – works with conservation easements
- Member of the community

Suzan Moulton

- Executive Director of the National Big Horn Sheep Center in Dubois
- Interested in Big Horn Sheep and Sheep Habitat

Cheryl O'Brien

- Hunter Education instructor
- Environmental Education
- Environmental Analyst
- Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Instructor

Carolyn Gillette

- Indoor and Outdoor Education

Dita Daub

- An adjacent land owner
- Long time visitor to the Valley-every summer since 1950
- Admires the education at the Camp
- Devoted to the environment

Andy Blackmun

- Director of the Ring Lake Ranch, which is adjacent to the Camp
- 15 years Habitat for Humanity
- Construction Land development

Carl Koch

- Former Director of the Ring Lake Ranch
- Concerned neighbor
- Works with the Jackson Hole Land Trust, conservation easements

Tristanna Bickford

- Wyoming Game and Fish Department's Conservation Education Supervisor

Bill Cowling

- Wyoming Game and Fish Department's Habitat and Access Supervisor
- 35 years with Wyoming Game and Fish
- 15 years as a contractor

Mary Blackburn

- 25 years with the Nature Center in Southern California
- 1984-2000 – Teacher at the Audubon Camp and the Lucius Burch program

Joe Boardman

- Family came to area in 1898, homesteaded in 1906, owns property on Torrey Lake, 5 generations. 1927 was the last built dwelling on property.

Laney Hicks

- Wind River Artists Guild
- Has lived in area for 40 years

Next Meeting: October 26, 2011

Headwater Arts and Conference Center
Sunroom
5:30 -8:00