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Weekly Info Update

To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER
Date: APRIL 17, 2015
Re: WEEKLY INFO UPDATE

Tuesday's City Council Meeting

We have a fairly light agenda Tuesday night, including various routine items on the consent agenda and a presentation on the Parks and Recreation survey results.

Weekend Cancellations

Although we can definitely use the moisture, two events have been cancelled this weekend. First, the Fruita Bike Park Dedication and youth races have been cancelled. The Dedication Ceremony is postponed to next Saturday, April 18 at 10:00 am. The races will be combined with the annual Bike Rodeo in August. Also, Rumble @ 18 Rd is postponed to May 2-3.

\$20,000 Grant Awarded From DOLA

We are pleased to be the recipients of another DOLA grant in the amount of \$20,000 to help fund the gateway enhancement design for the north and south entrances into the city off the I-70 exit, including landscape, roundabout, signage, and pedestrian crossing design work to enable us to then go after construction funds. Just to clarify, we will begin planning the community engagement process to determine the theme and concept that the community would like upon which we would direct the designer to construct the plans. We are also working on revising our plan and budget for the downtown enhancement project for which we received \$225,000 from DOLA to focus on Mulberry and Peach intersections with Aspen Ave. so we can execute our contract with DOLA and go to bid.

Legislative Update

AGNC is hosting a special conference call I plan to join in on Monday regarding the Governor's suggested approach for the Legislature to consider regarding balancing the budget with severance tax revenues. Attached is this approach. Please let me know by Monday morning if you have feedback on this.

TID BITS:

- Big congratulations to Kristi Pollard who was selected by the Board of GJEP to be their new Executive Director.
- Mesa County released information this week regarding adjustments to their Motor Vehicle Division Hours. The Fruita location at the Civic Center will remain open on Tuesdays and Thursdays, now from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. Previously, they opened at 7:30 am. <http://blog.mesacounty.us/>

Honor the Past – Envision the Future **FRUITA**

- The BLM Proposed Resource Management Plan (PRMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) can be found at <http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gjfo/rmp/rmp.html>. Also, Mesa County has tutorial videos on their website to help residents navigate the plan at <http://www.mesacounty.us/publicworks/prmp.aspx>.
- Attached is the BLM's handout and timeline regarding the PRMP. While we are in the protest/review period, staff is reviewing.
- The annual E-Cycle Event at the Civic Center last Saturday was successful collecting the most e-items yet.
- Alan Story's Noise Violation Jury Trial occurred on Monday and he was found guilty.
- Alan Story also requested of the court more time to clean his property from the deadline the Judge set of May 1st. He was denied the extension and stated he would have it cleaned by April 30th. We have offered numerous times to coordinate service agencies to help but he has declined.
- Mesa County has moved out of the building they were occupying at the City Shops campus and it looks as if the school buses will also move to a new location in July.
- The Mesa County Enterprise Zone voted this week to include Whitewater in the zone.
- Staff met with organizers of the Maverick Classic to work out the route in light of the Ottley Avenue project.
- United was awarded our annual overlay contract as their bid came in under budget.
- The Police Department has begun the pilot program for the body worn cameras with two officers testing them out and working through the kinks.
- Our two new corporals finished their training this week.
- Caroline Benham is our new Animal Control Officer who began work this week and will be in training next week.
- Police Officer Andrew Courtney will be leaving the City the 23rd to take a federal job and we are now recruiting to fill his position.
- Mesa County did submit a letter of support to GOCO for the Mesa Land Trust's grant application this week.
- Many of our Parks & Recreation Board and Arts and Culture Board members will be attending a free Citizen's Advocacy session at the Midwest Regional Conference for Parks and Recreation Professionals on April 27 from 11:30 am - 2:00 pm at Two Rivers.
- Staff met with BLM staff this week to discuss the status of new mountain bike trails near Fruita. The struggle they have is obtaining funding for required environmental studies before trails can be built. This can be upwards of \$60,000 - \$80,000 in cost per trail. There are no current trails ready to construct, but we will continue to meet to discuss some potential opportunities.
- Attached is the City Council Professional Development expenditures statement as of March 31, 2015.

