From: Davis, Dawn
To: Wiechman, Lief
Cc: Abele, Steve; DElia, Jesse; Pat Deibert
Subject: Re: GRSG 2015: Species Report Outline
Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 10:38:43 AM
Attachments: GRSG2015_Outline_SpReport_20150326 (draft)_DMD.docx

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Comments attached.

On Fri, Mar 27, 2015 at 11:31 AM, Wiechman, Lief <lief_wiechman@fws.gov> wrote:

> Hey Gang!
>
> As promised, here's an amalgamation (*10-point word*) of the original Sp. Report outline, coupled with the Bi-State TOC, and what Jesse provided last week. The original was reviewed by Mary, Nicole, and a few members of the Writing Team. I tweaked it and added some other descriptions.
> Take a look. I think I've captured Jesse's idea of the summary early while retaining the structure of "tell us whats at risk, then how it's being addressed". The Summary/Cumulative Effects Section could probably use some tweaking...
>
> I suggest we make comments/edits in track changes and send to the group, and in the meantime if I can put it on SharePoint, but block permission from anyone but us 5, I will. I don't want those who peruse SP to see this and run with something.
>
> Happy Friday,
>
> LW
>
> ***Lief Wiechman***
> **Sage-grouse Ecologist**
> **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**
> **Mountain-Prairie Region**
> **Cell: 307.214.8426**
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> **lief_wiechman@fws.gov**
>
> On Thu, Mar 26, 2015 at 5:25 PM, Wiechman, Lief <lief_wiechman@fws.gov> wrote:
>
>> All,
>>
>> In an effort to reduce some potential duplicate effort and make sure we consider the structure presented leading up to us (SLT) getting the whole lot, I'm going to take what Jesse put together and integrate it into the Sp.Report outline created by the Writing Team et al. I remember that they took the components from the Bi-State and tweaked it for our needs.
>>
>> I'll work on adding in and we can review/adjust/edit as appropriate.
>>
>> LW

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On Wed, Mar 25, 2015 at 2:34 PM, Abele, Steve <steve_abele@fws.gov> wrote:

> You probably have this but this is the TOC for bi-state
>
> On Tue, Mar 24, 2015 at 3:27 PM, DElia, Jesse <jesse_delia@fws.gov> wrote:
>
> > SLT,
> >
> > I've been trying to wrap my head around the format of the species report and how (and where) we will incorporate regulatory mechanisms (including BLM/FS planning efforts) and conservation actions.
> >
> > I basically took the Bi-State format and tweaked it a bit for our purposes. See what you think. This format would allow us to put the major conservation efforts up front, and then weave in specifics about the various plans throughout the threat chapters. There is also a place at the end of the report to summarize land management, population trends, and threats, by MZ.
> >
> > Once we get this foundation down, we can start building in the figures and tables we want to include in each chapter/section, so we can get a handle on where the gaps are.
> >
> > Jesse
> > --
> > **Jesse D'Elia, Ph.D.**
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>
> --
> ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
> **Steve Abele**
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Greater Sage-Grouse Species Report Outline

Introductory and Background Section

Chapter: Executive Summary ***(Amy Nicholas)***

Short (2-3 page) summary of the report.

Chapter: Introduction ***(Sarah Backsen)***

- Regulatory History (including all FR notices and litigation)
- Process for 2015 Status Review
- Species Report Overview

Chapter: Species Description ***(Amy Nicholas and Craig Hansen)***

Very brief chapter; much can be incorporated by reference.

- Species Description
- Taxonomy
- Genetics
- Life history and ecology (all life stages: breeding, nesting, brood rearing, wintering, movement/migration)

Chapter: Current Biological Status ***(Amy Nicholas and Craig Hansen)***

Include occurrence table here.

- Historical Range
- Current Range/Distribution and Population Estimates/Annual Lek Counts
- Management Zone Discussion/Description (one for each management zone with reference to populations contained within)
    - *[Figure – WAFWA MZs, populations, and range map]*
    - *[Figure – PACs map]*
    - *[Figure - Distribution models by MZ]*
    - *[Table - Numbers from Distribution models by MZ]*
    - *[Figure – Abundance models by MZ]*
    - *[Table - Numbers from Abundance models by MZ]*

Chapter: Land Ownership and Management ***(TBD)***

Summary (2-3 pages) of Ownership, and types of decisions and management actions that are associated with each agency/owner

- *[Figure - Land Ownership status by MZ]*
- *[Table – Land Ownership status by MZ]*

- Federal Lands
    - USFS
    - BLM
        - LUP Amendments / Planning efforts
            - Disturbance Monitoring
            - Adaptive Management
            - Mitigation
            - FIAT
    - FWS/Refuges

Comment [DMD1]: So will this provide the summary that lead to the 2010 finding?

