



325 E Aspen  
Suite 155  
Fruita CO 81521

Phone:  
970-858-3663

Fax:  
970-858-0210

E Mail  
fruita@fruita.org

Web Site  
fruita.org

City Manager's Office  
970-858-3663

City Clerk/Finance  
970-858-3663

Community  
Development  
970-858-0786

Engineering  
970-858-8377

Human Resources  
970-858-8373

Public Works  
970-858-9558

Recreation Dept.  
970-858-0360

# Weekly Info Update

To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER  
Date: JANUARY 9, 2015  
Re: WEEKLY INFO UPDATE

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## TID BITS:

- I will be speaking Tuesday morning to the Fruita Business Tool Box, which is a cooperative effort between the City of Fruita, Fruita Chamber of Commerce, and the Business Incubator. I will speak on City priorities and goals and how businesses can benefit and assist.
- The Planning Commission's agenda for January 13 includes a vacation rental by owner, the annual plan of annexation and considering the Masser House for local historic register.
- The Denver Nuggets Skills Challenge is this Saturday at the Fruita Community Center at 9 am for youth ages 7-14.
- Alan Story's Code Enforcement trial has been changed to February 25, 2015.
- City sales tax was down 1.29% in November as compared to the same month in 2013, but up 7.05% for 2014 through Nov. compared to 2013.
- The Fruita Community Center finished 2014 with 170,496 paid visitors (1,197 more than 2013), averaging 489 per day.
- We had 5 residential dwelling units permitted in December and a total of 53 in 2014.
- As members of the Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado (AGNC), we have the opportunity to join in on regular legislative conference calls. I plan to tune in, but if you are also interested in joining, please let me know and I will get you the call-in information.
- We will host AGNC's July 15<sup>th</sup> Board meeting here in Fruita.
- Speaking of AGNC—their lobbying group forwarded a letter the Governor sent to the Joint Budget Committee asking for a request that the JBC sponsor legislation authorizing an exemption of \$47 million in projected excess severance tax revenue from the statutory distribution formula to be used in the general fund. This would not be good for us and Western Colorado, who receives a large portion of these annual refunds. Will keep you updated.
- I attended a semi-annual briefing to the County Commissioners on items Mesa County, as a cooperating agency, is tracking for natural resources and Federal rulemaking processes in 2015 (many we also track). Attached below is a summary of those items.
- Had a very productive and informative meeting with our DOLA Regional Manager Elyse Ackerman-Casselberry regarding the services DOLA provides, including funding opportunities and discussion of our grant application for the

downtown improvements. Keep your fingers crossed as we have a strong project and I will be working closely with her on our application.

- Happy New Year! As much as we enjoyed visiting family in the North Pole this past weekend, it was great to return to this beautiful City and enjoy the sunshine this week.

#### **IN THE NEWS**

- A recent Meet Your Neighbor article spotlighted our very own Dahna Raugh:  
<http://www.gifreepress.com/news/14509454-113/fruita-dahna-denise-job>
- Check out the recent article on the City Shops expansion project covered:  
<http://www.westernslopenow.com/story/d/story/fruita-expands-public-works-department/15478/ROdvly7jREOW0JzEcHIC5g>

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- The January 2015 City of Fruita Meeting Calendar is available on the website at:  
<http://www.fruita.org/documents/admin/mtgcal.pdf>.
- This Monday, Jan. 13 at 5:30 will be the open house to present the preferred concepts for Reed Park (based off of the previous open house) with the purpose of obtaining feedback as we prepare to apply for grants to assist with these updates this year.
- This Thursday, Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm, we will host the Chamber After Hours event at the Fruita Community Center.
- The following Thursday, Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> is the Municipalities Dinner at the Grand Junction Public Safety Building.
- Thursday, Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> is the annual meeting of the Grand Junction Visitor & Convention Bureau Annual at the Two Rivers Convention Center over breakfast.

CC: Department Directors

# Mesa County Natural Resource Liaison

## 2015 Key Anticipated & Upcoming Federal Projects:

### A) Bureau of Land Management

- i) **GJ Field Office – Resource Management Plan (RMP)**
  - (a) Final EIS (FEIS)– January/February 2015 - 30 day protest period starts
- ii) **Dominguez Escalante-National Conservation Area - RMP**
  - (a) FEIS – February/March 2015 - 30 day protest period starts
- iii) **Greater Sage Grouse RMPA/EIS – Northwest Colorado**
  - (a) FEIS - March 2015? - 30 day protest period starts
- iv) **Gunnison Sage Grouse RMPA/EIS**
  - (a) Two year process – started 2014
  - (b) Cooperating Agencies (Coops) – bi-weekly meetings
- v) **Existing Leases on the White River National Forest EIS**
  - (a) Two year process – Draft EIS (DEIS) - Early 2015; FEIS Summer 2016
  - (b) Coops – monthly meetings as needed
- vi) **Roan Plateau Supplemental EIS (SEIS)**
  - (a) Two year process –
    - Preliminary Draft RMPA/SEIS – End of April, 2015
    - Draft RMPA/SEIS – End of July, 2015
    - Public Comment Period Ends – October, 2015
  - (b) Coops – monthly meetings as needed
- vii) **Bookcliffs Coal Lease by Application EIS**
  - (a) Two year process –DEIS Sept. 2015; FEIS April 2016
  - (b) Coops – milestone meetings
- viii) **Value of Public Lands Study (BLM &CMU)**
  - a) Kick off Meeting held– Nov 2014
- ix) **BoCC Quarterly Briefings** – GJFO Field Office Manager

### B) US Forest Service

- i) **SBEADMR EIS - Spruce Beetle Epidemic & Aspen Decline Management Response**
  - (a) Working Group - Monitor monthly meetings
  - (b) DEIS – spring 2015 –
- ii) **GMUG Forest Management Plan EIS -**
  - (a) Kickoff in fy 2016 (Oct 2015) –request Cooperating Agency status

### C) National Park Service

- i) **Traffic Study** –Traffic Engineer coordination - completion early 2015
- ii) **BoCC Briefings** – Colorado National Monument Superintendent

### D) US Fish & Wildlife Service

- i) **WYB Cuckoo - Proposed Critical Habitat comments due 1/12/15**
- ii) **Gunnison Sage Grouse – NOI to Sue?**
  - Recovery Plan and 4d Rule – on hold for fy 2015?
- iii) **Greater Sage Grouse Listing – monitor-** on hold for fy 2015
- iv) **BCC briefings** – W. Colorado Ecological Services Supervisor
- v) **Monitor other species and rules**

### E) Environmental Protection Agency

- i) **Clean Power Plan Rules (Power Plant emissions) - monitor**
- ii) **Ozone Rules**
  - a. Proposed rule released December 2014
  - b. Coordinate with MC Health Department
- iii) **Monitor other rules/programs**

### F) Resource Mangers/BoCC Quarterly Meetings