

Attendees:

Jessie Gonzales	Steve Abele	Jodi Bush	Pat Deibert
Kathleen Rapley	Dave Carlson	Jodie Delavan	Terry Quisenberry
Sarah Hall	Erin Nordin	Shauna Ginger	Rick Gooch

1. BLM update

- a) Status? At least 4 teams have met or had calls – the National Policy Team (director level or appointees – the big guns making the big decisions,
- b) National Technical Team meeting – interdisciplinary team met the last week of August to draft the science document that will inform the RMP revision/amendment process. After that week, and subsequent homework, the science document was submitted to WO. It will be given to the National Policy Team for review and distribution as guidance for revising the RMPs. Pat likes the document, but cautions that it has opportunities for local “tweaking” for different ecological conditions and baselines.
- c) Status of interim IM – BLM promised that this would be out by the end of September to guide BLM actions between now and when the RMPs are revised/amended. Pat is collating comments for the FWS and has received all but R8 comments. Given the volume of comments already received, and an internal request, BLM has delayed release of the interim IM until third week of October.

2. Summary of EOC meeting – see Pat’s notes from this meeting on the sharepoint site!

3. Status of Gunnison and Bi-State listing decisions:

- a) Bi-State – listing determination due 2013, but no exact date yet. Flurry of activity currently, but not all productive. Is a huge learning curve relative to timeline and opportunity.
 - i. Meeting a few weeks ago about regulatory mechanisms as time frame makes RMP/LMP amendments infeasible – so looking for the most rigorous regulatory structure possible.
 - ii. Waiting for products from BLM effort to help inform their process.
 - iii. There is a proposal for research with TNC – funding is the limitation.
- b) Gunnison – Listing and critical habitat proposal has been drafted, will be sent to the WO in mid-October.

4. Status of FWS sage-grouse summit - due to the BLM efforts, this will be scaled down from the original proposal. The summit will be targeted at facilitating communication between local BLM and FWS folks throughout the planning process. Still hoping to have the summit this fall.

5. Discussion of FWS conservation measures - this keeps hanging on and I will keep it on the agenda until we finally get to talk about it! Again deferred – folks want to see the final BLM IM and technical document first.

6. Prizes! – Pat has additional copies of the SAB volume, and “energy development and wildlife conservation in western north America.” If you would like a copy please send her an e-mail with your mailing address and phone number.

7. FWS windpower meeting- based on request received a long time ago, Pat is going to be organizing a meeting to discuss sage-grouse and windpower, other renewables, and transmission lines, probably

early next winter. The meeting will be centrally located (likely SLC or Hawaii) so that all within the range can participate. As of right now, the first day of the meeting will be technical presentations on what we do know, and what research is happening, with the second day a discussion of what FWS can/should do. Pat invited folks to send papers, ideas, etc.

8. MDL/litigation – the MDL agreement is signed and the dates have not changed for sage-grouse. The separate litigation by WWP is ongoing, with WWP filing a motion for judgment on Monday, Sept. 19. Their primary concern is failure to move forward with a listing proposal – they believe the cumulative effects are so egregious that immediate listing is necessary. FWS will file their response and motion for judgment on Oct. 19.

9. RMBO research – RMBO met with NRCS to discuss tagging on to their land management activities through SGI to conduct research on other sagebrush obligates. NRCS thought it a great idea and a partnership was born. PRBO will also become engaged in this effort. Pat just poured the water.

Round the lek:

- Jessie – asked NV for heads up relative to sage-grouse hunting. WA is having discussions about getting supplemental birds from NV, but now concern raised that if NV precludes hunting, they may be less willing to share birds with WA. The hunting cessation proposal did not pass in NV. Steve will work with Shawn Espinosa of NDOW on sharing birds if needed.
- Rick Gooch – NRCS conference report signed in July 2010, discussing with Tim Griffiths about having annual meeting to discuss progress, and how the conference report is working. Discussing a potential meeting in early winter near Denver. Will keep us informed.
- Steve – Review of a solar power DEIS – was convincing in getting a lot of sage-grouse habitat off the proposal! Go Steve!
- Pat – the Wyoming Governor's Sage-Grouse Implementation Team received a DOI Partners in Conservation award for their development of the core area strategy.