**WDC40 – Vee Bar Guest Ranch, Centennial, WY**

**September 12-13**

**Sept. 11**

Arrive and Dinner on your own. If you would like, you can eat at the dinner buffet but you need to call the Vee Bar at 307-745-7036 by Saturday at 6:00 pm to let them know you want to eat there on Monday night. You will be responsible for paying for that meal separately.

**Sept. 12**

8:00 Breakfast (Wyoming AES is paying)

8:30 Welcome and introductions - All

9:00 Discussion of what a W committee means and what is a WDC– John Tanaka

9:15 Overview of what W506 did – John Tanaka

9:30 Unfinished business of W506 or how did we get to this point? All

10:00 Mid-morning snack – fresh fruit

10:00 Overview and Update of US Fish and Wildlife Service ESA Species Status Review Processes– Pat Deibert

11:00 WAFWA Sagebrush Science Initiative (and who the hell is WAFWA anyway?) – Tom Remington

 Sagebrush Conservation Strategy

 Social Science RFP

12:00 Lunch – Taco bar (Wyoming AES is paying)

1:00 Moving forward, what would a new project look like? Discussion

                Conservation of species, Threatened or Endangered Species, Sage-grouse, sagebrush ecosystem

                Ecology, economics, and sociology

2:00 Begin writing a new proposal – background, purpose, objectives, process for approval

3:00 Mid-afternoon snack – Vegetable tray and dip

5:00 Adjourn

6:00 Dinner – BBQ ribs and Chicken - and libations (there is a bar on premises if you are so inclined) (Wyoming AES is paying for dinner, you are on your own for any alcoholic beverage)

**Sept 13**

8:00 Breakfast (Wyoming AES is paying)

8:30 Continue writing and discussions

 Who else should be involved

10:00 Mid-morning snack - cookies

11:00 If committee formed, set up structure

 Elect officers

 Plan the next meeting (after October 1)

12:00 Adjourn and Lunch – Deli sandwiches (Wyoming AES is paying)

Working Notes, 9/12-13/17

**Attendees**

Jeff Beck, University of Wyoming

Dave Dahlgren, Utah State University

Pat Deibert, US Fish and Wildlife Service

Jon Dinkins, Oregon State University

Christian Hagen, Oregon State University

Lynn Huntsinger, University of California, Berkeley

Lance McNew, Montana State University

Tom Remington, Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

John Ritten, University of Wyoming

Jim Sedinger, University of Nevada, Reno

Sam Smallidge, New Mexico State University

Jim Sprinkle, University of Idaho

Pete Stahl, University of Wyoming

John Tanaka, University of Wyoming

Tex Taylor, University of Wyoming

Eric Thacker, Utah State University

J.D. Wulfhorst, University of Idaho

**Meeting Notes**

Discussion of Rapid Response committee W506 and its relationship to the current WDC committee.

Presentation by Pat Deibert, US Fish and Wildlife Service on how FWS addresses potential threatened and endangered species and the status of the sage-grouse in their processes.

Presentation by Tom Remington, Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies on their Sagebrush Science Initiative and a potential Social Science RFP.

Discussion and brainstorming on where participants would like to see this project going forward with a new proposal for a W committee. Consensus that it would focus on the sagebrush ecosystem and include ecology, economics, and sociology at a minimum. The remainder of the notes are the results of that discussion and a plan for moving forward.

**Title:** Maintaining Resilient Sagebrush & Rural Communities

**ORDERS** (w/ description of ‘threats’ & processes @ each scale?)

1. Sagebrush biome
2. Regional / Mid-scale (discussion on MLRA & diversity of distribution)
3. Community
4. Flora, fauna, people

**Goal / purpose (of the WDC40):**

Forming an interdisciplinary committee to address processes and mechanisms to maintain resilient sagebrush and rural communities. Identify means to build social and ecological capital to enable effective conservation of sagebrush and rural communities. Obtain extramural funding to contribute to research & outreach (eg, LGU model) about the following objectives.

