

Theodore R. Kulongoski
Governor



March 31, 2010

RE: Renewable Energy & Sagebrush Conservation Partnership

Dear Partners:

I'm pleased to invite you all to attend the first meeting of the Renewable Energy & Sagebrush Conservation Partnership. This Governor-led state and federal agency collaborative effort will articulate regional policy opportunities and challenges associated with sage grouse conservation and habitat protection, and renewable energy development.

Partners will seek collaborative approaches to mutually address sagebrush and sage grouse issues and how we might agree on criteria for identifying areas in Eastern Oregon that have potential for new energy development as well as those areas where there would be significant challenges to development. This includes renewable energy and transmission development on federal lands, state lands and on private lands in close proximity to public lands.

We hope to build on an existing memorandum of agreement with Oregon Department of Energy to share environmental analysis of energy facility citing proposals for federal NEPA processes and state energy facility citing processes. The Governor, state agencies, the BLM, NRCS, and the Fish and Wildlife Service have expressed interest in expanding their individual relationships to include even greater collaboration on a range of environmental issues related to sage grouse conservation and habitat protection, and renewable energy development.

The primary purposes of this first meeting are to discuss the partnership and develop joint statement of principles, discuss the recent "Warranted but Precluded" sage grouse listing decision, and develop a clear plan to move forward in a timely manner. We hope to begin with a draft statement of principles that we want this expanded collaboration to achieve. Once we have reached agreement and the joint statement is issued, we would use the principles to build a memorandum of agreement confirming the ongoing collaboration.

The following draft statements of principles are the areas of coordination we have discussed with BLM thus far:

Creation and sharing of maps identifying areas for potential development and areas with resource challenges to be used as guidance documents for state and federal agencies, local governments and developers: The BLM has created a map which overlays key sage

grouse and pygmy rabbit habitat, mule deer winter range, DOD flight paths and areas that have been administratively withdrawn from development. The aggregate of these layers can inform potential developers of the kinds of challenges they may face in certain areas. We hope to use this map as a building block for our discussions.

Collaboration, where appropriate, on review of applications for local, state and federal permits, leases and other siting authorizations, and collaboration in issuance of authorizations and associated conditions.

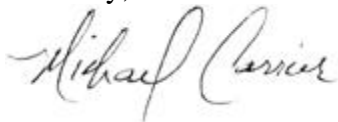
Collaboration on strategies for continued protection of sage grouse and sage grouse habitat with or without ESA listing.

Protocols for dealing with new, unforeseen issues of common concern as they arise.

I have asked the BLM to work with the National Policy Consensus Center (NPCC) to help facilitate this meeting and the partnership in general. NPCC has extensive experience in collaborative problem solving, engaging all levels of government and their role will help make your participation more efficient and effective.

Either my office or NPCC staff will contact you soon to schedule this first meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Carrier".

Michael Carrier
Natural Resources Policy Director
Office of Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski