



GRAND COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS
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Mary McGann · Rory Paxman

February 26, 2015

Congressman Rob Bishop
c/o Fred Ferguson and Casey Snider
Fred.Ferguson@mail.house.gov
Casey.Snider@mail.house.gov

Dear Congressman Bishop:

Thank you for the opportunity to resolve several long-standing public land-use issues via your willingness to act as our congressional sponsor for a public lands bill. We greatly appreciate your inclination to support local government by championing locally derived solutions for federally owned land and its management in eastern Utah.

We understand that time is of the essence, and so we have divided Grand County into three distinct decision making regions (see attached). This will allow Grand County to provide you with sequential decisions that we hope will help facilitate your process within the time-frame that you've indicated in your February 4th communication.

We've finished our first decision making meeting and we have attached our proposal for that region of Grand County (Bookcliffs region, see more below). We would be grateful if you would begin to incorporate these decisions into your initiative as we make them available to you. Our timeline is as follows:

- 2/23 Decision regarding Bookcliffs Region (done, see attached)
- 3/02 Decision regarding Eastern Arches and the Moab Watershed Region
- 3/09 Decision regarding the greater Big Flat and the Labyrinth Canyon Region
- 3/16 Decision regarding any unresolved areas of Grand County
- 3/17 Public Hearing for the comprehensive Grand County Public Lands Initiative proposal
- 3/31 Final Decision for the comprehensive Grand County Public Lands Initiative proposal

Please find attached shape files and .pdf maps of our proposed land-use designations for the Bookcliffs region as acted upon during our February 23rd workshop. These maps include lands we'd like designated as wilderness, as well as a map of wild, scenic, or recreational river designations for the entire county. We've also indicated roads that we'd like 'cherry-stemmed' into our proposed wilderness areas for the Bookcliffs region.

At this time we are unresolved as to whether or not to include reserved federal water rights for the wild/scenic/recreational river designations. In addition we are contemplating an expansion of an off-

highway vehicle special recreation management area called 'Utah Rims' on the eastern side of the County, however this decision is pending (see attached maps and .shp files). We will inform you as soon as we come to a conclusion on these two issues.

Again, thank you for championing a locally derived solution to federally owned land management in Grand County. If you have any questions please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth A. Tubbs, Chair
Grand County Council

cc: Congressman Chaffetz
Grand County Council

Attachments:

Map, County Decision Making Regional Divisions

Map & .shp files, Bookcliffs Wilderness Proposal + 'Cherry Stemmed' Roads

Map & .shp files, Wild/Scenic/Recreation River Designations – County-wide

Map & .shp files, Utah Rims proposed SRMA expansion (approval pending)