

SCCORR Stakeholder Meeting #4  
Wed, Nov 6, 2024

0:00 - Jamin Grigg, CPW

Yeah, perfect. Okay, we will be recording this meeting just so everybody is aware.

0:08 - Stephanie Weber, SJMA

And yeah, everybody's filling in at this point. Jamin, quick question. We've got your PowerPoint primed, but want to know, do you have it up as well? Should we give you sharing co-host capabilities?

0:29 - Jamin Grigg, CPW

I do have it up. So either one's fine. If one of you wanna run it, that's great.

0:39 - Stephanie Weber, SJMA

Otherwise I can share it or pull it up.

0:45 - Jamin Grigg, CPW

Yeah, we'll go ahead and give you co-hosting capabilities.

0:50 - Unidentified Speaker

How's that? Okay, sure.

0:53 - Stephanie Weber, SJMA

All right, everybody's allowing in.

0:56 - Unidentified Speaker

So.

0:57 - Stephanie Weber, SJMA

Maintaining the waiting room seems to be my biggest challenge right now. So if you're getting messages from me, it's because I can't hit admit fast enough and end up messaging people. So thanks everybody for joining us on this wintry November 6th. Hi, Julia. Quick question for you, too. It looks cold. I know.

1:28 - Multiple Speakers

I think we were just talking about snow and winter, and Julia's like 100% dressed for the weather.

1:35 - Julia Ledford, MSI

Yeah, our heat is broken, and it's very cold in here.

1:40 - Stephanie Weber, SJMA

How much does Silverton have?

1:42 - Julia Ledford, MSI

We probably got like six to eight in town. OK.

1:46 - Stephanie Weber, SJMA

And it's still snowing, yeah. Game on. Well, it's snowing here, too, but we I have like a quarter. Do you want co-hosting abilities or do you want us running your slideshow?

2:00 - Julia Ledford, MSI

If you can give me co-host abilities, that would be great.

2:06 - Stephanie Weber, SJMA

Super. You got it. And Jamin, I haven't forgotten about you. Just need to find you in the list again. No problem.

2:19 - Unidentified Speaker

Okay. No.

2:20 - Stephanie Weber, SJMA

I'll keep an eye on the participants, admitting them if you want to do the co-host.

2:30 - Elli Morris

Got it. I think I got them both on board.

2:36 - Multiple Speakers

Awesome. Cool. Okay. And out of respect for everybody showing up promptly, if you want to launch and I'll continue to manage the waiting room, Elli.

2:50 - Elli Morris

Okay, awesome. Yeah, welcome everybody for our fall stakeholder meeting. It's really exciting that we got a little snow. Julia has told us that

Silverton has a lot more snow and she is evidence in her gear there. So we have a lot of things on the agenda today. I'm really excited about the updates from our guest. Julia led is, well, our guests are going to help us with all the mapping that's part of SCORE. We've done the citizen survey, we did the listening sessions, and mapping is a third very major component for our ongoing plan that we can be able to develop. So that is part of this phase was the mapping. We have about an hour set aside for that and that includes a specific Q&A after their presentations. Then we have a few more things and as always we'll end the meeting with an open Q&A that you're welcome to ask questions on anything that we've discussed or not discussed. So without further ado let me I'm gonna turn it over to Julia. Julia Ledford is the Forest Program Specialist at MSI and she's going to share about the recreation and mapping that they've done with San Juan.

4:16 - Julia Ledford, MSI

And do you, you have co-hosts, so you can take it over. Yeah, let me try and get this screen share going. Okay. Can you see slideshow. Okay, cool. So yeah, thank you, Elli. My name's Julia. As we said, I'm with Mount Studies Institute, and we just finished up this recreation infrastructure mapping project, which has a lot of kind of shared goals and outcomes as it sounds like what the SCORE group needs for mapping. So I was just going to kind of run through what we did with this project, and how maybe we could kind of tie in with mapping efforts for SCORE. So this project was born out of the Central San Juan's High Alpine Resiliency and Recovery Roadmap Group in response to increasing recreation pressure without a similar increase to infrastructure for recreation. So Mountain Studies Institute conducted over the last year or so a literature review data collection and geospatial analysis, with the goal to create mapping resources for land management and recreation planners to improve the outdoor recreation economy and preserve natural resources. Region 9.5 is referring to this kind of area between Region 9 and Region 10 economic development districts. So this map on the right is the geography of this project, which notably for score includes all of San Juan County. Also, if anyone has questions, feel free to chime in, and we'll have some time, I think, for some questions. So again, kind of the goals of this project were to gather data about recreation use and infrastructure, to evaluate the use and map infrastructure and environmental impacts across the San Juans, to improve the outdoor recreation economy, by identifying actionable improvements to infrastructure, safety communications, and such. We

