

Approved
2/28/07

Big Horn Basin Local Sage-grouse Working Group
Meeting Notes
February 9, 2007
Bureau of Land Management—Worland

Working Group Members Present:

- Kathleen Jachowski, (Chair) Executive Director, Guardians of the Range, Cody
- Tom Easterly, Wildlife Biologist, Wyoming Game & Fish Department, Greybull
- Keith Hamilton, Rancher, Hyattville
- Rory Karhu, District Conservationist, Natural Resource Conservation District, Worland
- Tim Stephens, Wildlife Biologist, Bureau of Land Management, Worland
- Matt Call, Environmental Specialist, WyoBen (Bentonite), Greybull
- Chris Pfhister, Rancher/Falconer, Worland
- Lee Campbell, Hot Springs County Planner, Thermopolis
- Marvin Blakesley, Adv. HES Professional, Marathon Oil Company, Cody

Working Group Members Absent:

- Bill Alldredge, Rancher (Retired Professor-CSU), Thermopolis
- Carl Meyer, Member at Large

Facilitator: Dennie Hammer, Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Note Taker: Dennie Hammer

Observers/Presenters:

- Larry Bentley, WY Department of Agriculture

Approval of Agenda and Previous Minutes-Dennie Hammer

- Dennie reviewed the day's agenda
 - o There was one correction: Cooperative Sagebrush Initiative.
 - o Minutes were approved.
 - o Marvin Blakesley asked to be excused between 2-3 p.m. for a phone call.

Opening Remarks-Dennie

- Focus of the day is the Conservation Plan. The discussion on project proposals is scheduled for the afternoon; however, this discussion is secondary in nature to finishing the conservation plan today.

Review and Discussion of the draft Conservation Plan document

- Tom Easterly took over the meeting and began a review of the "work in progress" document via computer and projector.
- Rory agreed to create a map with appropriate layers to be used in Figure 3: Selected habitat types with the Big Horn Basin Conservation Area. Tim stated he would help provide information from the GAP analysis for this figure as well.

- Tom provided images for the group to review that could be inserted into the document. Some of these were not taken in the Big Horn Basin. The group felt it was important to select images of sites within the basin.
- Cheatgrass map: we need to identify the scale at which the map shows cheatgrass locations

Morning Public Comment Period

- Larry Bentley
 - o Suggested that the group use the Coordinated Resource Management groups to help implement the objective regarding adaptive livestock management.
 - o Stated that the NE working group is revising their plan relative to livestock grazing.
 - o The statewide review team is not quite in place at this time, some appointments still need to be made.
 - o Suggested that the group might want to refer to the Jonah In-field office's reclamation plan information.

Dennie provided an in-house pizza lunch to maximize time.

- Rory suggested that the Table of Commitments would provide some information on NRCS programs that could provide incentives.
- Tim stated he would look into the language that is used
- Dennie suggested reversing the "xxx sub-goal" to read, "sub-goal xxx"
- Ranking-Tom will replace the current #2 with a combined # 28 & 29
- Tom requested from the BLM and NRCS, information on projects that have benefited sage-grouse going back to Sept. 2004—the start of the Big Horn Basin working group.
- It was decided that the first completed draft of the conservation plan would go out to the working group members and then to their peer group for review and comment.
 - o All comments are due back to the working group members from their peer group(s) by March 31.
- Tom asked that the working group support the idea of allowing money from the Governor's fund to be used for paying personnel costs in projects.
- Tom stated he would make the additions and changes suggested and have a CD-ROM copy of the conservation plan in as "read-only" file in the mail to everyone on Feb. 14.

The next meeting will take place on February 28, 2007 at the Game and Fish office in Cody. The meeting will begin at 11 a.m. and will address only a discussion regarding the projects proposed for the Big Horn Basin area. Dennie will make copies of the notebook, Lee put together for project review.