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Weekly Info Update

To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER
Date: AUGUST 21, 2015
Re: WEEKLY INFO UPDATE

Tuesday Night's City Council Workshop

Tuesday night's workshop agenda includes a discussion on the operations and demand at the FCC and our City parks, a discussion on the book "Love Where You Live" and continued review of submissions of potential logos.

Town Comparison Tool

Time Money lists their "best places to live" list each year. They also have a tool that allows you to compare how your town "stacks up." Fruita gets some high marks in the tool found at <http://time.com/money/3987506/best-places-to-live-2015-compare-your-town/>.

Ed Partners and the Valley-wide Economic Development

I met with the ED partners and some of the executive board members of GJEP, the BIC and the GJ Chamber this week to further discuss the economic development plan based on Chabin Concepts' report prepared by Audrey Taylor. Meetings thus far have focused on implementing the main focus areas, including Organizational Effectiveness, Tactical Targeting (Recruit, Expand, Create), and Packaging. Focus has also been on which agencies will lead each effort and which will support, determining likely costs to implement and prioritizing efforts. It looks like at the big meeting in late September, all those elected will be invited. More details to come.

Greenway Business Park

Our Economic Development Team is making headway on the strategic steps in our partnership with Mesa Grand to develop Greenway Business Park. We have connected with CMU and the University Technical Assistance Program to both consider helping with virtual building concepts, connected with Mesa Grand to sign companies and landscapers, trimmed weeds in our ROW, connected with United Companies about final steps in the reclamation of the lake and working with a site selector to visit the land (thru GJEP). Just in case you missed the video in an earlier update Cullen Purser created in collaboration with us to market Fruita and this property: www.fruita.tv.

Couple Interesting Articles

Two articles I found interesting in Outside Magazine related to mountain biking and wilderness areas and to tourist towns who are fighting the influx of only the rich who can afford to live in:

Revenge of the Affordable Dream Towns: http://www.outsideonline.com/2006706/revenge-affordable-dream-towns?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=facebookpost

The Mountain Biker and Wilderness Area Relationship:

http://www.outsideonline.com/2009216/mountain-biker-and-wilderness-relationship-its-complicated?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=facebookpost

TID BITS:

- Governor Hickenlooper announced on Wednesday the appointment of Kathy Hall of Grand Junction as Transportation Commissioner for the Seventh District.
- BLM released today that the Dinosaur Trail and Shale Ridges Master Leasing Plans were finalized as part of the Northwest Colorado planning efforts stating the “*Plans resolve longstanding issues and avoid future conflicts between energy development and important natural resources.*” The release is copied below.
- Counselor Fuller and I met with the Mesa Land Trust this week regarding further details on the letter of support that was on Tuesday night’s agenda and to learn that their budget request would remain flat for next year.
- Budget, Budget, Budget. We are deep in the budget process, meeting with each department to determine needs, requests and savings opportunities.
- We are also deep into the web design process preparing for our roll out of the new city website on Wednesday next week. As I have mentioned, we will continue to add features and improvements after the roll out, but the base information will be readily available.
- The Youth Maker Space in the Civic Center on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays is increasing in attendance and it’s pretty cool.
- The main striping around town is finished, but the minor hand-work striping which includes the medians, parking stalls, etc. is being done in-house over the next few weeks.
- Concrete is in on the West Ottley phase 2 project. Paving is happening tomorrow morning.
- Overlays are complete citywide.
- Mulberry sewer advertisement is out Sunday and bid opening will be Sept. 4.
- Electrical is being upgraded, seat-wall masonry is being installed on Peach, all seat-walls on Mulberry are ready for masonry and curb and gutter on Peach will start Monday.
- Staff continues to work with CDOT to prepare for requesting bids by Sept. 1 for Little Salt Wash Trail.
- The dead trees were removed from Circle Park and Reed Park.
- Grrreta is in bad shape. We found cats living in her and we are looking into repairs.
- The number of Fall soccer participants is up this year.
- We received final paperwork from PNCI for the City Shops project so we can advertise for final settlement.

FRUITA IN THE NEWS:

- Over The Edge selected as one of top mountain bike shops in the nation:
<http://www.gjsentinel.com/sports/articles/over-the-edge-sports-in-fruita-selected-one-of-top>

- Bike Rodeo radio spot: <http://kool1079.com/fruita-bike-rodeo-promises-to-be-fun-and-educational-for-kids/>
- Warning to pet owners: <http://www.nbc11news.com/home/headlines/Corn-cob-almost-kills-Fruita-dog--321928482.html>
- Bus Schedules causing challenges for Fruita Monument High students: <http://www.nbc11news.com/home/headlines/Bus-schedules-are-causing-some-challenges-for-Fruita-Monument-High-School-students--322220872.html>
- HS football new coach: <http://www.kjct8.com/sports/headlines/HS-football-A-new-day-for-Fruita-under-Todd-Casebier-322356472.html>
- Air Watch Alert: <http://www.gifreepress.com/news/17782928-113/air-watch-alert-no-open-burning-due>
- Fruita leaders contemplate revamp to city logo TV spot (filmed prior to Tuesday's city council meeting): <http://www.westernslopenow.com/news/local-news/fruita-leaders-contemplate-revamp-to-city-logo?searchType=ALL&compId=209088423>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Dinosaur Journey's annual fundraiser, the Feast of Skulls will be **August 22** from 6:30 – 10 pm following Dinosaur Day (We have been given some tickets by the Museum so let Deb know if you would like to attend).
- **August 25** is the annual Mesa County Historical Society Picnic at the Historic Redlands Community Center, 2463 Broadway. Bring a potluck dish or a donation and they'll provide the fried chicken, lemonade, service and peaches & ice cream. Music by No Strings Attached.
- Our annual Bike Rodeo event is Saturday, **August 29** at the Fruita Community Center from 9 am – noon and is free to the public.
- The **August** 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

