

**America's Great Outdoors
Notes from Listening Session**

Location: Grand Junction, CO

Date: July 16, 2010

President Obama launched a national conversation about conservation in America at the White House Conference on the Great Outdoors on April 16, 2010. The President understands that protecting and restoring the lands and waters that we love and reconnecting people to the outdoors must happen at the local level. Therefore, President Obama directed the principal leaders of the Initiative to travel across the country to listen and learn from people directly involved in finding grassroots solutions to conserve our lands, waterways, historical and cultural resources and to reconnect Americans with the Outdoors. The President indicated that the sessions should engage the full range of interested groups, including tribal leaders, farmers and ranchers, sportsmen, community park groups, foresters, youth groups, businesspeople, educators, State and local government, recreation and conservation groups and others. The President placed a special priority on engaging with America's youth. Below are notes from the breakout groups at the Listening Session sorted by Discussion Question. Please feel free to use the ideation tool at <http://ideas.usda.gov/ago/ideas.nsf/> if you would like to share your thoughts.

Discussion Questions

1. What works: Please share your thoughts and ideas on effective strategies for conservation, recreation and reconnecting people to the outdoors.
2. Challenges: What obstacles exist to achieve your goals for conservation, recreation, or reconnecting people to the outdoors?
3. Federal government role: How can the federal government be a more effective partner in helping to achieve conservation, recreation or reconnecting people to the outdoors?
4. What additional tools and resources would help your efforts be even more successful?

Comments	Question (1-4)
Disconnect this generation from technology and get that back outside. Kids go through withdrawal when they are away from technology - don't know how to disconnect. Kids will not support public lands unless they experience them - need to overcome apathy	1
Biggest challenge – sometimes watersheds are protected so much we can't use the water Federal permitting process – have fed agencies working together to solve problem – streamline the NEPA process to help water users get through it.	1
Lack of funding - not necessarily for carrying out specific projects but for support required to do so. Liability insurance is also a major challenge.	1
Motorized recreation not shown as part of the picture	1

Narrow acceptance of motorized recreation - we work for public land access for all people, motorized access is secondary; would like to not be viewed as opposition by people who use trails that we maintain	1
Liability is a major challenge	1
Lots of opportunity to get kids outdoors but can't get them there - transportation and liability are a challenge	1
Lack of flexibility in public lands management process	1
Need transportation to get kids outdoors, more partnerships	1
If people can all work on a project as a group (anglers, motorcyclists, etc) it gives people an idea of what we're trying to protect. Makes people more likely to respect signs, etc.	1
Find a way for all user groups to get along and for continued access to trails while protecting resources	1
1. Challenges - always money - GOCO encourages people to collaborate using lottery money as a carrot 2. Environmentalists/public should stop blocking the USFS, etc from doing their jobs to maintain healthy forests	1
Lack of funding is a major challenge. Fiscal partnership tools can be too complicated to figure out - simplify. Use agreements rather than contracts between partners.	1
Education - biggest obstacle - people do not understand value of large, intact ecosystems. Focus should be on value of intact ecosystems.	1
People do not see value of natural land/intact ecosystems; public information campaign to connect people with those ideas	1

Education - huge urban population with no contact with public lands	1
Emphasize rivers - healthy flows for recreation, health. Extend that emphasis to riparian areas	1
Tourism/recreation are a big part of economy - remind decision makers of that	1
Balancing act relative to multiple uses is a huge challenge, funding is a big challenge, balancing short term desire to use/access lands vs. Long-term impacts which present conservation. Conservation ethic held by federal employees is great but challenge comes from changes from administration to administration. Long-term ethic should be consistent regardless of president.	1
Pollution from O&G industry (5.2 million gallons of oil spilled last yr in CO), want kids to be able to connect to rivers and lands without getting sick. Do not want to see oil shale developed	1
FUNDING - we get GOCO, USFWS, NRCS, etc to purchase easements. Another way we operate is by providing tax deductions - federal government should facilitate those deductions	3
Funding issues biggest challenge Education Working together to do a project to see who benefits Economic benefit of recreation if huge – more restrictions – where is money going	1
Her students – gives kids opportunity to raise endangered fish - her challenge her kids are raised in the area and some have not seen CO River or Monument – need more than just one field trip to get kids invested. Funding education	1
Balance between conservation and recreation, educate public that motorized users are conservationists	1
Federal government should get out of the way	1

Provide education about what ranchers do as stewards	1
Challenge - keep people from encroaching on wild areas - prevent sprawl	1
Most people don't know why we have public lands in the first place, lack of local control is an obstacle	1
Challenge - funding	1
Great Outdoors Colorado – put that money into recreation/outdoor education	
Wilderness designation works to protect value of intact chunks of federal land Federal government's willingness to reverse bad decisions	2
GOCO education program	2
DOW environmental education curriculum	2
Working with local high schools – education, teaching kids to tie flies, fly fish, stream ecology, etc	2
Work with multiple stakeholders to develop protections for lands that everyone agrees on, educate folks on what uses are available in wilderness	2
Public/private partnerships and public/public partnerships	2

Different programs historically let people know exactly where the money was being spent (CCC, etc).	2
Works to have kids work in the outdoors	2
Collaboration works	2
Once people decide to help build trails, etc, they take better care of them	2
Funding - motorized community gives portion of funding for work on ground	2
Partnered with USFS to help maintain roads, trails , etc to maintain access to reservoirs	2
Lands trusts are working	2
Youth corps working	2
Get up get out and go program works	2
CDOW 10 program works - all agencies work together to develop kids for teachers to use	2
Federal government can recognize state's rights in terms of fishing and hunting mgmt;	3

Encourage states to utilize state dows - project wild/wet; federal gov't should put in place a federal conservation stamp	3
More listening tours on a regular basis	3
Limit lawsuits to federal government - to reduce time that land management agencies spend on dealing with lawsuits	3
Streamline federal permitting processes	3
Feds can help facilitate process of developing partnerships	3
Revisit the way feds deal with split estate	3
Federal government should play a greater role in partnering at a landscape level for conservation	3
Federal role- ensure connectivity on federal lands and establish energy policy on public lands which creates incentives for renewable	3
Put money into education foundations at the grade school level	3
Create a new icon like Smokey the Bear for public land conservation, e tc	3
Raise awareness for wildlife corridors/ connectivity	3

Work with land trusts/ranchers to prevent development in open areas	3
More funding for state parks/federal land mgmt agencies; game wardens are way understaffed; government needs to get out of bed with energy companies and enforce current laws	3
Throw more money at parks - most kids have first experience in parks	3
Tools - quit cutting money for land management , tools for advancing interagency agreements, restore clean water act	3
Eliminate Mining act of 1872; should not be giving away public land for low price for energy development	4
More people on the ground; make partnerships required where possible	4
Make all agencies accountable to the same regulations	4
Implement best management practices within the O&G industry	4
Need policy to direct agencies to manage areas with wilderness qualities as such until designated or not	4
Support youth conservation education	4
More involvement in third party conservation easements; conservation through farm bill, maintain or expand tax credits for conservation easements	4

Create a model to provide information to school districts for where they can go for sources of information	4
More local decision making; pay as you go (spend money directly on things you use)	4
No child left inside legislation; fund youth programs	4
Create initiate to explain role of federal agencies in local communities; federal lands belong to everyone - what are the processes available for local communities to work with federal agencies	4
Renew farm bill (CRVP) to get money to farmers and ranchers	4
Stakeholders initiate should be created - get input from everyone not just a few squeaky wheels	4
Have more listening tours in more places throughout the state	4
Disconnect between the agency messages and the local kitchen table conversation. The feds can work within their own means (no new programs or money) to bridge between existing programs and the kitchen table. Feds need to expand the existing information network.	1
How do you bridge the gap about which Jeff Crane spoke? School attendance is mandatory and the best medium for introducing kids to the outdoors.	1
Connecting kids to nature is an important goal, but need to direct emphasis to the retention of interest in the outdoors. The regulatory structure provides a strong disincentive to stay away.	1
Need to connect current economic problems with outdoor issues. One way to accomplish this is to connect kids and adults with public service jobs. Energy future job opportunities are another good opportunity.	1
Most recreation activities take place away from metropolitan areas; trail riding is an inherently family-based activity	1

