

From: [Edgar, Leith](#)
To: [Ben Conard](#); [Russ Holder](#); [David Kampwerth](#)
Subject: Fwd: FW: Preparing Rich and Robyn for North American (March 8-13)
Date: Friday, February 13, 2015 3:35:33 PM
Attachments: [DRAFT NAWNRC 2015 - IFWO Briefing.docx](#)

Ben, Russ & David,

I took a stab at updating (see the tracked changes) the attached for this briefing exercise. Please take a look at it and provide me with your edits NLT COB Monday, March 2.

Note: Based on past experience, I need a day plus to ensure I can address any additional information Mike or Dennis want added to what I propose we provide leadership.

Please feel free to contact me directly about this with questions or concerns.

Thanks,

Leith

Leith Edgar - Public Affairs
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Idaho Fish & Wildlife Office
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From: Mackey, Dennis <dennis_mackey@fws.gov>
Date: Fri, Feb 13, 2015 at 9:03 AM
Subject: Fwd: FW: Preparing Rich and Robyn for North American (March 8-13)
To: Leith Edgar <leith_edgar@fws.gov>

Please coordinate and compile info from Ben, Russ and David. Thanks.

Dennis

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From: Theresa Rabot <theresa_rabot@fws.gov>
Date: Thu, Feb 12, 2015 at 8:15 AM
Subject: FW: Preparing Rich and Robyn for North American (March 8-13)
To: Paul Henson <paul_henson@fws.gov>, Rollie White <rollie_white@fws.gov>, Kristi Young <Kristi_Young@fws.gov>, Cynthia Barry <Cynthia_Barry@fws.gov>, Mike Carrier <michael_carrier@fws.gov>, Dennis Mackey <Dennis_Mackey@fws.gov>, Eric Rickerson <eric_rickerson@fws.gov>, Tom McDowell <tom_mcdowell@fws.gov>
Cc: Marilet Zablan <marilet_zablan@fws.gov>, Paul Heimowitz <paul_heimowitz@fws.gov>

Send straight to vicki, cc me, thanks

If it's a real sensitive topic, we can set up a briefing

From: Finn, Vicki [mailto:vicki_finn@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2015 12:04 PM
To: FW1 RDT
Subject: Preparing Rich and Robyn for North American (March 8-13)

RDT.

Rich and Robyn will attend this year's North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference.

Please make sure they are prepped for issues that might be raised by our partners. Verbal briefings or written materials are fine - keep it simple. Deadline for written materials is 3/4 to Shirley (I will be coaching SUTL at NCTC that week).

In person briefings are always a good option. Please note that Robyn is scheduled to largely be out of the office the week of March 2.

Here is the link to the conference schedule as an FYI.

Conference schedule:

Updates to the conference schedule will be reflected on website; [to review, click here](#).

Vicki Finn

Chief of Staff

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Pacific Region

NAWNRC 2015 Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office (IFWO)

Subject:

- **Comprehensive Conservation Framework Team (IFWO CCF)** - This IFWO effort is being developed with the intent to identify landscapes of high conservation value. The CCF process is considering the conservation priorities of other resource agencies, along with factors such as climate change, to better select resilient landscapes and pool the resources of partners to secure effective, long-term conservation gains. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) is revising its State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) and the IFWO and other agencies are engaged in this process, both providing information and contributing to their conservation planning process. These parallel processes (CCF and SWAP) and our ongoing collaboration will allow the IFWO and IDFG, as well as other land-management agencies (e.g., Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management), to better identify important landscapes and jointly develop achievable conservation goals for the habitats and priority species within them. Currently, the IFWO is ~~reviewing~~ developing its CCF objectives and will use these objectives to help identify important conservation landscapes. The selection of surrogate species will be a collaborative exercise with our conservation partners and will reflect desired conditions within the identified landscapes.
- **Southern Selkirk Mountains Woodland Caribou Recovery Planning** – ~~The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service continues reviewing comments and information received through August 6, 2014, regarding the proposed amended listing of the southern Selkirk Mountain population of woodland caribou.~~ In May 2014, the Service determined that delisting the species was not warranted, and proposed amending the current listing of this population by defining the Southern Mountain Caribou Distinct Population Segment (DPS), which includes the currently listed southern Selkirk Mountains population of woodland caribou. ~~RA~~ recovery planning with partners is ongoing. Through the process, the team is meeting is planned for January 14, 2015, with partners to reviewing the the existing recovery plan and identifying ing immediate actions that can be taken to conserve and recover the species. Involvement partners include: U.S. Forest Service, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Idaho Department of State Lands, The Nature Conservancy in Canada, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Spokane Tribe, ~~Colville Tribe~~, and British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations.
- **Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Population** - On December 2, 2013 the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team (IGBST) released their final report on the Response of Yellowstone Grizzly Bears to Changes in Food Resources: A Synthesis. In that report the IGBST concluded that whitebark pine decline has had no profound negative effects on grizzly bears at the individual or population level. Following the release of that IGBST report, the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee voted unanimously on December 11, 2013 to recommend delisting grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. A proposal to evaluate whether delisting is warranted is currently being evaluated by the Director.
- **Petition for Reintroduction of Grizzly Bears to Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness** – The Service was petitioned to write a Federal rule to reintroduce grizzly bears to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness on December 18. Efforts to reintroduce an experimental population in the area were put on hold in 2001.
- **Southeast Idaho Phosphate NRDAR** - The Fish and Wildlife Service, representing the Department of Interior, is one of several Trustees working on the Preassessment (PAS) Phase of a NRDAR. As part of the PAS Phase, the Trustees will analyze whether injury to Trust Resources has, and continues to occur, from hazardous substance releases associated with 17 phosphate mines and four processing facilities in southeast Idaho. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) forming the Trustee Council has been signed by Authorized Officials for the Department of Interior, Department of Agriculture, and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, and became effective on July 18, 2014. A revised MOU to include the State of Idaho was completed in has been drafted and is in final review by all Trustees and the State of Idaho. It is expected that the final MOU to include the State of Idaho will be circulated for Authorized Official signature in early January 2015. Once the revised MOU becomes effective, the Trustee Council anticipates completing the PAS Phase of the NRDAR and making a determination on whether a NRDAR is warranted ~~(expected in February or March 2015).~~

