

DRAFT - SUMMARY
Big Horn County Land Use Plan Steering Committee
Fifth Meeting – August 28, 2008
7:00-8:45 p.m., Sheriff's Office, Basin, WY

Persons Present

- Committee Members: Mary Flitner, Robert Grater, Mike Hinckley, Carol Lowe, Ron McArthur, Tim Mills, Sr., Dave Monk, Dave Neves, Mary Russell, Brad Tippetts, Debbie McKim.
 - Consultants: Ken Markert, Anne Cossitt
 - County Planner: Jim Waller
 - Public: none.
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Brief Summary

Committee members met to review first edition of a mapping inventory for the county. Map themes to date include: Agricultural Land Use, Irrigated Land, Agricultural Parcel Size, Irrigated and Non-Irrigated Agricultural Soils, Big Game Crucial Habitats, Floodplains, Groundwater Sensitivity, Wetlands, Current Land Use, Land Parcel Sizes, Subdivisions, Land Surface Management, Land Tenure, and Population Density.

Decisions/Action Items

- Ken will attempt to group parcels by ownership. (There are over 4,000 parcels in the county, but all of these are owned by about 2,000 individuals.)
 - Ken will attempt to show agricultural land designation for both deeded and public lands (only deeded shown currently).
 - Ken will see about adding the proposed “energy corridor” to the map inventory. Debbie McKim raised this item, indicating that the BLM is working to get pipelines and other energy infrastructure in a transportation corridor – as part of a national energy transportation effort.
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Other Discussion (not decision items)

- There was a question on the designation of some agricultural land east of Big Horn Lake -- some were surprised to see deeded ownership in that location (Moss Ranch area) – others mentioned that it may have been purchased by the Trust for Public Land, also BLM purchased some deeded land.
- Using the Park County Land Suitability Analysis as an example, Ken Markert demonstrated how the mapping inventory data could produce land suitability analysis maps, and eventually could lead to zoning maps, if the county eventually decided to zone.
- A question was raised as to what constitutes agricultural parcels, since some are quite small (less than 10 acres). Ken responded that the map source was assessors' data. Jim Waller indicated that the assessors use a definition in state law (based on gross agricultural income of \$1,000/yr).
- No one seemed to know the function or history of the Department of Defense land southwest of Lovell.

- “Vacant Industrial Land” scattered through the county appears to be mineral claims, stated committee members.
- Is it possible areas of potential timber harvest included in the agricultural land designations?
- Parcel data information is from this year.
- As more properties are divided, there are more and more issues related to irrigation ditches – ensuring that users get their water and that obstructions to maintenance (e.g., fences, gates, etc) are limited.
- Bob Grater also mentioned problems with private sewage lagoons, and Jim Waller provided more detail.
- Ron asked a question on how the public hearing will factor into final decision-making? Ken responded that there will have been a number of opportunities for public comment before the public hearing (including the public survey that has already been conducted and informal public meetings that will be held later this year). Ken’s experience is that by the time the public hearing is held, the land use plan has come a long way, with lots of comment and changes, and typically doesn’t change too much.

Next Steps

- Committee will meet on September 25 in Lovell to review land use and agriculture “inventories” from the consultants.

Corrections

If you would like to make a correction or addition to this summary, please contact Ken Markert (307-587-4480) by no later than September 25.