From: Burgess, Angela
To: Bill Noonan; Boyd Schulz; David Kimble; Steve Fairbairn; Amelia Orton-Palmer; Angela Burgess; Angela Sitz; Anna Harris; Barrett, Dominic; Berglund, Jeff; Betsy Herrmann; Bob Timberman; Bridget Fahey; CalLee Davenport; Chad Maier; Clark Mccreedy; Clint Wirick; Corey Kanuckel; Craig Rowland; Dan Cox; Deibert, Pat; Drue DeBerry; Elise Snider; Ginger Phalen; Greg Neudecker; Heather Johnson; Heather McPherron; James Boyd; James Magee; Jane Bardolf; Jay Martini; Jennifer Siani; Jodi Bush; Joe Nichols; John Nuss; Karen Anderson; Karl Fleming; Kathleen Hendricks; Kathy Hollar; Katie Powell; Kurt Forman; Larry Crist; Laura Romin; Lee Corum; Loren Ruport; Marcy Haworth; Marisa Lipsey; Marisa Meyer; Mark Hogan; Mark Sattelberg; Matt Kales; Matthew Barry; Michael Fris; Michael Thabault; Michelle Eames; Mindy Meade; Moore, Julie; Nicole Alt; Pauline Hope; Polly Wheeler; Randy Gazda; Rox Rogers; Scott Larson; Scott Mcleod; Seth Willey; Susan Abele; Tara Vogel; Ted Koch; Terry Ireland; Terry Quesinberry; Theodore Stein; Theresa Rabot; Tyler Abbott; Will Meeks
Subject: Reminder: GRSG CCAA monthly call scheduling doodle poll closes Friday, Jan. 9
Date: Thursday, January 08, 2015 12:39:40 PM
Attachments: Dec 18 2014 CCAA_CCA Call Notes.docx
GRSG CCAA_CCA Call Participants 19Dec2014.xlsx
20141210_Signed RD GRSG CCAA Tool Kit Memo.pdf
GRSG_Rider_Analysis for staff(v2).docx

Hi Everyone,
Just a reminder, if interested, please vote in the doodle poll to schedule the monthly GRSG CCAA call by COB tomorrow, Friday, January 9: http://doodle.com/edxsb826vrtqstp3

As of now, it looks like the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2:30 p.m. MT/ 1:30 p.m. PT works best for most people.

Thanks,
Angela

*** Note new address and permanent phone number***
Angela Burgess
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Mountain Prairie Region - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
134 Union Blvd., Lakewood, Colorado 80228
303-236-4263
angela_burgess@fws.gov

On Mon, Dec 22, 2014 at 10:26 AM, Burgess, Angela <angela_burgess@fws.gov> wrote:

> Hi Everyone,
> Thanks to everyone who was able to join us for the first CCAA/CCA/GRSG Private Land Practitioner call last Thursday.
>
> Action Items:
>
> 1. Doodle poll for scheduling future calls - please fill out by Friday, Jan. 9: http://doodle.com/edxsb826vrtqstp3
> 2. Review GRSG CCAA/CCA Status Spreadsheet – if you're the lead for a CCAA/CCA, please fill in information about CED and update spreadsheet as necessary.
> 3. Distribution list (attached) – let me know of any errors, omissions, or if you want to be removed from the distribution list.
>
> Also, please see:
>
> 1. Notes from 12/18/2014 call (attached)
> 2. Memo from RD about GRSG CCAA Tool Kit (attached)
> 3. Sage grouse rider information (attached)

4. GRSG CCAA/CCA Sharepoint site: https://fishnet.fws.doi.net/projects/home/NSGC/CCAAtools/SitePages/Home.aspx, which includes:

- GRSG CCAA Tool Kit
- GRSG CCAA/CCA Status Spreadsheet
- NRCS SGI/CCAA information – Primer of common issues, FAQ, comparison table
- Completed GRSG CCAAs

Please pass on this information to anyone who I may have inadvertently missed.

