Renewable Energy & Eastern Oregon Landscape Conservation Symposium

Identified Opportunities, Challenges and Next Steps

Opportunities

Early and ongoing stakeholder engagement

- Greater opportunity to participate in development of agency guidelines and protocol
- Interagency preapplication conference
- ONDA is looking for opportunities for a way to support projects
- Agency field office to inform dist. And D.C. offices of joint discussions and agreements with developers

Mitigation

- Need to collectively come together on a landscape scale to collaboratively develop an approach for wind and biodiversity (5)
- Agencies work with developers to create realistic/viable mitigations (2)
- Conservation mitigation banking
- Developer funded BLM/OR state grazing rights as a mitigation opportunity
- Focus on Category 2 habitat for collaborative efforts
- Opportunity to direct mitigation fund to where its most needed
- Identify high priority sites, threshold and priority sites for restoration

Incentives

- Improvement of habitat
- Incentives for juniper biomass

Examples/ Models That are Working

- Can we duplicate other successful models—such as Columbia Plateau Voluntary Guidelines (3)
- Continue this conversation and use universities
- Take advantage of collective political will to avoid listing

Statewide Strategy and Planning

- Develop statewide energy plan for renewable (3)
- Programmic EIS for Eastern OR or BLM District Offices
- Statewide strategy for all viable renewable energy sources so that projects can be considered in that broader context (as opposed to first come first serve which may not be

maximizing our broader long-term ren. energy, economic diversity and stability and conservation goals).

Smart Grid/ Local Plans

- Energy transmission corridors adopted into local comp. plans and approved through a federal programmic EIS on a regional scale
- Power generation: develop individual natural resource goal 5 reviews per county but coordinate regionally and with multiple resources
- Opportunity for smart grid to support wind integration, demand response and distribute generation
- Increase energy self sufficiency of small communities (community scale energy projects)

Data

- Data repository
- Focus on current manmade and natural threats
- Develop a strategic plan for the bioregions of OR
- Need studies on wind tower impacts on sage grouse
- Collaborative funding of a sage grouse dynamic population study with pre and post development data

Challenges

Process/Coordination/Communication Issues

- BLM processes wind projects as a right of way vs. leasing (competitive) for wind resources on federal lands (competitive would address best projects)
- Coordinate federal and state review process, so feds don't drive state process
- Competing, non-communicating agencies and levels of government, sometimes with different mandates (2)
- Bring co-ops into conversation (opportunity too)
- Reduced budgets means less staff
- Information sharing is a proprietary situation as a difficult
- Competing/noncommunicating developers
- What is our process for collectively next steps
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Data

- Local refinement of category 1&2 area boundaries by implementation groups
- Lack of good data, need for better data (habitat conditions, wildlife presence, past management actions) (3)

Political/Societal

- Oregon can only control the sage grouse destiny or OR sage grouse. Can't control destiny of sage grouse in other states
- Politics-all levels
- Can't convince people of need to conserve sage grouse if allow hunting
- NGO membership education as to rural community core values and economic development
- Homeland security limitations
- We consume too much energy

How To Draw Lines and Balance Interests

- Most productive wind areas overlap with sage grouse core 1 areas
- Undefined "take" rules for non-esa spp.
- Clarity and consensus on what areas are off limits and what areas are good energy development so developers can make long term business decisions (3)
- Forming conservation economic pools for private landowners to develop in best places to conserve biodiversity, while economic return
- Economic development—if not this then what? Proven track record for positive economic impacts

Litigation

- People can get what they want by litigating instead of collaborating

What next steps would you like to see from the Partnership, others?

Expand Partnership

- Add higher ed and municipals and coops to conversation---more meetings narrowed down to opportunities and challenges
- Keep everyone in the loop
- Reach out those who didn't know or didn't show
- Add coops and large land owners who have quality sage grouse habitat on their property
- Utilizing existing local, state federal, industry and ngo resources
- Use momentum and keep going
- Broaden Partnership to include industry and counties
- Include more stakeholders (3)
- Efforts to foster collaborative efforts
- Strengthen/expand Partnership
- Partnership should include all affected not just state and fed agencies

Expand and Coordinate Data

- A data repository
- Blended mapping effort
- Put together "road map" that explicitly addresses how counties will participate and get their needs met

Mitigation

- ODFW step back from priority 1&2 w/guidelines and bring the policy part of the process to the collaborative effort
- Develop mitigation strategy
- Mitigation-agreement on conservation plan and provide consistent approach
- Drawing members of this partnership to develop siting guidelines and mitigation plan
- Need threshold mitigation measures, and stipulations which will allow our developers to understand what it will take to be in 1 or 2 category lands
- Develop comprehensive mitigation strategy based on high quality habitat vegetative profile (core areas). Use wetland mitigation framework. Develop mitigation role for core areas (preservation) how to "value" preservation.
- Move toward developing overall conservation plan, built around ODFW sage grouse strategy to guide renewable energy siting decisions

Renewable Energy Large-scale Plan

- Someone needs to take ownership for the development of statewide energy goals and mitigation protocol/framework. Have fun.
- Through a collaborative process, find a way to allow renewable energy development in E. Oregon while protecting the natural resources

Form Subcommittees/Review Policy Framework

- I would like to see a subcommittee developed to summarize next steps
- Form subgroups focused on defining critical roles
- Another Symposium with working group
- Look at specific changes needed in legislature and agency policies
- Have governor's office lead a solutions-based process w/ real outcomes
- Visit Partnerships w/parallel issues around the country and learn
- Further discussion/recognition of existing regulation and land use policies
- How can federal and developer needs be wrapped into an effort that has local government input and support

Continue Working Together (Collaboration, Meetings and Workshops)

- Continue the process (3)
- Create a collaborative timely process that recognizes what we want and work backwards
- Statewide collaboration process
- We need to pick off some opps and challenges and get to work
- Address challenges and opps in detail, come up with solutions
- Pursue opportunities and develop recommendations, create timeline for next steps
- Workshop on collaboration—example project for participants to work through ie real life project
- Consolidate recommendations into top few and share with options for further engagement
- I hope we follow through with some of the good ideas
- Not target sage grouse---but habitat and people and smart renewable energy
- Circulate attendees/contact sheet
- Continue collaboration to address/identify challenges
- Keep momentum going, if someone steps up to get something tangible going, the Partnership needs to support it