want this information to be used by recreation planners and land managers to create a holistic land or a holistic management plan for kind of the high alpine region of the San Juan Mountains. So what we did in brief was we gathered spatial data data that was available publicly online from Forest Service, BLM, USGS, CPW, and many other sources. And we kind of organized this data into three categories, which was environmental data, like relating to natural resources such as wetlands, biodiversity, wildlife habitat. Our second group was infrastructure data. So this was campgrounds, parking lots, bathrooms, anything that we could find and records use data. This data came from Strava and San Juan Mountains Association. And I'll talk more about all of that in a little bit, but we then pressed the data so we clipped it all to the project area and then we went through a process of ranking environmental data through a multi criteria analysis, which I'll explain in just a second. And then we also aggregated all of the infrastructure data and the use data. And then we overlaid all of this information to create maps that highlighted locations with little to no infrastructure, high recreation use, and areas that have high environmental sensitivity to recreation impacts. So the multi-criteria analysis, the judicial analysis we did with the environmental sensitivity data, So on the left here we have all the data sets that went into this multi-criteria analysis. So this included wildlife habitat, wetlands, fens, biodiversity significance, and basically all of these data sets were ranked on a scale from one to five based on their sensitivity to recreation impacts. An area with high biodiversity significance or with alpine vegetation, for example, ranked highly in this category because it's more sensitive to recreation. We then overlaid all of these rankings, which were kind of like in a grid of cells, and all of the values were added up. So we ended up with areas that had higher ranked higher in this environmental sensitivity category and area ranked lower. And the higher areas are indicating many of these input layers were highly sensitive to environmental recreation. And this is one of the output maps that we generated. So this multi criteria analysis layer is the kind of green to red colors underneath. So the areas. In red are area where ranked higher. An environmental sensitivity in the green is ranked lower. We also have all of our infrastructure points overlaid on this map. And one thing I'll say is that the infrastructure data is not representative of what is on the ground. We weren't able to get any like very comprehensive infrastructure data. So just as you all notice as we're going through these maps, just knowing these areas, we're missing a lot of these infrastructure points. So that's something that we would love to kind of continue to build out. And also in this project, we weren't generating any data. So we're not

we weren't going out on the ground and like search surveying what infrastructure exists on the ground, even though we know what exists at Coalbank Pass because we drive over it all the time. And then in this next map, you can see the recreation use data. So these hexagons come from Strava. And Strava is an app that folks used to record their activities outside. It's tied to GPS, so you use a smartwatch or a phone to record your activity. And this is primarily used by fairly experienced hikers, runners, and mountain bikers. And those are the user groups that are represented in this data set. So these hexagons are representing the number of activities on Strava that were started within these hexagon areas, which are about 200 acres. So the darker colors represent more Strava use in those areas, and the lighter colors are fewer. So we can see hot spots like at Colbank Pass, Mullis Pass, around Telluride and Ouray. And we also have of the trail count data from San Juan Mountains Association's Forest Ambassadors, which is represented on these maps and complements the Strava data pretty well. And then our infrastructure points are kind of the symbology is simplified here so we can see areas where there's kind of clustered infrastructure and get a good representation of where our high use areas on the landscape. So what's at all of this in this very large area, there's kind of a lot to digest. So we created these focus areas, and these were areas where we see high environmental sensitivity, high recreation use, and maybe not a great understanding of what infrastructure exists there. Coal Bank and Mullis Pass is a great example. We have a lot of what's feeding feeding into these kind of red areas of environmental sensitivity is a lot of wetlands and fens. Lots of like alpine vegetation up here. And also a lot of the like wildlife habitat layers are kind of feeding into this also. And so we have our Strava hexagons here. With very high use around and MOLUS as we can assume. And then our infrastructure points, and I'll just touch on again, kind of our infrastructure is missing a lot. We know that there is bathrooms and parking areas at Coal Bank and MOLUS. There's campgrounds at MOLUS Lake, so we're pretty much only seeing trailheads here, so we'd love to get more, just like more representative infrastructure data.

14:09 - Julia Ledford, MSI

We created about, I think, 10 of these focus area maps. But this is just kind of giving you an example of what this analysis was able to generate.

14:25 - Unidentified Speaker

So like I said, we just finished this report last week.

