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LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, GIS
NATURAL RESOURCE SERVICES

February 5, 2020

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RE: Mesa County NRMP Kick-off

Dear Mesa County Steering Committee members,

Thank you for volunteering your time to be a part of the Mesa County Resource Management Plan (RMP) process. We greatly appreciate the knowledge and expertise that each and every one of you will bring throughout the process. The following information will provide you with a little bit of background of the RMP process that Y2 and Falen Law Office have used in the past, and some guidelines and expectations of your role in that process. The anticipated timeline and schedule of important dates to keep in mind as we develop the RMP is also provided.

The NRMP Process:

Y2 Consultants, LLC and Falen Law Office have been selected to develop a RMP for Mesa County, CO in conjunction with the Community Development Department, Board of County Commissioners, and the Steering Committee. Y2 and Falen Law Office have developed RMPs for multiple counties throughout the west.

The RMP process will begin with data gathering and existing document review. This data gathering and document review phase will enable our team to compile information on each of the topics to be addressed in the RMP. As a result, each natural resource topic will have a "resource assessment" which explains the current state of the resource and the history, custom, and culture surrounding its use. Additionally, each resource will have a "objective" and list of "priorities" describing the general use, development, and protection of each resource and specific priorities on how to achieve the county's objective. We have found that the most useful way for a Steering Committee to contribute to the RMP process is through provision of information at the data gathering phase, and guidance and refinement of the objectives and policies.

The RMP will contain information on all topics relevant to natural resources management on federal lands in Mesa County. Steering Committee members will be assigned one or more topics as their areas of expertise and interest. Topics to be incorporated may include:



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- Land Use & Access
- Scenic Values
- Mining & Mineral Resources
- Air Quality
- Water Resources (hydrology, ditches, irrigation, water quality, and water rights),
- Wetlands
- Wildlife
- Endangered Species
- Invasive Species
- Noxious Weeds
- Predator Control
- Forest Management
- Easements
- Fire Management
- Oil & Gas Extraction
- Solar & Wind Energy
- Special Designation Areas (including wilderness areas)
- Economic Development
- Recreation and Tourism
- Travel Management
- Facilities Maintenance
- Law Enforcement
- Fisheries
- Geological and Paleontological Resources
- Agriculture

Steering Committee members will be tasked with providing information and feedback regarding the Plan throughout the process via email and conference calls as needed. We will work to reduce the amount of time you put into this process by sending you information primarily from your topic (history/culture, recreation, livestock). However, you are welcome to provide feedback on all sections if you are interested and have the time.

As the Steering Committee, you have an integral role in the development of the RMP. However, please note that approval of the final document rests with the County Commissioners.

To make this process as efficient as possible, we recommend establishing criteria for members of the Steering Committee so that everyone is clear on the expectations of the group. The following criteria for participation in the Steering Committee are proposed:

Committee Member Criteria:

- Members must be residents of Mesa County, or represent a business/entity located in the County, and be requested to serve on the Steering Committee by the project team.
- Members are asked to be in attendance at all Steering Committee meetings.
- Members are asked to provide feedback on questions and emails in a timely manner.
- Members are encouraged to seek additional individuals with professional expertise associated with their area of concern (ie: natural resources, industries, custom/culture, etc.) to provide technical information.

Term of Commitment:

- Member will serve on this committee through completion of the document. (estimated 10-12 months)

Estimated Timeline:

The following is an estimated timeline and list of important dates for the Steering Committee. This timeline and dates may be revised as we move through the process if need arises.

February-March

The RMP process will begin with initial data collection, review of existing Mesa County documents, and policy memos provided by Falen Law Office (FLO) regarding specific natural resource issues within Mesa County. Steering Committee members are encouraged to send information regarding the above referenced sections, and any additional natural resources you think we should consider, to NRMP@y2consultants.com to aid in the data collection process.

Y2 and FLO will begin the writing process in February. This will consist of drafting resource assessments for each of the resources listed above. In early March, Y2 and FLO will meet with the Steering Committee, Community Development Department, and the various land management agencies in Mesa County to garner additional information and resources to aid in the writing of the draft RMP. We will also be looking for the Steering Committee to provide input regarding “objectives” and “priorities” for each of the resources to detail how the County would like each resource to be managed, and how the County plans to achieve that vision through policy.

April-June

Y2 and FLO will complete the RMP draft with objectives and policies for each resource and release a draft of the plan to the Steering Committee in early May. We would like all comments on the draft plan back by mid-June so that we may incorporate them into the plan prior to releasing the draft for public comment.

July-September

The draft plan is anticipated to be released for public comment mid-July. During the 30-day comment period, our team will hold a public meeting and a final Steering Committee meeting. Following the public comment period and meetings, our team will review and address all public and Steering Committee comments and release an updated draft end of September.

October

The Steering Committee will receive the updated draft plan at the end of September and will have about two weeks to make any final edits or comments on the draft. Y2 and FLO will then incorporate those comments, if any, and provide the final plan to the Board of County Commissioners at the end of October.

Throughout the Process:

- Y2 and/or Falen Law Offices may contact individual committee members for additional input within their areas of expertise.
- Committee members will review and provide comments on the draft plan before it is provided to the public for comments.
- The Committee members are asked to network with Mesa County citizens to promote involvement in the development of the Plan.
- All Mesa County citizens will have access to the data and the ability to provide comment via the website and email address: <https://www.mesacounty.us/planning/codes-plans--policies/plans/resource-management-plan/>



and mesacountyrmp@mesacounty.us. However, we will be working with you as a team to help incorporate all information received.

Task	Start Date	End Date
Contract kickoff	01/01/2020	
Data gathering	01/01/2020	03/20/2020
Kickoff Phone Call	02/13/2020	02/13/2020
Policy memos from FLO	02/03/2020	02/28/2020
Steering committee meeting and agency visits	03/10/2020	03/10/2020
Plan development	01/31/2020	04/10/2020
Draft plan and policies to FLO	04/10/2020	05/01/2020
Final edits to draft	05/01/2020	05/08/2020
Deliver draft to Mesa Co	05/11/2020	06/11/2020
Phone Call to Review Draft	05/26/2020	05/26/2020
Incorporate steering committee edits	06/12/2020	06/19/2020
Release plan to County for final review of draft	07/06/2020	07/13/2020
Public Comment	07/13/2020	08/21/2020
Public meetings and Steering Committee meetings - special workshop	08/04/2020	08/04/2020
Incorporate public comments	08/24/2020	09/11/2020
Steering Committee phone call to review public comments	08/24/2020	09/11/2020
FLO review of comments/edits	09/14/2020	09/25/2020
Final review by SC/Commission	09/28/2020	10/09/2020
Incorporate final edits	10/12/2020	10/16/2020
Final review FLO	10/19/2020	10/23/2020
Final document to County	10/26/2020	10/26/2020

***Schedule subject to change.**

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this information. We look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

Bree Burton
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 Project Manager
 bree@y2consultants.com