A Tale of Two Projects

What I learned about collaboration on the job.

Matt McCoy, Boise District BLM
Compare and contrast experiences on two collaborative efforts

• Developing partnerships
• Determining objectives and roles
• Getting the message out
• Agreements and funding
• Implementation
Black’s Creek Reservoir

- Important Birding Area
- Recreational shooting
- Recreational dumping
- Recreational mudbogging
- Mixed ownership
Packard’s Milkvetch

- Candidate species
- Unmanaged OHV use
- Livestock trampling
- Invasive species
- Wildfire
Storming, Forming, and Norming

Getting to Know You - Internal Coordination

• Who are the primary partners?

• What does each want?
  – The world versus specifics

• How do we get on the same page, or at least a similar chapter?
Ask not what you can do for the BLM, but what the BLM can do for you.

• What do partners bring to the table?
  – Passion
  – Public support
  – Legal mandate

• What do we bring to the table?
  – Land management
  – Technical expertise

• How do we make that work?
  – Work with each other’s strengths
Who’s driving the bus?

• What is our role?
  – Navigator
  – Copilot
  – Passenger

• When does it change?
Planning, Serendipity, or Something in Between

• What level of planning is required?
  – Communicate objectives
  – Identify responsibilities
  – Provide timeline

• How much risk or uncertainty can you accept?

• What happens when things change?
  – Adaptive management

Serendipity is not an accident
Politics Makes Strange Bedfellows
How to win friends and influence people

Identifying Stakeholders

• Landowners
• OHV users
• Livestock operators
• Shooting community
• Law enforcement

Engaging Them

• Public meetings
• Divide and conquer
• Multimedia
Agreements, we don’t need no stinking agreements.

• When are they necessary?
  – General organization
  – Critical work elements
  – Meet policy requirements

• What should they cover?
  – Short-term specifics
  – Long-term measurable objectives
$how me the money.
You had me at “I’ve got $20,000.”

• Where does it come from?
  – Grant
  – Federal
  – Matching

• What are the requirements or constraints?
  – Partnerships
  – Timing
Implementation

• What can be done?
  – Expectations vs Reality

• Who is going to do it?
  – Limitations (e.g., staffing)
  – Requirements (e.g., clearances, contracts...)

• When does it need to be done?
  – Timing and coordination is everything

• Perpetual gift
Lessons learned - The Good

• Passionate participants
• Clear objectives
• Understanding and using resources
• Embrace flexibility
the Bad,

- Proper prior planning...
- Conflicting priorities
- Staffing limitations
- Change is not always good

and the Ugly

- Don’t recommend a shooting closure in an election year.
In Summary

• Partnerships provided synergy
• Objectives and roles change
• Public outreach is important
• Funding comes from many sources
• Implementation is ongoing