Thanks again,

Angela

*** Note new address and permanent phone number***

Angela Burgess
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Mountain Prairie Region - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
134 Union Blvd., Lakewood, Colorado 80228
303-236-4263
angela_burgess@fws.gov

Greater Sage-Grouse CCAA/CCA Conference Call Agenda

Date: Thursday, December 18, 2014

Time: 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. MT

Call-in #: 866-916-4854; Passcode: 329069

1) Introductions –

Region 1:

RO: Kathy Hollar, Anna Harris, John Nuss

Washington: Michelle Eames, Heather McPherron, Ginger Phalen

Oregon: Craig Rowland, CalLee Davenport, Marisa Meyer, Jennifer Siana, Angela Sitz

Idaho: Kathleen Hendricks, Katie Powell

Region 6:

RO: Angela Burgess, Amelia Orton-Palmer, Drue Deberry, Bridget Fahey, Heather Johnson, Susan Abele (on detail), Pat Diebert

North Dakota: Scott McLeod

South Dakota: Terry Quesinberry

Montana: Jeff Berglund, Jodi Bush, Jim Boyd, Jim Magee, Marisa Lipsey

Colorado: Bill Noonan, Apple Snider, Terry Ireland, Bob Timberman

Wyoming: Clark McCreedy, Tyler Abbott, Mark Sattelberg, Pauline Hope, Mindy Meade

Utah: Betsey Herrmann, Mark Hogan

Region 8:

Nevada: Tara Vogel, Lee Corum, Marcy Haworth, Ted Koch

HQ: Julie Moore

2) Purpose of GRSG CCAA Call

a. Many of us were all together at the Private Land Practitioner Workshop here in Denver, put on my Heather Johnson – we're hoping to continue discussions started there
b. Ensure that we're all on the same page and up to date about ongoing development of CCAAs across the range
c. Opportunity for everyone to learn from each other's experiences and get assistance on issues as they arise
d. Hopefully provide consistency, when appropriate (obviously given the large range and variety of threats, it's likely not all GRSG CCAAs will be consistent)
e. Allow brainstorming and collaboration about CCAAs- receptive/interested landowners, areas of potential for CCAAs.
f. Increase efficiency about coordination related to CCAAs – between programs (ES and Partners, ROs and FOs)
g. Allow us to quickly, efficiently brief management about GRSG CCAA status

h. Is call going to be strictly CCAAs/CCAs, or can we also incorporate other Private Lands issues? Hopefully we'll be able to have all necessary discussion related to Private Lands issues, probably start out focusing on CCAAs/CCAs.

3) Communication – Best methods?
   a. We realize that everyone is likely overloaded with regularly scheduled calls- especially related to GRSG, so we want to ensure that we're getting the most of the calls.
   b. Combine with GRSG Biologist Call?
      i. At this point, no, as it sounds like they will focus on different things.
   c. In addition to the call, we're hoping that there may be other forms of communication that allow for open communication
      i. Sharepoint Site – use already existing GRSG CCAA Tool Kit Sharepoint Site (not to be confused with 2 other GRSG sharepoint sites)
         1. Hopefully everyone on the call can contribute information
         2. Central location for completed GRSG CCAAs
         3. Additional information about CCAAs/SGI
         4. Status spreadsheet of GRSG CCAAs – completed and in development
         5. Brainstorming/Issue/Concern depository
            a. Can post questions/issues/lessons learned
            b. Requests for topics of discussion on future calls
      ii. Email updates when needed – when new things are added to sharepoint; reminders to update the status spreadsheet on sharepoint
      iii. In the near future, we will likely plan to have a monthly call to touch based – hope to have clearly defined agendas
      iv. Sending out a doodle poll to determine what day/time works best for everyone in the future
4) General Issues:
   a. GRSG CCAA Tool Kit - https://fishnet.fws.doi.net/projects/home/NSGC/CCAAtools/SitePages/Home.aspx
      i. Hopefully everyone has seen the email notices
      ii. Template documents will be "living documents" and will likely have updates as we progress – for example, the most recent Umbrella template that has been posted on the sharepoint is currently being reviewed by the solicitor- we will likely update after we get those comments.
      iii. Strongly recommend that you read the Guide for Developing CCAAs FIRST! This guide is also very useful for everyone working on CCAAs.
      iv. It's okay to share guide and template documents with outside parties interested in developing CCAAs for GRSG.
      v. Discussion of updating information about CCAAs and Partners program on National GRSG website – follow-up with EA needed.
   b. Entering CCAAs into Conservation Efforts Database (CED) –

i. Make sure all completed CCAAs are entered information from CCAAs into CED by January 15
ii. Columns about CED will be included in sharepoint CCAA/CCA Status Table – please update information about if the CCAA has been entered and who is responsible for entering
iii. Information can be entered by partners (i.e., Permit- holder, state), if desired by the other party – just make sure it gets entered either way.
iv. If CCAAs/CCAs are entering final stages – may want to go ahead and enter them in CED, especially if landowners have strong desire to include them in Status Review.
v. Talk to Kathy Hollar or Lief Wiechman with any questions about CED.

