From: Robyn Thorson
To: Dan Ashe; Betsy Hildebrandt
Cc: Gary Frazer; Noreen Walsh; Ren Lohoefener
Subject: RE: Governor"s Meeting in Boise on Sage Grouse, May 31st
Date: Wednesday, May 22, 2013 1:14:01 PM

In candor (and speed) here's what "dope" I have about this (NONE of it directly quoting the Governor's offices who are organizing this meeting):

Gov. Otter will announce this Friday May 24 the meeting to be held with fellow Govs May 31 in Boise. In attendance May 31 will be Govs of WY, UT; Gov NV will be on phone.

This Gov's group is developing 5 governing principles on ESA (Greater sage grouse in particular) to present at WGA June meeting in Park City, Utah at the ESA plenary session June 28 from 3:15 to 4:30 (Dan Ashe and Sam Rauch invited). This plenary immediately follows a roundtable session on Public Lands that Sally Jewell is "confirmed" to attend (per WGA schedule).

Gov Otter trying to tee up another sage grouse summit along the line of December 2011. This time it would be in Boise fall of 2013.

Purpose: lack of faith the Feds can deliver on the Cheyenne (Dec 2011) promises, particularly BLM's inability to deliver 98 RMP revisions on time.

That's what we've heard/know.

Here is my comment from informal conversation with key staff, based on their opinions (only) and "word on the street" they've heard in conversations with BLM and USFS:

The Gov's might be right about BLM: BLM is off schedule and they might get RMP revisions done by deadline but FWS staff out here already sense BLM will lack needed specificity (especially on fire management and monitoring). Noreen has been outstanding pushing BLM but they might be "death marching" toward required deadline but my staff doesn't think the quality will be there. One conversations between FWS and 2 members of BLM Project Planning staff: "We will not get it done."

Further "word on the street": USFS is annoyed with BLM stopping/hindering USFS NEPA content – USFS prepared to align with COT but BLM cautions "wait." I do not have any idea how these conversations manifest themselves and I can't tell if this is hyperbole, but it seemed like it had enough weight to merit passing along.

In haste (and AGAIN in candor that is my best info. Helpful?

Robyn Thorson
Regional Director, Pacific Region One
Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii and Pacific Islands
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
911 N.E. 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232
503 231 6119

From: Dan Ashe [mailto:d_m_ashe@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2013 2:55 AM
To: Betsy Hildebrandt
Cc: Michael Bean; Gary Frazer; Noreen Walsh; Robyn Thorson; Ren Lohoefener
Subject: Re: Governor's Meeting in Boise on Sage Grouse, May 31st

Adding Ren and Robyn.

Dan Ashe
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

On May 22, 2013, at 5:53 AM, Betsy Hildebrandt <betsy_hildebrandt@fws.gov> wrote:

> FYI
>
> Sent from my iPad
>
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **From:** "Kornze, Neil" <nkornze@blm.gov>
> > **Date:** May 21, 2013, 10:14:59 PM EDT
> > **To:** Dan Ashe <D_M_Ashe@fws.gov>, Betsy Hildebrandt <Betsy_hildebrandt@fws.gov>
> > **Subject: Fwd: Governor's Meeting in Boise on Sage Grouse, May 31st**
> >
> > fyi on sage grouse
> >
> > ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> > From: **Ellis, Steven** <sellis@blm.gov>
> > Date: Tue, May 21, 2013 at 11:55 AM
> > Subject: Governor's Meeting in Boise on Sage Grouse, May 31st
> > To: Amy Lueders <alueders@blm.gov>, Juan Palma <jpalma@blm.gov>, Donald Simpson <dsimpson@blm.gov>
> > Cc: Jeffery Foss <jfoss@blm.gov>, Edwin Roberson <eroberso@blm.gov>, Cheryle Zwang <czwang@blm.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Jamie E Connell <jconnell@blm.gov>, Janet H Lin <jhlin@blm.gov>, Celia Boddington <cbodding@blm.gov>
> >
> > The Idaho Governor's office informed me this morning that the Governor's of Idaho, Utah, Wyoming and Nevada, and their staff(s) will be meeting in Boise on May 31st to discuss the sage grouse issue. They plan to hold a press conference after the meeting. I was told that the Governor of Nevada may participate via conference call phone. I was also told that this meeting is not associated with WGA.

Steve