

Final
STAFF SUMMARY OF MEETING

COLORADO REAPPORTIONMENT COMMISSION

Date: 08/27/2011	ATTENDANCE
Time: 01:02 PM to 03:00 PM	Atencio E
Place: Garfield County Building Glenwood Springs	Berry X
	Carroll E
This Meeting was called to order by <u>Berry</u>	Jones X
	Loevy X
	Nicolais X
	Salazar E
	Tool E
This Report was prepared by <u>Bo Pogue</u>	Witwer X
	Webb X
	Carrera X

X = Present, E = Excused, A = Absent, * = Present after roll call

Bills Addressed:	Action Taken:
Welcome and Introductions Glenwood Springs	Witness Testimony and/or Committee Discussion Only
Public Testimony Glenwood Springs	Witness Testimony and/or Committee Discussion Only

Note: This meeting summary is not an official record of the commission or of the meeting. It is not intended to serve as a transcript or minutes of the commission meeting. The audio recording of the meeting is the official record of the meeting. This summary may be used as a guide to the audio recording. To access the audio recording of a commission meeting, visit the Colorado Joint Legislative Library located in the State Capitol, Room 048 (basement/ground floor level). You will need to note the date, time, and location of the meeting to access the audio recording. Copies of the audio recordings may be obtained at the library if you bring with you blank, recordable compact discs or a flash drive. Librarians are on site and available to assist you with accessing an audio recording.

01:02 PM -- Welcome and Introductions Glenwood Springs

The commission was called to order. Commissioner Berry, acting chair, made some introductory remarks and provided her background. Commissioners Loevy, Webb, Nicolais, Carrera, Witwer, and Jones introduced themselves.

01:06 PM

Ms. Kate Meyer, Reapportionment Commission Staff, provided background on the commission, its appointments, and the time table within which it must perform its duties. Ms. Meyer then outlined the federal and state legal criteria that the commission must observe as it redraws the state House and Senate districts. Discussion ensued regarding federal Voting Rights Act redistricting requirements as they pertain to minorities.

01:13 PM -- Public Testimony Glenwood Springs

Commissioner Berry described the testimony process. The following persons testified at the Glenwood Springs meeting:

01:14 PM -- Mr. Douglas DeNio, representing himself, expressed concerns about the proposed House plan as it pertains to Garfield County, and explained why New Castle is tied to Glenwood Springs as a community of interest. He discussed the contrasts between western Garfield County and the eastern part of the county, including New Castle. Mr. DeNio discussed the school district ties between New Castle and Glenwood Springs, and the legal criteria that the commission must abide by during the redistricting process. Discussion ensued regarding the proper dividing line between House Districts 61 and 63 in the proposed House plan.

01:20 PM -- Ms. Jean Alberico, Garfield County Clerk and Recorder, discussed the short period of time allowed for the county to redraw the precinct lines after approval of the plans, focusing on the dividing line between House Districts 63 and 61 around Glenwood Springs in the proposed House plan. The Commissioners received three maps showing the housing units and precincts around Glenwood Springs (Attachments A, B, and C). She made a recommendation about how to redraw the proposed House districts around Glenwood Springs, and discussed the benefits of doing so with respect to reprecincting. Discussion ensued regarding the precincts and census blocks around Glenwood Springs, and issues affecting the work of the county clerks. Ms. Alberico responded to questions about her preferences for drawing the district boundaries around Glenwood Springs.



Attachment A.pdf



Attachment B.pdf



Attachment C.pdf

01:32 PM -- Ms. Gay Moore, representing herself, discussed the impact of redistricting on political polarization, and spoke in support of politically competitive districts. She discussed the differing communities of interest between Glenwood Springs and western Garfield County, and explained why New Castle should be included in the proposed plan's House District 61. She also opposed splitting off certain unincorporated neighborhoods bordering Glenwood Springs into another House district. Discussion ensued regarding the potential impact of creating competitive districts on the way representatives would govern in the state legislature. Ms. Moore responded to questions regarding what constitutes district competitiveness.