c. NRCS Working Lands for Wildlife Sage Grouse Initiative and CCAAs –
    i. As we discussed at the Private Land Practitioner meeting, there has been a lot of confusion surrounding how SGI and CCAAs work together or are different. They ARE compatible and there have been instances where landowners have chosen to use both.
    ii. Dan Ashe has a meeting with NRCS leadership today, in which CCAA and SGI will likely be a topic of discussion – we'll update everyone if we hear anything new based on the outcome of that meeting.
    iii. To address questions and concerns from landowners, FWS Staff, and NRCS staff, we have recently developed a "Primer" for the issue, explaining the common questions and concerns, FAQs, and Comparison Table – will post on sharepoint
    iv. Discussing using these docs and working with External Affairs to create an official document for public use, but until that is done, we will post documents that we have on sharepoint for internal use.
    v. Working with Heather Johnson with Partners here in R6 about the best ways to efficiently coordinate with landowners who may potentially be interested in both SGI and CCAAs
    vi. Discussion of having webinars for FWS and NRCS staff to ensure consistency and improve communication

5) Completed GRSG CCAAs – Ran out of time to go through list of completed CCAA/CCAs and those in development, but we just completed the spreadsheet (on sharepoint) with all information that we're aware of, please review the spreadsheet to make sure we're not missing anything and update as needed

6) GRSG CCAAs in Development – Same as #5

7) Early Stage Planning –
    a. Any of the following information would be very helpful for us to know – please add to CCAA/CCA status spreadsheet on sharepoint
        i. Any preliminary contacts made

ii. Any ideas on areas where there should be more of a focus on CCAAs
iii. Any specific landowners that you've heard may be interested

8) Any other issues/questions?
   a. Sage-grouse rider- will send out handout with information - main message is that conservation efforts are still a priority – so continue all your work on development of CCAAs/CCAs!

Thanks everyone!

Name	Region	Program	Office
Amelia Orton-Palmer	6	ES	RO
Angela Burgess	6	ES	RO
Angela Sitz	1	ES	OR FO - Bend
Anna Harris	1	EA	RO
Apple Snider	6	ES	Grand Junction CO FO
Betsy Herrmann	6	ES	Utah FO
Bill Noonan	6	Partners	CO
Bob Timberman	6	Partners	CO
Bridget Fahey	6	ES	RO
CalLee Davenport	1	Partners	OR FO - Portland
Chad Maier	6	Partners	ND
Clark McCreedy	6	ES	Wyoming FO
Clint Wirick	6	Partners	UT
Craig Rowland	1	Partners	OR
Dan Cox	8	ES	RO
Dave Kimble	6	Partners	WY
Drue Deberry	6	ES	RO
Ginger Phalen	1	Partners	Washington FO
Greg Neudecker	6	Partners	MT
Heather Johnson	6	Partners	RO
Heather McPherron	1	ES	Washington FO
Jane Bardolf	1	ES	RO
Jay Martini	6	ES	Utah FO
Jeff Berglund	6	ES	Montana FO
Jennifer Siana	1	ES	OR FO - Portland
Jim Boyd	6	ES	Montana FO
Jim Magee	6	Partners	MT
Jodi Bush	6	ES	Montana FO
Joe Nichols	6	Partners	SD
John Nuss	1	ES	RO
Julie Moore	HQ	ES	HQ
Karen Anderson	HQ	ES	HQ
Karl Fleming	6	Partners	UT
Kathleen Hendricks	1	Partners	ID
Kathy Hollar	1	Partners	RO
Katie Powell	1	ES	ID FO
Kurt Forman	6	Partners	SD
Larry Crist	6	ES	Utah FO
Laura Romin	6	ES	Utah FO
Lee Corum	8	ES	Nevada FO
Loren Ruport	6	Partners	MT
Marcy Haworth	8	ES	Nevada FO
Marisa Lipsey	6	Partners	Montana
Marisa Meyer	1	ES	OR FO - La Grande
Mark Hogan	6	Partners	WY
Mark Sattelberg	6	ES	Wyoming FO

Matt Barry	8	Partners	RO
Matt Kales	6	ES	RO
Michelle Eames	1	ES	Washington FO
Mike Fris	8	ES	RO
Mike Thabault	6	ES	RO
Mindy Meade	6	Partners	WY
Nicole Alt	6	ES	RO
Pat Deibert	6	ES	RO
Pauline Hope	6	ES	Wyoming FO
Polly Wheeler	8	Partners/Refuges	RO
Randy Gazda	6	ES	Montana FO
Rox Rogers	6	ES	Wyoming FO
Scott Larson	6	ES	South Dakota FO
Scott McLeod	6	Partners	ND
Seth Willey	6	ES	RO
Susan Abele	8	Partners	Nevada FO
Susan Linner	6	ES	Colorado FO
Tara Vogel	8	ES	Nevada FO
Ted Koch	8	ES	Nevada FO
Terry Ireland	6	ES	Grand Junction CO FO
Terry Quesinberry	6	ES	South Dakota FO
Terry Rabot	1	ES	RO
Theo Stein	6	EA	RO
Tyler Abbott	6	ES	Wyoming FO
Will Meeks	6	Partners/Refuges	RO

