

Southwest Sage Grouse Local Working Group
March 26, 2007
Wyoming Game & Fish Office, Green River

Working Group Members Present:

Corby McGinnis, Chris Durham, Don Hartman, Mark Kot, Ron Lockwood, Gavin Lovell, Mary Lynn Corbett, Dave Baer and Lucy Wold.

Working Group Members Absent:

Steve Martin, Bryan Christensen and Vearl Bird

Guests:

Tom Christiansen, Wyoming Game & Fish Dept.

Public:

No additional persons present

Discussion:

Reviewed the minutes from the February meeting. The minutes were approved and Lucy will e-mail to Tom C. for the web page.

Vearl called Lucy before the meeting and said he had a concern with the way the monies were being issued to projects. He is concerned that good projects, which are not yet in place, might go by the wayside and others funded ahead said projects. Lucy asked Corby to call Vearl and find out exactly what the concern is.

- 1.) Tom explained to the Group that many of the plans are coming together at the same time and the Commission can't hear all the plans at once. So, the Southwest working group might have to wait until July or November 2007 to present their plan to the Commission. There will have to be public meetings held in the working group area to receive public comment for at least 30 days. In addition, the group will have to make time after the public comment period to incorporate that public comment into its plan.
- 2.) Tom worked through the current copy of the plan with group members and made the following additions and or deletions:
 - Tom placed captions under the habitat photos. The numbering sequence is not exact at the present time and will not be exact until all the information has been added and renumbered.
 - Gavin and Chris expressed their opinion that as far as they are aware, there is no concrete wind energy development proposals they can include in the plan or can speak about with any great detail or new insight/knowledge.
 - The Urbanization (Residential) section was discussed and fleshed-out. The percentage of land ownership was added for Sweetwater, Lincoln and Uinta Counties.
 - The Farming section was fleshed-out with more information from Don towards the narrative. Again, acres and percentages were finalized. Don expressed his concern that someone has to find out what is going on in the Farson area as far as the wetland project.
 - Chris explained that there is a high percentage of turnover at the NRCS at the present time with nothing "going on" with the Farson/Eden project portion of the Colorado River Salinity Control Project. Bryan Christensen was absent and wrote in a previous e-mail correspondence that he was not aware of anything "going on" in Farson/Eden.
 - The Transportation Corridors section was discussed and Tom has included a new road map in the plan consisting of roads in the southwest working group area. There was much discussion on why it is necessary to include the main roads with the other roads on the map. Don said the group was focusing on main transportation corridors when they originally wrote and or addressed the transportation issue. Tom said he can get with the map lady and two maps can be

included in the plan and make reference to such maps also in the Recreation section. In addition, Tom said he would place another paragraph about the effects of major highways on sage grouse from another document he has read.

- Wild Horse Management was discussed and Chris will give Tom the information and Tom will make the changes to the plan.
 - Under Mining/Mines, the group comprised a list of mines in the area.
 - Tom told the group to keep their eye on the raven project going on near Pinedale.
 - Under the Weather section Tom included a map of the annual precipitation and the Palmer Drought Severity Index with the monthly average from 1895-2005 for southwest Wyoming.
- 3.) The group discussed a project submitted by Richard Hamilton. The group wants to fund the project, providing more information can be provided and the project can be shown to benefit sage grouse. Group members were unsure how this project is related to the Willow Creek Project and CRM. Gavin will get with Carl Bezanson and Lance Porter of the Kemmerer BLM to find out what work has already been done on the project. In addition, Dave, Ron and Corby will get with Richard Hamilton to do a field tour before the next meeting to get more details. The bottom line is the group wants to learn more about the project. Corby has a list of some 10 questions to ask Mr. Hamilton via phone call. Dave Baer will be the local liaison.
- 4.) Dave asked the group to think about projects that Bow Hunters of Wyoming could help fund.
- 5.) Don expressed his concerns that some verbage must be included in the plan to indicate that a monitoring process has been done and a report turned into the group so the status of the project is known. Don wants specific dates and times when a project is going to be completed and reported upon by the group/persons responsible for getting the project done. Basically, Don wants to make sure that as the group continues (past the time the plan is complete) to meet later on that they will properly access the status of all projects in the southwest area.
- 6.) The next meeting is Friday, April 27, 2007 at the Game and Fish Office in Green River.
- 7.) Assignments:
- Lucy to get Tom a photo for the cover of the plan.
 - Corby will call Richard Hamilton and ask the questions pertaining to the project he submitted to the group to get more detailed information.
 - Gavin, Ron and Dave (Corby?) get with Richard Hamilton and tour project site before next meeting.
 - Chris to get Tom the BLM stipulations. Gavin look at them and see how the Kemmerer Resource Office is different. (This information is included within the Table of Commitments.)
 - Gavin get specific weed control project information.
 - Lucy make copies of meeting handouts to Vearl, Bryan and Steve.
 - Gavin: is there a monitoring plan for the Rock Creek Burn project?
 - Chris bring reclamation information to April meeting (about intern and her assignments and a possible commitment for future project).
 - Put copy of the project funding criteria into the plan; send a copy to Tom.