**Meeting Notes**

**Executive Oversight Committee Meeting**

**Bi-State Sage Grouse**

**March 29, 2019**

**Location:** Nevada Department of Wildlife

6980 Sierra Center Parkway, Reno, NV

**Time:** 10:00 – 14:30

**Present:** Justin Barrett, Kris Boatner, Ray Dotson, John Severson, Mark Ricca, Peter Coates, Floyd Rathbun, Maxine Simmonds, Shawn Espinosa, Mary Grim, Raul Morales, Steve Abele, Steve Nelson, Ann Orlando, Michael Fris, Carolyn Swed, Clarence Martin, Katrina Krause, Tony Wasley, Katherine Miller, Scott Gardner, Tom Moore, Wendy Sugimura

1. Co-chair Comments from Tony Wasley
   1. Tony thanked Carolyn Swed for her leadership as the Field Office Supervisor of the Reno Fish and Wildlife Service office and her efforts to help guide the Bi-State Sage-grouse Conservation effort as well as others.
   2. Several other participants also engaged in thanking Carolyn for her hard work and pragmatic approach to species and habitat conservation. We will all miss Carolyn and wish her and her family well.

1. Approval of notes from December 18, 2018 meeting
2. Status of Agency Commitment Letters:
   1. NDOW completed a letter; however, it was not received by USFWS – Reno. Shawn followed up with Justin Barrett and Steve Abele via e-mail and attached the original letter from December 2018;
   2. USGS is developing a letter for delivery to the USFWS;
   3. CDFW is developing a letter for delivery to the USFWS;
   4. LADWP has developed a third draft of a letter; however, it is undergoing legal review;
   5. All other agency letters have been delivered to Amy Sturgill and will be posted to the Bi-State Sage-grouse website.
3. LADWP Collaboration with the Bi-State Partnership
   1. Discussion involved various facets of potential solutions, or remedy methods during dry periods including:
      1. Conveyance methods (alternate ditches);
      2. Development of a science based plan of operations for irrigation strategies;
   2. Some discussion also involved tangible ways of demonstrating LADWPs commitment to Bi-State Sage-grouse Conservation through some more formal mechanism such as signatory to the Bi-State MOU.
      1. Justin Barrett was going to deliver a copy of the current signed MOU to Clarence.
4. Species Status Assessment Update (switch of agenda item with number six below)
   1. This document has been labeled a “Species Report” rather than a “Status Assessment” and was completed by a “Review Team”;
   2. This document was broadly distributed to various State and Federal Partners on March 18, 2019 for a 30-day review and comment period. Comments are due back to the USFWS by April 20th;
   3. The document was also delivered to a Peer Review Team.
   4. Once comments and revisions are received, the Review Team will have a brief period of time to address and concerns and comments as practicable and will deliver the document to a Recommendation Team in late May
5. USGS Developed Scope of Work for LADWP
   1. The USGS developed a Scope of Work for LADWP entitled “Improved Decision Support Tools for Management Actions for Bi-State Greater Sage-grouse”
   2. The Scope of Work involved four major projects including:
      1. Oiling Raven Eggs and Evaluating Sage-grouse Response in Long Valley;
         1. This project would entail a 5-year effort of oiling (addling) 10-15 raven nests per year and determine whether or not these efforts have an effect on raven numbers and sage-grouse population performance.
      2. Detailed Analyses of Mesic Resources in Long Valley;
         1. The project would involve three years and will involve a closer evaluation of existing space use and demographic data collected over the years;
         2. Additional GPS information from marked birds will be used from Project 1 to help inform above;
         3. Plant phenology and land-cover change with remotely sensed satellite data and associated indices will be evaluated.
      3. Continued translocation efforts to Parker Meadows;
         1. Funding for the current translocation project will run out after 2019; additional years of translocation would help determine the success of this novel translocation technique. The USGS is recommending three additional years of translocations moving between 10-15 hens with broods each year.
      4. Improved seasonal habitat mapping and fitness-based conservation planning tools;
         1. This project is essentially an improvement and update of the existing Conservation Planning Tool (CPT) through the incorporation of:
            1. More recent telemetry data;
            2. Higher resolution remotely-sensed GIS layers;
            3. Modeling of life-stage specific variation;
            4. Modeling of relations between seasonal resource selection and survival probabilities; and
            5. Integration of habitat selection consequences on survival within a spatially explicit IPM.
6. Next Meeting – May XX, 2019