

**OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF BLAINE COUNTY  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE JANUARY 2014 SESSION**

**BOULDER-WHITE CLOUDS NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATION**

**Fifth Day (Evening Meeting)**

**Wednesday, January 22, 2014**

Pursuant to Statutory Provisions, the Board of Blaine County Commissioners (BCC) met this day at 5:30 p.m. Present were Chairman Lawrence Schoen, Vice-Chairman Angenie McCleary and Commissioner Jacob Greenberg; Idaho Conservation League Executive Director Rick Johnson, ICL Chairman of the Board Elaine French and ICL Central Idaho Associate Dani Mazzotta; The Wilderness Society Central Idaho representative Rob Mason; Sawtooth Society Executive Director Gary O'Malley; Wood River Bike Coalition Executive Director Brett Stevenson and Advisory Board member Cameron Lloyd; Conservation Voters for Idaho Conservation Associate Martin Balben; Stanley-Sawtooth Chamber of Commerce representative Ellen Kuche Libertine; Idaho Mountain Dirt Riders Association President David Sundholm; Western Watersheds Project Executive Director Jon Marvel and Chief Development Officer Carter Hedberg; Sawtooth Snowmobile Club Vice President Bryan Baird; Wood River Economic Partnership President Doug Brown; Matt Leidecker; Martha Jennings; Beverly Lingle; Claire Casey; Tom Blanchard; Anne Zauner; John Kelley; Carol Eleazer; Jan Mason; Patti Dorr; Jason Kauffman; Linn Kincannon; Katie Van Hees; Gina Pearson; Rod Hawkins; Eileen Shelly; Bill Olson; Lili Simpson; James L. Kennedy, Jr.; Frank Rowland; Jim Phillips; Dick Fosbury; Wendy Jaquet; Recording Secretary Sunny Grant; *Times-News* reporter Brian Smith; and *Idaho Mountain Express* reporter Greg Moore.

Chairman Schoen called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

**BOULDER-WHITE CLOUDS NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATION  
PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION and CONSIDERATION**

The BCC has received many public comments on the Boulder-White Clouds monument designation and welcomes all opinions.

- The Idaho Conservation League (ICL) wants to preserve the Boulder-White Clouds as spectacular as they are today.
- ICL Central Idaho Associate Dani Mazzotta said public meetings and input are very important to the ICL and to obtaining National Monument designation for the Boulder-White Clouds. The ICL and other conservation groups want to accomplish core conservation values while preserving world-class recreation and deriving economic benefits in the Boulder-White Clouds.
- The Boulder-White Clouds, if designated as a National Monument, would be a proclamation under the Obama Administration, so the deadline is 2016.
- Anne Zauner, hiker and horseback rider, agreed that there needs to be protection and more management for users. National Monument designation would benefit all parties, and perhaps open up more federal funding. Access will invite people from all over the world to enjoy the area and may be an economic benefit to the area.
- If the President signs the national monument proclamation, it will go to land management agencies to draft the management plan.
- The biking community has been working with The Wilderness Society and ICL to preserve ecological values and human recreation, specifically mountain biking, in the area.
- The Sawtooth Society is a leading national advocate for the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, which is included in the Boulder-White Clouds area being proposed for National Monument designation. The SNRA has consistently supported legislation to get permanent wilderness status for the Boulder-White Clouds. The SNRA is cautious about joining the process to get an irreversible executive order to designate the Boulder-White Clouds, which includes the SNRA, as a National Monument under the Antiquities Act.  
The SNRA has existing protections and rights under Public Law 92-400 and the Regulations and Management Plan that have served the SNRA for 40+ years. The SNRA is already a Congressionally-protected area. Layering an additional protection plan—National Monument status—over the SNRA is complex and should be considered with forethought and due diligence. Federal departments will not move ahead on National Monuments status without support within the State of Idaho and hearing proponents address concerns, and only after holding public forums and hearing from all stakeholder groups.
- Additional funding is needed for the SNRA, but National Monument status does not traditionally provide that.
- Gerhardt Morrison applauded the effort on both sides of National Monument designation. His major concern is the State of Idaho, which wants to reclaim federal land in Idaho from the United States government. If that happens, all BLM land will be managed by the State of Idaho. Idaho cannot afford to manage the land and would have to sell it, resulting in mining claims and hillside homes. He encouraged National Monument Status.
- The Wilderness Society (TWS) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the United States Department of the Interior (DOI), and the Obama Administration to consider monument designation of the Boulder-White Clouds, to protect its wilderness character and human-powered recreation qualities that currently exist. The B-WC are the largest unprotected area in the