Comment [LW 2]: I'm not entirely sure what this is/was… we can discuss how/where to use it…

Comment [DP3]: believe it might be states and percentages of pops – we had one in the two previous findings. might not be terrible useful this round, but we may want to think about a MZ table instead.

Comment [LW 4]: Do we want this (PACs)?

Comment [DP5]: I think we have to talk about them so would retain (but maybe not in this location). We will also have to deal with strongholds.

Comment [LW 6]: We'll want input from KD on this

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    - NPS
    - DOD/DOE
- Tribal Lands
- State Lands
- Private Lands
    - FWS
        - CCA/CCAA
    - NRCS
        - SGI

Effects Analysis (Potential Threats/Risks)

Include threats table to indicate cumulative threats or threat interactions. All threats will use Management Zone as the common spatial scale.

Habitat Loss and Fragmentation

Chapter: *(Tier 1)* ***Wildfire (Altered Fire Regime)*** *(Genevieve Skora)*
Chapter: *(Tier 1)* ***Noxious Weeds and Invasives*** *(Dawn Davis)*
Chapter: *(Tier 1)* ***Conifer Encroachment*** *(Jeff Everett)*
Chapter: *(Tier 1)* ***Agricultural Conversion*** *(Joy Gober)*
Chapter: *(Tier 1)* ***Oil & Gas*** *(Amy Nicholas)*
Chapter: *(Tier 2)* ***Mining*** *(Ron Baxter)*
Chapter: *(Tier 2)* ***Renewable Energy*** *(Lisa Solberg Schwab)*
Wind
Solar
Geothermal
Chapter: *(Tier 2)* ***Infrastructure*** *(Heather McPherron)*
Roads
Power Lines
Communication Towers
Fences
Chapter: *(Tier 3)* ***Fences*** *(Jennifer Siani)*
Chapter: *(Tier 3)* ***Grazing and Rangeland Management*** *(Craig Hansen)*
Chapter: *(Tier 3)* ***Free-Roaming Equids*** *(Jennifer Siani)*
Chapter: *(Tier 2)* ***Urban and Exurban Development*** *(Joy Gober)*
Landfills
Chapter: *(Tier 3)* ***Recreation*** *(Angela Burgess)*
Chapter: *(Tier 3)* ***Climate Change*** *(Holly Freifeld)*
Chapter: *(Tier 3)* ***Drought*** *(Angela Burgess)*

Overutilization

Chapter: *(Tier 3)* ***Hunting*** *(Amy Nicholas)*
Chapter: *(Tier 3)* ***Scientific and Education Purposes*** *(TBD)*

Comment [LW 7]: Jesse, this is what you had in your version… assuming it would be a summary, with the bulk of the discussion coming later…

DMD: It seems like this section will have considerable overlap with the threat amelioration section below? I'm not sure what the distinction between these two sections are?

Comment [DMD8]: Would this include a discussion of regulatory mechanisms that are in place now and what has change since 2010?

Comment [LW 9]: Originally – this was it's own chapter, so I put it below for flow purposes… however, we could just roll it into Infrastructure

Comment [LW 10]: Should these be in "Other"…?

Or as a separate subtitle, "Climate" similar to bi-state species report?

Comment [DP11]: it was in the habitat section in 2010 simply because it affected habitat. I don't have strong feelings and maybe this is a question for Carey

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Disease and Predation

Chapter: *(Tier 3)* ***Disease*** *(Holly Freifeld)*
Chapter: *(Tier 3)* ***Predation*** *(Lara Drizd)*

Other Threat Factors

Chapter: *(Tier 3)* ***Small population and life history traits affecting population viability*** *(Lief Wiechman)*
Chapter: *(Tier 3)* ***Contaminants*** *(Angela Burgess)*

Compounding Effects

Chapter: Summary of Threat Interactions (TBD)

It will describe synergistic relationships among threats described in chapters above. These relationships are identified in individual threat chapters under compounding effects. This chapter will lead reader into cumulative threats discussion below. (Examples: Fire and Invasives, Fire and Conifer, Anthropogenic disturbance and predators)

Summary of Effects

Each chapter in this section will be written by management zone and each management zone will have a lead (may tap into others outside of the state).

Chapter: Cumulative Threats by Management Zone (TBD)

This chapter is the discussion of cumulative threats by MZ. This chapter will identify all threats by MZ, relying on threat interactions described in previous chapter and spatial threat concentration information of primary threats. This allows an examination of primary threats that we have quantitative/spatial information for, and a concomitant examination of other threats tied to the primary threat by MZ.

