Ent 024911 Bk 73 Pg 311
Date: 04-JUN-2010 3:10:05PM
Fee: None
Filed By: CF
KERI PALLESEN, Recorder
DAGGETT COUNTY
For: DAGGETT COUNTY

BOARD OF DAGGETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION NO: 10-17

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EMERGENCY ACTION TO ELIMINATE THE THREAT OF A WILDFIRE ON THE NORTH SLOPE OF THE UINTA MOUNTAINS

WHEREAS, the Board of Daggett County Commissioners, Daggett County, Utah (board) is duly elected to represent the citizens of Daggett County and promote their public health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the Board has recognized the bark beetle infestation on the North Slope of the Uinta Mountains has killed as high as 90% of the lodge pole pine trees; and

WHEREAS, the Board understands that a devastating wildfire on the North Slope of the Uinta Mountains well result in the loss of human lives, death of livestock, homes burned to the ground, recreational facilities destroyed, water quality impaired, air quality polluted and the irrigation and culinary water reservoirs filled with silt; and

WHEREAS, the Board understands that a tremendous fuel load has built up because of all the dead trees; and

WHEREAS, the Board is aware that preventative action, such as removing dead timber, construction of fire breaks and providing access to extinguish fires as soon as they start, is prohibited due to unreasonable regulations and several roadless area designations, which have been opposed in the past; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes and is very appreciative of the involvement by Wyoming Governor Dave Freudenthal in dealing with this crisis by providing consultants to work with Lincoln and Uinta Counties in Wyoming; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes **EMERGENCY ACTION** is required to prevent a crisis from occurring;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DAGGETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, DAGGETT COUNTY, UTAH, THAT:

1. The Board hereby established Support for Emergency Action to eliminate the threat of a wildfire on the North Slope of the Uinta Mountains; and
2. The Board hereby requests the Forest Service to remove the roadless area designations which preclude any road building to provide access and any timber harvesting to remove the fuel load (dead timber), and

3. The Board hereby requests the Forest Service immediately construct access roads, in sufficient number and location for the purposes stated herein; and
4. The Board hereby request the Forest Service immediately authorize the removal of the dead timber, by any means available, while construction fire breaks at the same time; and
5. The Board hereby requests the Forest Service immediately develop a plan, with input from the Board, to extinguish any fire cased by lightning or any other means, as soon as they begin.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 2nd day of June, 2010.

Absent
Stewart Leith, Chairman

Henry J. Gutz, Member - Acting Chair

Floyd Briggs
Floyd Briggs, Member

COUNTY CLERK
DAGGETT COUNTY
STATE OF UTAH

ATTEST:

Vicky McKee
Vicky McKee, Clerk-Treasurer

June 2, 2010
Date

RECEIVED
AUG 26 2010
By

UIN . COUNTY CITIZENS COA ION
for
SOUND RESOURCE USE

P.O. Box 338 • Lyman, Wy 82937

August 17, 2010

Reference is made to letter to Brian Ferebee, dated August 17, 2010 in response to his response by letter dated July 21, 2010 to our meeting in Lyman, Wyoming April 30, 2010. The purpose of this summary of the above referenced letter dated July 21, 2010 is to facilitate our discussions at our meeting today.

These are the specific items we would like to cover at our meeting and are as follows:

Item 1-4: The suggestion to remove the restriction of 8 foot maximum length of firewood is still a viable option to remove dead trees, faster.

2: We need clarification of the number of active timber sales you have on the North Slope of the Uintas, and also the timber sales approved by the NEPA process and also those in the process of going through the NEPA process. We would like to know the location, size and approximate dates these timber sales can be completed.

4: We are skeptical of the results made in the "Fire Risk Assessment for Little West Blacks Fork and the Community of Tokewanna" that a fire occuring in this area, would not spread further that "slightly more than a mile to the north east from the point of origin" after burning for 3 days.

5: We would like to discuss the base rates for timber sales.