FRUITA IN THE NEWS:

- Rumble @ 18 Rd Postponed: <http://www.gifreepress.com/news/15796846-113/rumble-at-18-road-in-fruita-postponed-due>
- MTB Trails to Ride: <http://www.gifreepress.com/news/15390610-113/ride-these-trails-mesa-county-singletrack-at-its-finest>
- The WTF MS Walk Team: <http://www.gifreepress.com/news/15917121-113/meet-your-neighbors-the-ms-walk-wtf-welcome-to>

- Fruita Bike Park before being postponed: <http://www.gjfreepress.com/news/15813162-113/fruita-bike-park-celebrated-april-17-18>
- Local Area Bike Shops: <http://www.aspentimes.com/news/15846681-113/bike-maintenance-tips-from-grand-valley-experts-video>
- Fruita MTB Trails video: <https://vimeo.com/125269626>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Relay for Life of Fruita Social and Chili Cook Off **April 18** from 6:30 – 8:00 pm at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at 343 E Ottley Ave.
- **April 22nd** is the City of Fruita's Arbor Day Celebration at 4:00 pm at Circle Park.
- **April 24-26** is the Maverick Classic. Saturday the 25th is the Fruita Time Trial event.
- **April 25th** is the Re-scheduled Fruita Bike Park Dedication Ceremony at 10 am at the Bike Park.
- Fruita Fat Tire Festival—downtown **April 23-26!!!!**
- **April 28th** at 6:30 is the City Council Workshop combined with the Chamber Board.
- **April 29th** is the combined Chamber-City Council tour of the Math & Science Center at 7:00 pm if you would like to attend. The address is 2660 Unaweeep in GJ.
- **May 2-3** is the rescheduled Rumble @ 18 Rd.
- **May 15th** is the last day for early bird registration for the annual CML conference (June 16-19). Please let Deb and I know if you plan to attend so we can make arrangements.
- **May 21** is the next Municipalities Dinner at the Fruita Community Center at 6:00 pm with dinner catered by Colorado Canyons. General updates, Broadband and Buffer zone will be on the agenda for discussion.
- The **April** 2015 City of Fruita Meeting Calendar is available on the website at: <http://www.fruita.org/documents/admin/mtgcal.pdf>.
- The **2015** Events Calendar is also available online at: http://www.fruita.org/documents/rec/EVENT_CALENDAR.pdf

CC: Department Directors

STATE OF COLORADO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

136 State Capitol
Denver, CO 80203 - 1792
Phone (303) 866-2471



John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

April 16, 2015

The Honorable Dickey Lee Hullinghorst
Speaker, House of Representatives

The Honorable Bill Cadman
President, State Senate

The Honorable Brian DelGrosso
Minority Leader, House of Representatives

The Honorable Morgan Carroll
Minority Leader, State Senate

Colorado General Assembly
State Capitol Building
200 E. Colfax
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Colleagues,

As the 2015 legislative session enters its final weeks, I extend my congratulations to you for your leadership on many important decisions and thoughtful debate about the needs of our state. Of particular note is the exemplary and intensive bipartisan work to craft a budget that strikes the appropriate balance between many competing and worthy priorities.

There is other work required to prudently position our state's financial resources, not just for next year but for many years down the road. In the wake of the Great Recession, we can see that support for working and middle class families, and restoring cuts to transportation and education are critical remaining items that the FY 2015-16 budget cannot address by itself. In the remaining time we have left in this legislative session, I am asking for your partnership to take several bold steps with these priorities in mind.

Recent revenue forecasts from the Office of State Planning and Budgeting and the Colorado Legislative Council Staff illustrate both the economic growth in our state but also the complex and contradictory nature of multiple laws and constitutional rules. They call for limits on revenue and increases in spending, as well as new ongoing tax credits. However, the five-point plan we are outlining here finds a balance in these contradictions and makes it possible to build and maintain our roads and bridges and restore some cuts to education while providing rebates and a bit of relief to Colorado's middle class.

When we look beyond FY 2015-16, two statutes from 2009 are significantly affecting the resources in the General Fund: House Bill 09-1293, which created the hospital provider fee and Senate Bill 09-228, which created automatic increases in transportation and capital construction funding from the General Fund if certain economic triggers are met.

