Middle Park Colorado Broadband Meeting notes September 23, 2021

Attendees: Ingrid Anderson, Sarah Bransom, Anne Gerleman, Roxanne Singler, Pat Welch, Travis Wright, Melanie Zwick and presenter Ian

**30 x 30** Ian from the West Slope Field office of Conservation Colorado in Grand Junction gave a presentation about 30 x 30 in Colorado. Conservation Colorado is a statewide organization that works toward clean air, stable climate and environmental justice by influencing policy and helping get conservation leaders elected.

30 x 30 is an international goal to protect 30 percent of the land and water by 2030 and 50 % by 2050. Tom Udall, former NM senator, is the author of the resolution. Dr Sala, a scientist is also a main spear header of the initiative.

The nature crisis we have today does not receive the amount of publicity that climate change does. 90 % of the large fish in the ocean have been killed. We are now experiencing a 6th mass extinction. Humanity is destroying its way of life. We must do 30 x 30 to save nature and keep at that pace of protection. What is not saved by 2050 will probably be lost. National Monuments, Wilderness Areas, reforestation and migration corridors are some of the ways land and water can be protected. Bold action is necessary. Nature can bounce back given the chance. Protecting the planet is protecting humanity.

30 x 30 will be a matter of focusing on little pieces to make up the big piece.

36% of Colorado if federal land. About 5% is tribal lands and the majority, 60% is private land. 10 to 13% of Colorado’s land is presently protected by parks, conservation easements, etc. About 28% of the private land is developed.

Action starts on the local level. New parks, oil and gas rules, CORE act, etc. are tools. Contact our Rep Neguse. We need to keep pushing for this protection. Public and private entities are working on including more land for protection. Private land owners need to have incentive to conserve.

30 x 30 is still in the planning process. What does protection mean? What about funding?

Broads can sign up for updates and info on federal legislation from Conservation Colorado. Broads should cultivate relationships with the Forest Service, BLM, CPW, etc as this is important for our work.

Sarah asked about the feasibility of including Rollins Pass in 30 x 30.

**Rollins Pass** Travis said that according to Forest Service (FS) documents (which he has shared with Broads) Exel (the utility) is asking for a permit to drive up Rollins Pass road to access Rendez vous sub division, we assume to extend gas lines for further development. The first 2.3 miles which would be impacted do not have much in the way of artifacts. The cumulative impact of this should be considered. Travis is waiting for info from his FOIA request from the FS. It was agreed that this is not a good time for Broads to have a public presentation regarding Rollins Pass because of the increased Covid threat.

Sarah requested that we put together a working document that is not for the public so we all have the same information and are prepared to meet with the FS. CSU will send Pat the bioblitz book when it is completed. A Liverwort (nonvascular plant) that does not exist anywhere else in CO was found in the Rollins Pass area. Melanie and Pat will work on the water and wildlife parts. Sarah will work on the rest with help from Travis for the cultural information. Sarah would like to get this to the FS before the holidays. What about Boulder FS? Travis mentioned that Sue Struthers with the FS in Ft. Collins who is the Heritage Program manager should be involved at some point. She maintains history, prehistory, section 106, etc and is a fierce advocate for this area.

Travis took the three Boulder County Commissioners and some Boulder County Open Space people up the east side of the Rollins Pass road. They are very preservation focused and don’t think the road should be opened up. The Gilpin County Commissioners are split. One wants to open the road, two do not.

Travis asked about conserving the private land (Arrow) on the Rollins Pass road.

Travis was recognized by Colorado Preservation, Inc., receiving the State Honor Award. He surely deserves it. Congratulations, Travis.

**Fraser valley Parkway:** All is pretty quiet on that front. Proceeding with the cultural survey has been authorized. The Town of Fraser Board has not addressed it.

**Activities:** It was decided, partly because of covid, not to have an activity in Oct. This will be re- evaluated in Nov.

The next meeting will be October 28, 2021 at 4 pm.

Submitted by Melanie Zwick