

March 22, 2016 (Open Portion)

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a special session on March 22, 2016, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Cole via Vision Net, Commissioner Peck, Commissioner Larson and Clerk & Recorder Robin Benson. Present via teleconference: Boundary County Commissioners Dan Dinning, Lee Pinkerton, and Walt Kirby, Boundary County Emergency Services Bob Graham, Boundary County Civil Attorney Tevis Hull, Bonner County Commissioner Glen Bailey, and representing Doney, Crowley Law Firm were Jack Connors and Allan Payne.

3:00 PM **Grizzly Bear Discussion:** The meeting was to discuss Boundary and Bonners Counties to join Lincoln County as intervenors regarding the February 2016 lawsuit between Alliance for the Wild Rockies and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A fact sheet regarding the history of the February 2016 lawsuit and the impacts the litigation might have on the counties was submitted by Doney Crowley P.C. The recovery criteria for the Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem (CYE) has not been updated since 1993. The CYE covers most of Lincoln County and reaches into Boundary and Bonner Counties in Idaho.

Discussion centered on timeline, strategy, mapping of the study area, and the grizzly bear study area and recovery zone. Impacts this would have on recreational use snow mobiles, restriction of timber harvest on federal lands would have to go to evaluation for permit depending on impact of the grizzly bear population. Another component for counties to consider is the Federal Government would have to designate critical habitat area beyond the CYA habitat as already shown on the map. Alliance for Wild Rockies will designate as much critical habitat as possible and will bring lawsuits if they are not happy with the amount of critical habitat. Mr. Payne stated there is less chance of AWR to be successful if multiple counties are involved.

Commissioner Bailey said he would like to discuss entering a motion to intervene, but asked about going into executive session for discussion. Commissioner Dinning feels that we should go into executive session. Commissioner Cole agrees Lincoln County would also go into executive closed session.

Motion by Commissioner Kirby for Idaho to go into executive session for Boundary County. Second by Commissioner Pinkerton. Motion carried unanimously. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson for Lincoln County to go into closed session. Second by Commissioner Peck. Motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Bailey of Bonner County requested permission from Boundary and Lincoln County to participate in executive session; permission granted by both counties unanimously.

The meeting went into closed/executive session.