14:31 - Julia Ledford, MSI

So I can send a link to the report in the chat. We also put all of this spatial data on an online map that you all can view, and I'll also drop the link to that in the chat once I'm able to, like, click on the chat. But so it's great. You can kind of interact with this data, click layers on and off, see what's kind of feeding into that environmental sensitivity layer. And Yeah, we created these focal areas as a place to kind of start to prioritize where investments may need to be made to infrastructure resources on the landscape. And kind of tying this back to score and the mapping needs, this analysis covered San Juan County, but not La Plata County. But it seems like the mapping needs for score are very similar to what we've done with this region 9.5 recreation study in terms of understanding where existing infrastructure is and where there's high recreation pressure. Also understanding where those important environmental resources are and how to protect those while also managing recreation. And to create a map product that can help with recreation management and development. So we already have a lot of this data even for La Plata the county. Um that could pretty easily be expanded, um, south to kind of just further this analysis. Um, it's my last slide. Um so what we would need to make this happen, and also I'll just say that, uh, we understand that the wreck the mapping needs are similar but may not be kind of the methods for what we've already done and just making a product that like suits the needs of this group. And so things that we need to make this happen are recreation use data for La Plata County. We don't have that. We will need to request additional Strava data. And then we've explored this idea of the cell phone data, which I think folks will talk about later today. We are also in search of infrastructure data for La Plata County and the whole project area. So part of our like limitation was with the Region 9.5 project was time. It happened pretty quickly. So we're hoping that with kind of another effort that we may be able to reach some folks who are holding on to this infrastructure data and be able to build out a more comprehensive data set And we also will need input on layers to include in the environmental sensitivity analysis. I think we'll also hear from CPW later today, but they have a mapping product that could be really helpful in this analysis. But yeah, like I said, we have a good foundation of GIS data and processes that can help with the score maps. That are very flexible on how that's implemented so that we can create something that's helpful, hopefully. And if y'all have any questions, happy to answer them. And I'm going to drop those links to the online map in the report in the chat.

18:17 - Elli Morris

Thank you, Julia, so much for your presentation and all the work you've done. To see it coming together. It's exciting that you have about half of our area already mapped out and so it would not be as large of a task to get both of our counties and our borders to be really mapped out and see where these overlaps of recreation and environmental sensitivity occur because we definitely, like our name says, conservation and outdoor recreation. So we definitely want to be able to see what's happening in the land like that. I also want to give an extra thank you to showing up and giving your presentation when there's no heat where you are. We would like to ask people to put their questions in the chat so that we can move on to the next mapping presentation. And then we will be able to address all those after the next two. So with that, I'd like to introduce is Jamin Craig? Yeah. Cool. Jamin is with CPW.

19:24 - Jamin Grigg, CPW

He is the Southwest Regional Senior Wildlife Biologist.

19:27 - Elli Morris

The CPW has been doing mapping and the planning for the wildlife, and he has a GIS tool that he's going to share with us. It's mostly the work they've done so far was with Chafee, but he'll be able to help us understand how would apply to score. You have your slides ready to go.

19:53 - Jamin Grigg, CPW

We will give the screen share over to you, Jamin. Thanks, Elli. I really appreciate it.

20:03 - Elli Morris

Are you seeing that?

20:06 - Jamin Grigg, CPW

Let me stop the presentation. Is that showing up correctly?

20:12 - Elli Morris

That is.

20:14 - Jamin Grigg, CPW

Well, thanks so much for having me. Really appreciate it. And I really enjoyed Julia's presentation. That was actually really interesting to see. Because I think you're going to see a lot of similarities between the GIS model that CPW has helped to produce. This was actually produced in cooperation with Colorado State University. It was a cooperative project with with a PhD student at Colorado State University that was developed primarily initially for the Envision Chafee partnership, like you said, but it's something that we've expanded and used elsewhere in the state as well. But you're going to see a lot of similarities between this model and the model that Julia just presented, which is interesting. It'll be interesting to see how they kind of overlay them a little bit and see how they compare. There are a few differences that we'll talk about, but in many ways it's very similar. So that was really interesting to see. Just a little background on how this model came to be and what necessitated it. So even prior to the regional partnerships, which were established in 2020, Chafee County kind of took on this task initially on their own of trying to tackle this issue of balancing recreational tourism in the county that was increasing vastly, while also trying to conserve their natural resources in the county and their wild places. And so between 2016 and 2019, Chaffey County documented a 53% increase in recreational tourism in the county. Obviously that comes with positive economic benefits and some good things like that. But a lot of folks in the county, a lot of stakeholders in the county started to become concerned that Chaffey County was just becoming essentially this playground for for the front range. It's an easy drive from the front range. It was becoming a destination spot for front rangers on the weekends and was becoming very, very crowded, especially on public lands in a lot of the areas. And so they become concerned and just decided to try to tackle this issue a little bit on their own of managing this vastly increasing use of public lands and vastly increasing recreational tourism with maintaining natural resources and wild areas and wildlife populations. So in 2017, the Chaffee County Commissioners put together this community-based year-long planning process involving citizens within the county and then 80 agencies and organizations. In 2018, Chaffee County passed a ballot initiative initiative that supplies \$1.3 million annually to support forest health, clean water, sustained agriculture, and balanced recreation growth. And as part of that, they initiate the Chafee Common Ground grant program that is funded by that \$1.3 million annually. And these grants are designed to invest in projects and programs that sustain natural resources and open landscapes and also address growing recreational tourism. That leads into the Recreation and Balance Task Force that was established in



