



STATE OF NEVADA
SAGEBRUSH ECOSYSTEM COUNCIL
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DRAFT MINUTES

SAGEBRUSH ECOSYSTEM COUNCIL'S COMMITTEE ON MONITORING

Date/Time: Monday, August 11, 2014 – 3:00 PM

Location: Sagebrush Ecosystem Program Office

Address: 201 South Roop Street, Suite 101, Carson City, Nevada 89701

A full audio recording of this meeting is accessible through the following website –
http://sagebrusheco.nv.gov/Meetings/Committee_Meetings/Monitoring_Committee/

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Boies (SEC, via telephone), Bevan Lister (SEC, via telephone), and Sherman Swanson (Monitoring Committee Chairman - SEC, via telephone)

ABSENT COUNCIL MEMBERS: Tina Nappe (SEC)

OTHERS PRESENT: Mark Coca (BLM), John Copeland (SETT), Lee Corum (USFWS), Melissa Faigeles (SETT), Robert Little (Nevada Department of Agriculture [NDA], via telephone), Kelly McGowan (SETT), Tina Mudd (NDA, via telephone), Lara Niell (SETT), Kimberly Reinhardt (Southern Nevada Water Authority, via telephone), and Tim Rubald (SETT)

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Swanson called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – No Public Comment.

3. **REVIEW AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. May 30, 2014, Meeting Minutes – Member Boies made a motion to approve the draft minutes; seconded by Member Lister; motion passed unanimously. ***ACTION**

B. June 24, 2014, Meeting Minutes – Chairman Swanson proposed: adding Chandeni Gill with Lionel Sawyer & Collins to the attendee list; under Item 6, Paragraph 3, adding the full name of DLSR, "Digital Single Lens Reflex"; changing the first word of the second bullet under Item 10, Action Items, from "Create" to "Review"; combining the third bullet with the first bullet under Item 10, Action Items; rewording the last bullet under the same section to say "Make Recommendations for Revisions to the *Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Handbook*". Member Boies made a motion to approve the minutes with these proposed changes; seconded by Member Lister; motion passed unanimously. ***ACTION**

4. COMMITTEE MEMBER ITEMS AND CORRESPONDENCE

A. Committee members may make comments at this time and the Program Manager will bring forward any pertinent correspondence directed to the Committee.

Chairman Swanson asked for correspondence items. There were none.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION OF CHANGES TO THE MONITORING SECTION OF THE 2012 STATE PLAN

A. Member Boies asked for clarification on how the SETT is conducting Inventory Monitoring. Mr. Rubald explained the SETT is taking some of the information from NDOW's monitoring data as they have been conducting it for many years. Ms. Niell noted that the SETT would collect information from among different agencies conducting the monitoring and combine the information. Member Boies proposed adding wording that clearly states the SETT is acting as a "clearinghouse" for the information. Ms. Niell stated that she would add a couple of sentences addressing this concern in tracked changes to be submitted to the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council (SEC) to review.

Chairman Swanson proposed changes to Page 2, Line 22, adding "when appropriate and feasible,"; proposed changes to Line 26, adding "appropriate, effective"; and proposed adding "Baseline data on these will allow before, after, with, and without comparisons" to Lines 27 and 28. Member Lister and Member Boies agreed with the changes.

Member Boies proposed adding the wording "and potential impacts to other uses and resources" after "implementation" on Page 2, Line 3.

There was discussion on adding an additional bullet on Page 2, after Line 33. Member Boies and Member Lister proposed language to include stakeholders, especially "permittees", in the site selection process. Ms. Reinhardt suggested adding a last bullet with the following wording: "Monitoring plans will be prepared jointly between the project proponent and land management agency, with final approval from the land management agency. Site selection, and public and stakeholder should be part of the process". Chairman Swanson, Member Boies, and Member Lister agreed to add the bullet as a place-holder for the SEC to review.

Chairman Swanson proposed changes to Page 3, Lines 33 and 34, adding "in comparison to the risks of not doing so (i.e. the consequences of doing nothing)." Member Boies and Member Lister agreed with the proposed change.

Member Boies proposed removing the words "trigger" and "triggers" on Page 3, Lines 20 and 21. Ms. Niell explained the wording was to address the "if, then" concept of planning. Ms. Niell will work on changing the wording and will include it in the proposed document, tracked in, for the SEC to review.

Mr. Coca noted concern about the framework referred to in the last paragraph on Page 4. It may limit methods that can be used for monitoring. He suggested adding a reference to the *Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Handbook*. Member Lister stated his concern about involving a number of plans from different agencies without developing a standard method to capture all the information. Chairman Swanson asked Mr. Corum what the Service does in monitoring. Mr. Corum stated that the Service does not look at just one entity when they do monitoring.

