

Special Commissioners Meeting  
June 25, 2009  
Held at Idaho Fish & Game Offices in Idaho Falls

Present: Commissioner Paul Romrell, Commissioner LeRoy Miller, Commissioner Skip Hurt, Chief Deputy Sheriff Kurt Hillman, and Clerk Abbie Mace.

Also in attendance were Fish & Game Representatives John Hansen, Steve Schmidt, Terry Thomas, Gary Vecellio, and BLM Representative Wendy Reynolds, Becky Lazdauskas, and Bill Boggs.

Commissioner Romrell called the meeting to order.

Mr. Schmidt brought up concerns with the Egin Hamer Road Closure Area that were published in the Standard Journal.

Commissioner Romrell brought up the fact Fremont County is rewriting our Comp Plan and Development Code and wanted things clear for our new policies. He discussed several farmers and developers that want to operate in the closure area during the closure. He asked how we move forward with our Development Codes.

Ms. Lazkauskas reviewed the agreement in place by county ordinance. The land use that is happening is in violation with the ordinance.

Commissioner Hurt expressed concerns with the personal property rights of property owners to be able to develop their property and still protect the animals.

The original agreement with Fremont and Jefferson County and BLM was a trade off with the closure of the area and the Egin-Hamer Road.

They discussed the migration of the animals in the location. Fish & Game have calculated the value of deer and elk to Fremont County in the amount of \$12,000,000 annually. They feel protection of the winter range is vital to the animals and the economy of Fremont County.

Commissioners would like to see the data on the migration on the south side of the dunes.

Commissioner Romrell asked if it is the county's responsibility to work with the BLM to address different verbiage for the ordinance. There is a considerable amount of pressure for development around the sand dunes.

Ms. Reynolds is concerned with this being put into a wilderness area. If we change the boundaries it would be very expensive and controversial. The time frame would be approximately 3 years at a minimum.

The group discussed concerns with the established development area. There are violations now. BLM is concerned with how to address them.

Fish and Game stated they are very willing to work with the commissioners on establishing the new development code.

Commissioner Miller brought up concerns with the area north of the white sands area and a place to snowmobile through.

As the county allows more development around the sands it is very difficult to enforce the wilderness area for the BLM.

Commissioners thanked everyone for the understanding of the process and what it would take to make changes.

They discussed the current access for recreation and how to protect the vegetation and endangered species.

Commissioners discussed the proposed possibility of the county working with the BLM on managing the use of the sand dunes and how to split the revenue that would be generated from this project. This would be done through an MOU with the BLM and Fremont County. The concern of the county is how to split the fees between the BLM and the county. Ms. Reynolds will look into what can be done different than the 80% BLM/ 20% County split. The county is willing to put together a committee to study this.

Commissioners thanked the BLM for the Egin Lakes Access area. It is very well done.

Everyone appreciated the ability to meet on these issues.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned.

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Paul Romrell, Chairman  
Fremont County Commission

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Abbie Mace, Clerk