Lower 48 states. The TWS wants a monument crafted by Idaho and supports a transparent and open process in developing the management plan. TWS welcomes input from interests other than wilderness that are compatible with National Monument designation.

- Elaine French endorsed statements previously made about hiking in the gorgeous landscape. She asked that mining threats not be allowed into the area.
- Tom Blanchard encouraged support of the National Monument. He expressed concern that management be a single agency and not a triumvirate of agencies, each with its own designated area. He supported management by the Forest Service, which managed the SNRA, or the National Park Service.
- Idaho Mountain Dirt Riders Association President David Sundholm said the SNRA was already protected forever and the Forest Service does a great job of managing it. Public input seems to indicate that everyone likes it as it is now. The one thing that would change with National Monument designation is the use of motorized equipment—snowmobiles, motorcycles, etc. A new designation and new management plan could mess everything up. Sundholm suggested it remain in the SNRA, protected and managed by the Forest Service as it is today.
- The SNRA is contained in the Boulder-White Clouds boundaries, but there is even more land east of the SNRA boundary that is BLM and Forest Service land and would be included in the National Monument designation. It is important that the management plan be an open and transparent process and all users, including motorized users, are encouraged to work together to preserve the area.
- Everyone agreed this is a beautiful place and wonderful area to recreate in. Rod Hawkins is a motorcycle rider and likely to lose access to some of the trails he loves. He encouraged the BCC to vote against monument status for the Boulder-White Clouds.
- Sawtooth Snowmobile Club Vice President/Winter Recreation Coalition member Bryan Baird asked to be invited to meetings so he can be involved. He would rather see the SNRA expanded instead of designating the Boulder-White Clouds as a National Monument.
- Wendy Jaquet supported National Monument designation. She suggested the BCC invite representatives of the snowmobile club to future meetings, and encouraged the BCC to be sure the proclamation is crafted by all interested users. Jaquet agreed that designation of a single management agency was important.
- The future of the Boulder-White Clouds is a local economic driver that enables surrounding communities to diversify their economies.
- Everyone should be outraged that the SNRA doesn't get more funding. The community should contact U.S. Congressman Mike Simpson, who is in the SNRA almost every year, and express their concern for the lack of funding.
- John Kelley was glad that so many people have spoken in favor of protection of land, but wasn't sure National Monument designation would improve things for the Boulder-White Clouds. Kelley hosts a website to explore the issues and can't find a good argument for the proposal. The SNRA under its current law has more protection than National Monument designation would provide, and the National Monument proposal suggests the SNRA law be retained as the dominant legal framework.
- The Jerry Peak area needs more protection as soon as possible.
- Frank Rowland managed the SNRA for many years and was involved in many proposals prior to 1972 to form a national park. He is a wilderness advocate. The SNRA was originally well budgeted and a lot of attention was given to wilderness management of the Boulder-White Clouds. It is unlikely there will be increased funding to manage the B-WC in a wilderness structure without a grassroots effort to pressure Washington to increase the budget.  
Rowland cautioned that a national monument could be managed by several agencies, which is confusing to the user who doesn't know where he is, or what the rules are.  
Rowland suggested the area be maintained under National Forest Management and strive for wilderness protection under the Wilderness Act.
- ICL Executive Director Rick Johnson said the Central Idaho Economic Development and Recreation Act (CIEDRA) was crafted by a Congressman who crafted a bill after working with different interests—wilderness advocates, the ranching community, counties, and motorized interests—to find common ground. ICL learned that, in order to represent conservation for all of Idaho, it has to represent *all* of Idaho.  
ICL is trying to learn what all the diverse interest groups wanted from CIEDRA, so it can include these provisions in the monument resolution. Johnson has reviewed maps with representatives of the Idaho State Snowmobile Association and the Idaho Trail Machines Association to try to understand from the riders themselves where motorized vehicles go.  
The current balance of uses in the Boulder-White Clouds must be protected.
- The Wilderness Society acknowledges that it needs to uphold bargains forged in the CIEDRA process. The more people TWC encompasses, the better they can all stand together for the proclamation, and advocate for each other's interests during the management process.