Look across economic sectors for “nontraditional” partners; those we don’t often look to but who do have a vested interest. Such partners have different opportunities to provide resources, tools and funds	1
State agencies such as State Parks have well funded, well established programs based on user dollars. Meet with agency staffs on a regular basis to ensure dollars and efforts are targeted at the priorities. Go and ask. Ask the users, ask the agencies	1
National Forest Foundation provides grants and support for local efforts and is a good example of how federal program can help	1
Some grant programs are very effective, others less so	1
Support public land managers in their decision making process. They are charged with making good but hard decisions. Community-based decisions are messy, not easy	1
Concerned about the lack of coordination between federal agencies. Cited example of the mcinnis Canyons National Conservation Area and the Colorado National Monument where the agencies have failed to coordinate and provide unified “public lands” information. Would like to seem more coordination between BLM and NPS. There are many opportunities for joint information centers	1
Reminded the agencies that access to internet in rural areas is still a challenge for many people. Some programs that have been very successful are the farm-based conservation programs managed through Natural Resources Conservation Service. Need to ensure those NRCS programs are well funded and secure for the future	1
Land and Water Conservation Trust should be fully and permanently funded to promote projects at the landscape scale	1
Would like to see legislation that strengthens watershed protection. Cited an example of local zoning decisions along the colorado river as mismanagement of watersheds	1
Teachers are too focused on teaching to test scores. Schools lack funds to pay for buses for field trips. No time in the school day for additional programming. Kids time is consumed with teaching to the test and sports	1
Emphasized two obstacles to involving schools: lack the funds for transportation for field trips and lack of time because of testing standards	1
Schools involved starts with parents. Must reach the parents first	1
Doesn’t see a national discuss about initiatives like the depression-era Works Project Agency. Why not?	1

Federal government is very inefficient at getting money to local organizations or businesses. The best way to get money on the ground is through local contracts, independent businesses.	1
The strings attached with federal grants are too onerous for small organizations. Small orgs ignore federal grants because it's a distraction on their staff resources. It's not worth it.	1
Different agencies often have competing (or at least different) values that make it a significant challenge to pursue multiple grants for a local initiative. Land owners stay away from federal programs for these reasons.	1
Great Outdoors Colorado board – helped discuss the issues surrounding federal and state grants and emphasized the need to streamline grant application process	1
Fee programs and privatization of public lands are antithetical to the goals of the AGO initiative.	1
Work cooperatively to accommodate what we all value and cherish – health, open spaces. But we need to do it with federal agencies backing up local communities rather than leading the charge.	1
Regulations, requirements, and the strings attached to working with the federal government remain an impediment to many local efforts	1
Having an accessible walking path and riverfront is the only thing that allows her school to conduct any field trips at all	2
Conservation corps provides a good vehicle for retaining interest in the outdoors as kids get older (teenage years).	2
Private rancher and member of a land trust. Believes Great Outdoors Colorado is an excellent example of incentivizing partnerships. Enhance conservation tax incentives.	2
Localized neighborhood events at multiple points throughout the year	2
Obama Campaign put together an excellent grassroots information campaign that was successful at getting information to the kitchen table conversation	2
Motorcycle trail rider's assc – family oriented event. Generations involved together. Teaches kids good outdoor ethics, orienteering, etc	2
Local political and community leaders were involved to help persuade people to be involved	2

Local media involved sooner rather than later is important to success. Focus on educating them on the message. Vital to have a strong internet presence. It is also important to ensure “self education” on the issues and message. Emphasized that there are numerous existing programs that are unknown and don’t make it down to the kitchen table conversation	2
Great Outdoors Colorado money provides a great incentive driving local organizations to collaborate and promote local innovation	2
Conservation crews are the best way to connect kids with outdoors. Has worked with several urban-based crews on public lands. Currently works with an organization that sponsors twenty-five Americorp Vista volunteers who are very successful at finding opportunities and leveraging funds/grants for projects	2
Described his public/private partnership and their efforts to create a continuous greenway along the Colorado River. Has had significant funding from Great Outdoors Colorado but needs more local funding sources. Environmental centers and nature education centers are a great opportunity to provide the “education in the outdoors” message	2
Riverfront Trail in Grand Junction – biking, walking, fishing, kids with and without parents – a great way to get kids and others outside. Close to home	2
Emphasized Colorado Division of Wildlife programs to promote kids connection with the outdoors such as fishing derbies	2
His organization gave three \$700 scholarships to kids involved in snowmobiling and trail riding; OHV partnerships with BLM and USFS are good examples of success	2
Affiliated with Trout Unlimited active youth programs in his organization such as fly fishing and tying; aquatic systems program	2
Reiterating Trout Unlimited point; emphasized private/federal Trapper Creek joint partnership on Roan Plateau	2
What works is connecting children with nature and giving them opportunities to go places, would like to see a national program that mirrors local efforts to take kids outdoors	2
Local business promotion program called PTAC helps small orgs obtain grants.	2
Has found Recovery Act projects to be of significant value to local public lands.	2
Information dissemination is critical to any effort and the federal agencies rely on internet communication as a key vehicle of information sharing. Libraries are a great venue for information outreach	2

Students and teachers should write their own articles, take their own pictures and provide to local media.	2
Feds should support and promote land trust organizations. Feds should recognize that private sector is capable of policing itself and should remove some of the restrictions/requirements that are too invasive on the private interests.	3
Need an evaluation of grant programs to assess their effectiveness.	3
Ask “how complicated is the grant application process compared to the benefit and return”. Feds also have control of tax incentives to local land owners. Promote state tax, conservation credits, etc. Feds can help promote a directed and guided tax policy to promote conservation.	3
Agencies can ensure that partnerships don’t lose key partners or key expertise (such as a fisheries biologist). Money and people always seem to be the limiting factors – particularly younger staff. Agencies continue to be the lasting partner	3
Emphasized the benefits of Vista program. Feds could provide more money to allow small community organizations to take advantage of the Vistas	3
Can the feds proclaim they support these type of partnerships by doing away with “matching grants” and promote “Donations in kind”	3
Federal gov could help with their programs – help protect what we have and minimize fragmentation, help reconnect to what we have	3
The federal government can look to existing partnerships and programs at the local level to serve as an “interface” or a facilitator. For example: cflrp program through usda – focused on large-scale forest health partnerships	3
Feds should focus on preservation of a “great outdoors” above all else. There needs to be an intact, healthy “outdoors” to connect with	3
Feds can ensure adequate In stream flows	3
Would like to see greater spending at the federal level on environmental/outdoor education.	3
Mentioned a “get kids outdoors” transportation fund in local school district	4