In addition, on page 5 of the detailed letter, we listed areas of concern and some of the possible solutions. Following are those we feel we need to discuss first, and if we have time, we'd like to discuss the others that we may have sufficient time for:

- We request that key "roadless areas", including the "Little West Fork Blacks" area, designated in 2001, be opened up to construct access roads, cut and remove the dead trees as rapidly as possible.

- In particular the "Little West Fork Blacks" area is not designated a roadless area in the "Revised Forest Plan" for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest - Record of Decision, signed by Jack G. Troyer, Regional Forester, on March 19, 2003. In fact, the "Management Prescription" for the "Little West Fork Blacks" is "Multiple Resource Use, Forested Vegetation Management Emphasized" with a 5.1 designation which is "Maintaining/Restoring Forested Ecosystem Integrity". In addition, there are existing roads shown on the "Summer Recreation Travel Map" for the Evanston/Mtn. View Ranger District numbered 307, 318, 392 and 393, in the "Little West Fork Blacks" roadless area and which are designated on the map as, "Road Open to All Motorized Use". The "Little West Fork Blacks" roadless area does not qualify for roadless, according to the regulations, which on page 2-18 of the Revised Forest Plan states, "Each undeveloped area on the Forest identified during the inventory contains 5,000 acres or more or was adjacent to an existing wilderness area." This is not the case in the "Little West Fork Blacks" roadless area.

- We need to examine ways to remove the maximum amount of dead timber in the shortest time possible - these are covered in items 9 through 14 on page 5 of the letter to Brian Ferebee, dated August 17, 2010.

UINTA COUNTY CITIZENS COALITION
for
SOUND RESOURCE USE

P.O. Box 338 • Lyman, Wy 82937

August 17, 2010

Brian Ferebee
Forest Supervisor
Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
125 South State Street
Federal Building, Room 8236
Salt Lake City, UT 84138

Dear Brian:

Thank you for responding by letter dated July 21, 2010 to the specific action items we discussed at our April 30, 2010 meeting held in Lyman, Wyoming.

The Directors of the Uinta County Citizens Coalition for Sound Resource Use (Coalition), held a meeting July 29, 2010 to discuss, in detail, the progress being made with regard to the five items you committed to at our April 30th meeting. Before we review that discussion, we would like to furnish you some information regarding our Coalition. The Coalition was born in February 1992. (See attached first page of the local newspaper regarding the formation of the Coalition). Our current Directors and their area of expertise are as follows:

President:	Joe V. Hickey - Oil well operator, Whiting Petroleum, Inc.
Vice-President:	Larry Ayres - President, Ayres & Baker Poles & Post, Inc.
Sec.-Treasurer:	Farrell Alleman - Owner, Farmers Insurance Agency, Urie, WY.
Director:	Danny Eyre - General Manager, Bridger Valley Electric Assn, Inc.
Director:	Kenny Fackrell - Manager, Bridger Valley Water Conservancy Dist.
Director:	Annette France - Educator; past Education Coordinator for the Uinta County Conservation District
Director:	Karen Henry - Partner, Henry Ranch Partnership; past President Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation; past Director of the American Farm Bureau Federation
Director:	Allen Jaggi - Representative, Wyoming State Legislature-HD 18
Director:	Van Johnson - Uinta County Community Bank President, Wells Fargo Bank
Director:	Carl Larson - President Larson Livestock, Inc.; past Chairman Wyoming State Grazing Board
Director:	Ron Micheli - Candidate for Governor of Wyoming; Rancher; served 16 years in the Wyoming House of Representatives; past Commissioner of Agriculture, state of Wyoming
Director:	Owen Petersen - Representative, Wyoming State Legislature-HD 19
Director:	Thayne Peterson- Attorney
Director:	Mick Powers - Chairman, Uinta County Commission
Director	Gaylon Thornock - Vice-President, South & Jones Lumber Company, Inc.

Following are our comments to each of the items discussed in your letter.

1-1: This is a good start - we question this statement, "...we will allow the public to drive off the road to cut firewood up to 300 feet from the center line of the road." What about saying "up to approximately 300 feet from the road."? Is there anything wrong with 400 to 500 feet? We felt our common goal is to reduce or eliminate the dead trees as a fuel source.

