

From: [Ginger, Shauna](#)
To: [Jeff Everett](#)
Cc: [Craig Rowland](#)
Subject: Re: GRSG: OFWO sage-grouse manager's email update, 2/18/15
Date: Thursday, February 19, 2015 12:12:36 PM

Jeff,
Great summary.

I suspect I might be in line for the reg. Mech. CED review. I'm out until the 24th but cc'ing Craig if you guys want to discuss my potential role. I have interest and some background but like everyone, time is an issue. Could we get more info about time frame, etc?

Add to post - CCAA task list the opportunity of mitigation on private lands including how that may overlap with CCAAs.

-Shauna Ginger

On Feb 18, 2015 11:17 PM, "Jeff Everett" <jeff_everett@fws.gov> wrote:

All –

Brief update in lieu of our meeting from this week:

Vice -Bill White partnership position at NRCS update: has anyone heard anything about this? The position – a GS-13 and instrumental in SageCon – was only open for 10 days and closed on 1/22.

State plan: on the heels of the Governor's resignation, ODFW has indicated that the working draft of the state sage-grouse plan is now in the hands of SageCon leadership, who are polishing the draft in preparation for review and comment by the entire SageCon constituency. Core team calls have been moved to Friday afternoons to accommodate the schedules of a couple of key folks in light of the state's legislative session; next call is this Friday afternoon. No full SageCon meetings have been scheduled yet for 2015 despite a call to have monthly meetings at the end of last year. No word on when the draft will be circulated, but we do know that there will be specific guidelines on how and when to provide comments. LCDC rule making process is in full swing and we expect the ODFW process to begin very soon, with everything converging on a final plan in June-ish.

Species report: Jennifer's draft of the fences chapter has been reviewed and there are couple of thing for her to address. My working draft of the conifers chapter will be sent to the reviewers by the end of this week, slightly behind schedule but influenced by last week's release of the NRCS – SGI data. The entire draft species report is due March 1; we are having bi-weekly calls with the entire writing team and managing everything through a dedicated sharepoint site.

CED assignment: this came out through the FMT earlier this week and is something we should address; Jennifer, Angela, and myself have all been identified as possibilities but there are schedule and workload concerns with all: *“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.*

- *NOW: Please identify the point person(s) for each state now (no later than February 23, 2015) so we can coordinate with those individuals soon.*
- *2/24/2015: As described above, we will host a webinar to demonstrate how to generate reports, access projects, and provide input. If needed, we will schedule a second webinar.*
- *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.*

*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.”*

Let's follow up on this early next week; feel free to call/email/stop by to discuss.

CCAAs: First, I am pleased to report that the draft DSL CCAA covering all DSL lands within the 8 counties of southeast Oregon (approximately 633,000 acres) will be published in the Federal Register on Monday, 2/23, starting a 30-day public comment period. While not a programmatic agreement since DSL is technically one private landowner enrolling 148 parcels all at once, the CCAA is built on the same foundation as Harney, Moore, and the Multi-County CCAAs.

Next, while the signing ceremony from last week was cancelled, we are looking at rescheduling with the SWCDs for a much smaller but no less important event, early to mid-March. We had a CCAA coordination call with the SWCDs yesterday, and Malheur SWCD (Linda Rowe) has offered to host the event in Ontario. We are coordinating with Paul's schedule and will lock something in soon. I don't think we lost any credibility with the SWCDs or the County folks in light of last week's cancellation, but they are chomping at the bit to get going on the first SSPs. This did buy us a little time to finish tweaking a few minor items on the EA, Findings, CO, and response to comments in coordination with the RO and we expect to have final documents early next week. Also, the NRCS is adjusting the budgets of all nationally-awarded RCPP grants; we will take a hit down slightly from \$9 million but nowhere near as much as other projects/states; final numbers coming soon.

Next, the issue of some BLM districts embracing the CCA and others ignoring it has come up again, this time from private landowners through TNC. We hosted a conference call last week to discuss and explore options to fix it. This issue has come up

several times and consistently from a few very concerned grazers, but it is connected to larger internal BLM coordination issues and may have ramifications to millions of acres. We will be chatting again early next week and I'll have several options for this group to explore before our next meeting.

Next steps for OFWO after CCAAs: Recall that during a recent OFWO meeting I introduced the idea of what else can/should/needs to be done after the CCAA agreements are up and running, to get us all thinking about other candidate conservation opportunities and what our priorities for sage-grouse conservation in Oregon should be, after we have the CCAA structure in place and the State/BLM planning processes are wrapped up. Supporting the RFPAs, collaborating on native revegetation/seed bank materials, supporting Oregon –specific research and monitoring, etc. have all been suggested, in addition to some housekeeping items like focus area maps, CCAA tracking, etc. We'll revisit this in another meeting soon; I look forward to hearing additional ideas so please give this some thought.

Quote of the day from one of the DOI solicitors during the litigation training at the RO today, speaking to a standing room only crowd of biologists: "We went to law school because we can't do math or science."

Upcoming meetings: SageCon core team Friday, 2/20;

OFWO monthly sage-grouse meeting Tuesday 3/3;

OFWO sage-grouse manager's meeting Monday 3/16.

More soon. Cheers,

J-

Jeff Everett

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