



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

**March 15, 2012**

### **DRAFT Meeting Notes**

#### **ACTION ITEMS & NEXT STEPS**

- Revise Partnership purpose statement to reflect discussion and broader focus to be shared at April meeting
- State Energy Plan process moving forward to integrate design team recommendations. Governor's Office appointing Energy Advisor to oversee process.
  - Website link to more information:  
[http://www.oregon.gov/ENERGY/Ten\\_Year/Ten\\_Year\\_Energy\\_Plan.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/ENERGY/Ten_Year/Ten_Year_Energy_Plan.shtml)
- Develop suggestions for a new name for the Partnership.
- Consider additional stakeholders that need to be invited to the Partnership.
- Next REECon meeting will be held April 12<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

#### **MEETING MATERIALS – HANDOUTS**

- BLM – SAGE GROUSE TIMELINE, STRATEGY
- ODFW – SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION GUIDELINES (FACTORS A-E)

#### **BRIEF MEETING SUMMARY**

Welcome, Introductions & Agenda Review

#### **Ten Year Energy Plan Update**

Governor indicated that the development of a long-term state energy plan would be a priority during his campaign. The plan aligns with existing efforts including the short-term plan developed by ODOE and the Power Plan developed by the NW Power Planning and Conservation Council, and is less focused on setting new policies. The 10-year plan is structured to set short-term goals that can be accomplished under current laws and with current resources as well as supporting medium and long-term goals that may require additional authority under the legislature through the 2013 session and beyond for implementation.

Governor is looking to appoint energy policy advisor to manage process in coming weeks. Timeline, public draft of Governor's vision out for stakeholder review (including counties, agencies, local government, utilities, etc.) in early June. End of June, broader input from public through different types of engagement with final plan revisions expected toward the end of summer.

Recommendations from "design teams" have been provided for siting, resource mix and energy efficiency/demand management but are still in development for transportation. Siting team is furthest along,

seeking a landscape level plan to signal to energy developers where large-scale energy development is possible as well as provide guidance on where investments should be made for mitigation. There is also a need to align standards across public and private land ownership as well as revisit standards at EFSC and county review level. Overall goal is to create a system approach that avoids project by project negotiations.

### Oregon Partnerships and Coordination for Sage Grouse Strategy – Future Role of REECon

Discussion focused on considering the future purpose, outcomes and outputs of this group.

The Secretary of Interior convened a meeting in Cheyenne with multiple federal agencies (BLM, USFWS, NRCS, etc.) and state representatives to share USFWS's process to review "warranted but precluded" status for sage grouse listing decision set for 2015. In response to that meeting, agencies and states have been working together to better coordinate efforts across land ownership (state, federal and private) to prepare for USFWS review to ensure there are adequate regulatory mechanisms in place and that threats are being addressed in order to avoid listing creating an impetus for Oregon to participate.

- There is an opportunity to define the set of screens at the landscape scale to show where there are opportunities and challenges for large and small-scale development based on the highest priority areas for mitigation and conservation.
- The focus will be beyond energy siting to all types of land use development and activity to provide assurances
- ODFW identified risk factors and threats in the Conservation Strategy which presents opportunities to inform goals related to fire, livestock grazing, juniper and invasive species management as well as land use related to development including energy siting and other uses.
- Several efforts to develop CCA's and CCAA's occurring in Eastern Oregon. Major part of discussion, how to provide assurances to land managers and developers in case of listing.
- Coordination developing with WGA and other states to inform management practices and efforts related to strategies to maintain stable sage grouse populations.

### Next Steps

Revise language from the REECon Declaration of Cooperation, Principles and Objectives, to show broader discussion and update purpose and membership to coordinate enforceable and adequate regulatory mechanisms to prevent listing. It has been noted that new regulation will not be the sole focus but that the discussion will be framed as a way to provide assurances consistently across private and public lands at different levels of review for a variety of uses. Also, the charter will be structured with FACA restrictions in mind to clearly message appropriate outcomes of meetings and process.

### ***\*\*\*Draft list of organization to reach out to for new partnership membership for consideration***

- Oregon Cattlemen's Association
- Oregon Rangeland Trust
- County planning
- ODA and NRCS- Invasives. Working with ranching community habitat needs and juniper removal around core areas

- OWEB, soil and water conservation districts. (Harney County SWCD application to OWEB for funds to support CCAA development.)
- Tribes (including Klamath, Burns Paiute)
- Fire (rangeland fire districts, DSL contracts fire with BLM for suppression.)
- DLCD
- Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries. (DOGAMI)

***Technical Resources***

- Higher ed- OSU Extension.
- Ag Research Station, Burns. Invasive species and arid lands issues lead.

**Participants**

Conveners: Brett Brownscombe, Governor’s Office Natural Resources  
 Richard Whitman, Governor’s Office Natural Resources  
 Mike Haske, BLM Deputy State Director, Resource Planning, Use & Protection

Agency

Governor’s Office  
 Governor’s Office  
 BLM  
 BLM  
 ODFW  
 ODFW  
 ODFW  
 USFWS  
 USFWS  
 USFWS  
 ODOE  
 ODOE  
 Dept of State Lands  
 AOC  
 TNC  
 DoW  
 RNP  
 ONDA  
 AOC  
 Stoel Rives  
 T Roosevelt Conservation Part.

Attendee

Richard Whitman  
 Brett Brownscombe  
 Mike Haske  
 Mark Brown  
 Roy Elicker  
 Bob Hooton  
 Eric Rickerson  
 Joe Zisa  
 Monty Knudsen  
 Jeff Evertt  
 Matt Krumaneaur  
 Diana Enright  
 Lanny Quackenbush  
 Emily Ackland  
 Cathy Macdonald  
 Bruce Taylor  
 John Audley  
 Matt Little  
 Doris Penwell  
 Barbara Craig  
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By Phone:

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NRCS	Bill White
TNC	Garth Fuller

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