<p>li. Land use planning is a local responsibility. Need more input from the community in land use hearings. During campaigns, ask local officials where they stand and what you want them to do.</p> <p>iv. Retain and improve tax incentives to ranchers for conservation easements. Needs to come from local citizens, local officials, and fed govt to work together with policy makers to make it possible.</p> <p>li. If we don't listen to traditional ranchers, may jeopardize future nca's. Ranchers are very worried about future designations.</p>	li, iv, ii
<p>Land mgmt entities need to use motorized users to educate folks when they see things going wrong. Land managers need to educate users so they give out right messages.</p>	3
<p>A lot of change has occurred over last 5 years. Federal agencies are working much closer with local constituencies in the last 5 years and they should continue to do that. Build on 3 C's from previous administration. We have a lot of infrastructure in this country that we have invested money but as a country we also have natural resource infrastructure which we need to put more money into. It helps drive our economy. In this area, we have rivers. We have not compensated the river resources to keep them healthy. It aids everybody including the agricultural community, river users, etc. River systems (watersheds) have a jurisdictional problem. Numerous land management agencies that manage portions of the river. Need a common goal to work towards. The Dolores River can be a model for the country to focus on restoring values of the system. Volunteerism is an exceptional way to get work done. Increase agency staff to accommodate. Fed agencies have been doing a great job supporting Youth Corp. And putting kids to work. Youth corp should be expanded. Large number of folks retiring who can also be put to work volunteering.</p>	I, III,
<p>Colorado State Parks has outstanding relationship with local middle school. They come out and do service projects. Colorado State Parks provides access and fee waiver. Funding for bussing is a problem. Teachers are focused on math and reading. Fed govt could provide more science, etc. And fill that need.</p>	I, III, iv
<p>Collaboration is important. Congratulate local BLM on everything they've done coming up with creative solutions. They reach out and listen to users. Encourage continuation of looking at Dolores River for possible designation.</p>	I
<p>Private land conservation in Gunnison has been a great program. GOCO Colorado has been instrumental in funding the program. Successful because it's been a non-federal program. Been hard to get support for conservation on working ranches. Important for our country to preserve working agricultural lands. Need more support from federal govt to accomplish this task.</p>	I, III

<p>Federal Govt is doing well and should continue to focus on specific areas such as new NLCS units that have been designated. Special interest groups need to work together. Need a structure for folks to work together such as the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area. Need to designate more specific areas for multiple use. Focus groups need to see work reflected in land use plans. Like Federal govt to convene groups and provide structure to work together. We sit on large supply of oil and gas. We have done a poor job of managing that industry. Can't seem to get managing that industry right. Either too lax or too restrictive. They leased out over a million acres of split estate land. No consideration of wildlife, water, etc. Fed Govt needs to provide more special guidance in a collaborative manner with all involved - including BLM, FS, local govt, and industry.</p>	I, III
<p>Wildlife is not here. We need to be an advocate for wildlife. We need to get beyond ourselves and promote. Need to address illegal roads and trails. Promote National Parks and Wilderness. They help local economy. Ranchers can use Wilderness Areas. Need more funding for law enforcement.</p>	II, IV
<p>Before fed govt drills for oil and gas, use leases already leased instead of providing new ones. Grand Valley becomes dependent on industry and then they leave. This area (Grand Junction) has been devastated by oil and gas drilling.</p>	II
<p>BLM should quantify economic benefits to NLCS units for the public. BLM should put people in touch with each other.</p>	iii
<p>Got funding from gas companies to take kids on school trips. Would be helpful for fed govt to put together trip ideas on public lands and provide those ideas to schools so teachers can take kids out on public lands.</p>	1, iii
<p>Challenge - reservoirs on public lands are great for wildlife, recreationists, etc. But rancher is responsible for maintaining reservoir with own private money. Need mechanism to help maintain reservoirs and have access.</p>	
<p>We are ranchers. When ranchers retire, they need compensation or they sell to developers. Tax incentives work for rich people but not most ranchers. We have Gunnison Sagegrouse and lands have been opened up to provide more habitat and browse. If wilderness, cannot do mechanical treatment to improve the habitat. When people come on to private land and get hurt, ranchers need to carry a lot of liability coverage. Gates are left open by recreationists. What is this initiative going to do to help with that issue. We like the wildlife and work with division of Wildlife closely. Had to lock all gates on the ranch for the first time last year. Not allowed to have a lot of recreationists on our conservation easement. Need to ask why before we start doing. Management not necessarily labels. See a lot of ATV's and other motorized users and there is room for all. Everyone needs to work together.</p>	
<p>I'm an angler. Would like to push for easements through private property so that we can access the rivers. Would like to have riparian area along all rivers so that we can legally touch the bottom of the river. Do not have access to Roaring Fork. Our water is running uphill. Going to Denver. Need to get a lot of people together to work on this issue and find a solution to equity. We're losing a lot of habitat.</p>	iii, iv

<p>li. It is great that there are lots of organizations with good relationships with the fed agencies in co. In other places local organizations are less supportive of public agencies and local governments have too much control over fed land management and can stop protective designations- impacts cultural resources. If the cultural resources lie outside designated wilderness -parks, etc. - they are vulnerable. Iii. Fed gov't should take larger role in designating cultural resources as historic districts - national monuments etc for their protection. Need more federal funding for enforcement.</p>	li, iii
<p>I. Beware of unintended consequences of nca designation and wild and scenic river designation. D&e nca designation is causing ranch to need to put more money into maintenance because of regulations.</p>	I
<p>I. Challenges. Land use planning. Feds and local government need to work together to get something in place to help keep the city in the city - stop urban sprawl. Iv. In tight budget, spending a little money on recruiting volunteers could provide large return. Gives people ownership and understanding of management.</p>	I, iv
<p>I. Frustration - focus is always on human use of lands- even for wilderness. Need a focus on non-use. Less invasive - wildlife have space requirements.</p>	I
<p>li. Ecoregional perspective is helpful for blm and publics to have basis for conservation dialogue. Traditional uses are very important - as important as newer recreation interests. Only by incorporating those interests do we get long term stewardship. We must understand how we have used the landscape in the past and preserve that heritage, in order to have effective conservation and stewardship. li. Friends groups are good way to partner to get youth and volunteers involved (friends of d&e). Iii. Fed gov't could partner with schools/museums/other to provide outdoor education and stewardship. Iv. Motorized users should be included in planning to help guide stewardship.</p>	2, ii, iv
<p>li. Dow heritage days at palisade gets kids interested in outdoors. Could be expanded on in other areas. li. Gva also puts on fly tying seminars etc at high schools but exposure is limited. Iv. Other organizations should offer similar experiences within school system to reach kids and promote conservation.</p>	
<p>I. Either/or mentality - protection or economic development. li. Great collaborative effort now in mesa county - bringing more kids to outdoors. Fund to help transportation - to get kids outdoors has been great. Iv. Must continue to have dialogue about values of wilderness and recreation to economy.</p>	I., ii, iv

<p>I. A. Management, not the label of the land, is what is important. How do we write the management for the next generation - so that the label is not what dictates management? B. Some agencies or agency personnel consider ag bad for wildlife etc. This hampers efforts to conserve ag for it's values to wildlife - buffering public land, etc. C. Talking about the value of ag to conservation focusing on access issues scares ag producers; need to recognize the economic and wildlife values of working ag lands. D. Want to connect youth to nature, need specific programs to connect them. E. Need to repeal federal estate tax to help farming and ranching families keep land in family and pass on to next generation. F. Term environmental market agreements (conservation agreements) - not necessarily in perpetuity. Gives opportunity to learn as we manage and adjust management for next term.</p>	I
<p>Iv. Responding to acquafresca - people are very busy and can't go to every land use meeting - maybe could have 1 each year so public can attend. I. Decisions about natural resources are often financially and political based - needs to change. We need oil and gas - but when it destroys the environment it is a problem. Iii. Need more decisions to be made locally and responsibly instead of politically. Geothermal should be used more. I. O&g drilling leaves lots of roads. Iii. We need to make resource decisions on what is the best decision - not based on who is in office.</p>	I, iii, iv
<p>Ii. His group has working relationships with several agencies (coalition built). Iv. Resources, ready to go, land bought, easements in place but need the resources to complete the projects (to build trail)</p>	Ii, iv
<p>Iii. Blm office in gj needs more employees to help coordinate volunteer activities (need a dedicated volunteer coordinator). Plenty of groups interested in volunteering, but need coordination.</p>	Iii
<p>I. Roads and trails being closed. When you focus all the use on the remaining open roads you are not distributing use - straining the remaining system and lands that are open.</p>	I
<p>I. Challenge is gaining acceptance and consensus on conservation. People used to be willing to compromise - less likely now. Ii. Got past that for d&e designation Iii. Federal role working with private landowners to allow them to make a living on private/public lands (ranching) is very important. Iv. Mesa county area hasn't had history of getting money from land & water conservation fund (for riverfront trail etc.) Need access to that. Ii. Getting teachers into fed agencies in summer to help with education - helps get kids engaged in outdoors. I. Blm and fs opposed ordinance protecting watershed from o&g - why? We all have this challenge that we want to enjoy the resource but still use petroleum products etc., we need step aside from making easy decisions, and make decisions that give our kids and grandkids the opportunity to enjoy what we have.</p>	I, ii, iii, iv

<p>How do we keep trails open for low impact users? 30 years of hiking in Crested Butte area, watched trails deteriorate to the point of disappearing in backcountry, 5 day trip recently tried but now impossible due to amount of blow down and unmaintained trails. Forest Service had no money for trail maintenance and dependent upon individuals and groups to support/maintain trails. Used horses on circuit and noticed someone else had a chainsaw (not allowed by law by most people) with exception of cattleman are allowed. Suggestion being that people could use a chainsaw for a day or two in wilderness area. *** How do we go about keeping trails open for low impact users? 30 yrs in Crested Butte/Fruita, watched trails deteriorate to the point where they no longer actually exist on the ground... lots of trees blown down and trails overgrown. USFS has no money for trail mtc, dependent on groups to maintain the trails. On way out passed a cowboy heading to a cow camp with a chainsaw in the West Elk Wilderness - why do they have special permission to use motorized/mechanized equipment to maintain their cow trails while volunteer groups do not have the same opportunity? It makes sense to Don that people get permission to take a chainsaw in to maintain public trails (not just anyone, anytime though).</p>	1
<p>Off road people would say it is ok to get their only by horse and foot. Challenge that people want trails. See poor planning of trails and overuse such as 9 illegal splits -- federal government has no idea of condition of trails. Connecting people to outdoors is the price to getting into national Parks however license to for seniors --- grandfather existing lifetime passes and have income tax form for \$10 and get a one year pass to national park access. *** Belief from some folks that they should be able to go anywhere they want, any way they want. She can't climb Independence Monument, but doesn't expect the gov't to put in an elevator. She thinks the OHV folks should accept that there shouldn't be a road to everywhere. Another challenge is a lack of understanding about trail conditions. She sees trails being destroyed by overuse; by poor planning, erosion, etc. Also concerned about the price of getting in to National Parks - why do all seniors get free admission when some are driving \$500,000 rvs? Suggests an income tax form line where any age people could identify that they can only afford ten dollars.</p>	1
<p>Signage is really important (either not their or confusing, make all the difference) *** Thinks we need better signs</p>	1
<p>Very familiar with being out on public lands and balancing uses. Department of Energy not interacting as much as they should. What happens with energy and environmental protection. Pull all agencies together and discuss impacts on public lands. Slag piles as waste sometimes not safe for someone to be on public lands. *** grew up in GJ, lived in Gunnison, frequently lived in areas with energy industry. She wonders why the Department of Energy isn't participating in this process? There is a big conflict between what DOE does and what the EPA is trying to do. She thinks all of these agencies should be involved. The energy industry has never cleaned up from past exploration.</p>	1

<p>66 years old can't mountain bike, OHV view, collaboration needed between motorized and quiet uses, NEPA - use of NEPA to prevent motorized use, abuse of power to prevent motorized recreation with *** Sees demonization of motorized use getting worse. Used to hike and mountain bike, can't do that anymore, but he can still explore the backcountry areas by motor. Sees a need for collaboration between quiet use and motorized. He has the same right to use the land as anyone else. Second comment re: NEPA - the use of NEPA to prevent motorized use, thinks it is an abuse of power by organizations that use NEPA to prevent motorized use.</p>	1
<p>We have a goal to achieve "restoration of water to protect fishing", having problems on Roan Plateau and Kimble Creek (Oil and gas issues); all leases set aside for \$10k for restoration work but spills are an issues with frac liquid in creek if truck overturns -- value is lost forever. People like us working in the environment is devastating, lost forever in this lifetime. Radiation problems/boom bust situations. Government to look at roan plateau and look at oil leases, 3000 wells up there --- devastation. Last pristine areas on Roan Plateau – don't know how to fight or suggest to do -- very frustrating. If people in the outdoors must know we are losing our public lands to energy development. Mishap not long ago (oil company) "didn't mean to do this mishap" -- a 140 places/occurrences -- land goon forever. *** Goal of 'restoration of water and areas that protect fishing'. Having problems on the Roan Plateau because of oil leases, problems on Kimble Creek because of oil and gas leases there. Oil companies come in and set aside \$10K for every well to do restoration work, but if they have a truck accident and fracking liquid gets in a creek, that water is done and cannot be replaced. No one has ever put a value on that. Lived in Grand Valley for 37 years and has seen the boom/bust problems and thinks the govt needs to do a better job protecting areas for the long term, not short term gain from 3,000 wells on the Roan Plateau. Doesn't know how to fight it, and it is very frustrating. All recreational users are losing their public lands, and an awful lot of it is to the energy industry (named all types). When the energy industry has a problem, they say I'm sorry but don't really do anything about it. They've had 143 'I'm sorry's' this year.</p>	1
<p>Need to educate children what happens in their lives and connection to environment, choices in energy use, protecting nature world, having a garden at every school, educate children *** Worries about education, a quote "we conserve what we love, we love what we understand, we understand what we're taught". She thinks we need to require outdoor education for children, the choices they make, the car they drive, these things matter. Connections between clear air and water and growing our food. There should be a garden at every school.</p>	1
<p>Challenges for use - 1) timeframe to build new trails (have expertise available but bogged down by bureaucracy) -- funding and budget (EA as an example - willing to pay archeologist to do evaluation), one most obvious being free lunch (5 years before construction started). Bureaucracy and budgets -- these two issues. *** Two issues: 1. Timeframe it takes to build new trails; COPMOBA has volunteers ready to go, trained by BLM/USFS, but bogged down in govt bureaucracy - 2. Mostly funding and budgets. COPMOBA is willing to fund Eas but it still takes too long. Free Lunch trail started work five years before it was finished, a lot of his constituents don't understand how long it takes</p>	1

<p>Been around a long time, cabins, all over the country, handle on what goes on. Answer people about wilderness issue (designate and leave along - no chain saws). Wilderness camper. Would say what we need is less development, less money, just need a place to park, fancy if it has a pit toilet. Problems when growing up thought a ranger is really special but now sits at entry station --- park service needs more money for fund operations. Enjoy the wilderness experience. Forget all the fancy stuff, pit toilet would be fine and not over do it with this modern stuff. *** All for wilderness, but wilderness doesn't involve chainsaws or bikes. Wilderness means you designate it and leave it alone. We need less development; all you need is a level place to park and sleep in a truck; if its real fancy it may have a pit toilet. \$19 for a campsite is too much, usually run by a concessionaire. Used to think a park ranger something special, now he/she just sits at the entrance station and collects more money. NPS shouldn't spend their money on fancy jobs and trying to draw more people, shouldn't have TV and wifi in the backcountry.</p>	1
<p>Keep closing all these lands to OHV, pick up a lot of trash, I pay to have trash given back to people. Gateway is absolutely marvelous good with monitors -- sick of being blocked off. Enjoy the outdoors a lot around the country and sick of being told can't go here because it's wilderness. *** Wife is disabled with a back injury. Govt keeps closing lands, he picks up a lot of trash, he shouldn't be kept off the lands; he even pays to take trash to the dump. Don't block off the land, he pays taxes; one restriction he could support is to allow licensed vehicles only, its the other jerks that are causing the problems.</p>	1
<p>Over the last year asked constituents what they need -- 1) Education of youth about the outdoors, having them have access to lands, understanding ecosystems regardless of how they want to use 2) EPA, BLM, USFS requirements to seek grants some many different requirements --- streamline process, and consistency. Appreciate what everyone is doing here in Colorado. Thanks for coming. *** Need education of our youth, getting them outdoors and doing it repetitively. Having kids have access and understand of the uniqueness of Colorado's outdoors. Problem with all the different requirements for different agencies - there is an EPA requirement, a BLM requirement, etc... We need to streamline the process for smaller communities to be able to get grant money to work to improve conservation.</p>	1
<p>Conserved about 164 transactions, help leverage local and federal dollars, example on Pinion Mesa Conservation Easement -- utilized USFWS grant thru CDOW and great outdoors stamp money to make easement happen. Abuts FS and BLM land on other side and protection wildlife habitat. East valley conserved an number of fruit land -- NRCS funding leveraged with Mesa county and cities in buffer area. Point originations. *** How can we leverage federal and state dollars into local conservation success? Pinyon Mesa conservation easement using federal funds from FWS "State Wildlife Grant". Also GOCO funds, habitat stamp funds, Doris Duke Foundation. This plot abuts BLM on one side and USFS on the other side; great wildlife habitat. His organization can help</p>	2

<p>Beautiful here in Colorado, get involved and fix it yourself, do it yourself, pick up beer cans, quit gripping and waiting on government, we can do this because we enjoy the outdoors. *** Been here for 6 years, got here as fast as she could. Wants to be able to get to as much of it as she can. Each of us is responsible - go out there and do it, quit depending on the govt to do it. Get out there and do it yourself, go to meetings, pick up any trash you see. When she worked in the oil field, she saw people getting paid to throw seed to rehab the area around a newly built road.</p>	2
<p>From Utah, create a place where people can go, Utah wilderness bill sponsored by Senator Bennett, Government can help to renew this effort. Government can help by listening to conservation strategies (ex. Global warming), government listening to wrong side, over 90% are open to off road vehicles, when placing limitations on people it's important to listen. *** Create places in the outdoors where people can go. The Utah Redrock Wilderness bill should be renewed now that its floundering with Bennett's lame duck status. People need to listen - global warming is a problem because people don't listen. Also, people are listening to the wrong people (as in the Gulf oil leak). 90% of public lands in Utah are open to orvs. People need to be active in protecting these lands.</p>	2
<p>We help with partnerships on larger projects, get people involved, needs to be resources to help with volunteer projects. *** You need to get out and do it, but the govt needs to be a partner, especially on larger projects. It works really well in GJ, but still need more govt resources.</p>	2
<p>Stewards of trails and mentoring kids, success in mentoring and sleeping under stars, access is an issue, voice at table let your voice be heard, great example with working with BLM here in G.J., work in concert with each other. Funding first permission later may be a good approach to make things happen, passion is important *** Youth are future stewards of trails, access, etc. We need to be engaging and inspiring youth to be more involved with the outdoors. Lots of success stories; get involved whether you are a parent or not. Access is an issue. Let your voice be heard, make sure someone is representing your interests at the decision-making table. Make compromises where it needs to be. They lost a great trail, but got five more. Seek funding first, ask for permission later.</p>	2
<p>Make incremental progress, take the long view of what you're interested in, work with BLM and be involved, engage the government to improve policy, expose young people to outdoors *** Private side of public-private partnership that is beginning to work pretty well. Friends groups work. Mesa Land Trust works. COPMOBA works. The problems will never be fixed, but we can get started in the right direction. The motorized v. Non-motorized won't be solved by us, but partner groups can make a big difference. BLM employees want to do good things - but policy needs to be changed, ex: local employee doesn't want to drill a well to ruin the public's day, but its blms mission.</p>	2
<p>Get kids involved *** BLM should get more funding to get kids and parents outdoors. Not all volunteer work is difficult - kids can do a lot of it.</p>	2

<p>Give and take situation, many uses in public lands, examples of oil field chemicals into atmosphere -- get together and get something done -- given hand out. *** We have a give and take situation. Evaporating pond in Cisco isn't really an evaporating pond. They're shooting a mist into the atmosphere. What good does it do for him to go plant seeds when they are shooting chemicals into the atmosphere, its' going to come down somewhere. We need to pull together and get something done - but how do we go about it?</p>	2
<p>City get to collect fees government collects to keep in community, collaboration continue to work with local communities initially affected first because 80% of land is public, please talk to people who work in government for future development, effective strategies differentiate and promote national park and national monument. Monuments have more opportunity for education better defining two. *** One of the most effective things the govt has done is allow fees collected to be kept on site where they are collected. Critical the federal govt work first with local communities that are going to be impacted and affected most. Feds should talk to the people who have to live and work in an area, use them to develop effective strategies for any time of use in the community. Effective strategies would be to differentiate and still promote public lands features. National Monuments are not understood; people don't know how important they are and they provide greater opps for people to learn about public lands. It would be helpful to better define nms and ncas.</p>	2
<p>Connection to rivers, work in all 17 western states, role is to give land managers and education and tools to improve riparian lands, work with federal agencies and governments, youth corps -- would say that one of our biggest obstacles getting everyone to the table at watershed level. Importance of partnership lead to success. Helps get funding if people in partnerships working together. Slow process big challenge is sustainable funding for projects. *** Their org was founded because of a lost connection to rivers - they are in all 17 western states and Mexico and their goal is to give managers education and tools to improve the health of riparian lands. Lucky to work with local, state, federal agencies and local groups and users groups. Big obstacle is getting everyone to the table; partnerships are crucial. Also need to get funding into these projects. Feds should encourage partnerships between agencies and local organizations. Tamarisk work is a slow process - need to guarantee long-term sustainable funding.</p>	2

<p>Recently moved to G.J. and grappling how federal government manages public lands, confused initial why private industry (Extractive industries) allowed on public lands, believe wilderness has inherent values, extractive industries do have significant impact on the land, problem is not conserving public and private lands. Envision to use public lands as a model how things could be done better -- model for private lands. Government needs to listen, and then things need to happen like Tamarisk coalition. Hopefully government will listen and appreciate the outdoors. *** Grappling with concept of how feds manage public lands. Why are extractive industries allowed to use public lands for private gain? Now thinks using the land to make money is a good thing. Wilderness also has intrinsic value, even if you don't make any money off of it. We're not doing a good job of using and/or conserving resources on private land. We should be able to use public lands as a model on how to use private lands. Core issue is that we need to appreciate the outdoors no matter if it is public or private.</p>	3
<p>All the work done after the depression (movie we watched), limited federal budget but achieving in need jobs *** Watched PBS program on CCC... we need jobs now, why not employ them to work on conservation and recreation.</p>	3
<p>Fund land and water conservation fund need, for conservation easements the ability of the land owner to transfer the tax credit (can sell it), Government needs to think conservation and large enough scale to make a difference, big picture needs to be keep in mind, entire ecological systems that support all the other uses -- not a piecemeal fashion *** Feds should fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (hasn't done it in the past). Conservation easements are successful because land owners can transfer a tax credit - this is very beneficial to conservation work. Feds need to think about doing conservation at a landscape scale sufficient enough to actually make a change.</p>	3
<p>Concern in how leases in Roan Plateau is devastating in contrast with piecemeal, know we can save a lot of land and resources fish, wildlife, recreation) look at *** Understands BLM has a mission - oil and gas, but he's concerned with how it's done. Leasing the whole Roan Plateau is devastating. Why not do it in smaller chunks and let energy companies drill sideways, etc.</p>	3
<p>BLM making decisions that spectacular locations are protected *** BLM is going to protect the Vermillion Basin (80,000 acres). Bold decisions like this are critical for connecting people to the outdoors by making sure that some of the last places that are undeveloped remain that way.</p>	3
<p>Oil and gas development a potential for contamination, government should act in the public welfare (best interest), global warming as an example of the last 40 years, government should act *** Its important for govt to listen, also important for it to act to prevent contamination from energy exploration.</p>	3
<p>Chevron had monitoring in Gulf oil spill detectors did not work, more government regulation , leaks not detected in Utah, energy leases that the BLM had 14 positions for monitoring but 9 positions were vacant *** Need for more regulation in preventing oil/gas spills; make sure energy company detection systems actually work. A few years ago, 9 of 14 BLM monitoring positions re: O+G were vacant.</p>	3

