

**Renewable Energy & Eastern Oregon Landscape Conservation  
(REECon) Partnership  
May 2, 2011 2:30-4:30 p.m.**

**DRAFT Meeting Notes**

**ACTION ITEMS & NEXT STEPS**

- Technical Mitigation Work Group
  - Will meet in May and share progress on tools for mitigation at June meeting
- Coordinated Landscape Level Mitigation (CLLM) Work Group
  - Will meet in May and share draft work plan and notes with group at June meeting
- Need identified to incorporate county land use policy into discussion
- Next meeting will be held June 6<sup>th</sup> from 2:30-4:30

**BRIEF MEETING SUMMARY**

Welcome, Introductions & Agenda Review

Discussion around purpose of Partnership.

- Frustration expressed about limited focus of discussions on sage grouse and the lack of vision from Governor's Office for state energy plan
- Group agreed there has been a lot of focus on sage grouse but sees that mitigation tools being developed will be useful for a number of wildlife and development issues
- Overall, Partnership members expressed desire to continue to meet and share information as it becomes available to maintain open communication

Mitigation Technical (MitTech) Work Group:

- Developing draft mitigation tools to find opportunities to move projects forward, starting with wind siting and sage grouse
- Agencies have been meeting initially to share information on how to work within advisory and regulatory roles
- Will share more information with group at next meeting

Coordinated Landscape Level Mitigation (CLLM) Work Group:

- Will work within agency framework to look for ways to implement and operationalize mitigation
- Start to determine what areas are best to invest in for effective mitigation
- Looking at ways to evaluate impacts and current mitigation tools such as ecosystem services

State Long-Term Energy Plan Development:

- Interviewing candidates for State Energy Advisor in the next few weeks and anticipating hiring someone by the end of the month
- State Energy Plan should provide coarse filter to help signal to developers where to go and how to mitigate, this group can provide information on mitigation
- The Plan will be informed by WGA's work on WREZ and transmission siting
- Governor Kitzhaber recently attended WGA meeting and joined Clean Energy Committee to take leadership role

#### ODFW Overview of Mitigation Tools and Approach:

- The presentation today is only a sliver of the discussion around these issues and serves as a starting point for the currency of mitigation
- Mitigation for development hasn't been done yet in the West for Sage Grouse
- Draft decision tree shows when ODFW will recommend to avoid (i.e. setback), minimize (i.e. timing of construction) or mitigate (i.e. restore, reclaim or reestablish habitat)
- A tool for quantifying impact areas is the sound propagation model which has been tailored to Sage Grouse
- In terms of how a review might occur:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> phase: review project in order to avoid core area
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> phase: overlay sound propagation for 40 DBA around proposed project site to quantify areas for mitigation and or avoidance
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> phase: ODFW makes recommendation
- Questions arose on how to coordinate recommendations with local/county land use processes including how to account for tradeoffs in land use values that represent economic opportunities such as farmland when making renewable energy siting decisions
- The need to further discuss community sustainability particularly the integration of mitigation recommendations in the context of local/county land use processes was recognized and will be on the agenda for our next Partnership meeting

#### Golden Eagle Survey Update

- Full funding provided through the fiscal year
- Initial surveys going well, held regional workshop in Burns on April 26<sup>th</sup>

**Participants**

Co-Conveners: Brett Brownscombe, Governor’s Office Natural Resources  
Mike Haske, BLM Deputy State Director

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Attendee</u>
Governor’s Office	Brett Brownscombe
BLM	Mike Haske
BLM	Mark Brown
BLM	Brendan Cain
Dept of State Lands	Lanny Quackenbush
NRCS	Bill White
ODFW	Bob Hooton
ODFW	Eric Rickerson
ODOE	Tom Stoops
OFWO	Joe Zisa
USFWS	Monty Knudsen
USFWS	Jeff Everett
AOC	Emily Ackland
AOC	Doris Penwell
Harney County	Steve Grasty
CREA	Paul Woodin
TNC	Cathy Macdonald
Defenders of Wildlife	Bruce Taylor
The Nature Conservancy	Garth Fuller
ONDA	Liz Nysson
RNP	John Audley
RNP	Lauren Prince

By Phone:	
Merkley’s Office	Elizabeth Scheeler
ODFW	Holly Michael
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