

From: [Freifeld, Holly](#)
To: [Jeff Everett](#)
Cc: [Lief Wiechman](#)
Subject: Re: Oregon CED contact person
Date: Monday, February 23, 2015 9:55:15 AM
Attachments: [20150212_CED_ProjByMZ_Ph1 \(1\).docx](#)
[20150212_CED_Eval Process.docx](#)
[20150211_CED_EmailTOPLs \(1\).docx](#)

Hi again, Jeff:

You'll have just received two calendar invitations (we're gauge everyone's availability for the how-to webinar). Would you kindly respond to both? Thanks.

Too, just so you can get a sense of what we're doing (I don't mean to inundate you!), here are the two info documents about the project evaluation process, and the cover email from Nicole. Again, I think the pointy end of this - actually generating reports and evaluating projects -- is easier and more straightforward than these docs may suggest...!

Thanks again,
Holly

~~~~~  
Holly Freifeld, Ph.D.  
Fish and Wildlife Biologist - Ecological Services  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Region  
911 NE 11th Ave., 4th Floor, Portland, OR 97232  
ph: 503.231.2198  
[holly\\_freifeld@fws.gov](mailto:holly_freifeld@fws.gov)

On Mon, Feb 23, 2015 at 7:58 AM, Freifeld, Holly <[holly\\_freifeld@fws.gov](mailto:holly_freifeld@fws.gov)> wrote:  
Hi Jeff,

Thanks for your note! -- Yeah, I just mentioned on the call that we didn't have anyone identified from OFWO yet. I didn't want to nudge Paul, though, because technically Nicole gave all the PLs until today to ID someone. OK, so for the meantime, I'll rely on you! We are going to have a webinar tomorrow to walk everyone through the process, so meantime you might want to register in the CED (if you haven't already), and I'll forward you some other stuff this morning. I hope the CED review won't be too onerous or time-consuming; that said, Oregon probably has a larger share of reviewable projects (total = ~350) than any other state...

Thanks again,  
Holly

~~~~~  
Holly Freifeld, Ph.D.

Fish and Wildlife Biologist - Ecological Services
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Region
911 NE 11th Ave., 4th Floor, Portland, OR 97232
ph: 503.231.2198
holly_freifeld@fws.gov

On Fri, Feb 20, 2015 at 12:27 PM, Jeff Everett <jeff_everett@fws.gov> wrote:

Holly –

I missed the first few minutes of yesterday's call and your question about how OR is the only state for which you don't have a name; Jennifer filled me in earlier this morning. For now, use my name and contact info.

However, just FYI for you, schedules and capacity are really bad here between Jennifer, Angela in Bend, Marisa in La Grande, and me over the next few weeks. All of these names have been suggested, and the issue has been raised to the management team here at the OFWO. I speculate that I will be main POC but it will be a team effort between the four of us to get this done; I expect a solid answer from the supervisors here early next week.

Hope this helps and sorry to leave you hanging on this. Have a good weekend ☺

Cheers

J-

Jeff Everett

Wildlife Biologist

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Oregon Fish & Wildlife Office

2600 SE 98th Ave Suite 100

Portland, OR 97266

503-231-6952 office

503-807-6192 cell

List of Projects for Phase 1 Evaluation

Projects >500 acres entered as "completed" and "effective" addressing primary threats in each MZ (First cut for effectiveness evaluation);
Primary threats in each MZ are indicated by green shading

Mngmt Zone	TIER 1 THREATS								TIER 2 THREATS							
	AG CONV		ENERGY DEV		CONIFER ENCROACH		FIRE		INFRASTRUCTURE				MINING			
	Project No.	Acres	Proje ct No.	Acres	Project No.	Acres	Project No.	Acres	Project No.	Acres	Project No.	Miles	Project No.	Acres	Project No.	Acres
MZ 1	7	712,690	4	282,948					2	31,970	1	15,674	3	53,457	17	1,081,065
MZ 2			6	12,435					11	55,672	-	-	7	308,503	24	376,610
MZ 3					55	76,527	36	47,168	-	-	1	9,050	1	640	93	124,335
MZ 4					41	68,412	69	178,806	-	-	-	-			110	247,218
MZ 5					58	113,724	2	2,450	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	116,174
MZ 6	-	-					-	-	-	-	-	-			-	-
MZ 7			-	-	21	24,466			4	8,972	-	-			25	33,438
TOTAL	7	712,690	10	295,383	175	283,129	107	228,424	17	96,614	2	24,724	11	362,600	329	1,978,840