Need to strike a balance between competing interests	3
Piceance (54 billion barrels of contaminated water) - concerned about contamination in Groundwater System, come up with better methods to manage waste water from oil/gas development *** 54 billion barrels of contaminated oil in Piceance basin. Water use concerns with oil and gas drilling. Have to take water to Cisco, Utah and mist it into the air. Need alternatives. Also, wants to help out the oil and gas company.	1
Finding some ways to get youth and show them the outdoors, local area we could find ways to organize youth on a outdoor trip and show them, engage youth *** Spend time in the woods with his father. Need to find ways to show our youth what we like. Don't have an answer for that, but if we look here we can find ways to organize things to get the young people out. Get them out and show them what is out there. It gives you Goosebumps, it's incredible out there.	1
Support of oil companies, need jobs, I lost my job, because oil companies pulled out, need to replace ways to power our vehicles, help oil companies let them know what we think and where we stand, realistic that we need oil and gas, another approach to energy needs, give your opinions, *** How many walked here? Most of us drove here. Until we come up with something to replace cars and plastics we need oil companies. We need them to help keep our areas as clean as possible. WE need the oil companies here. We need jobs. The oil companies pulled out. We have to help them until we have something to replace it, it is all we have and all that my vehicle will take. We can gripe and complain, but we are not out here to demonize them. Clean it up, but we can't stop them until we have something else. Most of the stuff we are putting in our automobiles is coming from Saudi Arabia. When they drill these pads we now have access to the great out door. We couldn't get to those places before.	1
Road public transit/mass transit in Europe, a positive to move toward to help preserve the environment, invest federal funds in mass transit, intervention in wars on international scale pulling funds away *** Just returned from Europe and used their mass transportation. If the government were to invest federal funds in a mass transit system. Rails, greyhound buses. WE need to consider the fact that the intervention in wars has created a huge resource issue in our country. WE can't allocate funds to our national parks if we are spending the money on wars.	3

<p>Foreign oil -- suck it up and save the US oil (tongue in cheek), Oil companies investment, 2 year limit on legislators, no-one does anything about the future, moratorium, the long pull we have to do something about gasoline *** Suck up all the oil from foreign resources and then save ours for our kids. The oil companies provide me with dividends. I invested instead of getting obese. We talk about the future but nobody does anything for the future. Put a moratorium on all drilling in the united states. We're hung up on gas powered recreation. I am with a group of sailors that work with boats that use the wind. We are intimidated by the motor boats. If we are going to do anything about recreation we need to do something about this gas thing.</p>	3
<p>Question when report will be available *** This is s great conversation, but it needs to continue and we need to see a response because of it.</p>	3
<p>Reaffirmation of existing tool, BLM authority to establish and protect wilderness areas -- believe is valid in 1976. Fulfillment of BLM responsibility to implement and use this tool. Creates partnership to look at unique landscapes and team up with *** Reaffirmation of an existing tool: The BLM's authority to establish and create wilderness study areas. 1976 act that allows the establishment of these areas should be reutilized. This allows the BLM to protect import areas that need protection. Select, unique landscapes and partnerships with other groups will help with these protections.</p>	4
<p>80% of our forest held by private individuals, Mesa Land Trust helps conserve private lands, acquiring enough funding to pay staff and projects. Government to help provide funding to go forward with work we are doing. Make permanent federal tax deduction for land *** 80% of our forests are in private hands. Conservancy orgs like Mesa Land trust help preserve private lands. We suffer from acquiring enough cash to pay our staff and the costs of doing the transactions. The Feds should est. A program that would help with that. Limited primarily by staffing considerations. Need to make permanent the federal tax deduction for land conservation. Needs to be made permanent.</p>	3
<p>Price of gas has changed dramatically --- regulate energy price swings for more uniform to what we are doing regarding energy development *** Oil and gas has created out boom and bust situation here. Price is the biggest factor in this. Conservation didn't do that. Recreation didn't do that. The price of gas did that. Price of oil dropped greatly. A tool would be to regulate oil and gas prices. Maybe we could have a more uniform approach to what we are doing without going all out one year and nothing the next.</p>	4

<p>BLM book and provide meeting space as needed, Pull together website that lists various groups that could be contacted or interested in an issue. Research group developed to better prepare for clean up oil spills - frac fluids also. *** Friends of Northern Dolores, hope to bring the ATV, hiking, rafting communities together. Would be nice to have the government post a website where all the various grand valley recreation groups could post events so I could find those groups. Another tool is more research. Now we are trying to figure out how to deal with oil spills we should have spent the funds to find out how to deal with the problems that could occur.</p>	4
<p>Education is very important, currently studying environmental studies, make it more affordable to go to national parks and experience the outdoors. Making more programs available to students to connect students - education of youth. *** Education of youth is very important. A lot of youth are disconnected. Studying environmental studies, I'm involved, but others area. National Parks should be made more affordable so that more could experience it. Making more programs available to learn about the environment, and our special area. We are the ones that are going to be out there and if we are disconnected and uninterested then there won't be many of us out there.</p>	4
<p>Enhanced -- public right of ways on private lands would be good. Recreation could be enhanced is right of ways. *** A tool that I see missing that would enhance recreation is public rights of way on private land. More and more lands are being isolated by road closures and things, but I think that we could enhance recreation if we have rights of way...particularly on roads that were open in the past.</p>	1
<p>Have national lottery to fund work, needs to implement *** Suggest having a Federal National Lands Lottery. If you buy a ticket you feel like something is happening with the money.</p>	4
<p>Schedule at other times to people can participate *** Scheduling these things at a different time so people in the workforce could participate.</p>	2
<p>Not enforcing regulations that are not in place</p>	3
<p>Appreciate opportunity to discuss issues *** Thank you for having these discussions.</p>	4
<p>Close down energy loopholes *** NO one is monitoring what is going into fracing. The government should monitor and regulate that. Close down energy loopholes.</p>	3

<p>One size does not fit all, need decisions made locally not front range, listen to elected officials from Colorado *** The federal gov. Needs to understand that one size doesn't fit all. We need our representatives from the West slope to be listened too. Our decisions should be made from here, not from out there.</p>	4
<p>Beaches on east coast beach belong to condominium, most people travel outside local areas *** In the latest SUWA magazine, there is an article about Ken Salazar talking about local business. Most people have to travel for their recreation. I think this local input is overdone. That's what I think.</p>	4
<p>Education is needed on many topics -- oil and gas issue for example. Roads built into areas we already have legs to walk in. We need to do our homework on information -- education ourselves to make good decisions from reputable sources. Starts with us - parents' education kids, responsible to do our own research. *** Education is the key. We don't have oil here. We may have shale, but its gas that we are talking about here. When we talk about roads being built so that we can use them. We have legs and can get there. We do need energy and we need to find good ways to get it. We are taking our information from entertainment sources; we need it from the government and local individuals in our community. We have edu. Programs. We need to learn to use those sources of education and we have to be responsible on a personal level for our own education. Not from drugged out disc jockeys on the radio.</p>	4
<p>Possibility of ruining our water supplies (Energy Industry), making information publically aware *** Concerns about ruining of watershed by oil and gas companies. This is something that needs to be made publicly aware. No one wants our water to be ruined.</p>	1
<p>What I see in USFS is the commercialization of recreation --- charging for access is not a good thing, privatization of campgrounds not good *** Concerns about the commercialization of recreation. Trailhead fees, I hate to see us going down that road. Gets the government out and the private folks in. Too much of that. Even dispersed camping being regulated.</p>	1
<p>Enough wilderness areas -- don't need any more, like snowmobiling, people need to volunteer for their country *** I think we have enough wilderness we don't need to be creating more. We just need to use more resources and use education. I do like to snowmobile and recreate. It's not always the federal government's job to get out there and volunteer.</p>	3
<p>Appreciate the great outdoors, 7-8 week tour as a youngster of the west (great memories), tools and how to foster greater stewardship --- need to encourage parents that they need to get the kids out into the nature world and how we affect nature through our actions, *** Wanted to talk about what affected me at an early age. I lived in the Midwest and we did a 7-8 week tour around the west. Those images will never go away and have caused me to have a greater appreciation than today's youth. It's no surprise that we are disconnected with the internet and computers and so on, but we need to encourage and stress to parents to get their kids out there and how we affect nature through our activities. Otherwise we won't have enough people out there to support the environment instead of corporate interests.</p>	4

