



Wildlife Committee Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2009, 1:30 pm MDT

Participants

Joe Icenogle, Fidelity, Committee Chair
 Kristin Salamack, Wildlife Habitat Council
 Mike Faas, Faas Law Firm
 Kirby Carroll, Buys & Associates

Nick Agopian, Devon
 Dallas Scholes, Williams
 Spencer Kimball, IPAMS

Ongoing Issues

Collaborative Trade Association ESA Working Group: PLA, IPAMS, PAW, MPA, API, COGA, and other trade associations are in the process of planning ways to improve coordination and the possibility of amassing funds to respond to wildlife issues as they arise. Representatives from the trade groups held a conference call in April to discuss the effort and the working group is presently performing a situation assessment of candidate species for pending and future listing petitions using data state FWS offices. This working group will hold a call in the next few weeks and we will update the committee on progress during the next meeting.

Greater Sage Grouse Coalition: The Greater Sage Grouse Coalition is in the process of hiring a contractor to perform a scientific review of the 2008 WAFWA report regarding Sage Grouse population trends. This analysis will be used to challenge the data used in the listing determination. The Coalition also plans to submit a 'request for correction' under the Data Quality Act (DQA) to the FWS requesting that statements in the 2005 decision regarding the adequacy of regulatory mechanisms to protect the bird be corrected. If you have any questions about the Sage Grouse Coalition, please go to www.sagegrousetruth.org or contact [Spencer](#).

IPAMS Wildlife Conservation Initiative: IPAMS has hired Melissa Simpson with Pac/West on a retainer basis through 2009. Melissa's efforts will include advocating on behalf of industry during Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) meetings, improving communication with state fish and wildlife agencies through an organized industry effort, and facilitating a dialog to mutually share information with the goal of pre-development planning and monitoring. This effort will also serve as a tool to address wildlife protests from the Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP) and other sportsmen's groups. Melissa and IPAMS staff met with companies that have agreed to fund and participate in this initiative on April 7th to discuss next steps. The group discussed the recently released 'Sportsmen for Responsible Energy Development' recommendations with proposed legislative language and regulatory changes. The group assigned topics from the document to each of the company representatives to analyze and the group will draft alternative proposals for future advocacy efforts thereafter. Special thanks to the five companies (Bill Barrett Corp., Fidelity, Newfield, Pioneer and Questar) that have agreed to fund this initiative. Please contact [Spencer](#) for more information or if your company is interested in participating.

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ESA Section 7 Reform: In December, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service amended regulations regarding interagency consultation and cooperation under ESA. The amendment was reversed by the Obama administration last week. The changes reflected the need to limit the misuse of ESA as a tool to regulate greenhouse gases (GHGs). Specifically, the amendment clarified when interagency consultations are not applicable and institutes timelines that will ensure consultations are performed in a timely, efficient manner.

New Issues:

Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC): Kristin Salamack gave some background on the WHC and discussed their conservation accreditation program. WHC has certified wildlife habitat conservation measures taken by Shell, Exxon Mobil, BP, Chevron, Kinder Morgan and others. Participants discussed ways to make the certifications more valuable and attract more operators. Committee members suggested that the certificate could be utilized as an informal consultation with the Colorado DOW or other regulatory agency in order to be more valuable. We offered to assist with discussions with DOW and other agencies about attempting to fit the WHC certification model as a component of the consultation process. More information: The WHC is a nonprofit, non-lobbying 501(c)(3) group of corporations, conservation organizations, and individuals dedicated to restoring and enhancing wildlife habitat. [Click here](#) to visit the Council's website.

Next Meeting: June 4, 2009, 1:30 pm MDT