

## **RPW Steering Committee Meeting Summary March 13th, 2014**

### **In Attendance**

Matt Thorpe, Wanda Cason, Jeff Widen, Ann Oliver, Bruce Whitehead, Darlene Marcus, John Taylor, Preston Groetzke, Jimbo Buickerood, Chuck Wanner, Steve Fearn

### **Approval of last meeting summary**

Some minor typo's were corrected. Summary approved as presented, otherwise.

### **Next meetings**

April 11th, 1:30-4pm, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 1-3pm

### **Hermosa Legislation Update**

Had hearing. Working on getting a vote this spring. A high priority for Rep. Tipton. Minor amendments may be needed to make the legislation match the SJNF plan.

### **Hinsdale County SWCD Seat**

John Taylor and Steve Fearn represent SWCD, not the Counties, in this process. Bruce Whitehead is present as a staff assistant. Preston Groetzke is the Hinsdale County appointment at this time. John Taylor is retiring. The SW board would like John Taylor to remain at the table for the regional discussion.

### **Phase II/Regional Discussion**

- At the April meeting, a proposal will be presented by Jeff and Jimbo. This proposal will be basin-wide in its approach and will take into consideration the proposal presented by Chuck at the last meeting.
- Both Jeff and Jimbo have discussed the potential for release of suitability with various constituents. It is feasible but depends on the specific details, including durable protections of the identified values.

### **Proposals**

- The group discussed how to communicate with others about specific proposals that are brought forward in the regional discussion yet are still fluid. The group agreed to be thoughtful about this, as it is a sensitive time in the process, with elements of proposals being explored but not yet agreed upon as a whole.
- The group also agreed that it was important for the steering committee to work to find agreements first and then vet those agreements with legislators, national groups, etc. Can always re-group and discuss with their feedback.
- It was also mentioned that we will likely need to go back to the Animas and Hermosa groups if WSR was a recommendation on either of those streams.

## **Observer Input**

Mark Pearson

- Western Montana group trying to figure out how to protect timber areas and come up with a supply of timber for mills and how to protect against opposition. How to streamline the NEPA review and insulate from litigation. Did not get concurrence from natural resource committee staff, as the Senator was opposed to the approach. Many attempts made for a hearing, which didn't happen until this year, after many years. Tremendous validity to what John W. has said regarding committee staff being kept up to speed along the way.

Ty Churchwell

- Encouragement for the crafters of the next proposal to enumerate rationale for difference from the first proposal brought forth by Chuck.

Adjourned at 11:25am