1-2: Extending the firewood season is great, thanks. Reviewing the locations on the District where fuel reduction would be most effective needs to be completed ASAP. We think the idea of offering free-use permits here is a good idea.

1-3: We feel reducing the cost of firewood permits is also good. We had a lot of discussion regarding the fact that we are trying to reduce and/or eliminate these dead trees as a fuel source. The comment was made that the forest should be wide open and firewood could be gathered anywhere without a permit. We finally settled on the idea that free-use permits should be given for all firewood at no charge - the primary reason for issuing permits was to control and direct the firewood gathering, to areas in critical need of the removal of the dead trees.

1-4: The suggestion to remove the restriction of 8 foot maximum length of firewood is still a viable option to remove dead trees, faster. You stated that you, "decided that we will not implement this since changing this requirement may cause issues with our commercial timber sales and purchasers when considering prices, contract requirements and associated charge collections...." Our local timber operators have no problem with eliminating this restriction - it will not cause any issues with them, and probably no one else. Their primary goal is the same as ours and that is to remove as much dead timber as fast as possible.

2: You say, "Currently the Forest has ten active timber sales which treat approximately 2336 acres." You go on the say you have eight sales approved through the NEPA process...five timber sales currently in the NEPA process...and ten proposed timber sales which are in the planning process." Does this mean there are a total of thirty three timber sales where NEPA is completed, in the process or will be in the process in the near future? Are they all located on the North Slope of the Uintas or scattered throughout the three forests? We would appreciate a map showing those timber sales scheduled on the North Slope of the Uinta Mountains.
We appreciate you moving the "Roughneck Timber Sale" to a higher priority in your timber management schedule.

3-1; 3-2; 3-3; 3-4: We spent a lot of time reviewing and discussing these items. A summary of this discussion, follows:
We began by reviewing the Research Paper INT-23, published in 1965 by the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Forest Service, USDA, in Ogden, Utah. The title of this Research Paper is Timber Management Issues on Utah's North Slope. This Research Paper states, "If the North Slope were to be brought under management as a sustained yield unit, the task would be difficult because the age distribution is unbalanced and is dominated by overmature stands. More than half of the conifer timber is mature or overmature, the North Slope lodgepole pine has been under intermittent siege by mountain pine beetles for several decades....Forty-four percent of the 201,000 acres of mature and overmature timber is classified as 'high risk'. Until this timber is logged or killed, periodic flareups of the mountain pine beetle and other insects must be expected."
The 1985 Forest Plan confirmed the deteriorating condition of the forest, by stating, "Of the Forest's 212,000 acres of lodgepole pine, about 98,700 acres is rated as having high to medium susceptibility to attack by mountain pine beetle."
In the 5 year monitoring report of the 1985 Forest Plan, dated June 1, 1992, under goal #25 it states, "Concentrate timber harvesting in the moderate to high risk lodgepole pine stands to reduce resources losses caused by the mountain pine beetle. Objective: Offer 14.7 million boardfeet (MMBF) of sawtimber annually by the end of the first decade."

The 1985 Forest Plan set the Annual Sale Quantity (ASQ) of timber at approximately 16 MMBF, later reduced to 12.5 MMBF due to an error in double counting part of the timber resource. The actual timber volume offered and sold ranged from 11.5 to 14.0 MMBF in the late 1980's, to 10.0 MMBF in 1991, 1992 and 1993, down to 1.8 MMBF in 1995, 1.7 MMBF in 1996 and 4.9 MMBF in 1999. The timber required for the sawmills in Uinta County at this time was approximately 12 MMBF. The timber supplied to our local mills from Forest Service administered lands has decreased from approximately 90% to 50% for for the Ayres & Baker sawmill in Mountain View, Wyoming and to 0% for our largest sawmill, South & Jones in Evanston, Wyoming.