Biological Opinion for Environmental Protection Agency Water Quality Standards in Idaho – The Service will issue a draft biological opinion on the EPA's proposal to approve Idaho water quality standards for 11 inorganic metals and 11 organic toxic chemicals. The draft is expected to determine the action, as proposed, is likely to jeopardize listed species and to adversely modify critical habitat. It is expected to be issued to the EPA about

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February 28 for their review and comment. A final biological opinion is expected to be issued in July in accordance with a settlement agreement on litigation initiated by NW Environmental Advocates. Potential for controversy.

~~◆ **Biological Opinion for Environmental Protection Agency Water Quality Standards in Idaho** – By March 31, 2015, the Service intends to complete a Jeopardy/Adverse Modification BO on the Approval of numeric Criteria for Priority Toxic Pollutants, applicable to all waters of the State of Idaho. The consultation with EPA Region 10 was initiated in 2000 in order to analyze the effects of EPA's approval of the state of Idaho's aquatic life water quality acute and chronic criteria for 11 inorganic and 11 organic toxic chemicals to 17 species (includes 2 Critical Habitat designations) under the jurisdiction of the Service. The State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality is the Applicant.~~

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- **Sage-grouse Conservation** - The IFWO continues to work with the State of Idaho and the BLM on revisions to range-management plans.
- **Hells Canyon Hydropower Complex Relicensing** - Ongoing consultation for this complex relicensing project continues with negotiations involving the states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho DEQs, EPA, Tribes including the Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho, FERC and Idaho Power Company. Negotiations continue to seek solutions for unresolved issues pertaining to Clean Water Act 401 water quality certificates issued by Idaho and Oregon.
- **Bull Trout Recovery Planning** – In September 2014 the Service released a revised draft Bull Trout Recovery Plan, which proposes the recovery strategy for bull trout described for six recovery units that comprise the threatened conterminous U.S. population. The Service is presently working to respond to the comments received during a 90-day comment period, which closed on December 3. Concurrently the Service is working with federal, state, tribal, and other partners to prepare recovery unit implementation plans for each of the six recovery units, which will describe the conservation actions still needed for bull trout recovery and will be included in the final overall recovery plan.
- **Responses to Lepidium Comments** – The Service received Federal Register comments on both the proposed critical habitat and the proposed listing reconsideration rule. Presently, biologists are working on responses to address both sets of comments. The responses will be shared with the public in approximately April 2015.
- **Lepidium Section 7 Consultations** – Biologists are working on three different Section 7 consultations for: the Paradigm Fuel Breaks Project, a conference opinion; the Greater Sage-Grouse Land-Use Plan, informal consultation resulting in a letter of concurrence; and the Jarbidge Resource Management Plan, formal consultation resulting in a biological/conference opinion. The latter two involve consultations for multiple species.
- **Monarch butterfly** – The IFWO is pursuing available conservation opportunities and searching for funding sources to support them. Some funding for Monarch conservation was obtained by the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program in Northern Idaho.
- **2015 Multi-District Litigation (MDL) Species** – Status reviews for the following three species are ongoing and are due by the end of September, 2015: Goose Creek milkvetch (Utah Field Office lead); Southern Idaho Ground Squirrel (IFWO lead); and Columbia Spotted Frog (Nevada Field Office lead).

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CONTACT: Mike Carrier, Idaho State Administrator, 208-685-6953