Y.E.S. Conservation Strategy Revision Steering Committee

Meeting minutes-Conference call-May 31st, 0830

In attendance: Jodi Bush, Dalissa Minnick, Loren Grosskopf, Dan Wenk, Patricia O'Connor, Brian Nesvik

Brian started by welcoming Leander Watson to the Steering Committee as the representative from the Shoshone Bannock Tribes.

The group started with each member providing their perspective on the reports received by the sub-groups.

- Jodi-Indicated she was surprised at how few issues the sub-groups recommended for updating. She also indicated there were certain themes where more information was needed. She specifically noted the recommendations regarding food storage and IGBC. She recommended that the committee request more clarification regarding recommendations by the Agency Coordination/Conflict Management sub-group.
- Dalissa-stated she was familiar with Agency Coordination/Conflict Management sub-group since she is a member. She indicated she would help provide clarification during committee discussions.
- Dan-he started by asking if everyone on the committee was able to visit with their respective staffs following their sub-group meetings. Most stated that they had. Dan then asked if our goal was to provide a technical update or a political update to the rule and conservation strategy. He indicated there was some frustration by his staff following the sub-group meeting. Those concerns were discussed and Loren provided his perspective on NPS concerns. Dan recommended that some of the recommendations of the sub-groups needed to be discussed by the Steering Committee. He specifically mentioned the re-setting of the recovery criteria if there were a change to the Chao2 population estimator as the primary model. Dan clearly indicated he felt public wants to know what will happen if the population estimate changes.
- Loren-indicated there was a lack of agreement on the population management sub-group and that most of their issues needed to be elevated to the Steering Committee for further discussion.
- Trisha-indicated she needed more clarification regarding many of the themes in the Habitat sub-group and that increased understanding of their discussions would help the committee. She specifically cited recommendations related to the 1998 baseline.
- Leander-stated the tribes are concerned with hunting and how it is represented in the Conservation Strategy.
- Brian-stated that overall he felt the sub-groups did what was asked of them in a short period of time. He also felt like additional clarification on some issues would be helpful.

The committee discussed what a reasonable timelime might be for sub-groups to complete their work and provide final recommendations to the Steering Committee. Brian recommended July 7

and Dalissa felt like they may need more time. The group decided on July 15th as a deadline for sub-groups to complete their work and forward recommendations to the committee. All agreed that we may need to be flexible on a case by case basis for those issues that are more controversial or require significant research or data analysis.

The group had a lengthy discussion regarding foods monitoring, updating it and how if may affect previously approved plans. Many were concerned with adding more work and recommended any updates look at replacing work instead. All agreed to let sub-group do the work of determining how the food monitoring section should be modified and that the Steering Committee would closely review.

The group discussed setting up meetings with the sub-group chairs. After discussion on member schedules, next Friday the 10th looked to be the best day to set something up. Brian will take the lead on coordinating a meeting.

The committee decided the best way to approve and evaluate specific sub-group recommendations was to go through each of them one by one. Those that could stay on the call did so (Dan, Brian, Loren, Leander) and went through each sub-group theme recommendation. The results of that work and corresponding decisions are included in sub-group guidance disseminated on June 3rd.

Lastly, the committee discussed the merits of conducting an in person meeting to address Steering Committee themes. All felt it would be more effective than a phone meeting. Brian will work to identify a day where it will work in all schedules prior to the August 2nd YES meeting. Location will possibly be Mammoth.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.