

Monthly Sage-grouse conference call

October 25, 2012

Attendees:

Jason Pyron
Jeff Berglund
Terry Ireland

Lynn Gemlo
Pat Deibert

Terry Quesinberry
Jesse D'Elia

Tim McCracken
Mark Hogan

1. BLM planning process
 - a. Great Basin meeting overview – meeting compared alternatives between 4 subregional efforts. Approaches were very different and are facing a very short timeline. Will continue to work with our partners on this.
 - b. Rocky Mountain overview – 5 plans (Lander, Billings, Miles City, Hi-Line, and Buffalo) will be reviewed at the WO level by end of Nov. SD and CO are on the schedule for the beginning of 2013.
 - c. Facilitating FWS communication in our reviews – use sharepoint; make sure are talking with our offices on shared populations; call if have questions.
 - d. BER report – BLM has developed to identify what is out there so that they can do future cumulative impacts analysis. Very geospatial rich, and all the data layers will be available for us. However, concerns that the scale of the data may be too coarse to be of use at the local level or to compare alternatives within sub-regions.
2. COT report - status and peer review – have final peer review report; Pat is meeting with team tomorrow. Final report timeline not yet identified – is a top priority. Peer review report is being presented to the Secretary's Task Force Oct. 31 – then Pat will post on the sharepoint. Only sharing as requested from members of the public.
 - a. Requested if we can send out for internal review and Pat indicated that internal comments were welcome.
3. Projects that are proceeding outside the BLM/FS interim memorandums.- let Pat know if there are any in your state
4. Round the lek
 - MT – working on the BA for the Miles City RMP revision; APLIC meeting a few weeks ago – had a sage-grouse session. APLIC considering a literature review and development of BMPs on transmission lines.
 - ID – requested any information regarding indicators to identify differences in alternatives used in RMPs – Lynn will check for WY. Send any results to Jason and cc Pat.
 - CO – working with BLM on buffers and alternatives; working on transmission lines; will likely be engaging in a CCAA north of Grand Junction – TRCP is involved – Dan Ashe is very interested in this project.
 - SD – no report
 - WY – working on CNOR, hope to have data call letters out next month with hopes that data will be submitted by Feb. 1; working
 - OR – no report
 - WA – fires nearly out due to significant precipitation
 - Partners – WY – concern that good things done on private lands is being negatively impacted by mineral extraction.

Next call – move to Nov. 16 at 11 a.m. MDT due to conflict on Pat's schedule. If that doesn't work than move to Nov. 8 at 2:00 p.m.