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Mountain-Prairie Region

IN REPLY REFER TO:
FWS/R6/ES

MAILING ADDRESS:
P.O. BOX 25486, DFC
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

STREET LOCATION:
134 Union Boulevard
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1807

DEC 10 2014

Memorandum

To: Service Project Leaders and Staff Engaged in Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation, Regions 1, 6, and 8

From: Regional Director, Region 6, on behalf of Region 1, 6, and 8 Regional Directors

Subject: Greater Sage-grouse Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) Tool Kit for Ranching and Agriculture

Conservation of the Greater Sage-grouse continues to be an important and time-sensitive endeavor for the Service and our partners. Continued support for maintaining Greater Sage-grouse habitat by the ranching community is vital for conservation of the species. We recognize that providing regulatory certainty and efficient conservation tools are key for ranchers to participate in conservation efforts. Fostering new ideas and innovative tools for these purposes will also enhance landowner partnerships to conserve the Greater Sage-grouse. Approaching deadlines require urgency in the Service's coordination, development, and implementation of these conservation tools.

Thus, Service staff in Regions 1, 6, 8, and Headquarters collaboratively developed a Greater Sage-grouse CCAA Tool Kit (Tool Kit) as a guide for Service staff to efficiently develop programmatic or umbrella CCAAs for ranching and agriculture activities to benefit Greater Sage-grouse. To ensure efficiency and consistency, we strongly encourage you to use the Tool Kit for ranchers who want to receive assurances for conserving sage-grouse on their lands. In the rare case where the Tool Kit is not applicable to local or regional conditions, you may develop a CCAA with an appropriate approach. However, work with your regional CCAA coordinator to avoid problematic inconsistencies with the Tool Kit.

Under programmatic and umbrella CCAAs, a single master CCAA provides an overall conservation strategy for the covered area and a suite of potential conservation measures that individual property owners can select to address the threats on their property. Programmatic and umbrella CCAAs are particularly useful in landscapes with a large number of interested property owners; where a significant matrix of federal, state, or private lands occurs; or where the Service believes that a CCAA is a critically needed and applicable tool for the Greater Sage-grouse in a particular geographic area. Under a programmatic CCAA, a single master permit holder enrolls ranchers with individual certificates of inclusion. When no party offers to hold a master permit, we can issue individual permits to ranchers under an umbrella CCAA.

The Tool Kit starts with the "Guide to Developing CCAAs for the Greater Sage-grouse – Essential Tips for Success" (Guide). It provides: 1) essential advice on how to reach out to partners and landowners, 2) key considerations to determine if and where a CCAA would be appropriate, and 3) the necessary steps in preparing an umbrella or programmatic CCAA. The Tool Kit also includes templates for programmatic and umbrella CCAAs, which contain standard language and information necessary in a CCAA anywhere in the Greater Sage-grouse range. The Tool Kit also can be used to develop individual CCAAs for single landowners with slight modifications to the templates.

Using the CCAA Tool Kit will:

- Save significant development and writing time compared to preparing each CCAA from scratch
- Ensure an appropriate level of consistency between grazing or ranching CCAAs across the range of the Greater Sage-grouse; and
- Streamline review and approval time.

The Tool Kit also includes other supporting information:

- Greater Sage-grouse CCAA fact sheet
- FAQs about the compatibility of Working Lands for Wildlife's sage-grouse Initiative (SGI) and CCAAs
- Menu of conservation measures that can be applied to an individual property owner's enrolled land
- Tables comparing conservation tools (Candidate Conservation Agreement, CCAA, Safe Harbor Agreement, and SGI)

All of the Tool Kit's documents are posted on the Service's Greater Sage-grouse Tool Kit SharePoint site: https://fishnet.fws.doi.net/projects/home/NSGC/CCAAtools.

If you have any questions, please contact Angela Burgess, at (303) 236-4263 or via email at angela_burgess@fws.gov.

What the Sage-Grouse Rider Means

The FY 2015 Omnibus Appropriations Bill contained a rider that includes specific provisions for greater sage-grouse. We know that this development – and statements in the media – have created significant uncertainty within our team and among our partners across the range about what the rider means and what the future holds. So we want to take the opportunity to clarify where we stand , where we're headed and how we're going to get there.