Collection, Organization, and Evaluation of Conservation Efforts

February 12, 2015

1. **QUERY:** We have created 'canned queries' to extract records (data and associated information, narratives, and supplemental documents) from Conservation Efforts Database (CED). These queries are organized by state, threat, and WAFWA Management Zone (MZ), and include all efforts conducted to ameliorate the 13 threats identified in the Conservation Objectives Team (COT) Final Report (2013).
2. **FILTER:** Use filter(s) to narrow scope of records to be reviewed and evaluated. Filters identify whether the action conducted addresses a threat that is (1) present, and (2) of primary concern for the MZ, as identified by the Near Term Greater-Sage Grouse Conservation Action Plan (NTCAP; 2012) and the COT Report (2013). Projects that do not meet these criteria will be identified as such and deferred for later analysis. For example, if a project addresses a threat that is highly localized (one or two areas or populations) in a MZ that is otherwise relatively 'free' of the threat in question (e.g., Conifer Encroachment may not be present or a primary threat that is widespread across MZ I or II), that project will be temporarily deferred at this stage.
3. **REPORTS:** USGS has developed a CED report template using the criteria identified above in **Step 2**. FO biologists will be able to select a state, threat, and MZ to generate a report (an Excel spreadsheet) listing projects for their review. The reports (Excel spreadsheets) generated, will list all projects that meet the criteria and will include (for each project) information about the activity type, a summary of metrics (total acres, miles) and effectiveness information reported by the project proponents, and links to documents uploaded when the project was entered into the CED. This report process will be automated so we can update our numbers to reflect projects entered or updated in the future.
4. **ASSESSMENT:** All projects that are **not deferred for later analysis** will be passed on to each respective Field Office (FO). FO biologists will be assigned to these records pertaining to the primary threats present in their state (and ultimately rolling up to applicable MZ in **Step 7**). FO biologists will then coordinate with the author of each threat chapter from the Species Report to review, and certify that all records **meet effectiveness criteria** - prioritizing those that have large acreages and those in critical areas. The CED has a Map Viewer built-in to do simple, coarse queries to illustrate where each respective project is located to aid FO biologists in prioritization if need be.
 - a. If the preceding steps have not adequately filtered the efforts to be evaluated, FO biologists use their discretion and local knowledge prioritize which efforts need to be evaluated. This step will ensure the data we are quantifying have been quality-controlled and that actions purported to be effective have provided conservation benefit to the species.
 - b. Develop general considerations for determining which efforts 'qualify' for effectiveness in addressing a particular threat. Creation of **these considerations** will ensure consistent sideboards for analysis across all threats and FOs. CED Team will work with FOs to develop the lists of considerations for each type of activity/subactivity.
 - c. FO biologists will have access to all information provided in the CED including contact information from the data provider as well as narrative documents, such as project reports, uploaded to the CED. Hyperlinks to uploaded documents will be provided in the report. FO reviewers must log into ScienceBase to view these documents:
 - Go to <https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/>
 - Enter your FWS email address and your active directory password.
 - Click on the hyperlink for the document you wish to view.

Comment [LW 1]:
I've gotta think about how we tackle this some more

5. **DOCUMENT RATIONALE:** FO Biologists will provide information to support their evaluation of the self-reported effectiveness of projects at this time. Similarly, rationale will be provided in support of any determination that a project is not effective—these projects will not be included in further analysis. A drop-down menu will provide

Draft and Pre-Decisional – Not for Distribution

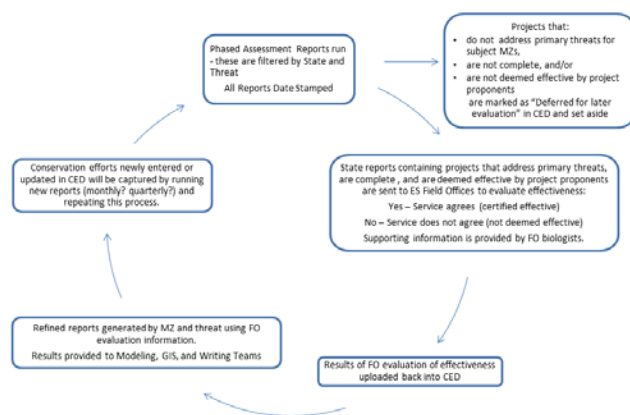
Greater Sage-Grouse 2015 Status Review – Collection, Organization, and Analysis of Conservation Efforts

options for explaining why (e.g., no info on effectiveness provided, incomplete info on effectiveness provided, threat not present, etc.), and a text box will provide space for entering supporting information. After projects have been reviewed and evaluated, FO biologists will post completed report by state in the library provided on to the greater sage-grouse status review SharePoint site: <https://portal.doi.net/usfws/SG/CEDeval/Forms/ByState.aspx>. If you have questions or concerns about how or where to upload the completed reports, please contact Jennifer Sturdivant (jennifer_sturdivant@fws.gov). We ask that you title the completed reports as "YYYYMMDD_State_FO_MZ#_Threat" (e.g. 20150226_Montana_FO_MZ1_AgricultureConversion)

