**Bi-State Technical Advisory Team Meeting**

**November 9, 2016**

**Meeting Notes**

***Opening Question Posed by Steve Abele: What should be the role of the TAC in the future?***

* Focus on conservation of Bi-State Sage-grouse populations and habitat;
* Prioritization of projects;
* Monitoring and reporting;
* What do we need in order to get the job done?

***Agenda Item #3 – Update on Sage-grouse Monitoring Efforts:***

Pete provided a presentation of products that USGS has developed over the years, including :

* IPM estimates, Bi-State wide and within PMUs.
  + Bi-State Growth Rate = 0.99 through 2016.
  + 3 manuscripts being developed on the use of the IPM in the Bi-State Planning Area
* Population level triggers (lek, lek cluster, Population Management Unit or Biological Significant Unit)
  + Spatial Configurations and Lek Clustering
* Parker Meadows Translocation
* Microhabitat mapping – environmental covariates
* Bi-State Habitat Mapping
* USGS passed out a packet of materials that summarized tasks (abstracts of scientific papers)
* Effects of conifer encroachment on survival analyses

Other Monitoring Efforts:

* Mount Grant & Desert Creek Monitoring (3 years on, 3 years off). We will be in the second year of monitoring beginning in the spring of 2017;
* White Mountains (8 GPS units deployed) – joint effort between USGS/USFS;
* Sagehen Summit – BLM/CDFG , one radio-marked bird left;
* Vegetation Monitoring – Nevada Partners in Conservation Program, 244 total plots in Bi-State planning area so far.

***Agenda Item #4 - Parker Translocation***

* Fence removed
* Trees cut
* Translocation to take place in spring of 2017
* Fire took place in summer of 2015

***Agenda Item #5 - Bi-State Action Plan Progress Report***

* December data call for project progress reporting
* Due date end of March
* Need HT – Shapefiles for this season’s projects
* 2 page glossy for each of the five sections of the report, based on the database
* Also, need to track the bad stuff (fires, ground disturbing activities)
  + Tracking the “no” or rejected proposals
  + Lek Status Definitions – Inactive status, potentially two datasets (locations and data analysis)
    - Satellite lek definitions 1.2 km buffer (map and determine a course of action at next meeting)
    - Lek Count App

***Agenda Item #6 – USGS Conifer Layer Status***

* Completed (layer is about 1 year old)
* USGS mapped each tree at 1 – m resolution
* Information can be scaled up to different cover classes
* The product is still in draft format
* Conifer acres – SGI map and USGS map are different in terms of acres of Pinyon/Juniper

Two issues – different modeling techniques and how much is true pinyon woodland and how much is encroachment?

USFS and BLM need support material ASAP

TNC high resolution mapping vs. USGS core sampling

Kris and Sherri to develop a draft informational leaflet

USGS is working on paper comparing methodologies (NRCS Spatial Wavelet vs. USGS process)

***Agenda Item #7 - Vegetation Treatment Methodologies Consistency***

* Public interest in what treatments look like on the ground;
* What is the most appropriate treatment?;
* Treatment specifications for cuts (lop and scatter, mastication, pile and burn, etc.);
  + Vegetation group to tackle protocol issues (potential member suggestions)
    - Tracy Jean Wolfe (NRCS);
    - Rachael Williams (USFWS);
    - Steve Howell (USFS);
    - Tim Roide (BLM);
    - Keith Barker (BLM);
    - Heather Stone (USFS)

***Added Agenda Item - Fire and Vegetation Restoration:***

Seed Availability

* Viability
* Vegetation Group task ?
* National Seed Strategy –
  + Ask Sarah Kulpa/Fred Edwards to give presentation to Bi-State TAC

**Participant List:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Agency** | **E-Mail** |
| Sheila Anderson | NV Governor’s Office | [skanderson@gov.nv.gov](mailto:skanderson@gov.nv.gov) |
| Tracey Jean Wolfe | NRCS | [tracey.wolfe@nv.usda.gov](mailto:tracey.wolfe@nv.usda.gov) |
| Jeremy Marshall | USFS | [jmarshall@fs.fed.gov](mailto:jmarshall@fs.fed.gov) |
| Anne Orlando | USFS | [anneorlando@fs.fed.us](mailto:anneorlando@fs.fed.us) |
| Kris Boatner | USFS | [kboartner@fs.fed.us](mailto:kboartner@fs.fed.us) |
| Pete Coates | USGS | [pcoates@usgs.gov](mailto:pcoates@usgs.gov) |
| Shawn Espinosa | NDOW | [sespinosa@ndow.org](mailto:sespinosa@ndow.org) |
| Richard Perloff | USFS | [rperloff@fs.fed.us](mailto:rperloff@fs.fed.us) |
| Bill Deane | LADWP | [bill.deane@ladwp.com](mailto:bill.deane@ladwp.com) |
| Mark Ricca | USGS | [mark\_ricca@usgs.gov](mailto:mark_ricca@usgs.gov) |
| Steve Abele | USFWS | [steve\_abele@fws.gov](mailto:steve_abele@fws.gov) |
| Katherine Miller | CDFW | [Katherine.Miller@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Katherine.Miller@wildlife.ca.gov) |
| Tim Taylor | CDFW | [timothy.taylor@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:timothy.taylor@wildlife.ca.gov) |
| Sherri Lisius | BLM | [slisius@blm.gov](mailto:slisius@blm.gov) |
| Sheena Waters | BLM | [sgirner@blm.gov](mailto:sgirner@blm.gov) |
| Erin Nordin | USFWS | [erin\_nordin@fws.gov](mailto:erin_nordin@fws.gov) |
| Rachel Williams | USFWS | [rachel\_e\_williams@fws.gov](mailto:rachel_e_williams@fws.gov) |
| Mathew Magaletti | BLM – NV | [mmagalet@blm.gov](mailto:mmagalet@blm.gov) |
| Melanie Cota | BLM-Carson | [mcota@blm.gov](mailto:mcota@blm.gov) |
| Kary Schlick | USFS | kschlick@fs.fed.us |