

Penstemon Conservation Team – Conference call
November 20, 2018
1-877-820-7831
Passcode: 428850#

Minutes

On the Phone:

Kent Walter (chair) BLM White River
Allison Vendramel (Secretary) FWS CO
Rita Reisor FWS UT
Creed Clayton FWS CO
Christine Cimiluca BLM Vernal
Mindy Wheeler UT DNR
Chris Shiraldi SITLA
Hope Hornbeck SITLA

1. Welcome and Introductions (Kent/All)

- Jon Stearmer with Uintah County not present. Email received 11/20 stated he is comfortable with the changes and as soon as team is ready the addendum can be put on agenda for county commissioner review/hopeful approval.

2. Vote to approve addendum to Conservation Agreement Extension.

- Need signatory from each office to sign signature page, scan, and send back to Rita.
- Chris- question if the conservation team approves, yet we are waiting for Uintah County approval as well?
- Rita- Jon is on Conservation Team as county representative and he gave approval for vote. We all need to take it to our signatories as well. So we can finalize after this vote for signature.
- Motion that we vote for addendum as modified, seconded.
- All approved.
- Kent- we are all responsible for getting it signed, dated, and back to Rita, ccs Allison.

3. Vote to approve maps/Conservation Area Modifications

- Chris- Wants to gauge teams thought of incorporating SITLA parcels as interim in Book cliffs, lower Grand County. Lands are already leased. What are everyone's thoughts on this? Looking at SITLA and extension of plan right now. SITLA is concerned about existing leases.
- Rita- management of the conservation area/parcels remains in line with conservation area; main difference is likelihood of development. Those lands are generally pretty steep where penstemon are found and seem less likely to be developed. By reducing the size of the original proposed conservation area that

included all of the plants on SITLA land, the conservation team has already tried to consider SITLA's land use request. There was also previous commitment from SITLA via John Andrews for full conservation areas.

- Hope- Purpose of interim areas during drafting of plan was to give time to protect plants while understanding plant presence/seed collection.
- Kent- BLM struggles with placing new restrictions on leases as well.
- Rita- Interim areas cannot be considered by the FWS in our listing decision because they are not guaranteed. Lease holds still have options for development within the caps, and minerals can be developed from outside of the conservation area.
- Chris- John Andrews gave approval without review of the SITLA board. What is biological rationale for keeping these plants?
- Rita- This is a new population that is also a high-density cluster. It is at the southern-most range of the species, disjointed from other populations. It provides genetic representation and resiliency because it is isolated from the other populations.
- Chris- due to biological rationale, SITLA is on board with "final" determination.
- Kent- Do we have a motion?
- Mindy- Motion to approve conservation area modifications.
- Rita- Seconded.
- All- Approved.
- Addendum is restricted to Agreement time extension. Final maps will be appended to Conservation Agreement, Addendum and Hope (?) will provide maps in pdf/final formatting for public distribution to SITLA to put on website.

4. Agenda items for next meeting – Thursday, January 17, 2019 10 am Uintah County Building

- Follow up on maps (Chris/Hope)
- Signatories for conservation agreement extension.
- All- review minutes from 10/25 for approval in January, (usually completed by end of March)
- Annual reporting discussion.
- Submit any other agenda items to Allison/Kent.
- Mindy is still working on getting info from DNR for helping with Hope's position.

Call adjourned 11:50 am MST.

Happy Thanksgiving