

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

October 22, 1999

In Reply Refer To:
6844/9015 (230) P

EMS TRANSMISSION 10/25/99
Information Bulletin No. 2000-015

To: State Directors (CA, CO, ID, MT, NV, OR, UT & WY), D-NARSC and D-NIFC

From: Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning

Subject: Conference on Sage Grouse and Sagebrush
Habitat DD: 10/29/99

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) offices and State Fish and Wildlife Agencies in nine western states are involved in developing conservation strategies for sage grouse and sagebrush habitat. Representatives from these offices and agencies need to meet to coordinate their conservation efforts because of the interstate nature of the issues.

A Bureau of Land Management Sage Grouse and Sagebrush Habitat Conference will be held in Reno, Nevada on November 17-18, 1999. The conference will be held at the Reno Sparks Convention Center (Room B7). The purpose of the conference is to get representatives from states affected by the potential listing of sage grouse together to share information and coordinate conservation efforts between states and State agencies.

The workshop is intended to include BLM managers and field specialists, State Wildlife Management agency personnel, and US Fish and Wildlife Service staff who are involved in developing conservation strategies for sage grouse, and restoration planning for sagebrush habitat. It is recommended that each state consider sending two managers and representatives from each of the following programs: a wildlife biologist to share what is going on in your state (Attachment 1), a range specialist, botanist, fire specialist, planner, a minerals specialist if appropriate, and GIS coordinator. A copy of the proposed agenda is attached (Attachment 2).

Participants need to send the information requested in Attachment 3 to Richard Mealberry, WO-220, (202) 452-7750 by October 29, 1999, to supply necessary information for the cost analysis required for meeting approval by the Assistant Secretary.

A block of rooms has been reserved for November 16, 17, and 18, departing on November 19 at the Atlantis Hotel and Casino just across the street from the meeting site. The hotel has a shuttle to and from the airport on the half-hour. The room rate is \$50.00 plus tax. The closing date for the block of room is November 1, but rooms should be available beyond that date. Participants should make their own room reservations and travel arrangements. Individual credit card numbers are required to confirm rooms. Reservations may be made by calling the Atlantis at 1-800-723-6500 and telling them you are attending the BLM Sage Grouse Conference.

If you have any questions regarding this memo, please contact Richard Mealberry at (202) 452-7750. Send information or inquiries to Richard via Lotus Notes, or fax to (202) 653-5279.

Signed by:
James M. Colby
Acting Deputy Assistant Director
Renewable Resources and Planning

Authenticated by:
Robert M. Williams
Directives, Records
& Internet Group, WO540

3 Attachments

- 1 - Report Format (1 p)
- 2 - Draft Agenda (2 p)
- 3 - Cost Analysis Information (1 p)

Report Format

**BLM's Conference on Sage Grouse and Sagebrush Steppe Habitat
November 17-18, 1999**

DRAFT State Status Report Information Request

Please provide the following information (following the format below) for your state. Please send electronically to Jodie Polled (Lakeview BLM, 541/947-6175) by November 3, 1999. Copies of your report will be made available to conference participants. Also, please be prepared to give a 10-minute overview of this report at the conference.

- **Status of Sage Grouse**

Bird trends, lek counts, migration, etc.; may want to include historical information

- **Status of Sagebrush Steppe Habitat Fire, grazing, development, etc.**

Conservation Planning

Current efforts, etc.

- **Sage Grouse and Sagebrush Steppe Habitat Research in the State**
- **Current, proposed**

5. Status of Mapping/GIS Habitat (winter, brooding, nesting, etc.), sagebrush vegetation (by species, by % cover, etc.), wildfire and prescribed fire perimeters, current lek locations, etc.

DRAFT Agenda
BLM's Conference on Sage Grouse and Sagebrush Habitat
November 17-18, 1999
Reno, Nevada

Purpose:

- **Information sharing and coordination of conservation efforts among BLM western states**
- **Initiate actions leading to development of BLM Sage Grouse and Sagebrush Habitat Conservation Strategy**
- **Identify follow-up actions needed to continue Conservation Strategy coordination and information sharing**

Wednesday, November 17

0800	Welcome, Overview and Objectives	Bob Abbey, <i>Nevada State Office</i>
0830	BLM and Sage Grouse in the Sagebrush Ecosystem	Steve Ellis, <i>Lakeview (Oregon) District</i> and Chris Jauhola, <i>Washington D.C. Office</i>
0900	Great Basin Ecosystem Restoration Initiative	Roy Johnson, <i>Office of Fire and Aviation</i>
0930	Break	
0940	Status Report from Each State:	
0945	Idaho	
0955	Colorado	
1005	Nevada	
1015	Utah	
1025	Oregon/Washington	
1040	Wyoming	
1050	California	
1100	Montana	
1110	Washington Office and NARC	
1120	Break	

1140	Working with State Agencies	Terry Crawford (suggested), <i>Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies</i>
1215	Lunch	
1315	ICBEMP Process	Jay Carlson
1345	USFWS Petition Process	Al Fister or Pat Diebert (suggested)
1430	Break	
1450	Panel:	Ron Dunton (<i>Fire</i>); Dick Mealberry (<i>Range</i>); UT or WY - Steve will confirm
	BLM Activities and Effects in	(<i>Minerals, Oil & Gas</i>); Eric Stone [suggested] (<i>Planning</i>); Scott Florence
	Sagebrush Habitat and BLM	(<i>Area Manager</i>); AFister or PDiebert [suggested] (<i>USFWS</i>); Walt VanDyke
	Regulatory Mechanisms	[suggested] (<i>Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife</i>)
1630	Panel Discussion and Q & A	
1700	Adjourn	

Thursday, November 18

0800	Overview and Review Meeting	
	Objectives	
0815	Conservation Planning	Chris Jauhola will confirm
0900	Break-out Groups Process and	Cadre
	Products	
0915	Break	
0930	Facilitated Break-out Group	Cadre
	Discussions: Wildland Fire;	
	Grazing; Minerals, Oil & Gas;	
	Vegetation Management (invasive	
	plants, etc.); Mapping/Information;	
	Research	
1200	Lunch	
1300	Reports from Break-out Groups	
1430	Break	
1450	Follow-up Actions	Chris Jauhola and Steve Ellis
1600	Adjourn	

Cost Analysis Information

Participants Name: _____

Employing Office: _____

Job Series (eg, 0401, 0454): _____

Grade and Hourly Wage: _____

Phone Number: _____

email/Lotus Notes address: _____