- MZ 1 (Montana TBD [support from Wyoming and South Dakota)
- MZ 2 (Wyoming TBD [Support from Montana, Colorado, Utah])
- MZ 3 (Nevada – TBD / Utah – TBD)
- MZ 4 (Idaho – TBD [Support from Oregon, Nevada, Utah, Montana])
- MZ 5 (Oregon – TBD [Support from Nevada, California])
- MZ 6 (Washington – TBD) (potentially Jessi Gonzales, Heather)
- MZ 7 (Colorado – TBD)
- Rangewide Summary?

Chapter: Threat Amelioration (TBD)

This chapter would describe the efforts implemented and planned to reduce or remove threats and risks on the landscape. Summaries of conservation action information would be summarized from CED, as well as evaluation of plans, policies, and regulatory mechanisms, broken down by MZ.

The following sub-sections are recommended for this MZ-subsection, based on the organization of the 2010 greater sage grouse finding:

- Laws, regulations, Polices and Management Plans
  - Federal Lands
    - BLM/FS LUP Amendments / Planning efforts
      - Disturbance Monitoring
      - Adaptive Management
      - Mitigation
      - FIAT
  - FWS/Refuges

Comment [LW 12]: Discussions have occurred to add this to the O&G chapter…

Comment [DP13]: We may want to split it out into contaminants associated with energy development and all others, (e.g. pesticides)

Comment [LW 14]: I'm not wed to the name.

It's the compounding effects section – synergistic threats/relationships… several things we could call it.

Comment [DMD15]: I think we need to discuss the utility of this section. This discussion is not represented consistently across individual chapters and the bulleted summaries some chapters provide little valuable information compared to the narrative included in other chapters. Do we need to include the compounding effects section in the individual threat chapters and if so what should that look like? If not is it better to summarize here to reduce repetition? Can we eliminate this section entirely or find a way to incorporate it into the discussion below?

Comment [LW 16]: Different from the preceding chapter, this would describe how Agriculture and Infrastructure cumulatively impact the species in MZ 1 (for example). Not necessarily synergistic, but present at the same time in the same place.

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Comment [LW 17]:
- MZ 1 (Montana – Jeff Berglund / North Dakota Kevin Shelley [support from Wyoming and South Dakota)
- MZ 2 (Wyoming – Lisa Solberg Schwab [Support from Montana, Colorado, Utah])
- MZ 3 (Nevada – TBD / Utah – TBD) (potentially Jay Martini, Ron Baxter)
- MZ 4 (Idaho – TBD [Support from Oregon, Nevada, Utah, Montana])
- MZ 5 (Oregon – TBD [Support from Nevada, California])
- MZ 6 (Washington – TBD) (potentially Jessi Gonzales, Heather)
- MZ 7 (Colorado – TBD)

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- NPS
- DOD/DOE
- Other?

- Tribal Lands
- State Lands
- Local Lands
  - Private Lands
    - FWS CCAA
    - NRCS SGI
  - Canadian Federal and Provincial Laws and Regulations
- Conservation Measures
  - CED Summaries

Comment [DMD18]: Will this have significant overlap with the discussion under Land Ownership and Management?

Comment [LW 19]: Not sure if it's best to have this here. Or elsewhere…

Comment [GM20]: Subsections will be based on input received in CED

Overall Summary of Species Status and Impacts

Chapter: Overall Summary of Species Status and Impacts

What's new and different since 2010 status determination? Include Changes over Time Table.

- MZ 1 (Montana – TBD [support from Wyoming and South Dakota)
- MZ 2 (Wyoming – TBD [Support from Montana, Colorado, Utah])
- MZ 3 (Nevada – TBD / Utah – TBD)
- MZ 4 (Idaho – TBD [Support from Oregon, Nevada, Utah, Montana])
- MZ 5 (Oregon – TBD [Support from Nevada, California])
- MZ 6 (Washington – TBD)
- MZ 7 (Colorado – TBD)
- Rangewide Summary

Comment [DP21]: we should probably also have a range-wide section here

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Support Sections

REFERENCES CITED

APPENDIX A — DEFINITIONS
APPENDIX B — ACRONYMS USED
APPENDIX C — OCCURRENCE TABLE (if too large to include in that section)
APPENDIX D — THREATS SUMMARY TABLE (if too large to include in that section)
APPENDIX E — CHANGES OVER TIME SUMMARY TABLE (if too large to include in that section)
APPENDIX F — MANAGEMENT ZONE (and POPULATION) MAPS
APPENDIX G — NON-REGULATORY MECHANISMS EVALUATED

Comment [GM22]: Place for evaluation of conservation efforts to be attached. Need to discuss if we want this attached or separate from report.

Tools for Writers:

- Chapter Template ***(Amy Nicholas)***
- Occurrence Table ***(Amy Nicholas)***

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- Threat Summary Table ***(Amy Nicholas)***
- Changes over Time Summary Table ***(Amy Nicholas)***

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