**Meeting Notes**

**Executive Oversight Committee**

**Bi-State Sage Grouse**

**October 12, 2018**

**Location:** Sierra Front Interagency Dispatch Center

2311 Firebrand Circle Minden, NV 89423

**Time:** 10:00-14:00

**Present:** Monique Nelson, John Severson, Carolyn Swed, Shawn Espinosa, Katrina Krause, Floyd Rathbun, Max Symonds, Steve Abele, Dale Johnson, Pete Coates, Ray Dotson, Tony Wasley, Paul Fuselier, Bill Dunkelberger, Katherine Miller, Scott Gardner, Tom Moore, Tom Kimball, Leeann Murphy, Matt Magaletti, Heather Stone, Arlene Kosic, Sherry Rupert, Karri Honaker, Tammy Randall-Parker, Amy Sturgill

1. Co-chair comments from Tony Wasley and Bill Dunkelberger.

1. Approval of notes from 8/3/18 EOC meeting.
2. Review of EOC materials in support of implementation and effectiveness for Bi-State DPS (Tony, Bill and Carolyn)
3. Updates to commitment letters

i. Bill provided a draft of the USFS commitment letter to use as a template for updated commitment letters.

ii. Letters should be addressed to FWS, routed through Bill and Tony as co-chairs of EOC, then sent to James Kirth, Deputy Director FWS with Paul Sauza and Carolyn Swed cc’d.

iii. Deadline for letters to Bill and Tony is Thanksgiving for the formulation of a cover letter.

1. Status of signatories

i. BLM Nevada-letters being signed at local level given that CA and NV are lacking permanent of State and DC directors.

ii. NDOW-do not need federal approval. Will wait for refined template and hold off as long as possible to incorporate most recent science and implementation efforts.

iii. CDFW-director is anticipating letter and ready to sign.

iv. USGS- Coordination needed to determine monetary piece.

v. Mono County-Monique will follow up with Wendy

c.  Updates to Service First Agreement

i. Process to renew service first agreement is rolling. Specific to the bi-state will extend another 5 years.

ii. Monique to follow up to determine whether USGS can enter this agreement or not

iii. NRCS will be added to agreement

iv. Dale will be the contact for service first for BLM-Bishop.

d.  Updates to letters describing regulatory certainty

i. commitment letters and regulatory certainty letters can be

combined.

4.       Status of science needs

1. Funding
2. USGS needs $50,000-$100,000 for fiscal 2019 to complete analyses.
3. Reduced sites and included sites that will rotate out to cut down on monitoring costs.
4. Applying SSP funds.
5. Progress on analyses
6. Still collecting field data, monitoring and reporting but lack of funds is affecting ability to complete analysis and update the CPT.
7. IPM report is in draft and will be released soon as open file report. Has some information on space use in treatment areas.
8. Working on spatially explicit connectivity model
9. Will try to get to level of understanding PJ treatment effectiveness in 2019.
10. Will work on developing additional quantitative tools. (i.e. wet meadow study and signal analysis for hierarchical study).
11. USGS would like to know if plans for PJ treatments are changing. If agencies need help in determining site selection through CPT they can contact USGS. Processing time is getting better. Can create a heat map to determine where treatments are most effective.
12. If agencies have new proposed treatment areas, send to USGS.
13. Hiring for USGS
14. Full funding for this position is not yet in place.
15. The position will be announced soon.

5. TEK Update from Sherry Rupert

a. Planning meeting occurred for the upcoming three-day summit. Save the date to come for October 15-17, 2019 at Stewart Indian School

b. The third day of the summit will be a service day to complete something on the landscape.

c. Tribal scholarships will be provided.

d. Sherry will work with Tony regarding budget.

e. Next planning meeting is December 11. Next Bi-State tribal natural resource meeting is November 29. Both at Lee Vining community center.

f. At August Tribal Natural Resources Committee meeting, members officially adopted bi-laws so that members can formally be appointed as representatives to TNRC and TEK planning committee by their tribes.

5.       Accomplishment Reports

a.      2017 Report-Shawn finished the 2017 report. It is posted on the BSSG website.

b.      2018 Report-Will be rolled into 5-year review

c.       5-year review

i. should be more comprehensive in project accomplishments and

veg monitoring

ii. Incorporate USGS reports into 5-year review

iii. TAC members associated with PMU should review list of actions not completed and fill in gaps or determine if they are not going to be completed and why. Determine what category actions fall in—Done, Necessary but not done, Not necessary and why.

6.       LAWG Updates

a. Next LAWG meeting November 7th, 2:00PM-5:00PM at the Bridgeport Memorial Hall

7.       TAC Updates

a. Range analyses and funding analyses

8.       Agency Updates

**NRCS**-meeting with state to get RCCP funds on the ground

**Carson BLM-**Hired 3 new wildlife techs

**NDOW-**Annual federal aid report. Seeing difference in bio-rates between Desert Creek and Mount Grant. Looking into why nest survival and brood survival seem to be inversely related here and across the range.

**USFSW-**will announce in the federal register that they are reopening and reinstating 2013 proposal. That starts the 12 month period of this process. Will be hiring new Public Affairs Officer.

**USGS-**Finished capturing and monitoring field season. Starting annual reports soon. Moving on to conifer removal analyses and long valley water analyses.

**Monique HT-** Field review of treatment projects to create implementation consistency across the bi-state.

**USGS-**Call for help—notify USGS if other agencies have staff available for spring field work to help USGS in April-June.

**Dale-**Sherri to Resource Supervisor position. Sheena to wildlife bio position. Heather is now supervising vegetation management. Working on comment letter to LADWP. Fall project implementation, Slinkard fire rehab, maintenance of conifer removal projects

**CDFW**- Joint meeting with LAWDP and USFWS. ESA issues and prep of CEQA document.

**INYO**-Sent LADWP scoping letter. Forest Plan revisions scoping period closed.

**NRCS**-Even though no farm bill NRCS is accepting applications for Mono county. EQHIP funding in place. RCPP is open.

**NEXT EOC meeting-December 18th 10:00 AM Reno NDOW office with a call in options for others.**