

**Renewable Energy Opportunities and  
Eastern Oregon Landscape Conservation Partnership**

**July 30, 2010**

**DRAFT Meeting Notes**

**ACTION ITEMS & NEXT STEPS**

- Staff will work with partners to refine Principles and Objectives outlined in DoC. Partnership Principles and Objectives based on the discussion suggests we consider 2 action categories:
  - Priority 1- right now. Partnership priorities are: to share information, review content of information and coordinate, contribute to the Partnership dialogue and leverage resources where we can (e.g. data, workshop), and get agreement and signatures on the Dec of Cooperation.
  - Priority 2- in the future- Decide on how we use this information. How do we proceed? How do we provide information on topics like mitigation, yet not get down in the weeds? What can we do as group to avoid problems and collectively find a way forward to offset impacts of energy development?
- Partners will work on finalizing support statements to be signed before or at next meeting set for August 31st
- BLM draft Renewable Energy Workshop (forum). The Partnership agreed to form a Workshop Work Group – BLM to chair (Kim Titus, Mark Brown), members include USFWS (to be identified), DSL (Lanny Quackenbush), ODFW (Eric Rickerson), ODOE (to be determined), Association of Oregon Counties (Emily Ackland). Timeline: August meeting to agree on agenda details, sponsors, breadth of stakeholder involvement and present a draft proposal and possible date, location at the next meeting.
- USFWS proposal for a baseline Golden Eagle survey in Oregon – BLM (George Buckner) and ODFW (Chip Dale) will provide data to USFWS (Vanessa Loverti) to assess with her contractor and incorporate into the survey.
- USFS Region 6 – Directors meeting in about 2 weeks to discuss the opportunity to interact and participate with the Partnership.
- USFWS (Joe Zisa) will draft ideas for interaction between the Partnership and the SB 513 Ecosystem Services process (sponsored by the Oregon Sustainability Board) for circulation and discussion at the next meeting.

## **BRIEF MEETING SUMMARY**

The purpose of the meeting was introduced by Mike Carrier:

The purpose of this partnership is to establish an on-going collaborative action strategy to address the needs and issues inherent to both renewable energy opportunities and habitat conservation and restoration needs across Eastern Oregon.

### Draft revised Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy & core habitat

- Christian Hagen reviewed the primary changes between the 2005 Conservation Strategy and the 2010 update. First plan in 2005 was the product of a multi-stakeholder group to provide sound framework for sagebrush conservation. Statutorily required to update every 5 years. Plan identifies an implementation strategy for 5 implementation teams including Baker county and 4 other BLM districts: Prineville, Lakeview, Harney or Burns and Malheur.
- Curt Melcher mentioned that the dates have changed for public hearings and Commission meetings for discussing the Plan.

### Western Renewable Energy Zones Project – Western Governors Association

- Pete Dalke provided quick background on WREZ, invited representatives unable to make it. Basically the WREZ was created to help western states identify renewable energy opportunities on a macro scale. Looking now at regional transmission issues. Jan. 2010 money being passed through WREZ to the WGA Wildlife Council for decision support systems, that's moving forward. Not clear how to link up yet but seems to be an opportunity to leverage resources.

### BLM Opportunities Map –

- Mike Haske provided update: the opportunities map is out for last review from district staff to make sure everything is covered. Map is not intended to be a “go, no go” tool, meant to be decision tool to better identify areas where resource issues overlap and where there are opportunities for development. Intent is to create dialogue and use information to add more “certainty” to process for developers, other stakeholders..
- Kim Titus- This initial opportunities map is coming from BLM. As the Partnership goes forward, we can use the map as a starting point for this group to discuss and expand on as a tool..

### Association of Oregon Counties – Current Renewable Energy Efforts and Issues

- Mike McArthur provided perspective from Counties, reminding group that many County staff are generalists by necessity. Also important to note that County processes can be different. In 2008, AOC convened an energy task force with planners, Commissioners' reps to create guidelines for commercial permitting, some Counties have adopted while

others have not. Guidelines are published in a report, available online as well as hard copies.

Proposal for a multi-agency survey of Golden Eagles in Oregon

- USFWS proposal for a the golden eagle study. Cost estimate \$60,000 for 2 year study, possibly extend to 5 year study. Current surveys in fall, only looking at individuals not nesting or breeding. Request for partnering, data sharing.

Other issues brought to the discussion:

- Mike Haske has been in contact with ONDA and TNC and they show continued interest in participating in a workshop.
- Partners discussed issues around mitigation, how prescriptive should this group be about mitigation? Will that be an outcome of our meetings and discussions? Are all partners on the same page with the focus of this group including mitigation strategies? Discussion to
- An SB 513 Ecosystem services work group has been developing a pilot project that may address sage grouse habitat protection, Joe Zisa gave a quick overview and suggested partners meet with SB513 working group counterparts. Will draft ideas on possible opportunities for Partnership to consider.
- Quick update on the Renewable Energy Working (REWG), the group is on hiatus since 2009 and ODOE is now looking to convene a new advisory group. Would be some of the same original members and some different partners, do not have timeframe. Looking at the draft charter now.

\*\*\*\*\*

Agenda items for 8/31 meeting to consider include:

- Circulate a revised Declaration of Cooperation and signed support statements.
- Workshop Work Group - report back.
- ODFW – update on revised sage grouse conservation strategy outreach and dialogue.
- USFWS, NRCS – SB 513 work group on ecosystem services and potential linkages to this Partnership. (Joe Zisa, Bill White).
- Possible follow up on interest of Partnership in the WREZ Project and related WGA Wildlife Council work plan.
- ODOE – status of a Charter for formation of a new renewable energy advisory group.
- Candidate conservation agreements – USFWS, NRCS, BLM, ODFW re: status.

## **Participants**

Meeting Co-Conveners: Mike Carrier, Governor's Natural Resource Office Policy Director and Mike Haske, BLM State Office Deputy Director.

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Attendee</u>
BLM	Mike Haske
BLM	Mark Brown
BLM	Kim Titus
BLM	Cathie Jensen
BLM	George Buckner
NRCS	Bill White
AOC	Mike McArthur
AOC	Emily Ackland
Dept of State Lands	Lanny Quackenbush
ODFW	Christian Hagan
ODFW	Chip Dale
ODFW	Curt Melcher
ODFW	Bob Hooton
ODOE	Lisa Pinheiro
US F&WS	Monty Knudsen
USF&WS	Vanessa Loverti
US F&WS	Doug Young
OFWO	Joe Zisa
USFS	Debie Hollen
USFS	Elaine Rybak
Staff:	
NPCC	Steve Greenwood
NPCC	Pete Dalke
NPCC	Jane Baccheiri
NPCC	Julia Babcock
Visiting Guest:	
Center for Collaborative Policy	Satoshi Ishida