in Chaffee County that leads that is and essentially this task force ultimately produces an outdoor recreation plan. This was a 29 month planning process that went into this. They create the Outdoor Recreation Management Plan, and then that is ultimately adopted by Chaffey County Commissioners and becomes part of their county planning process. The governor's office begins to take note of programs like Envision Chaffey. I believe Outside 285 was also becoming established about the same time. Addressing the same issues, governor's office starts to take note of these collaboratives. The system led collaboratives across the state and creates the regional partnership program designed to take an eyes wide open and locally rooted approach to ensuring we remain a world class outdoor recreation destination while preserving our land, water, wildlife, and quality of life. So that's kind of how the regional partnerships came to be established through the governor's office in 2020. As part of the recreation planning, the recreation plan that Envision and Chaffee put together, as I mentioned, they reached out to CPW, a number of other organizations and agencies as well, and then contracted with a PhD student at CSU, and they developed this recreation planning for wildlife tool, this GIS model that, again, in some ways is very, very similar to what Julia just presented. So very interesting to see how they are similar and how they're a little bit different. But essentially what this does is prioritize wildlife habitats for the greatest number of species across the entire county or whatever geographic area you're interested in. It then overlays current recreation infrastructure along with documenting recreation usage rates through Strava and other means, just like Julia was talking about. And it gives you a visual, a tool that can be used to basically look at high priority wildlife habitats across the county or the geographic area that you're interested in. And it will give you a visual of areas that have already been highly impacted, as well as lower priority wildlife areas and areas that have been less impacted. So I guess just for a little A little bit of reference, Salida is in the lower right of that map. And then Buena Vista is kind of in the upper central there. So that's kind of what you're looking at there for Chaffey County. So kind of the first step in developing the model was to document recreation infrastructure. This is very similar to what Julia described with her model or with the MSI model. So basically documenting all of the current recreation infrastructure, roads and trails across the county that already exist, as well as documenting usage rates. And those data sources came from great outdoors consultants, trail counter data from primarily the federal agencies, mostly BLM and Forest Service, as well Strava heat maps, very similar to Julia's model. And then we've, we're also, as Julia

mentioned, we're also very interested in looking at cell phone data. I think cell phone data in some ways is probably the most promising documentation of recreational use across the landscape. So I think anything that we can do to incorporate cell phone data could be really helpful. I don't want to get too far into the weeds on this, but this is just kind of how we broke down recreational usage rates and recreational intensity across the landscape, just to give you an idea that that is in the model. And then the second step or the next step was to incorporate wildlife habitat layers, again, somewhat similar to the model Julia presented. So we looked at all of the, you know, CPW, in cooperation with Forest Service on some layers that they have, and US Fish and Wildlife Service, and a few other entities, CNHP, we have wildlife habitat layers that document winter range, summer range, migration routes, production areas, fall concentration areas, a lot of different things like that, breeding for a lot of different species across the state, basically all of the species or most of the species that we're responsible for managing across the state. So we basically looked at all of the layers available for Chaffey County, picked out the task force, the wildlife task force or the recreation and wildlife task force, basically sat down and agreed upon 35 wildlife habitats layers that we felt like were the most important layers across the county. We then assigned them, or we assigned disturbance levels of low, moderate, and high and what that meant. So what would a recreation disturbance level of low, what would that description be? What would a recreation disturbance level of high, what would that be? So those are just kind of the definitions. And then those definitions and rankings go into the model, as well as a recreation impacts assessment. So again, this part is very similar to what Julia presented. And so we looked at an impacts assessment of a low, medium, and high category. And so a low impact level would maybe be something that just causes a little increased animal vigilance, wildlife vigilance, may decrease their feeding time, maybe short term displacement, some low level stress, but it's not necessarily increasing mortality, at least not directly. Whereas a high level, a high impact level may cause those species to abandon their young, or their nest site, completely abandon the area. There may be direct mortality damage to breeding areas or nests, and then potentially indirect impacts related to disease. This is something we see with boreal toads and other species, not so much in this area, but more in kind of that Chaffey County area. And so then for, For each wildlife habitat layer that's described on the left there under the habitat column, we then, for each layer, we assigned the impact level or the impact that we would expect to that

