

Sage Grouse Pod, March 14, 2007

In attendance: Kent McAdoo, Dewayn Winslow, Wendy Fuell, Ken Wilkinson, Leta Collord, Doug Clarke,

The Minutes of the January meeting were corrected to reflect a correction in spelling Kim Rollins name.

Wendy Fuell shared information regarding a March 20, 21 National Science and Technical Center hosting the Rangewide Greater Sage Grouse Habitat Connectivity Mapping and Analysis Workshop to be held at the Elko Convention Center. The main focus of the workshop is to test modeling being done to test habitat connectivity in northeastern Nevada.

Doug Clark reported that the Forest Service Human Resources and Personnel division is now located in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Also, Diane Weaver, Humboldt Toiyabe Forest Service state range specialist is moving to Idaho, and Randy Sharp will be filling in until a replacement is hired.

Wendy Fuell stated that BLM and NDOW have \$30,000 to do sage grouse lek flights in April. This effort will be organized by Nicole Burton, BLM wildlife biologist.

Leta Collord reported on the status of the Question 1 NV Habitat Conservation Plan grant Funding Agreement as being in the Elko County Commission office awaiting the signature of commission chairman, John Ellison to finalize that document. Upon completion of the agreement and return to State Lands department, following a five day waiting period the Request For Proposal (RFP) can be posted for advertising. Collord explained the presentation process of the Elko County Sagebrush Ecosystem Conservation Strategy to the Public Land Use Advisory Council (PLUAC) which began in January, continued in the February PLUAC Agenda, and will be presented to the Elko County Commission in April for their approval. PLUAC commented they wanted to retain the Strategy in an abbreviated form, with just the segment that addressed the Conservation Strategy, part 3 of the document. The intent is for the PLUAC to incorporate the Strategy into the Elko County Plan that is underway currently. The full Strategy will be sent on to the commission for acceptance in support of the Habitat Conservation Plan for the Tuscarora Watershed assessment process.

Leta asked for volunteers from the Sage Grouse Pod to serve on the Search Committee for the Watershed Coordinator position. Dewayne Winslow volunteered. The NNSG Board will assemble a 5 man committee.

Doug Clark requested that an introductory statement to the abbreviated PLUAC document be constructed and included in that paper.

Helen Hankins, Elko Bureau of Land Management, Field Office District Manager has taken a job in Arizona beginning in mid-May. Her position will be filled by Gene Siedlitz, Battle Mountain, BLM, until permanently filled. It was also mentioned that the Elko Office Associate Field Manager's position is open, and will close the end of March.

There was a discussion related to potential use of the Very Large Scale Aerial imagery (VLSA) for establishing a monitoring data base within the Tuscarora Watershed area that would add to the ongoing monitoring information. It was decided that Ken Wilkinson and Wendy Fuell would carry the request to BLM to construct a prioritized “wish list” of streams for Fall 2007 VLSA flights to be readied for the April Pod meeting. Also, Carole Evans would be asked to make a presentation to the Pod in the April meeting on the existing uses of VLSA within northeastern Nevada.

Dewayne Winslow requested that Leta forward him information on the VLSA project that NNSG completed in June of 2005.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15.

Submitted: Leta Collord