



The Board of County Commissioners met in special session on June 23, 2021. Those present for the session were Ben Tisdel, Chair; Lynn M. Padgett, Vice-Chair; Jake Niece, Commissioner Member; Connie Hunt, County Administrator; and Hannah Hollenbeck, Deputy Clerk of the Board. Carol Viner, County Attorney, was not present.

- **Note – This meeting was recorded for reference purposes.**

**1:03PM Discussion and possible action regarding GMUG Draft Forest Plan:  
(An Executive session may be required for this item)**

**The Board of County Commissioners may convene into Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(e) for the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and/or instructing negotiators regarding the GMUG Draft Forest Plan:**

The Board agreed that an executive session was not required.

The Board discussed the lack of information provided the United States Forest Service (USFS), including the lack of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Commissioner Padgett did not feel that the cooperating agencies were given access to the needed information in order to fully form comments and identify red flags and fatal flaws. In addition to the missing EIS, the document was missing a table of contents, and GIS files, among other critical pieces.

Commissioner Niece said that the plan included some progressive aspects, but overall it lacked forward thinking management practices. Commissioner Niece said that the plan needed to emphasize climate change as an organizing principle.

The Board agreed to consider a collaborative letter with cooperating agencies that cited concerns regarding the lack of climate change analysis; lack of analysis pertaining to the multiple uses of the forest with regard to recreation; timber management analysis and wildfire mitigation, and lack of adequate consideration for CORE Act designations.

The Board agreed to draft a second letter that addressed Ouray County-specific concerns that included the lack of inclusion of the full EIS; lack of newly developed campgrounds, including adequate sanitation at popular trailheads; missing species of concerns (as long as there was no conflicts with Colorado Parks and Wildlife recommendations); lack of universal definition of "recreation technology"; demonstration that the 2012 Planning Rule was followed in the development of the plan; clarification of strategic adaptive direction and how it could be applied to adaptable management; and classification of wetlands. The Board agreed to request an extension if the EIS and other missing material was not received within a reasonable timeframe.

Additionally, the Board agreed that a separate letter regarding the County's support letter for the Bear Creek and Baldy additions.


The Board agreed to continue discussion of the GMUG Draft Forest Plan in work session.

**2:52PM The Board of County Commissioners adjourned the special session.**

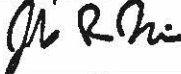


  
Michelle Nauer, Clerk and Recorder  
By: Hannah Hollenbeck, Deputy Clerk of the Board

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF OURAY COUNTY, COLORADO

  
Ben Tisdel, Chair

  
Lynn M. Padgett, Vice-Chair

  
Jake Niece, Commissioner Member