species or that wildlife habitat layer at a low, moderate, and high level of recreation. Areas or some species are very sensitive to even low recreation impact, low levels of recreation impact at certain times a year, say production times, breeding times. And then other species at other times of the year or the same species at other times of the year will be less impacted at a low or a moderate recreation impact. And then, you know, as you can see there, a lot of our species are, are, um, you know, are heavily impacted by, by a high level of recreation disturbance. Um, and as best we could, we ranked this, the, the evidence column there is, um, as best we could, we ranked this by, um, available research literature. So, uh, we had several of us that essentially did a deep dive into the research literature for each of these species and tried to determine, you know, as best we could, what kind of research evidence there was as far as how these species are impacted by recreation pressure at each of these different levels. We then also ranked each habitat layer according to several different importance rankings. This was something that the county requested be included into the model. It's not actually something we initially anticipated, but it was something that was important to the county. So we developed these importance rankings based on the population trend of the species. Is the population increasing or decreasing? The economic contribution of the species to the county. This one was somewhat controversial, but ultimately the county decided they wanted this in the model. So is it a species that provides a high economic contribution such as elk or fishing? Or is it a lower economic contribution? The rarity of the species, so this would give an increased ranking to, you know, threatened and endangered species or species that are much more rare or threatened within the county. The specificity of the data, so this is essentially the confidence that we have in the layer that it's accurate. So for layers that we felt like, so say Elk Winter Range, where we have a lot of GPS radio caller data, we do helicopter survey data, we have very high confidence in our layers for something like Elk Winter Range, whereas for other layers, like lynx habitat, for example, we might not have as much confidence in that GIS layer. So this is just a ranking that gives an idea of how confident we are, basically, in that layer, that it's accurate. And then the sensitivity of the species to recreation pressure based on research evidence.

35:39 - Unidentified Speaker

I already talked about that a little bit.

35:43 - Jamin Grigg, CPW

But, you know, some species are more susceptible to impacts from recreation pressure than other species, and then that can vary a lot seasonally as well. So this is very similar to Julia's map in many ways, but this is kind of the wildlife, when you overlay all of those layers, all of those layers on top of each other and give them the ranking, very similar to Julia's model. This is what you end up with, which is just a map of the severity of recreational impacts on wildlife habitat across the county or across your geographic area, ranging from high impact, high recreation impact to wildlife, to low recreation impact to wildlife. And you can see Those red and orange areas really pop out as areas that are susceptible to recreational impacts to wildlife populations and natural resource populations. And then the green areas are areas that probably aren't as much of a concern. One of the things I really like about this model is that it can be broken out seasonally. So you can break it out, say, summer range and winter range. The map on the left is a summer range map or a summer seasonal map. Also what we call a production area map since most wildlife species tend to raise their young during the summer months. And then the map on the right is the winter map, winter seasonal map. So for those of you who are familiar with Chaffey County, most of Most of the high-priority wildlife habitats during the summer tend to be high-elevation areas. In some ways, this is going to be very similar to the Animas River Valley here in this area. But during the summer, a lot of the high-value wildlife habitats are high-elevation areas. And then in the winter, because of snow, a lot of the wildlife species really push down into the lower elevation valley bottom, just like the Animas Valley. And so that's what you see there, those differences between the summer map and the winter map. And then ultimately, you can overlay the recreation infrastructure on top of the wildlife habitats map. And you come up with this planning tool that, again, documents the best available wildlife habitat for the greatest number of species across the geographic area. And then you can, by overlaying the current recreation infrastructure and the current recreational use intensity, you get an idea of areas that have already been disturbed, high quality habitats that are already disturbed. So that could maybe be used for planning processes in terms of rehabilitation or habitat improvement projects, that type of thing. But, you know, maybe rehabbing old trails that are no longer necessary or something like that. And then gives you an idea of areas that are lesser priority wildlife areas or are areas that we wouldn't expect, you know, recreation to have as high of an impact. If you have any questions about the Envision Chafee planning

process, I would encourage folks to check out their website. They've got a really great website. The recreation plan that was adopted by the Chafee Planning Commission, that's on the website. This GIS model is also on the website. There's a lot of good information on there. So feel free to check out the website if you have questions. Also reach out to me if you would like, I'm happy to talk or provide anything that I can. This is a very early stage draft map that we ran the model, a draft of the model for this area. Unfortunately, this only includes Forest Service lands. In the area. So Durango is right off the south end of the map, and then Silverton is kind of up off the northeast end of this map. But this is kind of a draft of the model for forest lands for the area, you know, for the SCORE geographic area. We're in the process of rerunning the model so that it includes all lands for the score, geographic area, and then we'll break it out seasonally as well. Just so folks can look at it and then we can modify it from there. The next step or the next challenge, and MSI and Julia have already made a lot of progress on this, but the next step or the next challenge would be overlaying the recreational infrastructure and the recreational use on top of that and deciding how best to do that. So I guess with that, that was my last slide. And I'll just open it up to any questions if anybody has any or we can move on or whatever. Thank you so much, Jamin.

41:44 - Elli Morris

It's really exciting to see how in-depth the maps can be. I really love got into the research to see what is happening, because our understanding of human impact on wildlife is constantly growing and deepening. So that was really exciting to see that is a part of it. And we've had some information in the chat going on, but we're going to wait until we hear from Weylin, who has the cell phone data, unless, Stephanie, do you want to have the SE now?

