

**Renewable Energy & Eastern Oregon Landscape Conservation
(REECon) Partnership**

November 21, 2011

DRAFT Meeting Notes

ACTION ITEMS & NEXT STEPS

- Sage Grouse Implementation Team meeting being held in December
 - Hines 12/6, Prineville 12/8 and Baker City 12/13
- State Energy Plan “Design Teams” are meeting and working on draft reports for Governor’s office mid-December
 - Here is a link to more information:
http://www.oregon.gov/ENERGY/Ten_Year/Ten_Year_Energy_Plan.shtml
- BLM National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy
 - Guidance set to be released 12/9/11
 - Interagency agency teams will be held in December to scope amendments needed to align Resource Management Plans (RMPs) with National Strategy
- Coordinated Landscape Level Mitigation (CLLM) Work Group
 - Will potentially meet in early January
- Next REECon meeting will be scheduled in February

BRIEF MEETING SUMMARY

Welcome, Introductions & Agenda Review

Coordinated Landscape-Level Mitigation (CLLM) Work Group

CLLM Planning Team

- CLLM has been working to coordinate information among participants on mitigation efforts and ideas
- CLLM members have been offered the opportunity to engage in the implementation process for West Butte although CLLM will not itself formally engage
- Based on discussions at the last meeting, CLLM members have decided not to take the lead on the geographic exercise of identifying the best opportunities for mitigation on the landscape - deferring instead to the LIT process that ODFW is initiating
- The next CLLM meeting has not yet been scheduled

Local Implementation Teams Update

- 5 teams are meeting based on BLM district boundaries. The minimum membership of teams includes ODFW, DSL, USFS, county government, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and two landowners.
- Meetings are being held to ensure sage grouse and sagebrush decisions are being vetted on local level.
- Analysis based on biological need of species, teams are establishing timeline to identify opportunities on the landscape to implement on the ground action.

- Autumn Larkins of ODFW is leading effort, which includes reviewing core area maps (adopted in April 2011) and prioritizing habitat management as follows: core areas within Conservation Opportunity Areas (COA), core areas outside of COA's, low density within COA's and low density outside of COA's.
- Autumn is digitizing results of analysis for future meetings. First round—refining maps, will begin meeting regularly (goals quarterly) with a focus on restoration. NRCS has provided assistance on the ground.
- The State's technical team will oversee the process.

State Energy Planning Process

- State has convened design teams to assist in developing the long-term state energy plan to meet existing goals that promote a clean economy by developing renewables and assist with GHG mitigation.
- Design teams include Energy Efficiency and Demand Management; Resource Mix; Siting Issues; Transportation; and Governance
- Design teams will provide draft reports to Governors office mid-December with a tentative stakeholder process set for March
- Siting Design Team has parallel membership and discussions related to REECon and recommendations will link with REECon on implementing new approaches to siting on federal and nonfederal land.
- Intention of planning effort to integrate with existing local, state and federal processes—understanding energy planning occurring on different scales related to utilities, transmission and community demand not suggesting existing projects be on hold till plan developed.
- Discussion turned to role of REECon. A need was identified to hold off meetings until February to allow for state energy planning effort to solidify. There was an ask for information to be shared in the interim.
- BLM confirmed benefit of discussion when high priority projects move forward in sage grouse habitat REECon serves as a good clearinghouse for agency and county perspectives.

BLM National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy

- Guidance set to be released on December 9th, will share materials with group.
- Sally Sovey was introduced, she is the Sub-Region Project Lead for BLM's Western Region Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy Grouse to lead the interdisciplinary team that is developing the RMP and EIS for Oregon.
- Maggie Langlas will be leading planning process and provided information as follows: in response to the April 2010 warranted but precluded status finding from USFWS, BLM is working to ensure adequate regulatory mechanisms are put in place. Reviewed RMP's and determined need for national planning amendment—there are 50 RMP's nationwide.
- Aggressive schedule for amendments: Initial screening December-February 2010, Draft EIS December 2012, Final EIS December 2013 ROD and RMP revised Summer 2014.
- Working with other agencies to incorporate existing plans including ODFW Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy , state and national plans. BLM's work is meant to be proactive instead of reactive and there will be opportunities for input from a wide range of public and private stakeholders.

- BLM will report back in February about the scoping meetings taking place in January in district teams to include USFWS, ODFW, USFS

County Planning & Renewables: Status of Discussions

- Eastern Oregon counties in discussion with DLCD and conservation community about how to prepare Goal 5 resource inventory in relation to a single species vs. wildlife generally. Inventories include sage grouse, mule deer as well as evaluating wind and other energy resources.
- Harney County in 1983, had renewable energy inventory conducted. Only OR county that has that info. This will inform Goal 5 resource inventory for biomass, wind and geothermal but not solar yet.
- Discussion around how this relates to juniper as a feedstock for biomass in inventories, it was taken into account in Harney County inventory.
- The Resource Mix team will be discussing related planning issues that touch on how to integrate inventories for energy resources such as biomass, geothermal, wind, etc into local plans.

Participants

Co-Conveners: Brett Brownscombe, Governor's Office Natural Resources
Mike Haske, BLM Deputy State Director, Resource Planning, Use & Protection

Agency

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ODFW
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Dept of State Lands
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Attendee

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Maggie Langlas
Sally Sovey
Bob Hooton
Eric Rickerson
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By Phone:

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