The BCC said they could endorse National Monument declaration, with motorized use accommodated similar to what was decided during the CIEDRA process.

- The Boulder-White Clouds encompass 570,000 acres. The SNRA, a unique subdivision of the National Forest, manages 49%; the Sawtooth-Challis National Forest and the BLM manage the remaining acres. It is important that the whole area, which is interdependent in drainage, habitat, etc. be under one management umbrella, with higher status in Washington, and better funded.

- Conservation Voters for Idaho supports monument declaration.
- Linn Kincannon is a wilderness advocate. The B-WC didn't succeed in getting designated as wilderness and Congress has failed to act for decades, so now is the time to protect the Boulder-White Clouds from an unknown future. Compromises are painful; but the BCC has to include the reasons that Blaine County residents care about—hunting, fishing, wilderness and wildlife lovers, hikers, mountain bikers, skiers ... and motorized users—that contribute to Blaine County's quality of life and economy. It is not reasonable to have every use on every acre. Wildlife needs areas where there is little or no use.
- Is there a false sense of urgency? The BCC was exhorted to slow down and hold all proponents accountable for knowing what they're supporting.
- It is important to get National Monument designation for the Boulder-White Clouds since the State Legislature wants to own federal lands. Claire Casey supported a pristine area protected from everything but foot and horse traffic and one management plan for the entire area.
- Jon Marvel said the BCC shouldn't make a decision until monument advocates present proclamation language. It's important to know what the proclamation is going to say, because they are written depending on who influences them.
- Jim Phillips said the community has for decades attempted to place wilderness designation on the Boulder-White Clouds, and Congress has not done so. The community interested in wilderness should see the proclamation and know what is being negotiated by all parties before they make a decision to support a proclamation.
- John Kelley said the proponents were previously asked to put together a draft proclamation. He considered talk of the designation still just a proposal.

Mazzotta said the ICL couldn't write the proclamation until they talked to all groups interested in Boulder-White Clouds National Monument status and could present a cohesive statement. The BCC assured the public that all users would be included in development of the management plan.

Greenberg said the goal is to strike a balance that everyone can live with. The area needs enforced protection, including areas that shouldn't have any human interference. The biggest challenges are mining and off-road vehicle use, which is increasing exponentially. Greenberg supports National Monument status, but is hesitant to write a letter until he sees a draft proclamation.

McCleary agreed. Blaine County is a diverse community, and there are many different perspectives. McCleary supports wilderness for the Boulder-White Clouds, but that hasn't happened in 30 years of trying. National Monument Status affords the opportunity for protection and good management in the near term and for the future. McCleary thinks the BCC can help shape the proclamation with a transparent, open public process. She wants to move forward to preserve the area with a balance of uses that don't interfere with natural ecological values; and get adequate funding for unified, coherent management for the Boulder-White Clouds.

Schoen felt the BCC should express its views on the Boulder-White Clouds by passing a resolution, introduced by a letter. The resolution should recount all actions that lead to this point, including CIEDRA, public meetings, local and other County officials and staff, and all interested organizations looking for common ground. Schoen supports National Monument designation.

The letter from the Blaine County Commissioners should reflect all efforts made to protect the Boulder-White Clouds as a whole over the years. While the public may want a draft proclamation—a statement of general principles for how the area will be managed to development of a management plan—the BCC feels they need to act soon or the National Monument process may move forward without Blaine County input. Conservation is a priority, but most uses can occur if managed.

The BCC supports National Monument designation in concept. The BCC asked for input from all interests on what should go into the resolution.

**ADJOURN**

At the hour of 7:30 p.m., the BCC finding no more business before them adjourned.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved \_\_\_\_\_  
 JoLynn Drage Lawrence Schoen  
 County Clerk Chairman