For Immediate Release: Aug. 21, 2015

Contact: Steven Hall, Colo. Communications Director, 303-239-3672

Christopher Joyner, Public Affairs Specialist (Grand Junction RMP), (970) 244-3097

Dinosaur Trail and Shale Ridges Master Leasing Plans finalized as part of Northwest Colorado planning efforts

Plans resolve longstanding issues and avoid future conflicts between energy development and important natural resources

LAKEWOOD, Colo. – As part of the Department of the Interior’s commitment to responsible and balanced domestic energy development, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) today announced the completion of the Dinosaur Trail and Shale Ridges and Canyons Master Leasing Plans (MLPs) in Northwest Colorado. The plans are in place to provide a management framework that balances the development of more than 3 million acres of federal mineral estate with protection for natural resources, cultural properties and special areas.

“These West Slope areas provide some of the nation’s best recreation and big game habitat, so we took a larger, landscape level look at development on these important public lands,” said BLM Colorado State Director Ruth Welch. “The Dinosaur Trail MLP will provide protection to the area around Dinosaur National Monument while still allowing for responsible energy development in the Piceance Basin. The Shale Ridges and Canyons MLP will help bring closure to conflicts surrounding energy development in the scenic landscapes north of Grand Junction.”

The MLPs were completed as part of the Grand Junction Resource Management Plan, and the White River Field Office Oil and Gas Amendment.

The BLM launched a series of MLPs in May 2010 as part of a sweeping oil and gas leasing reform. The plans establish a guiding framework for how future development will proceed when oil and gas and rights-of-way permit applications are received in a given planning area with important resource values. MLPs facilitate the responsible exploration and development of oil and gas resources while ensuring protection of an area’s resources and resource uses.

“It’s absolutely critical that we manage these public lands in a way that makes sense now and into the future,” Welch said. “These balanced plans provide opportunities for energy and mineral development, as well as protection for natural resources, Native American cultural sites and special areas. We can reduce conflicts between resource extraction and natural resource conservation to benefit both.”

The Dinosaur Trail MLP and White River Field Office Oil and Gas Amendment

The Dinosaur Trail MLP, a key part of the White River RMP Amendment, is a targeted planning effort to minimize resource conflicts and impacts to the Dinosaur National Monument, as well as other nearby resources from oil and gas development. The MLP provides important strategic direction for leasing and development on 357,800 acres of federal minerals in the northwest corner of the field office. The MLP includes specific stipulations to minimize visual and noise impacts to sensitive resources near Dinosaur National Monument.

The Approved RMP Amendment addresses oil and gas development for the 1.7 million acres of leasable federal minerals managed by the White River Field Office, and guides oil and gas development in Colorado’s Piceance Basin for the next 20 years. The Amendment is not a complete RMP Revision and is specific to oil and gas

development.. The amendment also ensures that more than 137,000 acres of land with wilderness characteristics will be protected, in addition to the 82,800 acres already designated as Wilderness Study Areas in the planning area.

The majority of minerals administered by the White River Field Office have already been leased for oil and gas development. The RMP Amendment offers an incentive-based approach for existing leases to minimize the amount of surface disturbance and disruption to wildlife.

In addition to the environmental measures, the BLM also looked at the economic impacts associated with the potential development of 15,040 oil and gas wells drilled on 1,100 well pads over the next 20 years. Development at that level would lead to a net increase of more than 5,340 jobs in northwestern Colorado. The Record of Decision and Approved RMP Amendment can be found at: <http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/wrfo.html>.

The Shale Ridges and Canyons MLP and Grand Junction RMP Revision

The 700,900-acre Shale Ridges and Canyons MLP is designed to improve environmental protection of important natural resources while aiding in the orderly leasing and balanced energy development. The MLP includes measures to minimize impacts to wildlife and visual resources and to protect two Wilderness Study Areas and six Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Approximately 70 percent of the lands in the MLP area have already been leased.

The Grand Junction RMP provides a framework to guide management on more than one million surface acres and 1.2 million subsurface acres. The updated RMP includes managing five areas for specific recreational opportunities, including the Grand Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Special Recreation Management Area for cross-country riding and adventure. The Approved RMP also identifies travel management decisions for approximately 4,000 miles of routes. Approximately 2,576 miles of routes – 64 percent – will remain open to motorized travel. Nearly 80 percent of the public lands in the planning area will be accessible within one mile of a motorized route.

The BLM estimates that the Approved RMP for Grand Junction Field Office supports decisions that could create nearly 7,500 jobs by 2029 in livestock grazing, recreation and energy development. The Approved Grand Junction RMP and Record of Decision can be found at: <http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gjfo.html>

While both the Grand Junction Approved Resource Management Plan and the Approved White River Field Office Oil and Gas Amendment contain protections for Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, the BLM will make a comprehensive set of final decisions on how to manage Greater Sage-Grouse habitat within the Northwest District through the Northwest Colorado Greater Sage-Grouse Plan Amendment, which is expected to be completed later this summer.