

Public Lands Committee Report – January 2018

The meeting back on November 15th went well. About 20 people attended. About half from public land committee and half from the climate/environment committee. Barbara McLachlan gave an update on the upcoming state legislative session, and Lisa Pool spoke about potential environmental bills we could see this session. There were a lot of questions and great discussion. La Plata County Commissioner Gwen Lachelt and LPEA Board Member Guinn Unger also both showed up and added great points to the discussion.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 8th at 6:00 p.m. We will be discussing strategies for dealing with the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments issues. We are urging support for the organizations that are suing over the Trump administration's tampering with the monuments. We'll also look at other upcoming legislation that affects our public lands.

In April, we have tentative arrangement to have Jonathan Thompson, writer for High Country News, to speak to our committee. He is extremely knowledgeable on the Bear Ears issues. He is from Durango, but currently living in Europe. He will be in Durango to promote his new book about the Gold King Mine spill of 2015.