From:	Henson, Paul
To:	Harris, Anna
Cc:	Sitz, Angela; Jason Holm; Rollie White; Elizabeth Materna; Jeff Everett
Subject:	Re: Post call notes
Date:	Thursday, March 19, 2015 10:18:57 AM
Attachments:	Draft -- ph edits NR Sec. Ceremony 3.19.2015.doc

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a few edits...thx. great job

On Thu, Mar 19, 2015 at 8:09 AM, Harris, Anna <anna_harris@fws.gov> wrote:

> Breakfast reservations have been made for 15 at McKays (they ask if we were celebrating something :-)
>
> Attached is the revised News Release with a quote from Oregon Gov Kate Brown-- Jason, I'll send to Gavin, but still unsure if we or the DOI is sending this out,
>
> thanks,
> Anna
>
> On Wed, Mar 18, 2015 at 5:28 PM, Sitz, Angela <angela_sitz@fws.gov> wrote:
>
>> I have a room reserved for meeting with state folks. Reading other documents now.
>> Angela
>>
>> On Mar 18, 2015 2:39 PM, "Holm, Jason" <jason_holm@fws.gov> wrote:
>>> I've tried to capture what we heard. Some changes, but not many that make it harder to pull off.
>>>
>>> First, they currently land in REDMOND at 12:26. We asked them to look into Bend, but there appears to be some requirements (I'm not aware of) for airports.
>>>
>>> They are planning on attending the last 30 minutes of a SageCon council meeting. They asked if the meeting could be at the Forest Service building (20-25 people). They are working with the state to plan the meeting, so it might already be in the works for some other location, but DOI did ask...
>>>
>>> So now the ceremony would start at 2. I've updated the agenda. They'd like Secretary to introduce Governor..... (or Merkley if he's there).
>>>
>>> They didn't really answer the question about congressional involvement, but we can assume they will do the ask, and we'll plug in any principle who shows up into the speaking role.
>>>
>>> They are doing the formal (Email) invites based off of our list and input from Oregon.
>>>
>>> They wanted to drop the state part of the tour, and spend more time at whiskey ranch (who wouldn't). I made a best guess on times. She'd like to walk around. So anyone (up to 10 people--no more) who need to talk to her (outside the entourage) need to be there.

Lek tour...2, 7 pax vehicles will be necessary. Governor planning on going on tour. BLM district director...(Robyn too, perhaps).

Yes on breakfast. Anna making reservations for 15.

That's all for now....if you get to a place where you can look at these agendas, tell me what you think.

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

News Release

http://www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/

March 27, 2015

Oregon Model to Protect Greater Sage-Grouse Celebrated
Complete Coverage of Habitat Across the State

BEND, Oregon –Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell and Governor Kate Brown are in Central Oregon today to celebrate the landmark agreements that put all non-federal greater sage-grouse habitat into voluntary agreements that offer protections for both the bird and ranchers.

These Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAAs) will allow private landowners in all eight counties with greater sage-grouse habitat to voluntarily enroll under a CCAA with their Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Meanwhile, producers with grazing allotments on state lands will soon be able to enroll under the Oregon Department of State Lands CCAA.

Under these agreements, landowners and permittees who voluntarily agree to manage their lands to remove or reduce threats to sage-grouse and, in return, receive assurances that they will not face additional regulatory requirements should the species ever be listed under the Endangered Species Act.

"These agreements help complete the patchwork quilt we're piecing together here in Oregon to provide protection for greater sage-grouse, ranchers and the Western lifestyle," said Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior. "This quilt is coming together because we're working as a team. These conservation partnerships provide tools for people in the rural west who rely on sagebrush habitat for their economic livelihoods as well as their way of life. Landowners who voluntarily enroll can get peace-of-mind knowing they avoid additional government regulation. T~~ and t~~his is a powerful incentive."

Added Oregon Governor Kate Brown: "These agreements are essential to the continued health of the sagebrush ecosystem and the livelihood of ranchers. By working together, the State, ranchers and Fish and Wildlife Service have devised a plan that advances both the principles of conservation and the local economy."

The Multi-County CCAAs covers 2,312,673 acres and the Division of State Lands CCAA includes 630,000 acres. In combination with the Harney Soil and Water Conservation District CCAA finalized in 2014, more than 4 million acres are covered under these conservation agreements. All federal lands in Oregon are covered in parallel conservation agreements such that the entirety of greater sage-grouse habitat on private, state, and federal land is covered under conservation agreements that provide these assurances.

Comment [PH1]: There are actually 5 CCAAs. Not sure it matter here, but you reference below 2 CCAAs (state, and multicounty)

Landowners are making the choice to enroll. Since the Harney County Soil and Water Conservation District entered into its CCAA with the Service in May 2014, it has enrolled over 53 landowners with more than 320,000 acres. Numerous ranchers also are ready to enroll under these ~~two~~ new CCAAs.

Each CCAA was developed through locally-driven efforts with a steering committee ~~comprised of representatives from groups~~ that included ~~including~~ private landowners, livestock associations and stock growers, watershed councils, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, County Courts, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon State University Extension, The Nature Conservancy, Oregon Department of State Lands, and Native American Tribes.

Landowners and cattle producers who enroll will develop site-specific plans that address threats to sage-grouse and maintain or improve habitat. The major threats in Oregon are wildfire and a resulting increase of exotic grasses and juniper encroachment. All participating enrollees will agree to maintain contiguous habitat and avoid further fragmentation. Other activities that may be included in the plans include juniper removal, invasive grass and weed control, and marking fences known to be a strike hazard for sage-grouse.

Greater sage-grouse currently occur in 11 states and two Canadian provinces. In Oregon, greater sage-grouse were once found in most sagebrush habitats east of the Cascades.

For more information about greater sage-grouse, visit http://www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information, visit www.fws.gov, or connect with us through any of these social media channels at facebook.com/USFWSPacific, flickr.com/photos/usfwspacific/, tumblr.com/blog/usfwspacific or twitter.com/USFWSPacific.

– FWS –

DRAFT