

SEC AGENDA ITEM 9.

PUBLIC LANDS CREDIT PROCESS AND POTENTIAL ALTERNATIVES

At the last SEC meeting, the Council requested an agenda item to revisit the public lands credit generation process. The intent was to discuss the proponent-driven mitigation that is currently allowed and the potential for livestock permittee-driven credit generation. The following information is offered to aid in the discussion and offer additional perspective and potential alternatives.

What led to the current Public Lands Credit Generation Process

- Limitations associated with private land only credit generation.
- Potential of credits not being available near a debit project.
- Opportunities to generate significant uplift.
- May provide greater ecological and biological opportunities based on Sage-grouse site fidelity
- Debit proponents have a “but, for” link to planned disturbance which opens up proponent driven credit generation.
- Credit generation on BLM and National Forest System lands creates a new commodity. Unlike existing commodities (timber, minerals, grazing permits, recreation concessions or special use permits, to name several), using public lands to develop credits for sale on the private market lacks a mechanism to compensate the American public for the use of federal lands.

Where the Public Lands Credit Generation Process Currently Stands and its Limitations

- A public land credit proposal or project has yet to occur.
- Only credits from conservation uplift eligible.
- Debit proponents are eligible due to “but, for” connection or mitigation requirement.
- Debit proponents may work with permittees and others to implement or maintain projects.
- Limited safeguards for durability on public land
- Debit projects that impact public land credits are responsible for replacement of credits.
- Siting is a very important component of durability.
- Project proponents must submit a Mitigation Plan to the SEC for approval.
- Pinyon/juniper removal and meadow improvements eligible. These methods have been discussed in detail at past meetings.
- Understanding how best to navigate NEPA requirements and costs/recovery
- Improving durability in the presence of many land uses.