

Attendees:

Kathleen Rapley	Heather Johnson	Steve Abele
Kendra Womack	Craig Rollen	Marilet Zablan
Beth Dickerson	Shauna Ginger	Sarah Hall
Jesse Gonzales	Jodie Delavan	

Agenda:

1. Status of the CNOR – reviewed status of rangewide – discussed Bi-State as well. Both are being loaded into ECOS. Columbia Basin will not be resolved this year, which is consistent with our finding.
2. MDL litigation – sage-grouse due in FY 2015; new listing person (Lynn Gemlo) in WY will be working on it. Will likely have to do critical habitat at the same time. No work plan currently in place for sage-grouse – Pat will work with Lynn Gemlo to get work plan developed when she gets on board in July.
3. Discussion of the proposed SPR policy and what it might mean – how will this apply to sage-grouse? Encouraged everyone to review now (on InsideFWS) but draft may change with OMB review. Will need to think about what this means for sage-grouse particularly with the MDL deadline looming.
4. Conservation banking class - any implications for grouse? Great class - good tool to have in the tool box – provides assurances to folks already engaged in pre-compliance banking – if species is listed they aren't asked to do any more. May be taking the class on the road next year in the NW US.
5. Sage-grouse meeting – R1 and R8 meeting to work with BLM and states to get things done ASAP. Trying to get it going as BLM ID is trying to get their RMPs revised – so changes can be incorporated early in planning. Pursuing a summit to look at strongholds, and serve as a follow-up (regional step-down) to the March 2011 Reno meeting between leadership in FWS and BLM. Trying to identify how to move forward. R1 is trying to identify someone in their office to spearhead the effort – to get meeting organized.
 - a. Also need to ensure some consistency on recommendations across states. Pat will bring this up with the RISCT team. Sometimes we have to speak for the state as they do not have the authority to do so.
 - b. Need internal consistency on where we are going, or trying to go, with sage-grouse – need discussions to make this happen.
 - c. Pat recommended using the 2006 Conservation strategy as a starting point – does identify numbers, and all parties have signed the MOU to implement. Numbers are only the starting point for discussion – use them to start the habitat discussions.
6. DOI Conservation partnership award – for internal or external partners – efforts that have exemplified in how to make progress in conservation – ID suggests nominating the SAB volume, with the editors being the recipients.

7. Round the West –
 - a. ID – State Office of Species Conservation has put the West-central CCAA effort on hold. Moving forward on two other CCAAs that the Service are not involved in at this point. Now focusing more on working with BLM. Draft EIS is out on China Mountain wind project.
 - b. MT –
 - c. WA – BLM energy project – 230 Kv line – route would block migration off of Yakima training center – effectively restraining the birds to the military lands. Project proponent gets it, but BLM isn't on board yet. Have initiated aerial surveys on YTC – need to ground-truth – early results are not promising. Sage-grouse were translocated a few weeks ago (birds from OR and NV) – weather was limiting. Good restoration workshop a few weeks ago – Jesse will send link to Pat. Working with NRCS – SGI capacity position – helping with funding and identifying programs to work on. Dave Naugle and Tim Griffiths are working on a web-based reporting tool for SGI – may be a very useful tool for reporting to interested parties.
 - d. OR – CCA with BLM and Cattleman's for BLM allotments – have lost primary BLM contact. CCAAs – high interest – discussing options at this point relative to workload. Renewable energy coordination at PL level – have identified a sub-group to ID what mitigation for sage-grouse would look like. Preliminary recommendation is no impact to core areas, but variance for low-density areas. Talking with DOW on developing a sage-grouse metric. Working with ODFW with wind issues.
 - e. NV – Has a wind power project near China Mountain and the birds are the same (migratory population). Bi-State – toying with CCAA potential there. Some interest in easements on NV side, but time is limiting. Listing determination needs to be done next FY for Bi-State. Working with the state to understand important areas for BLM RMP revisions – driven by renewable energy development.
 - f. Partners –
 - g. WY – Core area strategy about to be signed by the new Governor.
8. Next call: Tentatively June 23. Pat will send out feeler on dates and firm it up based on feedback.