

Participants:

Jeff Berglund	Jessie Gonzales	Terry Ireland	Creed Clayton	Jason Pyron
Jeff Dillon	Laura Romin	Terry Quesinberry	Betsy Herrman	Steve Abele
Jesse D'Elia	Lara	Pat Deibert	Amy DeFreese	

BLM – planning

- Focus on the big issues – do they have enough conservation actions scattered throughout to cobble together a good proposed alternative between draft and final
- Effects analyses are incomplete and BLM is developing while the public documents are out for review.
- BLM has not yet incorporated the COT report
- Recommend look at conservation value for grouse and provide that feedback
- RMPs are inconsistent in presentation so difficult to compare them even within state
- OR has a preliminary list of indicators and unsure whether or not they are the same
- Find out why the NOC and states are both leading these efforts – Pat – how will this be addressed on a range-wide level? What about shared populations between planning areas
- Difference between the alternatives in BLM programs and impacts to sage-grouse
- Effects analyses will begin in early May for NV (Chapter 4); BLM is having concerns with EMPSi and how the analyses are being completed.

State Plans and FWS review

- As get requests to provide some type of approval for state plans please be sure to coordinate with Jesse and Pat
- FWS does not have a mechanism for approval but can advise if the plan is likely to address the primary concerns in the state with the proposed methods, as tailored to local conditions.
- Most states are seeking approval so they can have their plan used in lieu of BLM IM 2012-0243.

Transmission:

- Two recent papers that are conflicting on impacts (Falcon-Gondor 10 year report and Chad LeBeau thesis) and they are being used differently depending on position of project proponent
- Are some states getting mitigation for tall structures via the HEA while others are not?
- OR is getting mitigation funding (not sure if direct or indirect)
- Transmission line database – who is the lead agency, who is the project proponent, what data is being used in HEA (if any), what mitigation is being proposed (direct and indirect), state agency involvement and recommendations, FWS contact, meeting dates, is there a framework developed for the project – send information to Pat – Pat will coordinate with Julie Reeves for the transmission lines; also Stephanie Stevarkas in R1
- Need a document that outlines the minimum sage-grouse considerations for transmission lines – currently - Will be discussed at the April FMT subgroup meeting on 30th.

Round the Lek:

- MT – State's governor's council is being built – will be tasked with revising state conservation plan ASAP
- SD – Waiting for DEIS to be published

- CO - Coordinating with State on their report; reviewing the BLM DEIS – will be one for all resource areas
- UT – working with state on the state plan
- ID – trying to survive the politics; working on the BLM process
- NV – (no report)
- OR – Finishing the CCA for signature with BLM and Cattleman's by end of month; Harney County developing a CCAA which will overlap geographically with the CCA – it's a bit sticky. BLM review is going well. State Gov. natural resources office – state conservation plan – SAGECON – we are now “permitted” to be on that team.
- WA – working with BLM – developing MOU that will officially put us into cooperating agency status; behind original schedule; coordinating with the state on updating the state plan; new biologist for NRCS-SGI; added a staff person with sage-grouse experience – Heather McFarren (sp? – apologies to Heather).
- WY – amendment to core area strategy to include grazing

Next call May 16th, 2:00 p.m.