



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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TO: Board of County Commissioners
Scott Vargo
Jeff Huntley
FROM: Lori Dwyer
RE: Work Session Meeting of October 9, 2018
DATE: October 9, 2018

Attendees:

Elected Officials: Dan Gibbs, Thomas C. Davidson, and Karn Stiegelmeier – Commissioners

Staff: Scott Vargo, County Manager; Jeff Huntley, County Attorney; Thad Noll, Assistant County Manager; Bentley Henderson, Assistant County Manager; Sarah Vaine, Assistant County Manager; Marty Ferris, Finance Director; Julie Sutor, Communications Director; Brian Bovaird, Emergency Management; Michael Schilling, Sheriff's Office Commander; Don Reimer, Planning Director; Eva Henson, Administrative Manager and Lori Dwyer, Administrative Assistant.

Guests: Trent Kenreigh (USFS), Katie Caulfield (USFS), Bill Jackson (USFS), Cindy Ebbert (USFS), and Deepan Dutta.

I. USFS Dispersed Recreation Crew Briefing on Season

Cindy Ebbert, Trails Manager and Bill Jackson, District Ranger gave a digital presentation that included an update regarding the 2018 Field Season for the Dispersed Recreation/Fire Prevention Crew (Crew) on the following topics but not limited to:

- Partnerships with other agencies
- Budget & In-kind from USFS
- Crew duties including: public contacts, fire prevention education & enforcement, residential camping "squatter" management, dispersed camping management, dispersed campsite inventory, certified for wildland firefighter duties, trash clean-up, fire restriction posting & enforcement
- Reception from public: positive response to fire restrictions and gave fewer tickets
- Identified minimal efforts in putting fires out
- Misconceptions about living on National Forest land
- Worked closely with their law enforcement officer
- Trash & abandoned property, utilized assistance of the Sheriff's Office in these matters
- Identified construction of and dismantled illegal structures
- Campsite management/closure and parking corrals
- Dispersed Campsite Inventory – 413 sites surveyed county-wide along road system, ArcGIS compatible and noted hazards & whether sites might be recommended for future designation
 - Commissioners expressed concerns about fuels on ground, tree density and appropriateness of recommendations for designated sites

- Results have not yet been analyzed regarding recommendations for designation
- Statistics: 84 sites closed, 269 signs constructed, 91 fire rings dismantled, 10 abandoned fires extinguished, 7 unattended fires extinguished, 157 bags of trash, 3105 contacts made, 9 structures removed, 97 squatters contacted, 30 warnings, 5 tickets, 87 trees cleared
- 2 crews of 2 for 7-day coverage, transfer of knowledge and information and tracking contacts
- 2 members went through 40-hr law enforcement training as a Forest Protection Officer (noted that all might go through the training next year)
- Discussion of fire restriction criteria
 - Commented on the conflict of the shooting range closure and shooting still being allowed elsewhere

Mr. Jackson also noted that the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) was helpful in closing problematic sites off highways. He also suggested the option of moving towards campfires in designated sites only – referring to the “Moab Model” and the Pike National Forest. He also reviewed a proposed budget for adding another crew next year.

Mike Schilling also provided additional comments regarding the Sheriff’s Office involvement with the crew including complementary pieces such as night coverage, urban interface and funding.

Commissioners inquired about what levels of staffing would be ideal and provided support and gratitude for the hard work the crew did this summer. They will review the budget request and decide on whether the program should continue next year.

II. Managers’ & Commissioners’ Issues

Senior Management and the Commissioners discussed various updates on topics including but not limited to:

- With the arrival of winter weather, it is the recommendation to lift local fire restrictions at this afternoon’s Regular Meeting
- The proposed 2019 Budget will be presented at this afternoon’s Regular Meeting
- Public Works will be hosting a family friendly event on Saturday, November 3rd regarding winter operations
- The Commissioners also reviewed upcoming calendar events and meetings

After the BOCC Regular Meeting, the Commissioners reconvened into an extended afternoon Work Session at 5 p.m.

III. Managers’ & Commissioners’ Issues Continued

Senior Management and the Commissioners continued various updates on topics including but not limited to:

- Don Reimer briefly discussed a concern of some recent clear cutting of trees that has occurred in the Dercum’s Dash area in Keystone and is currently under review.
- Letter from Vail Resorts regarding employee housing bunk beds
- Workforce Housing Developments and home daycares are allowed – discussed briefly covenants and current codes

Respectfully submitted:



Lori Dwyer, Deputy Clerk



Approved by



Dan Gibbs, Chair