

Bi-State Sage-grouse
Executive Oversight Committee
Approved

September 25, 2012

Attendees:

Randy Sharp - FS
Steven Siegel - NDOW
Ted Koch - USFWS
Ken Mayer - NDOW
Steve Nelson - BLM
Bernadette Lovato - BLM
Leeann Murphy - USFS - Inyo NF
Sandra Brewer - BLM - NVSO
Pilar Ziegler - BLM - Carson City
Chris McAlear - BLM - Carson City
Mike Odegard - NRCS
Tara Vogel - NDOW/NRCS
Joe Tague - BLM - NVSO
Becky Nourse - USFS - Humboldt-Toiyabe NF
Stephanie Phillips - USFS
Raul Morales - BLM
Mike Casazza - USGS
Tom Kimball - USGS
Erik Blomberg - USGS
Shawn Espinosa - NDOW
Steve Abele - USFWS
Scott Gardner - CDFG
Pete Coates - USGS

Phone:

Eric Loft - CDFG
Lily Douglas - BLM-CA
Todd Hopkins - Great Basin LCC

Introduction and Agenda Review - Randy Sharp

- Fire rehab opportunities overlaying grouse habitat, fire polygons and risk of annual grasses.

Approval of last meeting minutes - Steven Siegel

Approved minutes will be posted on NDOW webpage (www.ndow.org)

- Minutes approved. To be posted on the website.

Update of EOC discussion with Bi-State Local Working Group - Ken Mayer - Ted Koch - Stephanie Phillips

- EOC presentation helped them understand that we are here to support the work they are doing, have done and will do.
 - Maybe have someone from the successful working groups (Example: Idaho) that is working under a listing come and talk to the local working group and give examples of how you can still move things along.
 - Encourage the local working group that EOC has the ability to bring resources to the table.
 - Bernadette Lovato will be the contact between the Bi-State Local Working Group and the EOC
 - Work with Mike Crawley to coordinate covering meetings

Habitat Mapping - Pete Coates - Scott Gardner - Shawn Espinosa

Update of "PPH" mapping for the Bi-State population. Goal is to approve PPH map.

- Presentation by Pete Coates.
 - Technical advisory committee was tasked with developing a conservation planning tool as part of the Action Plan.

Role of EOC in the Future - All

To date, the EOC has been instrumental in providing information to FWS for their rule-making process. Now that the information has been provided (or in progress) to the FWS, what activities (role) shall the EOC pursue?

- Need to maintain this organization - once the decision is made we will need to figure out where to go from there and what needs to be done.
 - The work is going to happen at the working group level.
 - There will be things for EOC to do from a funding perspective.
 - Identify how the ruling will effect some funding.
- Value of the EOC is that the planning is one phase that is hard but the implementation is where it becomes more challenging.
 - The implementation phase is by the local working groups working with their local land management units on the ground.
 - There will be resource needs that will come up that will need to be elevated to the EOC so decisions can be made to support the Bi-State DPS as a whole.
- Continue open invitation/communication to attend any/all EOC meetings.
 - Make sure the local working groups obtain copies of meeting minutes, announcements and agendas.
- Field level or forest service unit manager attend the local working group meeting. They can come back and report to us to try to bridge the gap between the two.

Information Sharing - All

Update by Agency including policy updates, programs, and projects.

- USFWS - Ted Koch - Fire and invasive species

- There have been teams that have made visits to fire sites. They have been doing mapping and GIS work to identify the priority habitats for restoration.
 - Teams are made up at a local level/district level - range and wildlife people for the most part.
 - Identified priority habitat based upon GIS layers for different species.
- BLM identify an emergency stabilization and rehabilitation mix. NDOW has been adding approximately 10 additional species to the mix that are to specifically benefit wildlife species.
- Some areas that burned may improve habitat for sage-grouse, some burned sagebrush will come back as sagebrush, some may allow for cheatgrass invasion.
 - There are different mixes for different veg communities. The areas we want to prevent cheatgrass from becoming established are getting mixes.
 - Generating a volunteer effort to collect sagebrush seed.
- Request to educate the Service on Fire Rehab Industry and culture and how to steer in a unified way in the Great Basin to address the needs.
 - Refuge fire personnel should get on some of the fire incidents.
- Nevada BLM - Raul Morales
 - Received \$135,000 from Washington office for Bi-State sage-grouse that is now put into Nevada Partners for Conservation (NPCD).
 - Draft IM on the Bi-State is being looked over by Corey Hunt.
 - We will stick with the map we saw (from Pete Coates) this morning on the Bi-State to accompany the Bi-State IM.
- Forest Service - Stephanie Phillips
 - In relation to the Bi-State still going forward with doing a Forest Plan Amendment.
 - The Carson BLM has agreed so we need to put together a cooperating agency agreement with the Carson BLM.
 - We have approached the Inyo NF, they are doing a plan revision. They did not have the staffing to also do an amendment at this time.
- USFS - Inyo NF
 - Going forward an interim policy. Will share the policy once it is signed.
- BLM -CA
 - Will try to set up a volunteer effort to do some local seed collection.
- USGS
 - Committed to the process and to provide the science to provide support to agencies.
 - Have a lot of on the ground work going on.
 - Brought on a recent Phd grad - Eric Blomberg from UNR.
 - He has a lot of sage-grouse expertise in his past.
- NDOW - Ken Mayer
 - Went to Cinnamon Meadows - 1200 acres there he would like to put in an FRPP easement.

- Requested a letter from the EOC supporting that easement. Ken will write on behalf of the EOC and we will send to the Conservancy.
- Looking for California to provide leniency on soil requirements.

Wrap-up, Assignments, Next Meeting - Randy Sharp - Steve Siegel

- Next meeting - October 29, 2012 - 1:00-4:00