Comment [hf2]: Waiting to hear back from Justin re: hard-wired filenames

6. **UPLOAD and REFINER QUERIES:** USGS will batch upload all evaluations provided by FO biologists, and this information will be added to the associated records in CED. A second set of 'refined canned queries' will then be executed, by WAFWA Management Zone, to extract only those efforts that address present and primary threats, and that have been certified as effective by our FO biologists.
7. **QUANTITATIVE MEASURES:** Data from these refined queries will be supplied to GIS Team so they may proceed with the creation of maps and quantification of acres/miles of threats addressed (conservation efforts) and outstanding (total threat less the conservation efforts). After their analysis has begun, the GIS Team would be able to update these maps and metrics with any new information provided by conservation partners in the CED. Concurrently, the refined queries would be shared with the Modeling Team, and subsequently, after metrics have been quantified, with the Writing Team.
8. **ANALYSIS SUPPORT:** Quantitative measures generated from refined queries will be used, in conjunction with other information (e.g., data-call info) to develop narrative write-ups for each threat chapter and for the Factor D analysis.
9. **PLAN EVALUATION:** FO biologists will also be asked to evaluate local, state, and federal planning efforts. Some of these are entered in the CED, and can be queried (similar to projects). If necessary (for critical actions that have not yet been implemented or deemed effective), PECE will be surgically applied - and these actions will be included in this analysis.
10. **SPECIES REPORT:** Assignments are made to write sections of the factor D analysis. This chapter of the species report will be organized by WAFWA MZ and will include summaries of both conservation efforts (**Steps 1-8**, above) and regulatory mechanisms, such as federal and state land-use plans (**Step 9**) that have been, or are likely to be, implemented and deemed effective. Work will start on this chapter immediately, with quantitative metrics to be added when they are available.

CED: PHASED ASSESSMENT



Draft and Pre-Decisional – Not for Distribution

Greater Sage-Grouse 2015 Status Review – Collection, Organization, and Analysis of Conservation Efforts

Page 2

DRAFT

Good Morning-

As we discussed at the in-person Status Review Meeting in January, we are ready to begin evaluating projects entered into the Conservation Efforts Database (CED). Not all projects/threats will be evaluated range wide at this stage. Initially, we are seeking review of **~350 projects** that will account for **~50%** of the acreage submitted to the CED. The remaining projects (~6,100) will be reviewed at a later time.

Tasks

- We ask that you **assign at least 1 member of your staff** who has knowledge of sagebrush conservation efforts to evaluate projects conducted in your respective states by February 19, 2015. The Status Review Team will then consolidate and roll up these evaluations by MZ for further analysis and incorporation into the Species Report.
- **All biologists assigned to this review must register in the CED.**
Visit <https://conservationefforts.org> to register
- The following documents are available on SharePoint (<https://portal.doi.net/usfws/SG/CEDeval/Forms/ByState.aspx>). **Please provide these to your staff assigned to this review:**
 - [A list of projects by management zone](#)
 - [A detailed description of the process for evaluating CED data; this document provides additional context as well as specific information about project by project evaluation.](#)

Lief Wiechman and Holly Freifeld will host two webinars for FO biologists on Thursday, February 19th and Tuesday, February 24th (times: TBD) to demonstrate access to the CED and how to generate reports by state and by threat. Lief and Holly will be available at any time to answer any questions from your staff and to facilitate communication between those who are evaluating conservation efforts and threat-chapter authors working on the species report.

We will also be asking for your assistance reviewing, evaluating, and summarizing, regulatory mechanisms (Federal, State, local), by management zone for the Species Report. We recognize that the same biologist tasked with reviewing the CED data may or may not be the appropriate person to assist with this task. We are currently developing products to streamline this effort and will provide more information regarding this second request shortly.

Timing

- **NOW:** Please identify the point person(s) for each state now (no later than February 19, 2015) so we can coordinate with those individuals soon.
- **2/19/2015 and 2/24/2015:** As described above, we will host two webinars to demonstrate how to generate reports, access projects, and provide input.
- **2/26/2015:** Review of projects that address agricultural conversion (in MZ 1 and 6) and energy development (in MZ 1 and 2) must be completed by Thursday, February 26th.
- **3/13/2015:** Conservation efforts addressing all other primary must be evaluated by Friday, March 13th.