01:38 PM -- Mr. Frank Breslin, representing New Castle as its mayor, discussed the geographical community of interest that ties New Castle with Glenwood Springs and the Highway 82 corridor, and how geography affects the provision of government services in the area. Mr. Breslin responded to questions regarding where to draw the boundary for House District 61, and the boundary of the hogback that creates a geographical border in the region. Discussion ensued regarding the area's geographical features in general. Mr. Breslin responded to further questions about the ties between New Castle and Glenwood Springs.

01:45 PM -- Mr. Dave Merritt, representing himself, explained how geography defines communities of interest in certain areas of the Western Slope, and supported keeping all of the greater Glenwood Springs area in one House district. He also said he would prefer that all of Garfield County be drawn into one House district, and expressed concern about the proposed House District 61 since it divides Crested Butte and Gunnison. He supported keeping Grand County in a Western Slope House district, and expressed support for the proposed Senate plan. Mr. Merritt responded to questions about his preference concerning keeping Garfield County whole versus keeping the Roaring Fork Valley whole in the House plan.

01:53 PM -- Mr. Bob Rankin discussed the travel difficulties in western Colorado, and the issues that tie the Roaring Fork Valley together as a community of interest. He objected to Crested Butte being included in the proposed House District 61.

01:56 PM -- State Representative Roger Wilson, representing himself, explained why the Western Slope geography, including watersheds, should be considered in the redistricting process, since it defines communities of interest. He discussed the economics of the Roaring Fork Valley, and the issues of interest to its residents. He contrasted the issues of importance that separate the valley from western Garfield County. Representative Wilson also discussed the importance of district compactness, and requested that all parts of the Roaring Fork Valley be kept within House District 61. He talked about New Castle being in the same community of interest with the Roaring Fork Valley. Commissioner Nicolais discussed the importance of public testimony in the redistricting process. Representative Wilson responded to questions regarding the fact that the Roaring Fork Valley and Gunnison lay in two different watersheds, and the issues that tie the two valleys together.

02:08 PM

Representative Wilson responded to questions regarding the Roaring Fork Transportation Authority.

02:10 PM -- Mr. John Tindall, representing himself, discussed the difficulties a representative from Larimer County would have in serving the needs of Jackson County, and likewise with a person from Boulder County representing Grand County. Mr. Tindall raised similar issues about including Crested Butte in House District 61 under the proposed plan, since it is difficult to travel to from the Roaring Fork Valley. He discussed the “Golden Triangle” as a community of interest, which includes Pitkin, Garfield, and Eagle Counties. Mr. Tindall discussed the transportation patterns between western Garfield County, the Roaring Fork Valley, and Eagle County.

02:22 PM

Mr. Tindall supported drawing New Castle into the proposed House District 61, and objected to a portion of Delta County being part of that district. Mr. Tindall responded to questions regarding which counties Grand and Jackson Counties should be associated with in the House plan, and the issues that create a community of interest in this region. He returned to discussing the difficulties in traveling on the Western Slope. Mr. Tindall responded to further questions regarding the potential for drawing Grand County into a House district with Eagle and Summit Counties.