Endorsed by many hospitals in 2009, the Hospital Provider Fee is a charge on patient revenue remitted by hospitals to the state so that we can receive matching federal funds. To a large extent, these funds pay for expanded Medicaid populations for which previously hospitals were receiving insufficient compensation. Under the current program design, the hospital provider fee counts toward the State's revenue cap under the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR). In the current year, we expect provider fee collections to reach \$532.3 million, and in FY 2015-16, they will grow to \$688.5 million. When combined with the economic recovery, this additional revenue, which was not collected by the State when the revenue cap was set in FY 2007-08, is a significant contributing factor to the excess revenues we see in both forecasts.

Looking back at the program design, we can see that the hospital provider fee could have been implemented differently. Though the hospital provider fee is not collected in the General Fund it counts toward the revenue limit. These funds are earmarked for health care and cannot go to pay rebates. If, instead, the hospital provider fee were designated as an enterprise fund, these funds would not apply to the revenue limit and thus not contribute to rebates. Without a change, rebates that result because of the hospital provider fee will be paid at the expense of our roads, schools, and other items supported by the General Fund.

Senate Bill 09-228 established a formula that would, as the economy recovered, direct specific amounts of General Fund revenue to capital construction and transportation. However, when there is a TABOR rebate, the transfers are reduced or eliminated. The size of the projected TABOR rebates are inflated by the hospital provider fee such that the transfers to high priority transportation projects will be reduced to half the potential amount in FY 2015-16 (\$205.2 million to \$102.6 million), and depending on the forecast, eliminated in future years.

In the current year and in FY 2015-16, the range of projected rebates that will be returned to taxpayers under formulas that have evolved over many years includes a sales tax rebate and possibly an enhancement of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). If the EITC rebate is triggered, it will become a permanent tax credit in subsequent years, paid from the General Fund.

As we have evaluated these interactions and researched the legislative history of these laws, it has become clear that we can do better as a state to provide for key priorities such as transportation, education, and supporting the middle class, while still respecting the will of the voters to limit state government revenue.

After hearing from many stakeholders and much consideration, we ask the General Assembly to consider the following legislative initiatives.

First, we propose that the entire TABOR surplus be rebated in FY 2014-15 and FY 2015-16. There is a range of possible ways that rebates could be paid out, either through the sales tax rebate or through the EITC, or both. Most of these formulas were adopted many years ago and, in the aftermath of two recessions since that time, we believe the rebate structure needs to be updated.

We agree all Colorado families should receive rebates, but we propose that the TABOR rebates focus on working and middle class families. There is wide research that shows the benefits of the EITC for low- and moderate-income working families. We should agree on a change to the current system of rebates that would direct a larger share of the sales tax rebate to middle income families.

Second, beginning in FY 2016-17, the hospital provider fee should be converted to a fee that is collected in an enterprise fund. Because the fees were endorsed by the payers and because they are discretely earmarked for health care only, enterprise designation is both logical and appropriate. Also, prior to the implementation of the hospital provider fee, the non-partisan Office of Legislative Legal Services determined that the new fee could not be deemed a tax. Thus, we see no compelling reason why this program should cause any “crowding out” of legitimate and worthy state priorities like transportation and education in the General Fund. By moving the funds to enterprise status, revenue classified under TABOR will drop substantially. Rebates, however, would continue under the EITC in an annual amount of approximately \$85 million and perhaps under the reformed sales tax rebate.

Make no mistake: we are not proposing any expansion of the hospital provider fee or the Medicaid program.

Third, relative to current law, the second change above allows the full transfer to transportation to occur - estimated at approximately \$215 million in FY 2016-17. General Fund support for transportation has a long history in Colorado, but no transfers have occurred since FY 2007-08. Though Colorado has been blessed with robust growth for the past few years, the declining purchasing power of the fuel tax and the impact of the recession have both affected our transportation system. The financing system has struggled to keep pace with the increase in passenger and freight vehicle traffic.