Timber was being harvested, on a large scale basis prior and during the time this Research Paper was written. Our Director, Allen Jaggi recalled when he worked for the Forest Service on the North Slope during the summers in the early 1970's, after he had completed each year of teaching at Lyman, Wyoming. He said a timber operator would come to the Forest Service and request a timber sale in a particular area. The Forest Service would mark the exterior boundaries of the proposed sale, cruise the timber and the District Forest Ranger would make the sale.

What is evident is that the timber sales over the last 45 years have steadily declined. There are many reasons for this decline in the timber harvest, but the major reason began with the passage of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in 1970. This act along with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the designation of roadless areas has had an adverse impact on timber management on the North Slope as visualized in the 1965 Research Paper. The Environmental groups have reduced the federal agencies they challenge to ineffective management agencies. In addition they utilize the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to request information to appeal your decisions and sue you in court, thereby diverting the time your employees could use for active on-the-ground management.

The result has been a timber resource that suffers from the lack of management which would have precluded the infestations of bark beetles. What we have now is a dead forest. The damage is done. Our timber operators along with our State of Wyoming District Forester, explained the following:

1. The dead timber has some economical value for approximately five to six years after it dies.

2. If not harvested the dead trees will fall to the ground in a "jackstraw" pattern, many of which will be resting above the ground on other fallen trees and will not decompose as fast as if they all were lying on the ground. The Fire Risk Assessment for the Little West Blacks Fork and the Community of Tokewanna, dated June 2010 by Gayle I. Sorenson states, "The overall risk of wildfire in the area will decrease dramatically when the dead trees cast their needles. Fire danger will remain very low for the next 10-20 years until the standing dead trees begin to fall. This will cause a substantially increase in the surface fuel loading, in the area and will result in high fire danger in the area over a fairly long period of time...."

The other issue we need to consider is that the sunlight now available after the trees fall will promote the germination of the lodge pole pine seeds and we will have a dense cover of seedlings which will add to the fuel buildup and dramatically increase the fire risk.

3. If this scenario prevails, these areas will restrict access on horseback or by motorized vehicle, restrict grazing by livestock or wildlife and someday will provide the fuel for a devastating wildfire. Our water storage reservoirs will be filled with silt thereby reducing their storage capacity and impairing our water quality.

We know the problem. What is the solution? We discussed the suggestions you made regarding the disposal of this huge volume of dead timber.
Gaylon Thornock, Vice-president, South & Jones, led the discussion regarding the making of wood pellets as fuel for wood burning stoves. Gaylon said the pellets are a by-product of their milling of timber. They utilize all the scrap wood to make the pellets and this works well for them. They were selling the pellets for $165.00/ton before a pellet mill was installed in Walden, Colorado. We understand this pellet mill cost between 6 to 7 million dollars and they used beetle killed trees, given to the them, at no cost, as their source of raw material. After this mill began producing pellets the price dropped due to an increased supply of pellets. South & Jones reduced their price to $120.00/ton in order to compete. Gaylon also explained that there was a demand for pellets from the east coast, but the freight costs made this market cost prohibitive.
Larry Ayres, President, Ayres & Baker, discussed co-generation plants. Ayres & Baker looked at the possibility of installing one to produce electricity to run their sawmill and related infrastructure. This was in the 1980's and the cost at that time would have run about $600,000.00 to $700,000.00. They calculated that they would use about 50% of the electricity produced and sell the other 50% to the local power company. One of the problems was what to do with the secondary steam produced. This may be more of a problem today under the current environmental restrictions. Their analysis of the economics of this project revealed that it was not feasible at that time.
Dana Stone, District Forester, State of Wyoming discussed the Fuels for Schools program. You had listed this in your letter as a viable option. This would not use a large supply of the dead timber as you recognized and Dana reiterated. The other problem is the time frame required to retrofit school heating systems to utilize woody biomass. We need to remove a hugh amount of dead timber from the forest in a short period of time, before we are faced with an increasing threat of devastating wildfires.
Bill Crapser, Wyoming State Forester, was contacted by telephone to discuss the biomass energy plant that you discussed in your letter. Apparently this plant would be constructed in the Cokeville area which is 100 to 150 miles from the dead timber on the North Slope of the Uinta Mountains. With that distance, even if there was no charge for the dead trees, the cutting, loading and hauling costs could render this outlet for the dead trees, uneconomical. If this proposed plant was more centrally located it may prove to be economically viable and could provide an outlet for the dead timber from both forests. A major problem is the time required to completion of a project such as this. Time is of the essence. We need to remove the dead trees immediately.

