

Participants:

Selena Werdon	Steve Abele	Julie Moore	Julie Lyke
Jeff Dillon	Rich Szlemp	Terry Ireland	Ted Koch
Shauna Ginger	Amy Nicholas	Charles Sullivan	Jessica Gonzales
Jill Ralston	Kathleen Rapley	Jesse D'Elia	

1. Job open in Boise – GS 12 sage-grouse coordinator – any questions contact Kathleen Rapley in Boise
2. Update on BLM/FS planning efforts:
 - NTT may be asked to re-convene sooner rather than later to address conservation measures for General habitats (not enough time to get there during initial effort)
 - BLM and FS had a coordination meeting two weeks ago to try to resolve their planning processes (differences simply due to being two different agencies in two different departments)
 - Meetings in Reno the last week of March – one is a “Federal family” meeting – a check-in meeting to ensure processes are consistent, communication is adequate, and everything is on track – and the other is a Great Basin regional Team meeting.
 - Some concern expressed by States that FS effort does not include all sage-grouse habitats on their lands, but rather is restricted to habitats with 75% breeding densities plus some key areas identified by local personnel. Pat will advise on how this is resolved.
 - BLM outreach - March 23 – postponed; BLM has requested similar effort from FWS for their folks to focus on section 7 for the RMP/LRMP amendments/revisions
 - Maps for CO and NV are complete and posted
 - MOU status? Signed by FWS and BLM; awaiting FS signature
 - Jessie Gonzales - Washington BLM has not engaged local FWS in their process – implementing “tiered” strategy – concerns that the approach may not be sufficient for adequate protection (as expressed by BLM biologist), lots of informal discussions between FWS and BLM efforts, but no documented formal process. Jessie will continue to pursue effort.
3. Update on Secretary's task force – First “meeting” via conference call occurred on Mar 5. Next meeting will be face to face on April 12-13 in Denver;
 - Pat is writing “cliff notes” and will post them on the sharepoint when done. Feel free to review and provide feedback!
4. Review of COT –
 - Internal FWS team plus USGS member, has formed to begin sorting through biology and our policy
 - Final state member appointment should be done today
 - Tiered approach –due to concern by States that their staff could not participate due to field work and other assignments
 - FWS/USGS will take first crack, with a check in with the States about a month prior to initial draft, and then present draft product to entire time NLT than end of May.
 - Then goes to whole team to refine – allows States opportunity to clear their plates while still providing a product for conservation planning by end of May.
3. EOC meeting review –
 - Met March 12, 2012 at North American Wildlife Conference in Atlanta
 - Mostly a discussion of BLM/FS processes and COT team (both discussed above)
4. Refuge webinar – Jesse D'Elia –
 - Purpose is to share information across FWS programs – so that we are holding ourselves to the same standard we are asking of others;
 - Jesse will post agenda to sharepoint under NWR library
5. CNOR – Lynn is progressing on this effort
6. Gunnison listing package – in WO, no firm date on release
7. Terry Ireland asked about CCAA in Wyoming on how the FR publications of permit issuance would be handled – they will be batched and published quarterly.

8. ILAP program out of OSU –examining land management changes through modeling – e.g. reducing cover and then add effects of climate change – this particular model includes fire scenarios. Expected completion in 2013 Could be very useful in listing review. Jeff will check with Janine to see if she would do a webinar for us .

9. Working lands initiative – NRCS – emphasizing agreements – HCP and safe harbors so applicability to sage-grouse may be limited, but may be other opportunities for candidates.

Next Call: April 19, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. MDT