

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

MEETING WITH COLORADO GOVERNOR JOHN HICKENLOOPER

DATE: December 6, 2014
LOCATION: Four Seasons, Sierra Boardroom, 39th Floor
TIME: 3:30PM - 4:00PM PST
FROM: Sarah Greenberger, Counselor; John Blair, Director OIEA

I. PURPOSE

You will be meeting with Governor Hickenlooper to:

- Applaud progress on collaboratively completing BLM plans
- Encourage executive action on state and private lands. You should say your staff report that the Governor is considering executive action and you should emphasize the importance of taking that action and soon.
- Discuss your plans on rangeland fire and seek Governor's advice on approach

We know that Governor Hickenlooper will likely also want to discuss Gunnison Sage Grouse and Brown's Canyon with you. He will likely also raise Roan Plateau with you simply to thank you again.

II. ATTENDEES

- Governor John Hickenlooper
- John Swartout, Rural Policy and Outreach Director, Governor Hickenlooper's Office
- M.E. Smith, Senior Policy Director, Governor Hickenlooper's Office
- Sarah Greenberger, Counselor
- John Blair, Director OIEA

III. TALKING POINTS

BLM Plans

- While the BLM is still working through the technicalities of a couple of issues rangewide like Adaptive Management, Buffers (in response to a new study), and mitigation, **my staff report great comfort and confidence in the Colorado plan developed with your team.**
- Thank you for that collaboration.

State Plan

- My team reports that you are considering an Executive Order in the near term on Greater sage-grouse.
- I cannot overstate how important that would be to our effort.
- **Is it true you are considering an Executive Order and is it likely something we will see soon?**
- How can our team help?

Fire

- FWS has identified the downward spiral of invasive grasses and fire in the Great Basin as one of the greatest threats to Greater sage-grouse.
- Our team, led by Assistant Secretary Janice Schneider, is engaged in an effort to develop an enhanced approach to combatting rangeland fire that will give the Service something to consider in their listing process.
- I will be directing my Department to develop this approach focusing on research, efficient resource allocation, seed banking, and streamlined administrative processes, among other things.
- We will want to work closely with you and your office to be sure this effort builds off of the work you have done and has no unintended consequences.
- Does this effort raise any concerns for you that I should keep in mind? I know that rangeland fire is not the same issue in Colorado.
- I am considering issuing a Secretarial Order to make clear to the Service the timeline and intentions. Does that raise any concerns? Do you anticipate concern from the other Governors?

IV. KEY FACTS

GUNNISON

- December 16 or 17: FWS Regional Director is working with stakeholders and the State to set up a meeting to discuss the path to delisting and a 4(d) rule.
- Sarah Greenberger and the BLM State Director will attend as there is a role for the BLM in putting in place protections for Gunnison.
- The State has not yet issued a notice of intent to sue.

BROWN'S CANYON

This Saturday, December 6, 2014, Senators Udall and Bennet will host a public meeting for Coloradans to share their opinion on the future of Browns Canyon. Attendees include U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell and Bureau of Land Management Deputy Director Steve Ellis.

Senators Udall and Bennet sent a letter to President Obama on November 25, 2014 urging the President to begin a public and transparent process to consider designating Browns Canyon as a national monument.

Senate Bill 1794 proposes to designate Browns Canyon National Monument and Wilderness. According to S.1794, introduced by Colorado Senator Mark Udall (D) on December 10, 2013, the area contains “nationally significant biological, cultural, recreational, natural, wilderness, historic, scenic, riparian, geological, educational, and scientific values” and “provides world class opportunities for fishing, hunting, boating, hiking, horseback riding, recreational gold-panning, picnicking, wildlife watching, and camping ...”

BLM supports the legislation as it applies to lands managed by the BLM. BLM would like to work with the sponsor on an updated map. At a hearing before the Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee on July 23, 2014, BLM submitted the following statement:

Browns Canyon is characterized by its rugged beauty, colorful outcroppings and the abundant wildlife of the Arkansas River Valley. The west side of the proposed national monument features Browns Canyon which descends 3,000 feet to the Arkansas River. From the river, the land climbs dramatically to an elevation of 10,000 feet. A significant herd of bighorn sheep resides within Browns Canyon and it is an important winter range for deer and elk. Hunters and hikers alike take in the spectacular vistas across the Arkansas Valley to the 14,000 foot peaks of the Collegiate Range, while the gulches and canyons offer exceptional opportunities for solitude.

Former Representative Joel Hefley (R-CO) first introduced legislation in 2005 to designate over 20,000 acres as the Browns Canyon Wilderness. The previous Administration testified in support of that designation on July 7, 2006 before the House Natural Resources Committee.

V. BACKGROUND

Governor John Hickenlooper (D) is the 42nd and current Governor of Colorado. A member of the Democratic Party, Hickenlooper has served as Governor since 2011. He serves as a member of the Western Governors' Association, and is the Chairman of the National Governors' Association. Born in Narberth, Pennsylvania, Hickenlooper is a graduate of Wesleyan University. After his career as a geologist, Hickenlooper entered a career in business and



cofounded the Wynkoop Brewing Company in Denver. Hickenlooper was elected the 43rd Mayor of Denver in 2003, serving two terms until 2011. After incumbent Governor Bill Ritter announced that he would not seek reelection, Hickenlooper announced his intentions to run for the Democratic nomination in January 2010. He won in an uncontested primary and faced Constitution Party candidate, former Representative Tom Tancredo, and Republican businessman Dan Maes in the general election, which he won with 51% of the vote. He was re-elected to a second term in 2014, defeating Republican former U.S. Representative Bob Beauprez by 49% to 46%.