From:	Carranza, Lee
To:	Ted Koch
Cc:	Carolyn Swed; Susan Abele
Subject:	Re: NRST visit
Date:	Thursday, March 05, 2015 8:08:58 AM
Attachments:	NRST presentation to RFWO brief 3-4-15 w lac.docx

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Thank you for the opportunity to review. I agree with Susan's comments. I forgot my planner today at home and so can't check my notes. I made a couple recommendations to the attached version.

Again, I think since there is so much detail we need to be certain it will stay internal.

Thanks,

On Wed, Mar 4, 2015 at 3:08 PM, Ted Koch <ted_koch@fws.gov> wrote:

> Carolyn, Lee Ann & Susan-
>
> Do you think my write-up, attached, adequately captures the visit by the National Riparian Service Team last Friday? Does it honor the NRST's desire to not "send the PowerPoint" around? That is, am I sharing too much detail?
>
> Thanks,
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> Ted
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> Ted Koch
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March 4, 2015

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

TO: Mike Fris, Assistant Regional Director, Pacific Southwest Region

FROM: Ted Koch, Field Supervisor, Reno Fish & Wildlife Office

SUBJECT: BLM Nevada External Review Preliminary Report – NOT FOR OUTSIDE DISTRIBUTION

I. INTRODUCTION

Last Friday the National Riparian Service Team (NRST) visited the Reno Fish & Wildlife Office (RFWO) to report on their preliminary findings from interviewing 175 people across northern Nevada, within and outside of BLM, in January to identify challenges and opportunities for improving rangeland health in northern and central Nevada, at the BLM State Director's request. They anticipate producing a report by the end of March. Some of their preliminary findings they shared with the RFWO include the information below.

II. BACKGROUND

The following information should be kept "close hold" until the NRST can produce their final report in about a month.

People within and outside BLM were unusually "hungry" to share their concerns and ideas with the NRST. People internal and external to BLM feared retaliation for sharing their thoughts with the NRST. Collaboration was not viewed as being part of BLM culture in Nevada. There were concerns with high levels of turnover within, and lack of transparency by BLM.

Primary Themes included the following issues (in rough priority order) and concerns with BLM:

1. Riparian Health
2. Livestock Grazing
3. Drought Policy
4. Wild Horse and Burro
5. Private land and water
6. Sage Grouse
7. Mining and energy
8. Invasive species and fire

<u>BLM Focused Concerns</u>

1. Tough Decisions
2. NEPA
3. Lack of leadership
4. High Turnover
5. External Relations
6. Collaboration/Coordination

Note that sage grouse are <u>relatively</u> low on the list of priority issues. Also, regarding Wild Horses & Burros (WHB) management, they reported that, "Many are concerned that NV is facing perfect storm of issues and threatened ecological collapse, given existing drought and high levels of WHB population in NV."

Regarding the function of the BLM in Nevada they reported, "Many were concerned with inconsistent and sometimes ineffective implementation of state-wide policies. Internal divisions

and lack of civility within State leadership are well known; and fosters an 'us versus them' attitude."

On a continuum including, "Conflict – Crisis – Coexistence – Collaborate – Cooperate", the NRST felt the BLM in Nevada is at the "Conflict" stage. Their goal is to begin working immediately to move to the "Crisis" stage, with the long-term goal of achieving "Cooperation."

The NRST began work on Monday with BLM Nevada and stakeholders to address the most significant and urgent area of conflict, which is on the Argenta Grazing Allotment on the Battle Mountain District in north-central Nevada. They anticipate holding workshops this spring to begin working more broadly across northern Nevada towards cooperation. The most urgent issue they see across northern Nevada is WHB management.

III. POSITION OF INTERESTED PARTIES

It seems that all affected parties would welcome moving from "Conflict" towards "Cooperation." Most felt they need to work with others; they can't solve these problems alone.

IV. CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The BLM Nevada State Director has in the past acknowledged to the Service their concern with their office's ability to implement required actions on the ground to achieve conservation for sage grouse and other species, and they have asked for the Service's help. It seems the NRST report may validate these concerns. The NRST report may provide an opportunity to pursue more open dialogue and collaboration among all affected parties.

V. KEY MESSAGES

Comment [LAC1]: I think we should add something about working closely with affected parties and providing support to BLM when they make decisions to try to move to solution on these issues.

The Service supports the NRST and BLM Nevada's efforts to move away from "Conflict" and towards "Cooperation." We believe BLM's effectiveness in implementing their proposed conservation measures for sage grouse and other species is essential for the long-term conservation of sagebrush ecosystems in Nevada.