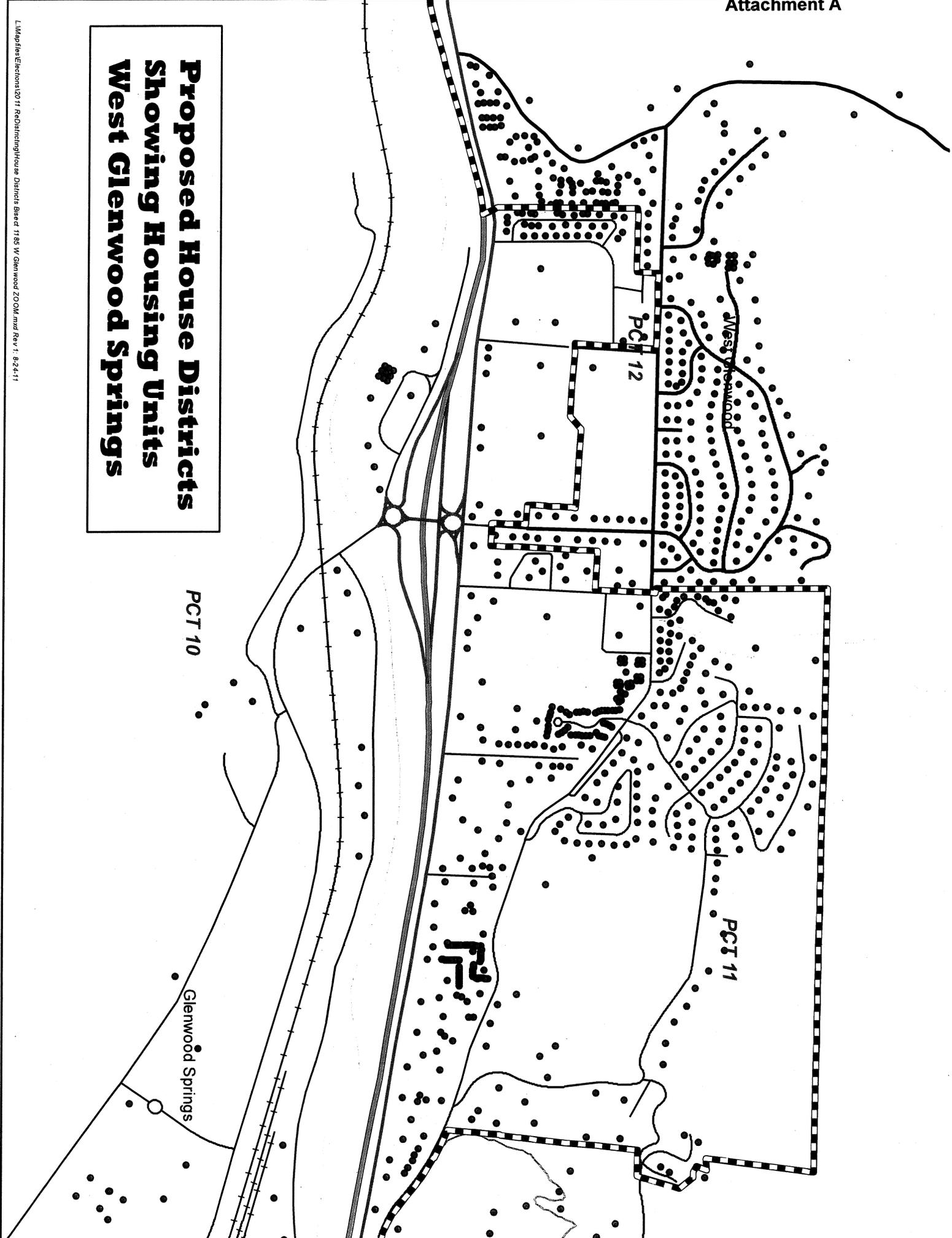
02:32 PM -- Mr. Ron Roesener, representing himself, spoke in support of keeping Garfield County whole, and supported keeping Grand and Jackson Counties with the Western Slope in the House plan. He discussed the importance of Garfield County to the state, and spoke about water issues. He returned his testimony to the placement of Grand and Jackson Counties in the proposed House plan, and discussed the division of ranchers by the proposed plan. Discussion ensued regarding a loan made by Garfield County to an eastern Colorado county.

02:45 PM -- Mr. John Martin, Garfield County Commissioner, provided clarification about loans made by Garfield County to other counties, and discussed issues and services that affect Garfield County. He spoke in favor of keeping the county whole. Mr. Martin responded to questions regarding his preference for keeping Garfield County whole versus keeping the Roaring Fork Valley whole. Commissioner Webb made some observations about Mr. Martin’s testimony and the public input process with respect to redistricting. Mr. Martin responded. Representative Wilson returned to discuss transit times on the Western Slope.

03:00 PM

The commission adjourned.

