

USFWS Meeting with Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee and Other Interested Parties

Where:

Fred R. Field Western Heritage Center
Van Tuyl Room
Gunnison, CO

When: June 14, 2012, 9-1

Introductory Session: 9:00 – 9:30

Welcome/Introductions: Ken Stahlnecker, Chair

Background/Status of the Species

Michael Thabault, Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, FWS

How did we get here?

- History of Gunnison sage-grouse and the ESA
- Overview of MDL settlement
- Timeline for Gunnison sage-grouse listing process

Susan Linner, Colorado Field Office Supervisor, FWS

Where are we now?

- Overview of ESA Section 4 listing process
- What threats to Gunnison sage-grouse has FWS identified in the Gunnison Basin?

Discussion Topics: 9:30 – 12:30

Where do we go from here? What strategies can we identify to improve the status of the species and/or prepare for a listing decision?

Phil Chamberland, Gunnison County Commissioner

1. County Planning Issues

What can be done to prevent Habitat Loss and Fragmentation?

- Human population growth and its implications
- Rights-of-Way, Roads, trails, and recreation
- Future options to address these challenges
- Predation concerns

What type of actions or regulations could be implemented?

Habitat Prioritization Tool and how it can be applied

Brian St. George, Gunnison Field Office Manager, BLM

2. Public Land Management Issues
 - Gunnison Basin CCA Development and Implementation
 - Grazing
 - What we know
 - What we don't know
 - Potential measures to address this challenge
 - What kind of monitoring is needed?
 - Recreation
 - Roads and trails
 - Off-road and dispersed recreation
 - Seasonal concerns
 - Non-renewable and renewable energy development
 - Other

Susan Linner, Colorado Field Office Supervisor, FWS

3. Comprehensive Regulatory Mechanisms Discussion (Listing Factor D)
 - CCAA/habitat easements
 - County human development planning
 - Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs)
 - Safe Harbor Agreements

Questions & Answers/Other Discussion Topics 12:30 – 12:45

Wrap-up Session 12:45 – 1:00

- Summaries of future options to meet challenges
- Identify follow-up items, assign leads if necessary
- Reminder of upcoming 60-day public comment period

NOTE: This agenda is subject to change, including the addition of items up to 24 hours in advance or the deletion of items at any time. All times are approximate. Regular Meetings, Public Hearings, and Special Meetings are recorded and **ACTION MAY TAKEN ON ANY ITEM**. Work Sessions are not recorded and formal action cannot be taken. Two or more Gunnison County Commissioners may attend this meeting. For further information, contact the County Administration at 641-0248. If special accommodations are necessary per ADA, contact 641-0248 or TTY 641-3061 prior to the meeting.