From: Deibert, Pat
To: Noreen Walsh
Subject: Re: FW: International Sage-Grouse Forum
Date: Wednesday, November 05, 2014 8:57:38 AM

Hi Noreen -

sigh. I did not have any input to the talk topics - that happened after the last steering committee call I was on (although I did miss one due to conflict). I do know that Terry has been heavily influenced by the state. What is most intriguing is that my session moderator (who works for Terry) asked me NOT to talk about the COT in my presentation on federal involvement in conservation.

Of course the primary message should be not to just strive towards a minimum. Otherwise I don't think we have been inconsistent with the message Terry conveyed. We can't give assurances though and that is what they want. NRCS also wanted us to provide that message.

my two cents. I am going to circle back to my moderator about the COT message - will let you know what I hear.

When are you flying into SLC?

pat

On Tue, Nov 4, 2014 at 9:40 PM, Noreen Walsh <noreen_walsh@fws.gov> wrote:

> Pat, I wanted you to see this note from Terry as well. I know you have been engaged on the steering committee so you have a unique perspective. I wondered how the title got established for this talk and now I think I see more clearly. Any advice or perspective you want to share with me is welcome!
>
> All my best,
>
> Noreen
>
> Noreen Walsh
>
> Regional Director
>
> Mountain-Prairie Region
>
> U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
>
> 303 236 7920

The Mountain-Prairie Region of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service: *We provide conservation stewardship of some of America's most scenic lands, to ensure healthy fish and wildlife for the enjoyment and benefit of all people.*

From: Terry Messmer [mailto:terry.messmer@usu.edu]
Sent: Friday, October 31, 2014 9:34 AM
To: Stein, Theodore
Cc: Noreen Walsh
Subject: RE: International Sage-Grouse Forum

Theo

I left a message for you

Attached is the newsletter we send out to our partners

And a link to our state web site

www.utahcbcp.org

From my perspective, as one who has been involved in sage-grouse conservation, research, and working with LWGs since the 1990s'

Here are my thoughts, which reflect in many ways the pulse of the state stakeholders

There is a lot of uncertainty among the partners regarding the use of the term certainty. A question, I keep getting asked is how much is enough? How will we know we have gotten there? I do think, as do most folks who have actually studied sage-grouse that, given the wide spread distribution, and amount of contiguous habitats that remain, conservation of sage-grouse or certainty is achievable. Although the states may differ as how their plans approach certainty, as one who has worked with hundreds of landowners, well before any listing petitions were filed,

there is a commitment and resolve I have not seen in my 40 years of working in conservation.

Thus the states are looking to the COT report as the mechanism to provide a template. As you look at the state plans, each contains references to the COT report as a validation of the actions they are implementing are on target. However, because of the differences in the landscapes, both biological and political, the state plans differ in approach. There is nothing wrong with these approaches, as long as they remain focused on mitigating the conservation threats using a combination of tools – protection, habitat enhancement, and management. In the case of sage-grouse, just locking up habitat without some type of subsequent management will not equal conservation. The bottom-line must remain – sage-grouse need sagebrush habitat. How we get there is the art of wildlife management.

For now, what the states and their partners have come the see as certainty as the combination of the COT report and the management and scientific process that the states and their federal partners are engaged into implement that strategies that reflect state and landscapes differences.

What folks want to hear, is the USFWS through the COT report embraces this process and that the Service recognizes this.

These is a long history and tradition in the role of voluntary conservation in wildlife conservation and management. If we ever are truly to achieve conservation, it will not be achieved through regulation, but awareness, and appreciation of the importance of the species role in our environments.

At least in Utah, the folks we have been working with for the last two decades now see sage-grouse as "their sage-grouse." In several areas this process now includes other species. I assume that same transition is and has happened in other states.

Terry

From: Stein, Theodore [mailto:theodore_stein@fws.gov]
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2014 12:39 PM
To: Terry Messmer
Subject: International Sage-Grouse Forum

Hi Terry

Noreen has asked me to help her put together some thoughts for her presentation, Empowering States through the COT report, on Nov. 13 in Salt Lake City

Wondering if you would have a little time today to discuss what you think the participants would be interested in?

Also, should she prepare to speak for the full half-hour, or will there be a Q&A?

Thanks Terry!

Theo Stein

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