<p>My dad was with dept of ag, then university system, terrain, other countries -- I differentiate between outdoors and recreating. I have a problem with people going into wilderness places just for exercised that they could do in gym. *** Family was in land management. I've been exposed to this for a long time. I see motorcyclists going up and down. I don't like the noise. I differentiate between outdoors and wild areas. I have a problem with people going into wilderness places for riding. If they are doing something outside that they could do in the gym.</p>	3
<p>Agriculture has a very powerful influence in government -- ruining our natural forest (cattle grazing), power of cattlemen is an issue towards conservations, impact mustangs, BLM lead agency to address this issue *** There are a lot of cattle out in places where they don't belong. We don't want to see cattle everywhere; we want to see wildflowers out there. The power of the cattlemen is affected the mustangs, not here, but other states. The BLM is supposed to protect the mustangs and not cow-tow to the cattlemen. The BLM is not taking responsibility for that.</p>	3
<p>Working with different organizations is the key. Partnerships work well</p>	1
<p>Non-profit organizations have really started to pick-up the effort that public land agencies once did. Non-profits are putting forth the initiative to get people involved. Individuals can make a difference. Takes arm twisting sometimes to get things moving.</p>	1
<p>Pairing up with nonprofit groups. Nonprofit groups are working with sportsman's organizations. Nonprofits are valuable.</p>	1
<p>Successes come with working with partners and non-profits. His group is working with CDOW, sportsman's groups. When working with school groups, teacher training you need to work up through the channels of the agencies to reach kids.</p>	1
<p>Industry is the forgotten step-child. Resources are needed to connect people to the land. Industry is in contact with USFS, BLM. Agencies need to sponsor conservation assessment program and help farmers and ranchers obtain conservation easements. Arch Coal has a lot of land that will be available to be used by the public one day. More communication with land managers.</p>	1
<p>The River Front Commission has a wonderful forum. It is a way to have a free exchange of information, and hear about what other groups are doing. They have regular meetings with a variety of agencies and the public to share ideas, exchange information, avoid duplication. Free exchange of information needs to be expanded.</p>	1
<p>Community involvement is critical for planning, and helps to set rules and parameters for user groups.</p>	1

<p>The government has to treat all user groups equally, otherwise their efforts are fragmented. If one group is favored, other groups go off on their own. Nothing in the AGO video showed motorized use on public lands. Processes work better when everyone is at the table and gets equal treatment. There is a huge disparity in treatment and benefits. How about giving everyone a equal share. This brings people together because they see progress.</p>	1
<p>Colorado National Monument offers guided walks that aren't too difficult. Organized walks should be offered by agencies. They should be easy enough for everyone and free. Those kinds of activities motivate people to get out and enjoy the outdoors.</p>	1
<p>The Bureau of Land Management's National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) name is misleading. People don't know what NLCS is or what it represents. NLCS is a way to get folks out in special areas, but is not well know. There is an identity problem.</p>	1
<p>Wilderness is a very effective strategy for conservation. Advocates Wilderness -need large undisturbed habitat to deal with climate change. Wilderness works well in western Colorado. Keeps large systems intact, hunters come here to hunt, protects watersheds, supports wildlife, works for ranchers, multiple reason to protect wilderness areas.</p>	1
<p>Reconnecting what works. Organized an event partnering with BLM. We had stations set-up on BLM land. Kids went around from stations to station. This 6was a great way to get kids involved. We are planning to do it again.</p>	1
<p>Funding: When funding is available, people are more likely to collaborate in working together. Taxes are important to acquire critical linking habitats, protect summer range. Private lands provide winter range. Need to buy property or conservation easements. Get money from many sources to acquire lands and easement. Agencies need funding for improvements to campsites. They don't have people to manage or mitigate in beetle tree killed areas, so people don't get to access the areas because the are closed off.</p>	1
<p>Encourage land trusts to conserve land because it keeps private land open.</p>	1
<p>GOCO fund has had a huge impact. It is extremely important recreation. Talk to legislators let them know how important this program is for funding programs.</p>	1
<p>Movies can really help to connect people to the outdoors. We should make more movies or nature programs. Look at movies like Crocodile Dundee and what that did for the Outback in Australia.</p>	1
<p>Why aren't there more ways to share trails? Agencies need to accommodate more than one user group on trails instead of closing access down. Mountain bikers and hikers are losing ground.</p>	1

Give youth a chance to do something in the outdoors. National Conservation Areas work really well in this regard.	1
Involve stakeholders: We need more collaborative, science- based decisionmaking and management practices, ways to conserve species, more of holistic approach for managing lands, utilize best available science, open or close trails-understand impacts, user groups.	1
Biggest challenge is having enough funding to even bring students to outdoor field sites, especially the Audubon Nature Center.	2
I have an education specialist that covers the whole Western Slope. I need more staff, more money and time to support education and outreach.	2
Motorized closures not based on science, rather on whatever manager things will help whatever site, or closing an area will benefit a species. NEPA requires the use of science. If areas are restricted to foot travel, only the fit will be able to use them. This excludes mechanized and motorized use, and limits the interest of youth who will want to rely on motorized activities. This is fragmenting society into those who can and can't. We continue to create large areas of wilderness areas you will close out all other user groups. If you want to talk about kids, they only want to hike for a short amount of time. Wilderness areas are too out of reach for most people. To reconnect kids you need to open more areas. They like to ride atvs, jeeping and other activities like that. You should make lands available for all user groups.	2
Disturbance and fragmentation of public land is the biggest challenge. Even the best reclaimed lands are not as good as undisturbed areas, from an ecological standpoint. These disturbances including erosion are a result of recreation user groups.	2
Funding is the biggest challenge in getting outdoor education to youth. Board of Education does not take outdoor education seriously as suitable education.	2
Sustainability is the biggest challenge. Audubon Nature Center would serve more kids in the Grand Valley; Colorado River is the greatest resource in this area. Work for long-term future. Sustainability should be the guideline for planning. If public lands are open to motorized vehicles, it has to be sustainable relative to public land policies.	2
Use the resources of the Western CO Congress. She volunteers for many things. Volunteers cost nothing, are valuable, provide camaraderie, learn things, service is worthwhile. Need more volunteers, making things better for everyone. Hard to recruit and train volunteers.	2
Land management is fundamentally broken. Conservation is in the eye of the beholder. We cannot afford to waste resources.	2