By securing the return of funding for transportation we can start building a mix of new high-priority transit and highway projects. Working with local partners across the state, the Colorado Transportation Commission has identified a list of 50 important projects at a total cost of \$2.3 billion that will ease congestion and prepare Colorado for the influx of people and goods we know are coming in the future. This investment will benefit Colorado for years to come and will spur economic growth in key transportation corridors - both rural and urban - and in adjacent communities.

Fourth, this change also creates a new ability for the state to dedicate new resources to buying down the negative factor in K-12 school finance. Based on current projections,

we should dedicate \$50 million above enrollment and inflation costs in FY 2016-17 and apply this amount to reducing the negative factor. Although less than ten percent of the negative factor now, this additional contribution to K-12 support reflects continued progress that began in FY 2014-15 and is expected in FY 2015-16.

Fifth, we should agree on a mechanism that repays the severance taxes used to balance the current budget as well as the \$75 million of hospital provider fee money that was transferred to the General Fund during the Great Recession.

Colorado has great needs and extraordinary budgetary constraints. The five-point plan outlined above provides some measure of simplification of the rules we have and strikes a balance between limiting our revenue and addressing the needs of a growing state.

I look forward to hearing from you and working together on a solution that serves all of Colorado.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "John Hickenlooper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being particularly prominent.

John Hickenlooper
Governor

Cc: Colorado General Assembly



US Department of the Interior
 Bureau of Land Management
 Volume 5, April 10, 2015

The Grand Junction RMP Newsletter

Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement Available

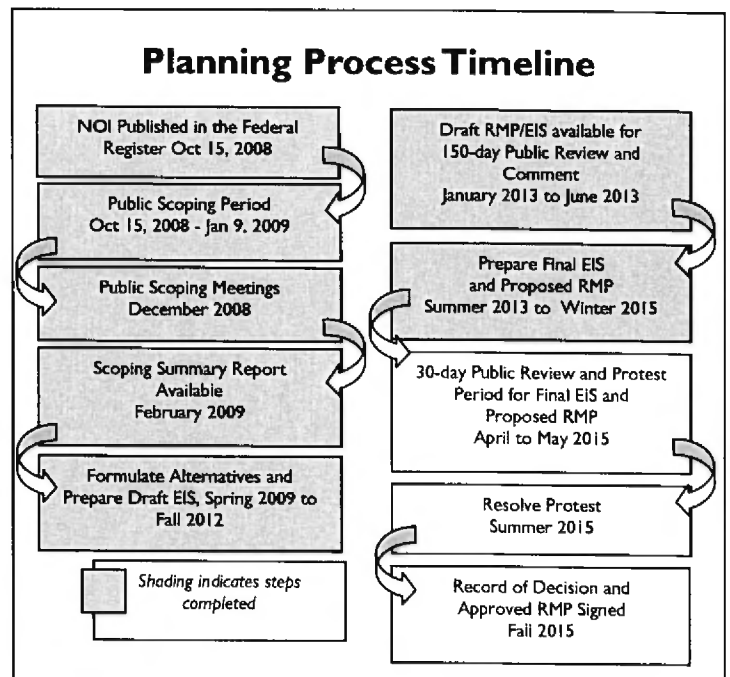
The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has released the Proposed Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Grand Junction Field Office (GJFO) for a 30-day protest period and 60-day Governor's consistency review. The BLM expects to release a final decision later this year.

Proposed RMP

The BLM developed the Proposed RMP with close coordination from local and state government, regional interest groups and public input. It carries forward the same theme as the Preferred Alternative found in the Draft RMP/EIS, but also includes elements of the other four alternatives analyzed in the Draft RMP/EIS. Key decisions in the proposed plan include managing five areas for specific recreation opportunities, including the Grand Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Special Recreation Management Area for cross-country riding and adventure. The RMP also identifies 10 areas where wildlife habitat will receive focused emphasis and priority, along with a 908,600-acre Shale Ridges and Canyons Master Leasing Plan with oil and gas restrictions ranging from limiting visual impacts to no surface disturbance and timing limitations to protect wildlife.

