

**Carbon County Public Lands Initiative Meeting**  
**May 1, 2017**  
**Rawlins Wyoming**

**Members Present:**

John Espy (chair), John Johnson, Glen Alameda, Pat Rollison, Shaleas Harrison, Joe Parsons, Joan McGraw, Connie Wilbert, Maddy Weiss, Dave Throgmorton, Jeff Streeter

**Others Present:**

Paul Spitler (TWS) Steff Kessler (WOC), Dennis Carpenter (BLM), Leanne Correll (SERCD), Judy Raymond, Gary Raymond, Gene Carrico, Jim States, Janice White

Joe Parsons moved acceptance of last meeting's minutes and John Johnson seconded; passed unanimous

Leanne Correll requested that the Carbon County PLI website be updated more regularly. John Espy responded that it would.

John Johnson moved to approve the charter, Connie Wilbert seconded, passed unanimous

All members signed charter.

Paul Spitler (The Wilderness Society) presented "Crafting Comprehensive Public Lands Legislation:" Items discussed in presentation were: art of collaboration and compromise, and how Washington D.C. public lands legislation works

**Lessons for success:**

- DC is divided, bipartisan support is essential
- DC often operates by consensus (Carbon County needs to be as inclusive as possible)
- DC does not favor creativity, prefers business as usual
- DC follows rules
- DC likes the laws it has written
- DC keeps tight reins on cash
- DC is slow
  - Introduction of bill could take 8 years
- Broad stakeholder support is essential
- Stay committed to win-win
- Communication is key (expect last minute inclusions from new stakeholders)

**Rules to live by:**

- Avoid poison pills
- There are no shortcuts
- You have to want to succeed

### **Public Lands Designation Options**

- Refer to Department of the Interior: <https://www.doi.gov/blog/americas-public-lands-explained>

Hard release is a poison pill; will engender strong opposition (when you prohibit inventory of wilderness value, never can come up for wilderness designation again)

Soft release is the standard; future options are open

Do not contradict the Wilderness Act by inclusive activities – find another designation instead

Ask for no money from Congress

Paul Spitler has successful models and resources if we need including: Wilderness Act Handbook, designation options, fact sheets (p: 202-360-1912 e: [paul\\_spitler@tws.org](mailto:paul_spitler@tws.org))

Gene Carrico asked if there is difference in management budgets for other designations, to which Dennis Carpenter replied “no”.

**New applicants:** John Espy suggested that we close applications for new committee members and send out completed applications to committee members for review, members agreed. John Johnson suggested present applicants give a short presentation since they were in attendance.

Leanne Correll: Carbon County landowner, experience with NEPA, recreates on public lands, collaborated with the DNR

Jim States: Long-time resident of Carbon County, experienced with public process and land use issues, consultant to industry, experience with NEPA

Gene Carrico: Long-time Rawlins resident, sees no big changes, does not like non-use

**Prioritizing four areas to be studied:** Dave Throgmorton endorses the idea of prioritizing WSA study. Connie is not ready to prioritize to importance. John Johnson promotes the idea of having structure through the busy summer season. John Espy proposed: 1) Prospect, 2) Encampment, 3) Ferris, 4) Bennett

John Johnson asked Jeff Streeter about touring Prospect and Encampment and discussion ensued. The option of floating the Encampment WSA was mentioned and members found that idea to be useful, though Streeter stressed that a float is dependent on many factors, including a limited window of suitable flow. Both Prospect and Encampment will be ready for access by mid-June. Ferris Mountain is difficult to hike. Eco-flight options were discussed for summer. Jeff Streeter volunteered to contact Eco-flight about scheduling. Connie asked about the goals of site visits. Joe Parsons referenced templates that Fremont County uses. John Johnson said we need templates like that together for meaningful site visits.

**Scheduling matters:** Connie volunteered to set up a Doodle Poll for a site visit for the week of June 12-17. Shaleas suggested we have meetings later in the day to encourage public participation. The next meeting will be held June 5 at the Carbon County Higher Education Center (CCHC) at 1650 Harshman in Rawlins at 1 p.m. The June 26 meeting will convene at 9:30 a.m. at CCHC. The July meeting will be on July 31.

Joe Parsons motioned to adjourn.

Jeff Streeter and Maddy Weiss compiled meeting notes.