**Proposed House Districts
Showing Housing Units
West Glenwood Springs**



PCT 12

PCT 12

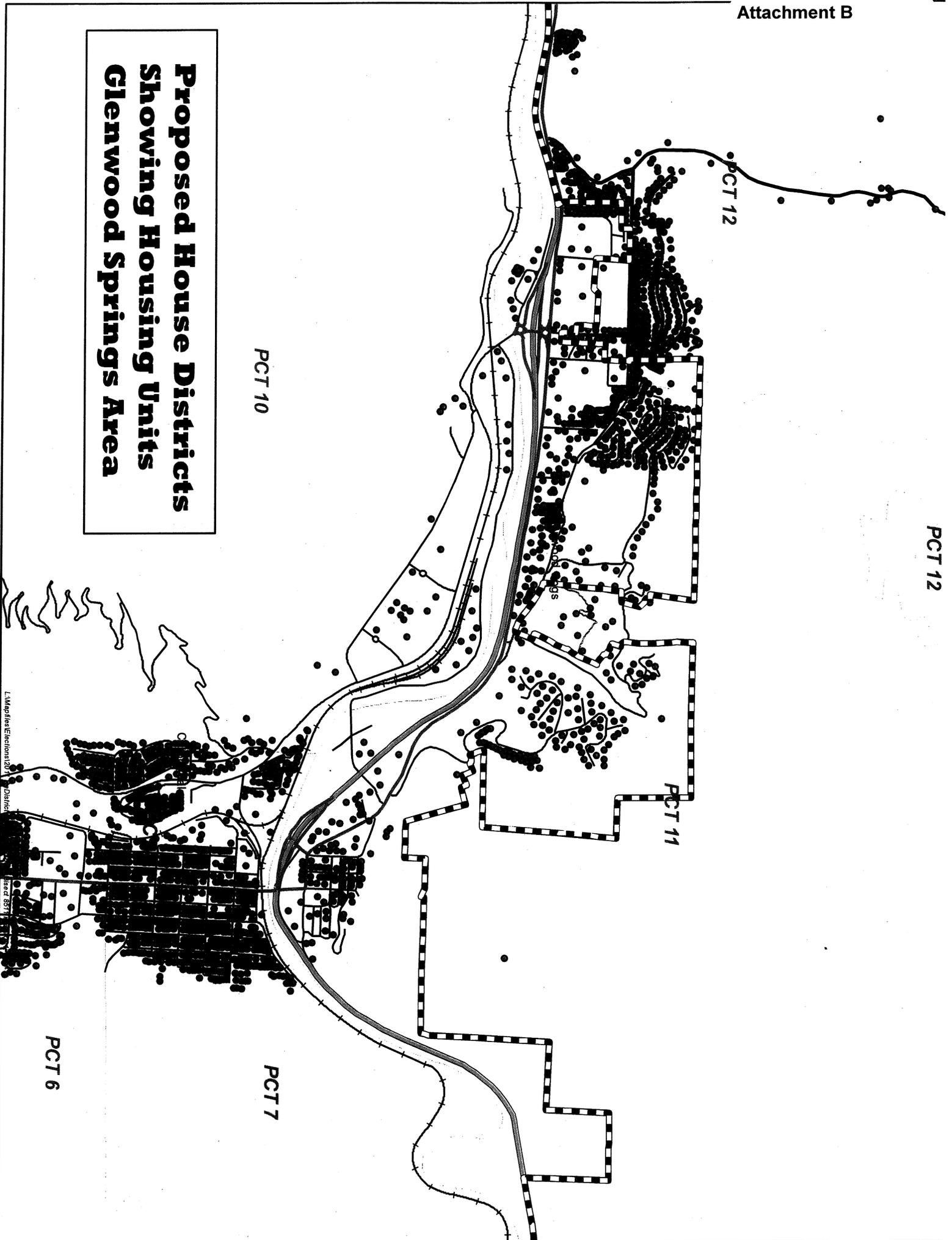
PCT 11

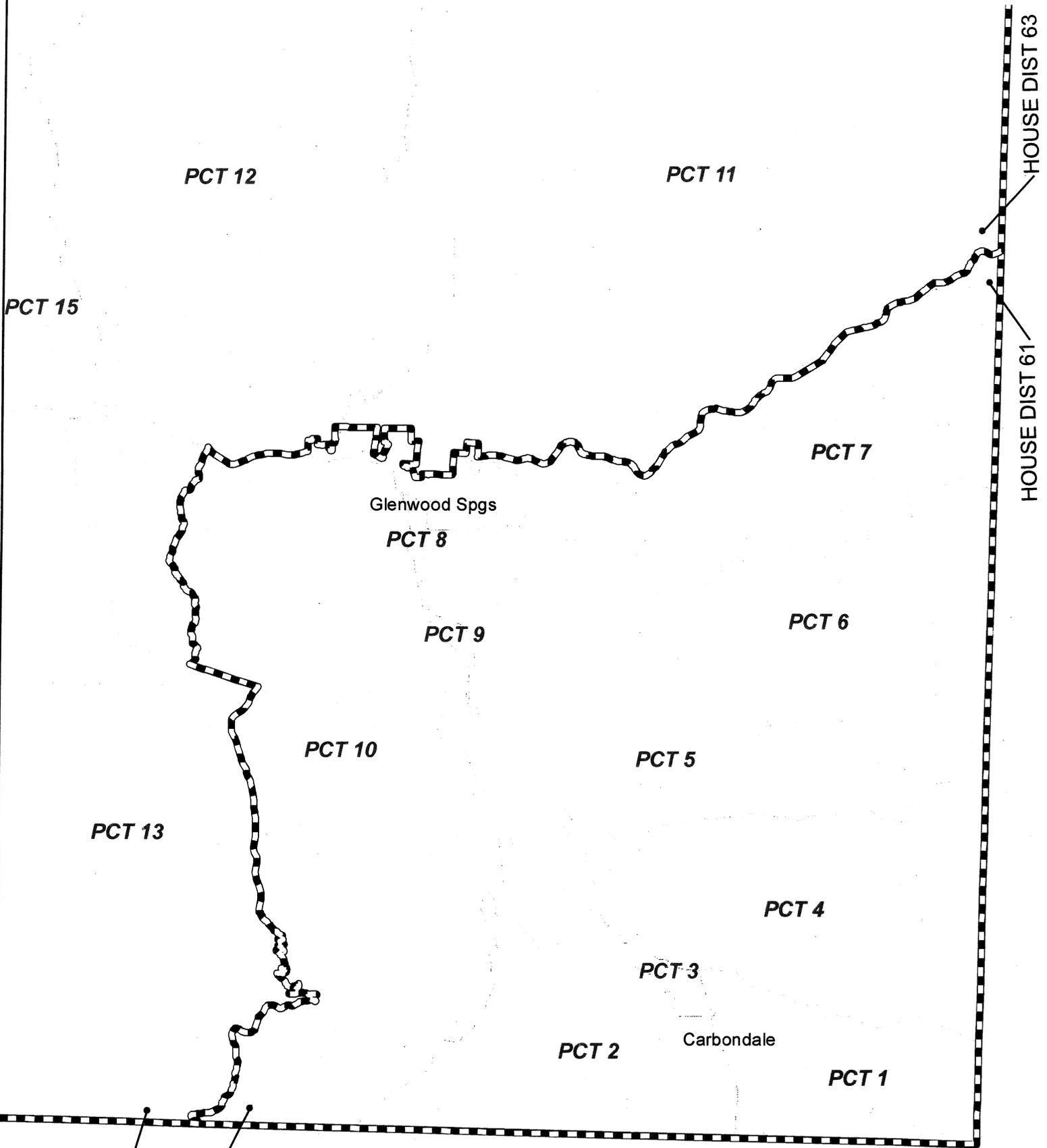
PCT 10

PCT 7

PCT 6

**Proposed House Districts
Showing Housing Units
Glenwood Springs Area**





Proposed House Districts Bisect 3 Voter Precincts