

Attendees:

Pat Deibert	Sarena Selbo	Carl Benz	Sarah Hall
Beth Dickerson	Kendra Womack	Steve Abele	Kathy Hollar
Mark Hogan	Jessi Gonzales	Marilet Zablan	Jodie Delavan
Rich Szlemp	Selana Werdon	Amelia Orton-Palmer	Terry Quisenberry
Terry Ireland	Jeri Wood		

1. Status of efforts with BLM – national – Meeting in June between 4 State wildlife directors, FWS WO staff and BLM Staff to see how we could encourage BLM to revise/amend RMPs and continue the momentum initiated at our meeting in March. The message was the same – we have a narrow window of time to get some regulatory mechanisms in place for consideration during the next status review. This was followed with two written letters – one from FWS and one from Ken Mayer on behalf of the State Wildlife Directors encouraging BLM to move forward on RMP amendments/revisions. (letters will be posted on sharepoint site). Meeting within BLM next week in Denver to discuss how to move forward – the results will greatly inform how we interact with BLM in getting this done.

2. Status of efforts with BLM – regional –trying to get a contractor to get the summit going. The summit is to kick off discussions on how to get necessary conservation actions started between BLM, State and FWS on BLM lands. Want to facilitate coordination to get Great Basin “core area” under appropriate conservation measures. Discussion of how to get the national and regional teams overlapped without duplication. Need a strong FWS presence to give them the right “rocks”.

What about the correlation between national efforts and CCAA efforts for the Bi-State? They are two separate efforts but need to be tangential. Steve Abele has advised BLM Bishop office that they likely need to do something a little more “firm” as CCAAs typically don’t have the “teeth” for consideration under regulatory mechanisms. But the measures identified in a CCAA could be extremely helpful in getting to the regulatory level.

Need to ensure that all efforts are coordinated so that we reduce duplication and increase efficiency and effectiveness.

3. Letter from Governor of Wyoming – Renewed the core area strategy on June 2 – it has not changed significantly. Governor sent a letter to other Governors in MZ 2 requesting an informal get together at the WGA meeting with the idea of getting similar conservation efforts going in adjacent states. Letter posted on sharepoint site.

4. Internal conservation strategy - roundtable on what different Service offices are recommending – **next call** – for both minimizing and mitigating impacts.

5. IMVJ/SGL/grouse positions – ID will be Pheasants Forever employees (had to be a third party involved and they received the grant) but have hit snags - help has been offered by State and Service, but it has been refused. Most of the new positions are not biologists. Concern that the plans/projects being implemented will not meet the needs of sage-grouse or purpose under

conference opinion or SGI. Want to be involved early. Same problem not seen in WY or OR because projects are more targeted? Also different representatives of primary funding for these positions in different states (i.e. not a NGO, but a state agency). Partners in R1 is trying to help focus efforts in those states to ensure that the “right” things are done (will be a cooperative oversight committee). But in interim for projects seem to be only “checking the box” - not focusing the conservation efforts appropriately. Once oversight committee is in place the problems may be resolved. Kathy will send the overview guidance document to Pat who will post on the sharepoint site. WA is concerned regarding reporting and getting the information the Service needs. Some concern with level of training and term of position (3 to 5 years). Include Dave Smith and Randy Gray on next call to discuss questions/concerns.

5. Upcoming FMT meeting - Next week in Denver. Among other things will be trying to set up a structure for upcoming listing determinations for both range-wide and Bi-State, and consistency across range for minimization and mitigation techniques.

6. Upcoming EOC meeting - will be at WAFWA meeting on July 16th. Among other things will be getting a presentation from BLM on how they will proceed with RMP revisions and amendments, mapping efforts, and SGI.

7. Wind Workshop – R6 biologist meeting last fall identified an interest in getting a wind workshop pulled together – to coordinate across regions. R6 is now going to move forward on pulling this together and is exploring if other regions would like to participate. YES! Next step is to find a time. Consider a web conference scenario to potentially reduce travel cost. If is face-to-face try to make it happen sometime in October at central location.

8. Round the lek - update of state happenings:

- MT – RMP revision in Miles City – FWS biologist is working in getting a sage-grouse alternative. Wind energy development is increasing.
- WY – Core area strategy signed June 2, 2011.
- CO – several projects being reviewed that could impact sage-grouse. Draft internal Gunnison draft will be done early next calendar rule. Still engaging landowners under CCAA.
- SD – wind development beginning in one county
- ID – DEIS for China Mountain being reviewed – Service is stating that this development is incompatible with sage-grouse conservation. Will share with NV. NV FWS is on board with this.
- NV – working on wind, coordinating with ID; statewide mapping being attempted
- WA – Mitigation interest is “peaking” – so need to coordinate with OR. Working on approach to addressing fencing, etc. – to be more strategic.
- CA – BLM is moving forward to develop a CCA; wind energy
- UT – Genetics project proposed

- Partners – no projects

Next call: July21 at 2:00 p.m. MST – topic will be either discussion with NRCS if Dave and Randy are available, or Service roundtable on minimization and mitigation measures.