42:23 - Stephanie Weber, SJMA

Yeah, if you don't mind, Weylin, hang tight, because I think the flow will work better. And yeah, I hope everybody's staying with us. You know, as LEA, as we're trying to portray, this is a work in progress, right? So, Jamin's presentation on what CHFE has been able to accomplish should give us a vision we're gunning for. And I will allow you sharing presentation in just a minute, Weylin. But yesterday, several of us on the call got a chance to sit down with a couple of staff members from the SC group, which is a statewide, they may even be national, I don't know, but they do a lot of work in Colorado. They've been very active with a number of

regional partnerships. And in fact, NFF, National Forest Foundation, Nick Olson, had them working with the San Juan National Forest on what we call the Southwest Colorado All Lands Recreation Strategy. They did quite a bit of work and have a story map. I will share the story map information that they put together. In the link so you all have access to it as well. It is a public, it's public information at this point. And the great news is they will be sharing their metadata, or for lack of a better word, the data that they use to construct all of this information with us so that we can also compile it into the ultimate we're creating for the score boundary areas. You will see there's a lot of overlap with the boundaries that Jamin laid out, and it does dip into San Juan County as well. So, you know, Nick Olson, do you want to add anything else or just let folks kind of this at their leisure. We're giving you all kinds of homework, gang. There's a lot of information out there.

44:46 - Unidentified Speaker  
Thanks, Stephanie.

44:47 - Nick Olson  
Yeah, I don't have too much more to add. I apologize if I cut out my internet's fighting with the weather today. But the only thing, just as a little bit of background on this project, originally the intent was to develop something similar to what we've heard from our two prior presenters, for a variety of reasons. We sort of landed at this point where there's been a base inventory done largely of the US Forest Service lands, and then there was some city data and other stuff included too. But all that information, SE group is happy to pass along to score. Most of the data collected was probably 2020 and 21, so it is a little bit dated. And I think the cell phone data that has been referenced a couple of times probably will illuminate some missed both formal and informal infrastructure during the original study. The last thing I can share on SE group is that there, Stephanie, you're welcome to share as well that route decision tool, which is, I think, similar to what we've seen from the two prior presenters as well, but just sort of another take on how we can overlay multiple layers and develop a tool that can help inform where, you know, where we, how we're thinking about recreation and other conservation values as they overlap.

46:11 - Stephanie Weber, SJMA  
Yeah, I was going to share that too. So yeah, in addition to Chafee, Routt County, the Steamboat Springs area also has a fun online tool for

decision-making. And again, we're going to be using this information as we develop a priority plan for SCORE. That is, that is the ultimate goal. And so between now and hopefully our in-person meeting at the end of January, we're able to take a lot of the work that Julia and Jamin have shared, the work of the SE group, and begin to paint a picture of what really is happening on the ground in the SCORE boundaries and identifying where we have gaps. Julia mentioned infrastructure, and so we're really beginning to paint a picture of where our work lies as a roundtable concerned about conservation and future outdoor recreation opportunities, et cetera. So that's the goal of all of this information. I will put routes decision tool in the chat and continue to ask questions in the chat. We'll turn that over once we from Waylon and what's happening in the world of cell phone data, so.

47:34 - Elli Morris

All right, Weylin, much anticipated with your cell phone data, you've mentioned numerous times, so thank you for sharing.

47:42 - Weylin Ryan | He/Him | Visit Durango

Yeah, so just to kind of set up a couple, some groundwork, and unfortunately, I apologize, I don't have a fancy presentation put together, but there's, with our cell phone data, there's a couple caveats to it. It. And so one of them being is that, you know, it's really hard to get an exact count. But, you know, they can get pretty close. And some of that exact count has to do with the way that our particular data provider does decide to scrub data. And so, for example, for privacy reasons, it might scrub some of the data if you're on a family plan and someone in your party here is like under 16, they're going to kind of scrub that data for privacy reasons. So there's some of that on limitations. Another limitation is again, because where we are in our area, we don't have 100% cell phone coverage of our county. As many of you know, once you leave kind of the main highway, the main road, you might drop out a cell phone service. And then the other issue is where we as a organization have identified using GIS and what they do called putting boundaries around areas to identify as a point of interest. So we collect our cell phone because of the amount of data on those points of interest. So what that means is if you go in somewhere, say it's a loop, so I'm trying to think of Junction Creek over to, oh, why can't I think of the other creek name? Lightner Creek. There's the loop trail there that you can start on one side, go to the other. If you start somewhere and say on Lightner Creek, we haven't bound that

