

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

MEETING WITH IDAHO GOVERNOR BUTCH OTTER

DATE: December 6, 2014
LOCATION: Four Seasons, Sierra Boardroom, 39th Floor
TIME: 3:00PM - 3:30PM PST
FROM: Sarah Greenberger, Counselor; John Blair, Director OIEA

I. PURPOSE

You will be meeting with Governor Otter to:

- Applaud progress on collaboratively completing BLM plans
- Encourage executive action on state and private lands. You should say your staff report that the Governor is considering executive action and you should emphasize the importance of taking that action and soon.
- Discuss your plans on rangeland fire and seek Governor's advice on approach

II. ATTENDEES

- Governor Butch Otter
- Cally Younger, Associate Counsel to the Governor, Governor Otter's Office
- Sarah Greenberger, Counselor
- John Blair, Director OIEA

III. TALKING POINTS

BLM Plans

- While the BLM is still working through technicalities and a of a couple of issues rangewide like Adaptive Management, Buffers (in response to a new study), and mitigation, **my staff report great comfort and confidence in the Idaho plan developed with your team.**
- Thank you for that collaboration. Our team speaks highly of and is grateful for the collaboration with Virgil Moore, Cally and Dustin from your team.

State Plan

- My team reports that you are considering taking executive action in the near term on Greater sage-grouse.
- I cannot overstate how important that would be to our effort.
- **Is it true you are considering an Executive Order and is it likely something we will see soon?**
- How can our team help?

Fire

- FWS has identified the downward spiral of invasive grasses and fire in the Great Basin as one of the greatest threats to Greater sage-grouse.
- Our team, led by Assistant Secretary Janice Schneider, is engaged in an effort to develop an enhanced approach to combatting rangeland fire that will give the Service something to consider in their listing process.
- I will be directing my Department to develop this approach focusing on research, efficient resource allocation, seed banking, and streamlined administrative processes, among other things.
- We will want to work closely with you and your office to be sure this effort builds off of the work you have done and has no unintended consequences.
- Does this effort raise any concerns for you that I should keep in mind? I know that rangeland fire is not the same issue in Colorado.
- I am considering issuing a Secretarial Order to make clear to the Service the timeline and intentions. Does that raise any concerns? Do you anticipate concern from the other Governors?

IV. BACKGROUND



Governor Butch Otter (R) is the 32nd Governor of Idaho, in office since January 2007. Otter served as Lieutenant Governor of Idaho from 1987 to 2001 and as the United States Representative for Idaho's 1st congressional district from 2001 to 2007. On January 11, 2007, Otter announced his support for a "gray wolf kill," in which all but 100 of Idaho's recently recovered population would be eradicated, pending the forthcoming U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service removal of the wolves' federal protections under the Endangered Species Act. Otter even remarked that he would be first in line to purchase a tag to kill one of the animals. This position drew criticism from many Western environmental and animal advocate groups. In 2014, Otter was re-elected to a third term after receiving 53% of the vote.