

**From:** [Matt Kales](#)  
**To:** [Griffiths, Tim - NRCS, Bozeman, MT](#)  
**Cc:** [Naugle, Dave](#); [Michael Thabault](#); [Nicole Alt](#); [Pat Deibert](#); [Will Meeks](#); [Heather Johnson](#); [dave\\_w\\_smith@fws.gov](mailto:dave_w_smith@fws.gov)  
**Subject:** GRSG: draft agenda for 3/5 NRCS meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 25, 2015 11:53:37 AM  
**Attachments:** [FWS.GrSG.March 2015 NRCS meeting agenda.draft 022514.docx](#)  
**Importance:** High

---

Tim,

Hope you are doing well. Please see attached a draft agenda for our meeting next week. Please review and let me know if you have revisions. Please note I included a placeholder for your roster. A few notes on the meeting:

- We have a conference room that accommodates ~20 folks. We'll have VTC capability and a laptop projector. I anticipate 7 or so FWS folks in person and roughly ½ again that number via VTC and/or phone. In terms of our actual roster, you can expect the folks copied here, plus our other ARDs-ES (or their representatives); and key members of our technical team.
- I put the spatial data items first on the agenda be: I think we are close to tying those off and am hopeful we can spend the balance of the day working through remaining questions re: CCAAs.
- Noreen is flying back from UT that morning and has a Colorado River Recovery Program executive meeting that afternoon but will try her best to join in between those commitments.

Thanks in advance for your review and reply and we look forward to seeing you all next week here in Denver.

Matt

**Natural Resources Conservation Service – Fish and Wildlife Service**  
**Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Coordination Meeting**

March 5, 2015, Denver, CO

Draft Agenda, 02.25.15

Meeting Purpose and Goal: Senior members of NRCS' Sage-Grouse Initiative and FWS' sage-grouse conservation team will meet to discuss and advance two key aspects of the bureaus' ongoing partnership to conserve greater sage-grouse and working landscapes across the species' range: incorporating SGI spatial data into FWS' Endangered Species Act status review; and, Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances.

The goal of the meeting will be to identify and conclusively address any outstanding questions or issues associated with these topics and move forward together to deliver effective, durable conservation on private lands in sage-grouse range.

Meeting logistics and participation: We will meet at FWS' Mountain-Prairie Regional Office (Ecological Services conference room, 6<sup>th</sup> floor). We will have VTC capability for remote participants. We will take a 45 minute (off-site) lunch break to maximize meeting time.

FWS participants will include program leads for ESA status review; CCAAs; and Partners for Fish and Wildlife. NRCS participants will include [NRCS will provide roster].

Meeting agenda:

- 9:00 am: Welcome/introductions/kickoff (Tim Griffiths/NRCS; Matt Kales/FWS)
- 9:05 am: NRCS presentation on SGI conservation efforts report (Tim Griffiths; Dr. Dave Naugle/NRCS)
- 9:30 am: Group discussion of report and related issues (All)
- FWS access to NRCS data to re-create conifer treatment maps similar to those contained in the NRCS report and clarity regarding status of those projects, i.e., are they certified complete or are they at the planning phase; and,
  - Identification of the threat (s) ameliorated by the easements recorded in the National Conservation Easement Database.
- 10:00 am: Next steps and commitments re: SGI spatial data (All)
- 10:30 am: Break

- 10:45 am: Overview of FWS GrSG CCAA program: background; approach; completed/pending agreements (Angela Burgess/FWS)
- 11:00 am: Overview of current questions and issues re: SGI – CCAA nexus (Tim Griffiths; Angela Burgess)
- Relationship(s) between SGI predictability and CCAA assurances
    - Relationships between conservation standards for SGI and CCAAs
  - How to better integrate CCAA and SGI delivery (and other private lands conservation tools) to create a “menu” for landowners
    - Operational alignment between tools and practitioners
    - Communications among and between practitioners and landowners
  - Strategic Implementation
    - Spatial targeting of high-value landscapes
    - Coordinated analysis and pursuit of future opportunities
- 11:30 am: Lunch (fast/casual food restaurants within walking distance of RO)
- 12:15 pm: Discussion of current questions and issues re: SGI – CCAA nexus (All)
- 2:00 pm: Break
- 2:15 pm: Next steps and commitments re: SGI-CCAA nexus, including external communications products (All)
- 2:45 pm: Wrap up and closing remarks (All)
- 3:00 pm: Adjourn