

Attendees:

Jodie Delavan	Jeff Berglund	Jesse D'Elia	Dan Reinkensmeyer
Beth Dickerson	Erin Nordin	Kathleen Rapley	Steve Abele
Jeff Dillon	Julie Moore	Terry Ireland	Lynn Gemlo
Jeff Berglund	Jason Pylon		

1. BLM summary

- The interim IM has been significantly revised and has addressed most of our comments. There are still a few minor issues, and still lots of squishy words, so have commented that this the final IM must be strong and must be adhered to by all within the agency. It will be given to the NPT this week for discussion next week. BLM hopes to issue by end of the month
- There is a joint meeting for the Western and Eastern regional teams next week in Denver. The purpose is to coordinate on efforts, identify timelines and communication process, and generally promote team. An informational meeting on Thursday will describe biology, listing process, BLM planning process, etc.
- The technical document produced by the NTT is currently being peer-reviewed. It should be released within a few weeks.
- FWS has prepared a letter to send to the Forest Service requesting they address their regulatory mechanism on key forests and grasslands for sage-grouse. It will be sent within the next few weeks. FS has expressed an interest in joining BLM's efforts. That may cause concerns with the Bi-state as BLM is not covering the Bi-state in their planning process.
- Noreen Walsh has also sent a request to our refuge lands that may have sage-grouse to identify their regulatory mechanisms and what they could be doing better.

2. Listing updates

- Gunnison proposal is in WO for review; are recommending endangered status with 1.7 million acres of CH (currently occupied, plus some unoccupied). Briefed regional directorate last week. Plan is to get it to the FR in Jan. 2012 (discretionary deadline).
- No action currently on bi-state.
- CNOR – on track – no rumors of disgruntlement
- FWS response to WWP motion for summary judgment to list the sage-grouse filed yesterday in court. Pushing back mostly on what this would do the MDL agreement and the short timeline requested by the plaintiff. WWP now has one month to respond. Oral arguments (if it gets to that point) are scheduled for Dec. 21 in Boise.

3. Genetics/connectivity study (very preliminary) – meeting in January 2012 to discuss making this happen. Currently being driven by NRCS, but USGS heavily involved. Important to get at connectivity and ensure we are implementing appropriate and meaningful conservation actions. Pat will share more as she learns more.

4. Meeting with National Wildlife Refuge Association to discuss their proposal for designating lands for conservation of sage-grouse. The meeting will be held at Bear River Refuge in UT the week of Nov. 14.

5. BLM has selected National coordinator – Jessica Rubado – very little known

6. Round the lek

- OR – continuing work on conservation agreements – cattleman's agreement, CCAA – high level of interest in hiring consultant (rangeland management treatment); NRCS hired DOW for sampling metrics for sagebrush habitat and sage-grouse habitat.
- MT – SGI active

- CA – Covered by NV
- NV – nothing new
- ID – West Central CCAA is dead. Re-negotiations with landowners have been unsuccessful – appear to be at an impasse. Lessons learned – communication between consultant and client (landowners) poor, threat resolution counter to generational culture of area, people who are affected have to understand the tool and determine if its appropriate for them. Julie suggested that we identify lessons learned for assistance in developing CCAAs in other area and make the best use of our limited time.
- CO – nothing
- WY – Statewide CCAA in RO for final review; NEPA is written and ready to go; hope to have it on the street early next year.

Next call Nov. 10, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. MST