4: We have reviewed the "Fire Risk Assessment for Little West Blacks Fork and the Community of Tokewanna", dated June 2010 by Gayle I. Sorenson. We also visited with Dana Stone regarding this report. Dana said he reviewed the report after it was written and the assumptions put into the computer model were legitimate. The Coalition remained skeptical that a fire occurring in the Little West Fork Blacks Fork area would not spread further than "slightly more than a mile to the north east from the point of origin", after burning for 3 days. This is in light of the East Fork of the Bear River fire started June 28, 2002 and which travelled approximately 7 to 8 miles. According to the Forest Service this fire burned 14,208 acrea and was deemed contolled on September 5, 2002. This fire crossed many large open areas and jumped the West Fork Blacks Fork river.

5: We agree that the base rates need to be reduced in order to encourage more interest, in the Forest Service timber sales. We recommend that your interm direction for the base rates for timber sales, which expires August 26, 2010, be extended and preferably reduced.

In conclusion, we request that you consider the following items of concern on the North Slope of the Uinta Mountains and some of the possible solutions:

1. Nearly 90% of the lodgepole pine trees are dead.
2. These trees will have some economical value for the next 5-6 years.
3. Recognize that there is and will be for many years a very high risk of fires.
4. The need to provide constant surveilance for fires in order to extinguish them when they are small.
5. The need to provide a communications system, such as cell towers, as an early warning system.
6. Request EMERGENCY ACTION be approved by the proper governmental authorities.
7. Request through this EMERGENCY ACTION declaration that all the regulations be streamlined so as to provide the ability to access and remove the dead trees as rapidly as possible.
8. Request that key "roadless areas", including the "Little West Fork Blacks" area, designated in 2001, be opened up to construct access roads, cut and remove the dead trees and construct fire breaks.
9. Reduce the base price of the dead timber and/or sell the dead timber through salvage sales.
10. Allow the dead timber to be removed, at no cost, through free-use permits.
11. Pay the timber operators, or anyone else qualified, to remove the dead trees.
12. Hire the unemployed and others, through a program similar to the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) to cut and remove the dead trees.
13. Make sure the local sawmills have all the timber they need to remain in operation.
14. Locate areas where the dead timber, which is removed from the North Slope can be stockpiled until it can be utilized.

Time is of the essence. We are here to help in this effort. We appreciate your efforts Brian and your willingness to meet with us to discuss solutions. Let's continue this dialog and move forward as fast as possible to prevent a major catastrophe from occurring on the North Slope of the Uinta Mountains. You have the support of the citizens and governmental officials in this area as evidenced by the attached resolutions. Our Governor and State Forestry officials also support you in this effort. We look forward to our meeting in August. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joe V. Hickey

Joe V. Hickey
President

Enclosures: Resolutions from Uinta County Commission; Daggett County Commission; City of Evanston, WY; Town of Lyman, WY; Town of Mountain View, WY.

cc: Bill Crapser, Wyoming State Forester
Dick Beuhler, Utah State Forester
Dana Stone, District Forester, State of Wyoming
Richard Stem
Uinta County Commission
Daggett County Commission
City of Evanston, WY
Town of Lyman, WY
Town of Mountain View, WY
Rick Schuler, District Forest Ranger

County citizens form coalition for sound use of natural resources

Editor's note: The following article was submitted by the Uinta County Citizens Coalition for Sound Resource Use. The committee deals with federal land issues that affect Uinta County.

