

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

Public Lands Policy Coordination

May 4, 2023

In-person Meeting
Department of Natural Resources
Soldier Hollow Room 112
and
Online Meeting via Google Meet

MINUTES

Attendees

Members:

Chris Merritt, Chair, SHPO
Susan Zarekarizi, State Parks
Greg McDonald, UGS
Jodi Gardberg, DWQ
Jay Olsen on behalf of Conner Peterson, UDAF
Andy Bedingfield, SITLA
Chris Otto, DEQ
David Allison, DERR
Greg Todd, OED
James Reese, DWRi
Natasha Ballif on behalf of Jan Morse, DOGM
Brianna Emery on behalf of Marisa Weinberg, FFSL

Invited Federal Agencies:

Adam Shaw, Forest Service
Brandon Flint, National Park Service
Kerry Schwartz, BLM

Guests

Andrew Rupke, UGS

Staff:

Redge Johnson, PLCPO
Sindy Smith, PLPCO
Nancy Merrill, PLPCO

Welcome and Introductions

Chris Merritt, *Chair*, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

The members unanimously approved February 2, 2023, minutes.

Utah Critical Minerals Report, Second Edition

Andrew Rupke, Senior Geologist, Utah Geological Survey, Energy & Mineral Resources, summarized the geographic and geologic distribution of critical minerals within Utah from the Utah Critical Minerals Report, Second Edition, by Stephanie Mills and Andrew Rupke. Andrew explained that critical minerals are necessary to a country's economic or national security, but vulnerabilities exist in the supply chain.

Andrew answered questions.

Andrew shares the attached PowerPoint slides, which cover the key topics of his presentation.

Agency Reports

- Chris Merritt reported the following from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO):
 - May is Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month, which includes events, stories, and experiences for everyone. From SHPO's website you can find the events and the brown bag schedule: <http://ushpo.utah.gov/>
 - Some upcoming events include a tour of *The Great Saltair* May 6th conducted by Dr. Merritt; May 17th, SHPO presents the *First Peoples of Great Salt Lake: A Cultural Landscape*; May 20th join Chris for a walking tour of the historic Fort Douglas Archaeology.
 - BLM is reinitiating the Utility-Scale Solar Energy Planning for renewable energy development corridors.
 - The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food has hired for the first time an Archeologist.
 - SHPO, in partnership with Preservation Utah, is holding *Preservation Engaged: Celebrating Utah's Communities* conference on June 9th in South Salt Lake at Columbus School. A full session will look at outdoor recreation from a historic perspective.
- Redge B. Johnson, Director, reported the following from the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office (PLPCO):
 - Monuments planning are underway for Bears Ears and Grand Staircase. Many challenges exist. PLPCO appreciates the partnership with the BLM and the Forest Service. PLPCO's charge is representing Utah's interests.
 - PLPCO is deeply involved in the planning associated with the greater sage-grouse conservation strategy. PLPCO and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) are working with the Western Governors Association and many of the Western states to obtain the best available science for the BLM's greater sage-grouse planning process.
 - PLPCO participates as a Shared Stewardship partner alongside Forestry, Fire and State Lands (FFSL), the Forest Service, and the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to protect communities and watersheds from the threat and negative impacts of large catastrophic wildfires.
 - The Wild Horses and Burro Program is moving forward despite a few recent challenges.
 - BLM has released the proposed Conservation and Landscape Health rule for public comment. PLPCO is working with other state agencies to address concerns on how that rule will be implemented.

- PLPCO has been working with Arches and Zions National Parks on their visitor use management plans.
- Brianna Emery on behalf of Marisa Weinberg reported the following from Forestry, Fire, and State Lands (FFSL):
 - FFSL is working on a Request for Proposal (RFP) to amend the Great Salt Lake Comprehensive Management Plan.
 - FFSL is developing the Colorado and Green River Recreation Resource Management Plans.
- Jodi Gardberg reported the following from the Division of Water Quality (DWQ):
 - The application period for funding for nonpoint source related projects is closed. The grant funds help watershed managers across the state address the greatest water quality concerns generated by nonpoint sources of pollution. DWQ anticipates another application period for Federal 319 Fund in the fall.
- Natasha Ballif on behalf of Jan Morse reported the following from the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOG M):
 - If there are any RDCC projects that need to use a large amount of material coming from the state of Utah; make sure the material is from a permitted site.
- Adam Shaw reported the following from the U.S. Forest Service:
 - The Forest Service announced that there are several projects on the Uintah-Wasatch-Cache and Dixie National Forests confronting the wildfire crisis. Several projects are currently underway this year.
 - The Forest Service published the Fish-Lake National Forest Southern Monroe Mountain Allotments Livestock Grazing Authorization Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Draft Record of Decision (ROD). The Final EIS and ROD are available for a forty-five-day objection period that closes June 20, 2023.
 - The Forest Service published the Ashley National Forest Plan Revision Final EIS and Draft ROD. The objection period closes June 20, 2023.
 - The Manti-La Sal National Forest plan and draft for public comment will be released this summer. If anyone wants more information on either forest plan, contact Adam Shaw.
 - The Caribou-Targhee Forest in Southern Idaho has several potash mines. This area provides a significant source of potash to the domestic supply.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00 a.m.