trailhead in or part of that trail in, we just don't collect that data. We won't identify and know that there was someone there because it's just something we're not tracking. So, that's one limitation. The other limitation is if say you entered there and then popped out and came to the other side of lower Junction Creek is and we have that bounded inbox. We know you visited there but what that doesn't necessarily tell us that you were on the trail. If once you left that, there's cell phone, there's, you know, a lack of cell phone data. We try and make up for that by including So for example, Strava was mentioned. So that is one of the ones we can collect and goes into that data. So if Strava hits the GPS when it's out of cell phone service, it will store that in the Strava app. And then once they say, open it at night at their hotel room to say, oh, I want to look at my track, then it'll hit basically the cell phone set tower and it'll say, oh, hey, they were here. And it kind of updates it that way. So there are some inaccuracies with that because it's not just it's not collecting true GPS data. It is really based on your cell phone and how it's essentially called pinging the towers and where it hits in a triangulation of that. With that said, there's a couple of things I want to show you. The first is something that we currently track and this intakes both our visitors and our residents. We call it our places of impact. Again, as we go through, I can share a point of interest and if there's or something we don't have on there, it's really easy for me to go in to GIS, bound that box to add that to a point of interest if we're missing it. So I can go in here and I can look at like, so this is this year, so January 1st through basically about 15 days ago, because it takes about 15 days to normalize the data. So we can look over here that we got this big area, so this is Purgatory Resort, so that we can see about, of all the cell phones pinging out, 35 percent of residents and 65 percent are visitors. The device count was about 1,992,000, give or take some devices. We can do high picture like that, but I think what is more useful for this group is pulling dynamic visualizations based off cell phone pings. Now, because of the amount of data here, it is limited to only being able to pull 90 days at a time. So that's very useful for something like if we're tracking migratory paths, we can track those maybe 90 days that that is happening or where there's more movement. So I have a couple pulled up here, just kind of want to demonstrate this. This is from October 1st of 2023 through December 31st of 2023. So again, last year, because we don't have the current data right now through the end of December, for obvious reasons. This is one hour at a time. I'm just going to hit play so you can kind of see the movement and then we can zoom in and look at this. But the way this works is the brighter closer to white you are, the more cell phone pings in



that area there are. So this is really going to get allow us to see movement in one hour increments across that 90 day period throughout an area. So we mainly collects county cell phone data and we mark points of interest within the county. We have a couple we're allowed to do outside the county. But again, being really relegated to La Plata County, we really focus on on La Plata County. So I'm just going to pause this. I think this gives you kind of a good demonstration. We're going to zoom in here. So right now we're looking at 1119 from 418 PM to 516 PM. So we can really dig into if we're going up north to Purgatory. We can really kind of dig in here and see what we've got. I'm just going to expand the view a little bit. So now we're looking from 4 p.m. To 1 30 in the morning. So you can see most of it's around that base area where there's more hotels and short term rentals. But you can definitely see what we've got out back as far as like the campers that are up and behind Purgatory Resort. So that's really kind of what we look at and what we collect. So this particular data here that I'm showing you I think is more useful for the group because these are individual cell phone pings where that other is big generalizations where we're trying to pare down the data to look at trends. So I guess with that is there any questions and I'm going to zoom out here real quick so we can just get get a bigger view but we also have a I guess I should say that I can go over these pings and say oh this is from Arizona This was a long day trip. They're out of state. So right now we are, I should have said that, we're looking at in-state and out-of-state visitors only. There are no residents in this data right here with this particular visualization. So we can really kind of dig in. Are they a resident? Yes or no. Are they from in-state? Are they out-of-state? We can also do, have they been here for more than one day? We can do some, if we wanted to, we could say, hey, how likely is someone to say that maybe goes to MOLUS pass and Mullis campground likely to visit say Navajo Lake. So we can kind of look at some of those details as well when we want if and when we want to dig into kind of that to like look at you know trying to put some sense to the data. The last thing I will leave you with is this is our current cell phone data provider and there is talk within of maybe switching to cell phone providers. So some of the capabilities could change as far as this map could change. But that being said, we'd still have access to the data and tracking the data in the ways we currently do. And the good news is, if we did switch, we wouldn't lose that, because the way the cell phone data carries over is that we can go back, I think it's to 2018 or something. So when we import this data to whatever new data provider we'd get, we'd still have all this data available back to that 2018 time period.

55:30 - Unidentified Speaker  
OK.

55:30 - Elli Morris

Thank you, Waylon. It's very exciting to see all that information and how it can be combined with the other presentations so that we can really get a much more broad, full picture of what's happening in our area. There's a lot of data that can be pulled together. Just let people have a moment to put some more questions in the chat if they want. So I'm going to go over some of the ones that were already in there. Ed Tolen wanted to know if there's more information out there for different trails and areas like mountain bike, equestrian, hiking. Julia and Weylin both weighed in on that and said that it's hard to come up with some of these other groups because they might not be using any of the apps like strata you know the horse people or the equestrian may not be using that and that they did offer up a couple of ideas that could help each other and fill out those maps that they're making and Jordan with Jordan with the continental divide trail offered up some data that they have for that one which definitely might help with some of the things that we are doing Then the next question was, Amy wanted to know if all of the agencies have been contacted, and that is another place where Julia can reach out to get a broader understanding of what's going on in our whole area. Ashley has just put one in here. Has there been, I'm sorry, let me start over, Ashleigh Tucker, with a four, four corners.

