

Greater Sage-grouse Tri-Regional Summit

Dates: February 12-14, 2013

Location: Doubletree Suites, 110 W 600 S., Salt Lake City, Utah

GOAL: To identify the needs, roles, and responsibilities and communication strategies for the Greater sage-grouse long-term conservation including preparing for the 2015 listing determination

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Common understanding of sage-grouse conservation goals
- 2) Clarify FWS roles and responsibilities, lines of communication and expectations
- 3) Develop an action plan for external coordination and communication of sage-grouse conservation goals
- 4) Identify vision for and coordination with energy industry regarding conservation efforts and consistent guidance from the Service and identify mechanisms for compiling all conservation efforts

AGENDA

Tuesday, February 12

Objective 1: Common understanding of sage-grouse conservation goals

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| 1:00pm | Welcome, introductions, vision and expectations (Noreen Walsh) |
| 1:30pm | Overview of actions being implemented for the conservation of the Greater Sage-grouse and the relationship of these efforts (includes: Secretary's Task Force, BLM, USFS, NRCS, WAFWA, State plans, CCAAs, local working groups, conservation banks, etc.) (Mike Thabault/Nicole Alt) |
| 2:00pm | Overview of the Conservation Objectives Team (COT) report and how it sets the goals for our range-wide efforts (Pat Deibert/Jesse D'Elia) <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Objectives of the COT reportb. Relationship of the COT to NTT report and other planning effortsc. Ensuring consistent messaging on the COT report |
| 2:45pm | Break |

Objective 2: Internal Coordination and Communication

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| 3:00pm | Internal coordination and communication (Mike Thabault/Noreen Walsh) <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Overview of roles and responsibilities document - How do we structure ourselves and communicate within FWS to achieve range-wide conservation for the species through these efforts?b. Coordination with other divisions – e.g. Refuges, Partners program, EA.c. Coordination with LCCs - working together to maximize effectiveness |
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- d. Monitoring progress - How do we monitor progress and outcomes to ensure that cumulatively we achieve the conservation efforts we need for sage-grouse?
- e. Consistent messaging and feedback loops
- f. New Sage-grouse energy positions
- g. Coordination on annual CNOR updates

5:30pm Adjourn

Wednesday, February 13

Objective 3: External Coordination and Communication

8:00am Review and discussion of information from previous day (Noreen Walsh/Mike Thabault)

8:30am Status of State planning efforts (State Project Leaders) (15 minutes per State)

10:00am Break

10:15am Status of State planning efforts (cont.)

11:00am External coordination and communication (Noreen Walsh/Mike Thabault)

- a. BLM/FS – review process for plan revisions and amendments
- b. Expectations for providing comments and recommendations, specifically on adequacy of BLM and State plans
- c. Develop action plan for ensuring effective external communication

12:00pm Lunch

1:00pm External coordination and communication (cont.)

2:15pm Break

Objective 4: Compiling Conservation Efforts

2:30pm Overview of PECE policy – Ensuring conservation efforts focus on certainty of implementation and effectiveness. Difference between how we consider regulatory mechanisms and conservation measures that are not yet proven effective (Nicole Alt)

3:00pm Conservation efforts (Michael Bean/Mike Thabault/Pat Deibert)

- a. Discussions with energy industry regarding conservation efforts (Michael Bean/Mike Thabault)
- b. Develop screening process for additional voluntary conservation measures to benefit the species for already leased areas including priorities and menu of options
- c. Database development to hold data on conservation efforts (not just energy) (Pat Deibert)

5:00pm Adjourn

Thursday, February 14

- 8:30am Review and discussion of information from previous day (Nicole Alt)
- 9:00am Conservation Banking (Pat Deibert)
- a. Lessons learned from Lesser Prairie Chicken
 - b. Opportunities for sage-grouse
- 9:30am Other conservation efforts (Pat Deibert)
- a. Other conservation efforts
 - b. Process for rolling up voluntary conservation efforts for CNOR and listing decisions (Pat Deibert/Lynn Gemlo)
- 10:30am Break
- 11:00am Wrap up and identify follow up items, assignments, timelines, decisions, etc. (Noreen Walsh/Mike Thabault/Nicole Alt)
- 12:00pm Adjourn

1:00 – 3:00pm: an additional half day for biologists and PL to have further, more in depth discussions re: COT, CNOR, interstate coordination (e.g., transmission lines), break-out sessions by core-areas, etc.