

Southwest Sage Grouse Local Working Group
January 29, 2007
Wyoming Game & Fish Office, Green River

Working Group Members Present:

Rena Piper, Corby McGinnis, Chris Durham, Dave Baer, Steve Martin, Vearl Bird, Don Hartman, Mark Kot, Ron Lockwood, Gavin Lovell, Bryan Christensen, Sheila Watts and Lucy Wold.

Working Group Member Absent:

Mary Lynn Corbett

Guests:

Tom Christiansen, Wyoming Game & Fish Dept.

Public:

Dee Findlay, Questar Market Resources Group – Dee attended the meeting to gather information on protecting sage grouse and their habitats before Wexpro applies for permits within the Moxa Arch area. Dee has been in contact with Chris Durham concerning vegetation reclamation and seed mixes.

Discussion:

- 1) Reviewed the minutes from the December meeting. The minutes were approved and Lucy will e-mail to Tom C. for the web page.
- 2) A memorial fund was established for Mary Lynn's grandson, Jason Corbett, who was killed in Iraq on January 15th. Donations from the group were collected and sent on behalf of the Southwest Sage Grouse Local Working Group. A memorial fund was set up at Casper College. (A total of \$300 in the form of a cashier's check from Bank of the West was sent to Mary Lynn at her Casper address on January 31, 2007.)
- 3) Rena has made a job change and has moved to Gillette. Rena is now working for Rio Tinto Energy America and will no longer be able to participate with the working group. There was discussion on replacing Rena's chair duties within the group but was decided that a chairperson is not needed at this time in the process. Corby and Ron will present the plan to the Commission in July.
- 4) Raven Workshop DVD's – Dave and Lucy currently have the DVD's.
- 5) Bryan Christensen informed the group that he will be on a different assignment over the next few months in Manila and may not be attending the meetings until June or July, due to a busy workload.
- 6) Tom Christiansen addressed the group and provided some options on how to present the plan to the public. The Group will discuss and decide on what they want to do. Some of the options include: introduce the plan at the G&F season setting open houses and final public meeting at the end of March/April and or send a copy of the plan to agencies that other groups have used in their local areas. Tom will get a list of those places for the group. He

also suggested sending out a "Request For Proposal" (RFP) such as the Pinedale group did. Tom reminded the Group that if one person is not comfortable with anything in the plan, speak up now and work through a concern, as the plan needs to be 100% supported by all members. Members are to review the Group Charter and Ground Rules if they have any questions or concerns. The deadline for submitting projects to receive the \$134,000 are February 1st, **but** Tom encouraged the Group that that is a "soft date" and to continue working on projects to be submitted. Bottom line, the money **must be spent** by the fall of 2008.

- 7) The Group worked on finalizing plan documents, beginning with Energy Development under the Conservation Strategy. Chris wrote a paragraph on Energy Development and the group approved it and inserted it. Under Water Development, Chris says he has sent the mapping information to Lander for final mapping. Nissa Whitford will format and Gavin and Chris will review the data for final inclusion. Tom said he would follow up with Nissa to make sure she has everything she needs and will hopefully have the map by the next meeting. Corby wrote up a paragraph to include under Invasive Plants and the group approved. In the Transportation Corridors section, a farming map has been included but is off by one township in the Farson area. Note of this has been made in the document and, if Nissa gets a more detailed/accurate map, it will then be inserted. A lot of discussion took place concerning Weather. Corby wrote three weather goals she felt were taking a proactive approach to weather. After much discussion the goals were moved down to the sub goal of research and development. A final weather goal was adopted from the Bates Hole Plan. The funding section was completed. Mark re-hashed the discussion pertaining to parcels of land turned into subdivisions. After much discussion another Urbanization goal was added to the plan.
- 8) Project work - Members of the Group presented potential projects and added them to the projects list. Chris brought forth 4 new projects:
 - a) Seasonal Range Mapping - \$14,000
 - b) Fencing Project - 120 fences (75 miles), \$12,500
 - c) Prescribed Burn - Pine Mountain, Vermillion Creek - \$5,000
 - d) Winter Range Improvement Area, South Pass - \$7,500Tom Christiansen had two new projects for the list:
 - a) A fencing Project in areas of high sage grouse mortality over a 3 miles stretch - looking at a couple of different reflector techniques and the cost effectiveness of each.
 - b) Escape Ramps for private landowners free of charge.Vearyl has a couple of projects in the process of being developed and added:
 - a) Weed Control Project south of Bridger Valley and south of EvanstonRon Lockwood added:
 - a) Spring/Habitat Development with Truman Julian.
- 9) Next meeting is Monday, February 26, at 8:45 AM, at the Game and Fish Office in Green River.
- 10) Assignments:
 - (All) Put plan in same order as State plan and keep projects together.
 - (Lucy) Power Point presentation to go along with taxidermied sage grouse. Get it to Dave for review.
 - Come with project ideas.

- Tom C. follow up with Nissa to make sure she has everything she needs so that the Group will have map(s) by the next meeting.