The key point is that the Omnibus is very targeted. We intend to move full speed ahead in every aspect of greater sage-grouse conservation activities where we are still allowed to. It is critically important that we maintain the momentum that has developed over the past few years as a result of our status review process and deadlines.

- The Omnibus limits the Services' ability to publish rules regarding sage-grouse, as further detailed below, until the Fiscal Year 2015 appropriations law restrictions are lifted.
- The Omnibus does not affect our ability to develop, implement, and analyze conservation efforts to support the species. In fact, it continues funding for Interior and USDA to conserve sagebrush habitat and to advance the unprecedented collaboration happening across 11 Western states.
- It does not relieve BLM or the states from their obligation to finalize management plans that address threats to greater sage-grouse across the range.
- It does not relieve us of our obligation to determine by Sept. 30, 2015 whether ESA protection is still warranted. We will continue to collect data and conduct analysis, and reach a decision as to whether listing is warranted or not.

That means we must stay on track and:

- **Continue to assist the BLM, USFS and states in finalizing land use plans that are protective of sage-grouse and sage-grouse habitat.**
- **Continue to work with BLM, NRCS and our other partners to develop and finalize CCA/As and other conservation efforts that provide tangible and durable on-the-ground benefits to sage-grouse and its sagebrush habitat.**
- **Continue with the status review process – which means we are transitioning from data collection to data analysis to determine by Sept. 30 if "warranted" is still the appropriate designation for the species.**

The sage-grouse campaign truly does represent a remarkable and historic moment in the history of the ESA- and the North American model of wildlife management. Success will hinge on the work of many, many people, most of all you. If we don't get it right now, we'll surely be back in sagebrush country soon, wrestling with petitions for other species, like pygmy rabbits and Brewer's sparrows. If we do get it right now, we will send a loud and clear message that conservation is a shared responsibility that provides shared benefits for people and wildlife.

Here's some additional information:

Text of Rider:
SAGE GROUSE

SEC. 122. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used by the Secretary of the Interior **to write or issue pursuant to section 4** of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533)-

(1) a proposed rule for greater sage-grouse (Centrocercus urophasianus);
(2) a proposed rule for the Columbia basin distinct population segment of greater sage-grouse;
(3) a final rule for the bi-state distinct population segment of greater sage-grouse; or
(4) a final rule for Gunnison sage-grouse (Centrocercus minimus).

Duration

- We will not be able to proceed in these areas until the FY 2015 appropriations law restrictions are lifted.
- Any FY15 carryover funds will carry the existing restriction.
- Riders are often incorporated into future spending bills.

Greater Sage-Grouse (incl. Columbia Basin DPS)

The Service cannot propose a threatened or endangered designation.

The Service could:

- Write and issue a not-warranted finding (if supported by the record)
- Issue a warranted but precluded finding (state that Section 122 prohibits FWS from writing or issuing a proposed rule promptly as required by Sec. 4.)
- Complete the analysis required for the above determination rule - but not write it until the Fiscal Year 2015 appropriations law restrictions are lifted.
- Write and issue an emergency listing rule for a period of 240 days under the authority of section 4(b)(7). [There is no judicial precedent on whether a new emergency listing can follow the initial one.] However, we could not write or issue a proposed rule to accompany an emergency listing until the Fiscal Year 2015 appropriations law restrictions are lifted.
- Complete analysis required for a proposed 4(d) rule – but not write it until the Fiscal Year 2015 appropriations law restrictions are lifted.

Bi-State Population

The Service cannot write or issue a final rule [or finalize the 4(d) rule] for the Bi-State DPS

The Service could:

- Write and issue a not-warranted finding (if supported by the record)
- Issue a warranted but precluded finding (state that Section 122 prohibits FWS from writing or issuing a proposed rule promptly as required by Sec. 4.)
- Complete the analysis required for a final listing rule, but not write it until the Fiscal Year 2015 appropriations law restrictions are lifted.
- Complete analysis of final 4(d) rule (if warranted) but not write it until restrictions are lifted.

Gunnison Sage-Grouse

The prohibition on writing final rules is moot. Final rule and CH issued 11/12, effective 12/22.

The Service cannot finalize a 4(d) rule until the Fiscal Year 2015 appropriations law restrictions are lifted

The Service could:

- Write and issue a proposed 4(d) rule but not finalize it until the Fiscal Year 2015 appropriations law restrictions are lifted.
- Do the analysis required for a final 4(d) rule (without writing a final 4(d) rule)