Member Boies made a motion to remove the wording, "...Habitat Assessment Framework¹ (Stiver et al 2010)..." from the end of the first sentence of the last paragraph on Page 4, Line 32; seconded by Member Lister. There was further discussion about creating conflicting recommendations and the connection and consistency with the Conservation Credit System (CCS). After the discussion, Member Boies amended his motion to delete the end of the paragraph after "NDOW"; seconded by Member Lister; motion passed unanimously. ***ACTION**

Member Lister proposed adding the word "etc." after "NDOW" to be inclusive. Mr. Rubald suggested adding "and others" instead of "etc." Member Lister made a motion to add "and others" after "NDOW" on Page 4, Line 32; seconded by Member Boies; motion passed unanimously. ***ACTION**

Chairman Swanson asked about the methods document referenced in the same paragraph on Page 4. Ms. Niell explained these are the suggested methods of monitoring to compare data across the State. This will make analysis and tracking easier. Ms. Niell suggested adding the words "recommended, standardized" to Page 4, Line 31, before "protocols", and adding "for objective-based monitoring" after the word "methods". Member Lister and Member Boies agreed the wording is beneficial.

Member Lister asked if BLM is working with one point in time when they conduct monitoring. Mr. Coca stated so far AIM has not had an opportunity take a second look at sites. Members asked Ms. Niell to contact the Forest Service and clarify what they do on monitoring. Mr. Coca suggested changing the wording under the Footnotes of Page 5, Table 1. He would like Footnote 3 wording to be changed from "on behalf of" to "in conjunction with". Members agreed to this change.

Mr. Corum asked about the location of fire suppression on Page 5, Table 1, under Threat. He thought it should be moved to Management Action. Chairman Swanson proposed adding wording on the number of acres; however, Mr. Coca stated that BLM does not monitor fire suppression on the number of acres for resistance or resilience. Mr. Corum suggested that fire suppression be moved under Management Actions. Ms. Niell agreed to move it. Chairman Swanson proposed changing the last bullet under Inventory Monitoring Elements/Threat to read, "...Number and size of fires..."

Member Boies noted there was not a reference to elk grazing on the table. Ms. Niell stated the SEC did not want to combine livestock grazing with wild horse and burro grazing. Also, elk grazing cannot be added unless approved by the SEC. Members asked Ms. Niell to clarify with NDOW to see if they do monitoring on elk grazing.

Chairman Swanson proposed adding "Permittees and Landowners" on Page 7 under "Livestock grazing". He also proposed changing Agency at the top of the Table to "Agency/Entities".

Member Boies proposed adding Wildlife Services to the list of agencies. Ms. Mudd suggested adding Nevada Department of Agriculture to the list of agencies. Ms. Niell agreed both agencies should be listed.

Mr. Coca asked if the reference to "Allotment Standards" under Livestock grazing was in reference to Land Health Standards, but more site-specific and suggested adding "Land Health Standards" to the bullet. Chairman Swanson instead proposed adding "and guidelines" after "...Allotment standards...". Mr. Coca agreed this would address his concerns about Allotment Standards.

Mr. Coca commented on Chairman Swanson's proposed change, tracked into the document provided in the meeting packet, in the Table on Page 8, second bullet, "Extent of 'open access' in sagebrush ecosystems", stating that travel management plan (TMP) areas are not truly "open" in sage-grouse habitat. Chairman Swanson proposed removing the suggested wording. Chairman Swanson also proposed removing the reference to "Drought" in the Table. Member Lister noted it did not add value and Member Boies supported the change.

Member Boies proposed adding Monitoring under Anthropologic Disturbances.

Mr. McGowan noted Climate Change is another issue the Monitoring Committee should keep on their radar screen. Chairman Swanson commented that BLM and the Forest Service are already addressing this concern. Mr. Coca asked what indicators would be used to monitor Climate Change. There was discussion on the indirect impacts to the habitat. Member Lister agreed weather is a factor. Chairman Swanson proposed adding a line about monitoring "weather variability", like floods

and droughts, using the State Climatologist and the Weather Service for tracking weather disturbances. This information could assist with interpreting other monitoring data. Member Lister noted weather is a factor in adaptive management. Ms. Niell suggested she and Mr. McGowan work on wording for a final paragraph at the end of the Monitoring Section on weather variability and wording to address additional monitoring will be added as the SETT moves forward, monitoring is not limited to what is listed in the tables in this section.

Ms. Mudd suggested adding "Land Management" under "Anthropogenic Disturbances" in the Table on Page 7. This refers to when the ownership of a land parcel moves from one agency to another. Chairman Swanson proposed to add a line under "Anthropogenic Disturbances" addressing "Land Status" with all agencies.

Chairman Swanson asked Mr. Coca to explain the use and distribution of the Cooperative Monitoring document. Mr. Coca stated the document is a template for anyone to use. It is not an official BLM form, but they do use it. Member Boies and Member Lister both agreed to the Cooperative Monitoring document.

Member Boies made a motion to accept Section 9.0 – Monitoring and Adaptive Management with the proposed changes in the document and discussed in this meeting; seconded by Member Lister; motion passed unanimously. ***ACTION**

A full account of the discussion is captured in the audio recording and is available on the Program's website.

6. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS, DETERMINATION OF NEXT MEETING DATE, AND DISCUSSION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

A. Determination of any specific items the Committee would like to work on at their next meeting, and setting of their next meeting date, including a discussion of possible agenda items. *There was committee consensus to meet in September 2014. Mr. Rubald will work on a date.*

September 2014 Agenda Items:

- Recommendations Received on the Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Handbook
- Review Cooperative Monitoring

7. PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment.

8. ADJOURNMENT – Chairman Swanson adjourned the meeting by acclamation at 5:47 PM.
***ACTION**