

Bi-State Local Area Working Group Meeting Notes  
Beidgeport Memorial Hall  
1/6/2020  
1:00pm-4:00pm

- 1) Introductions
- 2) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  - a. Listing decision update
    - i. Extended finding by six months.
    - ii. Decision due by April 1, 2020
    - iii. USGS provided important population performance models for the Bi-State DPS as a whole, as well as from a population management unit standpoint.
      1. Integrated Population Models were used to determine population growth rates for the Bi-State Population and various sub-populations within the Bi-State.
    - iv. Conservation measures have been well documented and substantial.
    - v. Bi-State population distribution and periphery populations were strongly considered.
  - b. LADWP water allotment strategy talks
    - i. The LADWP rangeland program may be looking into changes in water allocation in Long Valley north of Crowley Lake.
    - ii. This may influence brood rearing success in the South Mono PMU.
    - iii. Conversations have taken place regarding how best to allocate water (especially during drought periods) to best meet the needs of LADWP customers, Bi-State Sage-grouse, local ranching and recreational fisheries interests.
    - iv. LADWP is working with livestock producers in Long Valley to assess where and when they were using the local landscape at a very fine scale.
    - v. USGS has been modeling out various water movement scenarios and how birds are using the meadow complex and what areas were most important.
    - vi. Marrying those two pieces is certainly important, but needs further thought and assessment.
    - vii. Bill Deane mentioned that they were still waiting to have discussions with the current lessee.
- 3) Bi-State Tribal Natural Resource Committee Meeting Update
  - a. Sherry Rupert retired
  - b. Much work has been focused on developing a Bi-State Tribal Ecological Knowledge Summit.
    - i. The group would like each tribe to send a representative;
    - ii. This is an open meeting for any tribal member or agency member;
    - iii. There will be a meeting this Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> in Lee Vining, CA.
    - iv. The TEK Summit is scheduled for June 3<sup>rd</sup> and June 4<sup>th</sup>.
    - v. The Stewart Indian School is the likely venue for this.
  - c. Question was asked about what was of most importance to tribal interests whether it was location (traditional sites) or availability (harvest) of pine nuts themselves.
    - i. Joseph answered that it varied between tribal interests and even members.
    - ii. Further discussion was always welcomed to foster learning.
  - d. Norman Harry is the BTNRC Chair and Danelle Gutierrez is the Vice Chair.

- 4) EOC Update
  - a. New Service First Agreement
  - b. Commitment letters updated
  - c. TEK Summit Funding
  - d. USGS monitoring and research funding
  
- 5) TAC Update
  - a. Integrated lek database is complete
  - b. 2020 TAC priorities include
    - 1. Meadow inventory and assessment
    - 2. Weed inventory and assessment
    - 3. Re-run of the CPT to prioritize conifer treatment projects
  
- 6) USGS Research and Monitoring Update (see attached presentation)
  - a. Bi-State IPM
  - b. Late summer field work and fall captures
  - c. Parker translocation
  - d. Egg oiling
  - e. Overview of Data Collection
    - i. Capture
    - ii. Monitoring –
      - 1. Nest discovery and location
      - 2. Lek counts
    - iii. Survey – Brood survey to 35 days
      - 1. Raptor, Raven, Horse and Livestock
  - f. 2019 Field Activities
    - i. Bodie Hills
      - 1. Spring 26 females, 1 male captured
      - 2. Nests – 44
      - 3. Broods – 29
      - 4. 31 VHF marked birds in August of 2019
    - ii. White Mountains
      - 1. Spring trapping in Nevada – 8 females/1male
      - 2. California – 15 females/2males (fall capture)
      - 3. Nests – 8 (CA), 14 (NV)
      - 4. Birds on Air – August
        - a. CA – 24 VHF
        - b. NV – 17VHF, 3 GPS females, 1 GPS male
    - iii. Long Valley
      - 1. Spring – 10 females captures
      - 2. 33 nests monitoring
      - 3. 23 broods monitored
      - 4. 39 VHF females as of August 2019, 1 GPS female and 1 GPS male
    - iv. Parker Meadows
      - 1. Translocated Spring 15 females and 6 males
      - 2. 10 females with broods moved
      - 3. Nests – 12
      - 4. Broods – 21

5. 22 VHF females and 4 GPS males
  - g. Research Updates
    - i. Long Valley Ravens
      1. Egg Oiling
      2. Found 7 nests – oiled four nests
        - a. All four of those nests failed
        - b. One other nest failed before the eggs could be oiled
    - ii. Parker Meadows
      1. Mary Meyerpeter is the graduate student working on the project
      2. So Far...
        - a. 20 males have been translocated
        - b. 48 females have been translocated
        - c. 126 chicks translocated
      3. Looking forward...
        - a. Use IPM to determine effect on Bodie Hills population
        - b. Use IPM to determine effect on Parker Meadow population
        - c. Use IPM to determine effect on Bi-State DPS altogether.
- 7) Partner in the Spotlight: Friends of the Inyo (see attached presentation)
- a. Learn about FOIs role in BSSG conservation efforts
    - i. Joined LAWG in 2013
    - ii. Stewardship work over a decade with BLM and USFS
      1. Converting and removing fences, especially in proximity to riparian areas (e.g. let down fencing)
      2. Bodie State Parks proximity fence removal
    - iii. Work crews hired in the summer
      1. Hazmat clean up
      2. WSA monitoring in Bodie Hills
    - iv. Bodie Hills
      1. Bald Peak exploration – 5 test holes (on California State Lands Mineral Surface)
        - a. Radius Gold is the project proponent
    - v. Long Valley
      1. Keep Long Valley Green project
      2. Long term water agreement for Long Valley
      3. Stewardship projects and volunteer events
      4. Elected officials and congressional involvement
      5. Conservation easement and land exchanges to benefit wildlife and habitat conservation
      6. Public engagement on proposed actions in Bi-State Habitat
- 8) Bi-State Accomplishment Summary (see attached presentation)
- a. Work completed in 2019
    - i. 84 accomplishment projects completed in 2019
    - ii. 74 collars deployed
    - iii. 69 leks surveyed
    - iv. Habitat monitoring
      1. NDOW and GBI accomplishment report

2. USGS microhabitat surveys
  3. AIM
  - v. Action Plan implementation. Projects completed to address
    1. Conifer expansion
    2. Wildfire
    3. Urbanization
    4. Loss of sagebrush and meadows
    5. Invasive/noxious weeds
    6. Human Disturbance and infrastructure
    7. Grazing
  - b. Work prioritized for 2020
    - i. TAC priorities
    - ii. Continue to improve collaborative effort
- 9) LAWG Satisfaction Survey and Future Goals [\(see link in email\)](#)
- a. LAWG members completed a survey to help Bi-State coordinator Amy Sturgill better understand LAWG needs moving forward.
  - b. LAWG members suggestions for LAWG meetings and objectives moving forward included the following:
    - i. Include more field tours
    - ii. Carry out technical workshops-ex. Meadow restoration, PJ removal for private landowners
    - iii. Allow more Q & A time for presentations
    - iv. Improve sound quality in meeting venues
    - v. Email EOC and TAC meeting notes to LAWG
    - vi. Integrate the TAC and LAWG
    - vii. Incorporate work sessions rather than holding informational meetings
    - viii. Move the meetings around the Bi-State
    - ix. Stop listing decision updates
    - x. Continue population monitoring updates
    - xi. Continue partner spotlight series
    - xii. Increase discussion about funding mechanisms
    - xiii. Continue newsletter circulation
    - xiv. Continue awesome facilitation
    - xv. Continue providing snacks
    - xvi. Continue partner updates