57:22 - Weylin Ryan | He/Him | Visit Durango  
Okay, for, I forgot what the R is.

57:25 - Elli Morris

Has there, Ashley, if you want to just go ahead and talk, I'm having a hard time. So if you want to say what your question is, River Sports, thank you so much. Okay. Ashleigh Tucker with Four Corners River Sports has put a question in the chat that is, has there been any data collection about river usage on the Animas, Dolores, Piedra, et cetera. Is there any focus in this group on river recreation? So I think I will let Stephanie address the last part of that. Is there a focus in this group on river recreation? We definitely have a group that is water. And so we are including natural resources as being land and water. But I would like for the presenters to offer us, oh, Weylin has answered it in the chat. There's actually their most visited

attraction over the train is the river. So if any of the presenters or Stephanie want to add in to that question.

58:35 - Stephanie Weber, SJMA

Yeah. And just there, I personally am having a hard time keeping up with comments and reply to questions and things like that too. At this point, I think we could probably open it up to folks raising their hands and asking questions too, so we can kind of launch a dialogue. But Ashley, to your question, as it relates to natural resources and outdoor recreation, absolutely, I think water needs to be a part of our discussion. Now, I know a number of you have been intimately involved in the Animus Watershed Project that that has also been underway. And we have not yet incorporated their work into our conscious endeavors as of yet, but we know it's there. And if anybody who has actively been participating on that kind of wants to talk about, you know, where they're at at this point and, you know, a way of kind of combining the information that they've emerged with the efforts we're trying to compile, I'd love to give you the floor. Or we will just kind of continue to come back to this question. Anybody? Anybody? Okay. All right.

1:00:05 - Elli Morris

Yeah, you want to unmute yourself and ask your question. I'll go ahead and read it in case that is technically challenging.

1:00:19 - Unidentified Speaker

We all have technical challenges.

1:00:23 - Elli Morris

Anthony Culpepper wanted to know how do you define resident with cell phone data? Is it local numbers or something geographic? Anthony says that he's a resident, but does not have a 970. So Weylin, do you want to unmute yourself also and share your answer? Sure.

1:00:46 - Weylin Ryan | He/Him | Visit Durango

So the way that the cell phone data works is basically the area code is relevant because what it is, is it's a physical location thing. So like, for example, here in Durango, we have the one right on top of Smelter, but if your cell phone every day is pinging that for two weeks and we can define the time, but we've decided two weeks based on some of our visitation profiles. But if we see that constant cell pinging our tower here for two

weeks, we move you from a visitor to a resident. So for example, someone that might be coming here to drop off their kid for college, it's gonna show the family members of that new college student, and the college student is visitors. But once the parents go away, of course they're gone, cell phone data from you know wherever that was the student after that hitting that second week it's like oh never mind they're a resident they live here now so then our data basically moves them from that resident category from that visitor category to a resident so they no longer show up on the information when we're looking for visitors versus residents also again when we're talking about residents we are identifying anyone within La Plata County so it's not a Durango resident versus a Bayfield resident we're just like you are a resident again because of the way we are like because of the way we are funded um through you

1:02:11 - Ed Tolen

know county and city of dry and go ed you can unmute yourself and ask your question yeah I guess uh I I'd asked about the different uses on the trail and and the kind of the answer was there's really no data for questions is is there an app cell phone app or something that could be used that specifies what type of user you are and then how you're using the trails?

1:02:40 - Stephanie Weber, SJMA

All I would say, Ed, is I think, you know, and Strava, I honestly don't use Strava. I use Gaia and I use Code Tracks. And on those, you can identify what you're doing, right? If you're cross-country skiing or snowshoeing or riding a horse or, you know, probably don't have handstands available, but yeah, trying to provide levity. The other thing, and Julia's recreation data references it, as does Essie's data, the information SJMA is providing from our Forest Ambassador Program does differentiate between types, we will count the number of bikers, hikers, and equestrians. Probably no surprise to you, equestrians aren't a huge number where we have our forest ambassadors stationed, just because we're at high-use areas. And I know you guys tend to avoid those as much as possible. So we would love to be able to point that out. You know, and I don't know if among folks involved in backcountry horsemen or trail riders or other groups can be encouraged to use apps to kind of identify what they're doing. But, and Julia, correct me, you know, when you get the data from Strava, does it identify between user groups?

1:04:21 - Julia Ledford, MSI

Yes, to a certain extent. And I'm not sure if this is different for other folks that have used the Strava data, but we were only able to get hiking, running, mountain biking, and e-biking. No other user groups were available. None of the data was available. Although Strava, like you said, Stephanie, you can track a variety of activities.

1:04:44 - Unidentified Speaker

So that