

SAGR monthly conference call

Nov. 10, 2011

Participants:

Pat Deibert
Lynn Gemlo

Renee Chi
Jodie Delavan

Jeff Berglund
Jesse D'Elia

Shauna Ginger
Jeff Dillon

1. Sharepoint changes – we are now sharing our sharepoint site with FWS folks working on the BLM effort. Folder titled BLM planning. Please do not share any documents out of that folder!

2. BLM process - summary of meeting in Denver, future schedule

- Meeting in Denver of the eastern and western regional management teams, as well as the NPT.
- Western team met together for half day, eastern met for half day, and then a joint informational meeting in between.
- Lots of sausage making, but the meeting was helpful in bringing folks together
- Informational meeting provided insights on listing process, BLM planning process, species and habitat biology, oil and gas leasing process, etc.
- National Policy Team also met that week and worked primarily on the interim IM.
- Interim IM is still under revision – but is vastly improved from first review. Will be sent out one more time for review – with a very short turnaround – before finalized.
 - Plan is to finalize prior to Secretary meeting with the Governors on Dec. 9
 - Release after the meeting on the 9th, assuming the Governors are good with it.
- National Technical Team document – received comments from WAFWA reviewers – most of which were very helpful.
 - Been revised and now being reviewed by NPT.
 - Release should be about the same time as the interim IM

3. FS letter – FS requested a letter from FWS regarding their regulatory mechanisms. The letter was drafted and is similar to the letter we sent BLM in June of this year. The letter was signed on Nov. 8th. Pat will post on sharepoint. FS may join with BLM on planning process.

4. Conservation plan matrix – BLM Interim IM allows an “out” for states that have alternative plans in place that provide good regulatory mechanisms. So we are collecting information about the state conservation plans for consideration of the “out”. Pat will send out a matrix requesting information for each state.

5. Mitigation/conservation banking table. Shaun Ginger. Conservation banking program for sage-grouse, lots of interest in MT. Conservation banking have not really been done for non-listed species, but there is a lot of interest. A conference on banking will be held in Sacramento in May 2012, so Shauna has drafted a mitigation table – need to get a feel for what is happening in different states for discussion at this conference. This will include good information for all regarding mitigation for sage-grouse. Pat will put Shauna's table on the sharepoint – feel free to change and add as appropriate.

6. NWRA meeting – Next week in Brigham City, UT. This is not a Service meeting, which is why there hasn't been much information shared about it. National Wildlife Refuge Association will be hosting the meeting to identify strategic landscapes for sage-grouse conservation. Pat, Lynn, and Jeff D. will be attending. Will share what happened on next call.

5. round the lek - everyone too tired!

6. Next call – Thursday Dec. 15 at 2:00 p.m. MST