

Ouray Recreation & Conservation Alliance (ORCA) Meeting Record

Wednesday, January 19, 2022 – Virtual via Zoom

Learn more about ORCA here: <https://ouraycountyco.gov/413/Ouray-Recreation-Conservation-Alliance>

Participation: Thirty-five people attended the ORCA meeting, which was convened by Ouray County and the Organizing and Convening Committee and facilitated by the National Forest Foundation (NFF).

Participants included: Alex Miller, Alyssa Kircher, Ben Tisdell, Caroline Kilbane, Cary Denison, Chris Haaland, Cindy Williams, Dana Gardunio, Devon Horntvedt, Dolgio Nergui, Emily Olsen, Estrella Woods, Ethan Funk, J. Cram, Jake Niece, Joe Lavorini, John Broadbooks, John Clark, Kate Kellogg, Kate Smith, Kelly Ryan, Kirstin Copeland, Maddie Rehn, Mick Daniel, Oakley Kelly, Rachel Sralla, Robyn Cascade, Ryan Ossola, Stephanie Weber, Steve Boyle, Tamara Gulde, Tim Patterson

WELCOME

- Representatives from Colorado Parks and Wildlife (Rachel Sralla), Ouray County (Commissioner Lynn Padgett), and the U.S. Forest Service (Dana Gardunio) provided welcoming remarks.

AGENDA REVIEW

- Maddie Rehn reviewed the meeting agenda and introduced presenters.

PRESENTATION: CHAFFEE COUNTY REC IN BALANCE WITH Q&A

- Cindy Williams, [Envision Chaffee County](#) Co-Chair, described Envision Chaffee County's story and how it led to Envision becoming a model organization with many effective programs and tools.
 - Cindy's presentation is available [here](#).
 - Questions and discussion:
 - What was the budget like for this effort, the capacity and convening, and the recreation plan? A: Support was provided by Chaffee County Common Ground (local ballot initiative that supports agriculture, wildfire mitigation, and recreation activities), as well as Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Great Outdoors Colorado via the Colorado the Beautiful grant program.
 - Length of planning process? A: Chaffee County embarked on a 29-month planning process that led to Envision Chaffee County, Envision Recreation in Balance, and other innovative programs. [More about the Envision story and process is available here](#).
 - Cindy shared several relevant tools – surveys, campsite collector application, wildfire mitigation prioritization map, and more. [Many of these tools are listed here](#).
 - Several participants commented about how inspiring the Envision model is, and the group was impressed by all the innovative programs and tools.
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PRESENTATION – GUNNISON COUNTY STOR COMMITTEE WITH Q&A

- Joe Lavorini, who coordinates the [Gunnison County Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation \(STOR\) Committee](#), described the STOR Committee and the process that started with the One Valley Prosperity Project and led to the STOR Committee’s innovation and success.
- Joe’s presentation is available [here](#).
- Questions and Discussion:
 - What was the timeline and budget for this effort? A: [The One Valley Prosperity Project](#) started in 2014. Tourism and recreation surfaced as high priority community values. Those values led to the formation of the STOR Committee in 2017. The STOR Committee’s budget has been supported by Gunnison County, as well as Great Outdoors Colorado (for staffing). Projects have been supported by many local, regional, and national funders via the [Gunnison County Stewardship Fund](#).
 - Participants commented on Gunnison County being an excellent model for taking action with many projects, and in developing successful river-based access by collaborating with multiple agencies and private land owners to improve/develop access and fisheries.

PRESENTATION – SAN LUIS VALLEY GREAT OUTDOORS WITH Q&A

- Mick Daniel, [San Luis Valley Get Outdoors!](#) (SLV GO!) Executive Director, described SLV GO!’s history, and success in working to improve health and quality of life in the San Luis Valley.
- Mick’s presentation is available [here](#).
- Questions and Discussion:
 - What was the timeline and budget for this effort? A: The effort started in 2013 when Senator Salazar asked regional public land agencies to create a coalition that could help the San Luis Valley develop outdoor recreation opportunities. The community started meeting regularly and a master plan was developed in 2015. The initiative has been and remains grant funded with a significant contribution from the LOR Foundation.
 - Participants commended on the diversity of issues Mike and SLV GO! Tackle, as well as the large landscape and broad thinking involved in SLV GO’s success. ORCA participants were also impressed with the focus on inclusion and the connections to health and wellness.

OURAY COUNTY PROCESS UPDATE

- Commissioner Padgett shared that Ouray County will soon begin outreaching to seek proposals for a contracted, long-term facilitator who can take the baton from the NFF now that ORCA has launched and is moving forward.

NEXT STEPS AND CLOSING REMARKS

- Maddie Rehn shared the details for the next ORCA meeting: Thursday, February 3rd from 2:30-4:30 PM. The meeting will be [virtual](#).

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.