Greater and Gunnison Sage-Grouse

The BLM is also considering management of Greater and Gunnison Sage-Grouse in the Grand Junction planning area in two separate, concurrent plan amendment processes. In one amendment process, the BLM is preparing the NW Colorado Greater Sage-Grouse land use plan amendment and associated EIS, which includes a full analysis of all applicable Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation measures as directed by BLM Instruction Memorandum No. 2012-044. The BLM expects to issue a comprehensive set of management decisions for Greater Sage-Grouse in the Grand Junction district when it issues the final NW Colorado GRSG Amendment. In the other amendment process, the BLM is preparing a land use plan amendment and associated EIS for Gunnison Sage-Grouse. BLM Colorado will lead the effort to evaluate existing and potential measures for protecting occupied and potential Gunnison Sage-Grouse critical habitat on behalf of BLM Colorado and BLM Utah. Conservation measures from the Greater and Gunnison Sage-Grouse land use plan amendments will be incorporated into applicable BLM land use plans, including the new GJFO RMP.



Travel Management

The proposed plan also includes travel management decisions that provide public access to quality recreational opportunities and commercial use of public lands while protecting sensitive resources. The BLM will defer route-by-route decisions on the North Fruita Desert and DeBeque areas for further analysis and input from cooperators. More information on travel management and route designations, including maps, can be found on the RMP website at www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gjfo/rmp.html. Paper copies of all maps can also be reviewed at the Grand Junction Field Office.

How to Learn More

To learn more about the GJFO Proposed RMP and Final EIS, or to view a copy of the plan, visit www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gjfo/rmp.html or contact Christina Stark, RMP Project Manager, at (970) 244-3027 or cstark@blm.gov. To minimize printing costs, the BLM encourages you to review the document electronically. Paper copies will be available for review by April 10 at the Grand Junction Field Office.

How Does the Protest Process Work?

A protest is a filing to the BLM Director requesting a review to determine if the State Director followed established procedure, considered relevant information in reaching proposed decisions and whether the proposed decisions are consistent with BLM policy, regulation, and statute.

Any person who participated in the planning process for this Proposed RMP has status to protest:

- Individuals or groups that provided written comments during scoping or during the draft
- Individuals or groups that attended RMP Open House meetings
- Individuals or groups that provided oral comments at hearings, meetings, or by phone call

Protests must be received in writing within 30 days from the date the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes the Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*. This deadline cannot be extended. A fact sheet with additional details and answers to common questions about the protest process is available on the RMP website at www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gjfo/rmp.html.

What Happens Next?

The BLM Director will make every attempt to promptly render a decision on each protest. Upon resolution of all land use plan protests, the BLM will issue an Approved RMP and Record of Decision (ROD). The Approved RMP and ROD will be made available electronically on the BLM website. The BLM expects to issue the Approved RMP and ROD in Fall 2015.

Fruita City Council
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BLM Grand Junction Field Office
RMP/EIS Newsletter

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Bureau of Land Management
Grand Junction Field Office
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Grand Junction, CO 81506




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CITY COUNCIL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURES - MARCH 31, 2015

DESCRIPTION	DATE	AMOUNT
2015 Professional Development Budget		14,000.00
<u>Dues and Subscriptions</u>		
Colorado Municipal League	1/12/2015	(3,157.35)
AGNC Dues	1/12/2015	<u>(3,700.00)</u>
		<u>(6,857.35)</u>
<u>Council and Mayor expenses</u>		
Chamber after hours (food)	1/12/2015	(722.47)
CML Legislative Workshop (Lodging, Registration Fee, Mileage)	1/19/2015	(574.88)
Chamber Annual Banquet	2/17/2015	<u>(600.00)</u>
		<u>(1,897.35)</u>
Total Expenditures through 3/31/15		<u><u>(8,754.70)</u></u>
Unspent balance of budget		5,245.30



ARBOR DAY
CELEBRATION!
APRIL 22, 2015
CIRCLE PARK
4PM

PROFESSIONALS
AVAILABLE FOR
QUESTIONS. FREE
BROCHURES ON
HOW TO PLANT A
TREE!

THE WINNER OF
THE 5TH GRADE
POSTER COMPETI-
TION WILL BE
RECOGNIZED.

PLANT A TREE WITH
FRUITA PARKS AND
RECREATION, THE
MAYOR AND STATE
FORESTER!

FREE TREES!
KIDS CRAFTS!
COOKIES AND
PUNCH!