

Minutes

Executive Oversight Committee Meeting Bi-State Sage-Grouse March 28, 2013 1:00-4:00PM

Attendees

Joe Tague, BLM NV
Leon Thomas, BLM NV
Steve Nelson, Bishop BLM
Bernadette Lovato, Bishop BLM
Steve Nelson, Bishop BLM
Bill Dunkelberger, Forest Service
George Tsukamoto, NDOW
Ted Koch, USFWS
Tara Vogal, NRCS/NDOW
Thad Heater, NRCS
Bruce Peterson, NRCS
Tim Rubald, Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Council
Erick Blomberg, USGS
Randy Sharp, Forest Service (Contractor)

Conference Call Attendees

Scott Gardner, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Tim Kimball, USGS
Raul Morales, BLM NV
Amy Lueders, BLM NV

Action Items

- **George Tsukamoto will follow-up on financial status of Facilitator for Bi-State Local Working Group.**
- **Technical Team to schedule meeting to review projects from LWG.**
- **Bruce Peterson, Bernadette Lovato and Bill Dunkelberger to 'direct' staff to support NRCS in developing partnership with local produces for sage-grouse projects.**
- **Erik Blomberg and Randy Sharp will review status of funding USGS science support projects.**

Agenda topic discussion results

A) Identification of EOC co-Chair

- Forest Supervisor of Humboldt-Toiyabe NF will be Chairperson for interim for the EOC
- When Director of NDOW position is filled, the Director and Forest Supervisor will be co-chairpersons of the EOC
- Nevada will notify EOC if additional Departments will be proposed to be added to the MOU

B) Update of Bi-State Local Working Group

- Local PMU groups have been meeting to update action items.

- LWG met on March 18, 2013.
- LWG appreciates the support of the EOC for implementation of projects
- LWG members are encouraged to attend EOC meetings.
- LWG will submit priorities to Technical Team for recommendations to EOC.
- Contract for Steve Lewis, facilitator for LWG, will expire soon. Individual has been instrumental in the organization and success of the LWG and additional financial support for his contract would be greatly appreciated.
- Next LWG meeting is June 10 (10-1; 00PM) at Smith Valley Library.

C) Technical Team Update

- No meeting has been held since last EOC meeting.
- Members are busy in the field doing lek counts.
- Team will meet to review proposed projects from LWG/PMU. Will identify high priority projects for funding.

D) USGS Science Support

- Reviewed list of Projects that were identified as high priority for USGS science support.
- BLM/FWS have transferred funding to USGS.
- Forest Service will transfer additional funds.
- Need to ensure funding is being allocation as per identified in project proposals.
- May need additional funding for Viability Analysis.

E) FWS update

- The FWS are reviewing information and anticipate a decision of either not warrant or warranted for listing in September 2103. If the decision is to list, the final rule will be issued after public comment of the draft rule.
- Key to the conservation of the bi-state sage-grouse is the implementation of the Action Plan. The PMU groups and the LWG, as well as the EOC, need to continue their efforts. It is a model as to how conservation of species should be done.

F) Agency Update

- **NRCS**- Have funding available for sage-grouse restoration projects (PJ removal) as part of the EQUIP program. Need the support of other agencies to work with field NRCS staff and producers to take advantage of the program.
- **NDOW**- Doing field inventories. Applicants are being reviewed for the selection of the Director of NDOW
- **BLM-NV**; Will be requested proposal for “focal area landscape restoration” projects. Bi-State sage-grouse area would be highly competitive for funding.
- **BLM-Bishop**-Bernadette Lovato will be transferring (May) to Carson BLM District as District Manager. Steve Nelson will be action Field Office Manager.
- **Forest Service-H-T**; Completed public scoping for Bi-Sage grouse Plan Amendment (includes Carson BLM District). Expect Record of Decision in December 2013.
- **USGS**- Doing numerous field work projects and initiating Bi-State Science support projects.

G) Next Meeting

- **May 17. 0930 Reno, NV, Location TBD**