Every time our administration changes, our public land managers change directions.	2
GOBW members are going to areas with maps and GPS units documenting where things need to be corrected. They are trying to help managers care of things. They realize managers don't have personnel and funding to take care of things needing to be fixed. They are trying to make information available to managers.	2
Engaging our children who are watching TV and playing with computers. Outdoor experiences of kids today are virtual. Kids are becoming obese, need to get them out into natural areas. Make areas wild for independent play. What do we do if youth don't care? Kids will be the next stewards.	2
Education about water is needed. Youth are not aware of how water developments work (dams, diversions). Non-consumptive needs given equal priority with other beneficial uses. There is an agency trust issue. There is no trust in government, regaining public trust. Cites MMS difficulties and no trust in the oil and gas industry, and FWS rewriting science to avoid species listing.	2
Wishes there was a standardization of the type of education youth should receive from agencies or guidance on what the Youth Corps should be teaching, as part of their program.	2
Overlooked Native Americans, their culture and history, and how they used the land and survived. Text books should be rewritten.	2
Lots of good things are happening due to the efforts of good people. Wants to hear more about what problems exist and what caused them. What can be done to provide assistance? What authorities exist or are needed for agencies to get kids to outdoor sites? Partnerships are good but are there authorities that can make this more effective?	2
The biggest challenge is expanding motorized use. Areas have been damaged from motorized use. The farthest distance from a road in Colorado is 8 miles. Roads cause erosion and fragmentation. Road building in road less areas needs to be dealt with. Leave areas for natural processes to play out.	2
The biggest problems are the names (NLCS) and national system of public lands. The names don't provide an obvious tie to the public lands and resources. Compare NPS park names with BLM names.	2
Too many agencies use cookie cutter climbing management plans. They implement plans without input from local user groups. We don't have access to areas. Need to spread more information with user groups. Help to prevent limited access to public climbing areas.	2
Communication and misunderstanding are problems. Agencies' values are miscommunicated and are misunderstood by user groups.	2

<p>Senior passes allow inexpensive access to seniors. What about passes for younger people to make it more affordable for families on fixed incomes? Consider more affordable fees for younger people, which will encourage young families to get outside.</p>	2
<p>Conservation should be more focused on the public sector. Agencies have limits on staff and funding. Focus on land trust and easements. Industry needs to stop looking at environmental groups as enemies. Closure of areas precludes use by the elderly and disabled, etc. There is a lack of connection for those who need motorized vehicles to get around. I am a scientist! ATV trails don't break off wildlife corridors but development does.</p>	2
<p>Agencies have a "don't touch" attitude. Can't turn all public lands into museums. I am a hiker and four-wheeler. As a retired BLM employee my job was to make land available to all user groups and to protect my motorcycle access. The most effective way to see the vastest amount of land is on my motorcycle. I ride over 6000 miles per year. See if you can top that. We need to challenge kids and need to be balanced in our approach.</p>	3
<p>A role of government is the careful balancing between oil and gas development and resource protection and recreation use. The BP oil spill points to the need to develop more protection for onshore water, land and recreation protection. Encourage federal government to look at reforms for areas already being developed</p>	3
<p>Funding shortages can be addressed by redirecting money we use today. Agencies can figure out how to get kids involved, need to work with school districts. Need to get youth involved in natural resources. People will not see the need for wilderness areas unless they get involved. Get kids involved have kids go out and build trails, picking up rubbish along the river, develop a vested interest.</p>	3
<p>More thought and emphasis is needed on maintaining large core areas and connectivity between them. Government could fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund and other funding sources. Funding needs to be used strategically. Same standards for either public or private land.</p>	3
<p>Important to standby managers positions when they make decision. It is important for managers to say there are limits, can't be all things to all people. Managers have to set limits on uses and activities; otherwise we will reach the lowest common denominator. There are limits to growth. Concern with the turnover of federal staff. They are not in place long enough to see projects all the way through. Concern with short public comment periods on big plans that take years to develop. Not appropriate for oil and gas industry to be exempted from the Clean Water Act.</p>	3
<p>Listening sessions are very important, hopes the result of sessions will be a balanced approach. Trout Unlimited youth effort growing exponentially. Engagement at the elementary and high school levels is critical. Need to start at a young age to get people involved. The Youth Conservation Corps is huge. Partners in Mesa County have made a huge contribution to Trout Unlimited success.</p>	

Motorized user groups pay registration fees to keep up trails and parking areas. All user groups should have fees. OHV registration fees being used to fund other programs. People in other groups should do similarly raise money instead of trying to divert registration fees for other uses.	
Notes that in Costa Rica the government pays landowners to let things go natural to provide biological/wildlife corridors. What is the government doing in this country to keep lands natural? Are there incentives for private land owner not to develop natural areas? The U.S. should do something similar.	3
Her organization is working on bike parks for kids. It is beneficial to provide more sites/things for kids outdoors. Land managers need to provide more areas for children. Create more bike parks.	3
NPS is focused on education, BLM and USFS do not have the same commitment to education, and don't take getting people into the outdoors as seriously. Agencies do their best, but need more education folks. Agencies need to be more consistent, more emphasis on outdoor education, getting folks outdoors.	3
Federal government is the only entity that has resources and can work across agencies to protect "ecosystem services", e.g., clean water processes, climate control, things that work across landscapes. Federal government needs to take a role in protecting these things. In the long term there are economic values to protect.	3
Lack of funding for outdoor education, no money for field trips, can't train and certify teachers. Concerned about sustainability for various programs. Initiatives result from individual efforts. Not much help from government. Grassroots efforts, interest groups are not unified, organized as coalitions. We need to unify our thoughts.	3
Oil and gas standards need to be outcome-based and quantitative for reclamation, similar to the standards required of coal mining.	3
Challenge is that this administration needs to replace some political people in high-level positions with science- minded people. The public thinks high-level employees are scientists, so there is no oversight. We need scientist not politicians.	3
Sportsman's education: The Colorado Division of Wildlife is the only agency getting kids involved in the outdoors through sportsman's education. Need to get federal agencies involved in similar efforts. Hunting and fishing will foster interest in outdoors.	4
Turnover is not a bad thing in agencies. New employees not afraid of change and are supportive of collaboration.	4
Appeal 1876 mining law, remove the exemption of Oil & Gas from NEPA.	4

Eiss are overwhelming science based. Most people have no idea that mining is even going on underneath the area they are in. In most cases, recreation is not impacted by mining.	4
Change NLCS to "national conservation lands". This will reduce confusion with pubic and BLM.	4
Compliment to BLM, USFS. BLM and FS working with focus groups, providing meeting places and assistance, etc., works well.	4
One of the best tools is NEPA. Agencies do not apply the same NEPA standards for themselves as they do for industry. Agencies are stringent in applying rules to extractions activities, but agencies don't apply the rules to themselves. That detracts from the professionalism of the agencies.	4
Good Samaritan Legislation very important. Abandoned mines could be reclaimed without liability to those doing the reclamation. Consider adding a 25 cent charge on water bills to protect ecosystems. This could help with watershed protection for future. All are dependent on clean water to stay healthy.	4
Fund from programs in Farm Bills, and Land and Water Conservation can be available to help support connectivity and resource protection. This needs to be an approach by this administration.	4
Pay attention to historic fire regimes, historic stream flow regimes and weed issues. Cheat grass, other weeds are such a nightmare	
Encourage more management contracts and term easements as opposed to conservation easements. Agreements in perpetuity scare folks who don't want to tie-up the land in future .	4
Encourage congress to listen to what the people said today. Communicate thanks for organizing the meetings. They should listen and act. They need to think long-term. Think of the tremendous resource they can take advantage of. Agencies need to work together long-term on a few key issues to accomplish them.	4
The listening session is good. Take advice from the bottom, up. We can engage people at our level	4
Strengthen management of blms wilderness study areas and USFS wilderness. Outside impacts identified in NEPA but are not being addressed on the ground level.	4
More decisions should be made at the local level within the federal government instead of going all the way to the Washington office. This wastes time and resources.	4

Identify a few problems (e.g., getting youth into the outdoors) and get the communities involved in resolving them. Let them be models, doesn't have to cost a lot of money.	4
Population growth can't be controlled, and that is biggest threat to sustainability. Need to concentrate population in established central areas instead of rural subdivisions. There are infrastructure issues with this. We should be planning for population growth and control instead of expanding into undeveloped places.	4
NEPA identifies offsite impacts but they are not realistically addressed on the ground. Agencies need to mitigate them instead of having local communities deal with them. Fire policies will become a growing concern. Fire management education programs need to be expanded. People have a fear that decisions relative to fire suppression will not be made in a timely matter. Need to be to be educated, especially in getting answers to local folks, about how fires are managed. Weaknesses in fire management planning.	4