Your Uinta County Citizens Coalition for Sound Resource Use is sounding the alarm. Our local custom and culture - our heritage - our rural way of life our economic stability, is under attack. We are the pawns in a war over the control and use of the federal lands in and adjacent to Uinta County. (See article on page 9 of the July 17, 1992 edition of the Uinta County Herald, "Environmental impact statement for for North slope of Uintas available for public review" and article on page 1, of the July 23, 1992 edition of the Pioneer, "Final Environmental Impact Study Available for Public Review." Your Coalition for Sound Resource Use was born in February 1992. A group of concerned Uinta County Citizens, representing timber industry, oil & gas, agriculture, public utilities, banking retailers and recreation decided to form a coalition to counter a growing menace to our life style and economic well being in Uinta County. Your coalition sponsored, during the evening of Monday, March 30, 1992 in Mountain View, Wyoming, a presentation by Karen Budd, attorney with expertise in federal land issues. Budd defined the role of county government in preserving our local custom and culture and maintaining or improving the economic stability of Uinta County. Your coalition supported the appointment by the Uinta County Commission of eight Uinta County citizens to a committee to begin dealing with federal land issues affecting the citizens of Uinta County. Letters were forwarded by the Uinta County Commission, to the Forest service, Bureau of Land Management, and other federal agencies. These letters requested these federal agencies to solicit input from the Uinta County Commission prior to the general public comment period on any proposed action affecting the economic well being of Uinta County and the citizens of Uinta County.

Our immediate challenge is the East Fork Black's Fork Environmental Impact Statement. A copy may be obtained from the Forest Service in Evanston, Wyoming. Little time is left to review this document, determine how it will affect you as a citizen of Uinta County, and allow you time to respond with your comments - the comment period deadline is August 17, 1992. Your Coalition will seek to extend the comment period if at all possible. Some of the issues are as follows:

Timber - A decision was recently made by the Wasatch Cache Forest Supervisor to cut the ASQ (Allowable Sale Quantity) by 50%, saying their 1974 Timber Inventory was inaccurate. Timber folks are appalled, saying that a cut of this size will accomplish no more than a 50% loss of an important renewable

(continued on Page 9)

Board of Uinta County Commissioners
Resolution 10- 13

A resolution in support of emergency action to eliminate the threat of a wildfire on the north slope of the Uinta Mountains.

WHEREAS, the Board of Uinta County Commissioners (Board) is duly elected to represent the citizens and Uinta County; and,

WHEREAS, the Board is aware that the north slope of the Uinta Mountains serves a variety of needs, from culinary water to business enterprises to recreational pursuits for the citizens of Uinta County in maintaining our custom and culture; and,

WHEREAS, the Board has recognized the bark beetle infestation on the north slope of the Uinta Mountains has killed as high as 90% of the lodge pole pine trees; and,

WHEREAS, the Board understands that a devastating wildfire on the north slope of the Uinta Mountains will result in the loss of human lives, death of livestock, homes burned to the ground, recreational facilities destroyed, water quality impaired, air quality polluted and our irrigation and culinary water reservoirs filled with silt; and,

WHEREAS, the Board understand that a tremendous fuel load has built up because of all the dead trees; and,

WHEREAS, the Board is aware that preventative action, such as removing dead timber, construction of fire breaks and providing access to extinguish fires as soon as they start, is precluded due to several road less area designations which were opposed by the Board in the past; and,

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes and is very appreciative of the involvement by Wyoming Governor, Dave Freudenthal in dealing with this crisis by providing consultants to work with Uinta County; and,

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes Emergency Action is required to prevent a crisis from occurring;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF UINTA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, Uinta County, that:

1. The Board hereby requests the Forest Service remove the road less area designations beginning with the "Little West Fork Blacks" as top priority; and
2. The Board hereby request the Forest Service immediately construct access roads, in sufficient number and location for the purpose stated herein, in the "Little West Fork Blacks" area; and
3. The Board hereby requests the Forest Service immediately authorize the removal of the dead timber, by any means available, in the "Little West Fork Blacks" area and construct fire breaks at the same time; and
4. The Board hereby requests the Forest Service immediately develop a plan to extinguish any fire caused by lightning or by any other means, as soon as they begin.

Passed, approved and adopted this 18 day of May 2010.

Mick Powers, Chairman

Attest:

Lana Wilcox, Uinta County Clerk