Eric Thacker agreed to serve as Chair, J.D. Wulfhorst agreed to serve as Secretary while the new proposal was being developed.

**Objectives: (co-leads for eco- and soc- and econ-) Expect 1-1.5 pages for each section**

1. Prioritize system threats and consequences (ecological and human communities) (Dave, **Christian\***, Jim Sedinger, **J.D.\*,** Jon, **John R.\***, ….)
	1. Existing threat frameworks from other efforts / agencies / research. Synthesis effort to look across these efforts. (SGI, BLM, lit, other groups…)
	2. Novel b/c integrating soc-ecological sciences, AND assessing perceived consequences in addition to the threats
2. Evaluate links between land management and health of rural communities in the Sagebrush biome (**Jim Sprinkle**\*, **Tex\***, **J.D**.\*, Sam, **Jim Sedinger**\*, Eric, Jeff, Lynn)
3. Engage local communities in research and outreach (w/ potential citizen sci component) (**Lynn\***, Dave, Terry, Lance, J.D., **John Tanaka\*,** **Eric\***)
4. Evaluate ongoing efforts in threat reduction (**Pete\*, Jeff B**\*., **John R**.\*, **M. Brunson\***, Eric, Jon)

**Lance, way to go!** Offering to lead synthesizing the doc overall. Wield big axe.

**Participants / Objs matrix (AppE)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Obj1 | Obj2 | Obj3 | Obj4 | Notes & Obj5! |
| Jeff Beck |  | X |  | X | X |  |
| Lynn Huntsinger |  |  | X | X | X |  |
| Tex Taylor |  |  | X | X |  |  |
| John Ritten |  | X | X | X | X |  |
| Jim Sprinkle |  |  |  | X |  |  |
| Jon Dinkins |  | X |  | X | X |  |
| Christian Hagen |  | X |  | X | X |  |
| Eric Thacker |  |  |  | X | X |  |
| Dave Dahlgren |  | X | X | X | X |  |
| Jim Sedinger |  | X |  |  | X |  |
| Lance McNew |  | X |  | X | X |  |
| Sam Smallidge |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pete Stahl |  | X |  | X | X |  |
| John Tanaka |  | X | X | X | X |  |
| J.D. Wulfhorst |  | X | X | X |  |  |
| Terry Messmer |  | X | X | X | X |  |
| TBD: M. Brunson, H. Wilmer, C. Knapp, B. Mealor, M. Sorice |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Outputs (draft)**

1. Integrated conceptual model & offshoot ‘logo’ (ie, SageStep)
2. Assessment of existing data, consolidated database, & identify data gaps
3. Identify funding targets & generate extramural proposals
4. Publications (refereed journal articles, Extension bulletins, synth papers)
5. Presentations & outreach activities (local, regional, and national venues; workshops, field tours, etc)

**Outcomes / Impacts**

1. Increasing capacity and availability of social-ecological science and integrated research efforts about ecosystem health in the sagebrush system
2. Definition of indicators, operationalization of measures, and identification of relationships w/in integrated conceptual model
3. Improve science / knowledge transfer *from* LGUs / *to* agencies & policy process, as well as information flow to local communities & stakeholders
4. \_\_\_<improve?>\_\_\_\_\_effectiveness of local-to-national land management / policies

**Milestones**

1. Internal symposium to present on our existing data (Y1, > Oct ’18)
2. Finalize conceptual model w/in Y1 (Oct 2018 – Sept 2019)
3. Proposals to funding agencies based on conceptual model w/in Y2 (potential grant work Y3-5)
4. Develop (2 max!) symposia for preliminary findings (Y3-4?) – eg for venues: ESA, SRM, Wildlife Society, ISSRM, The North American Fish & Wildlife Conf., AFWA, and/or a model of having sub-groups of WDC40 going to ALL!; also, idea of special issue of a journal to publicize results / seek $....
	1. Symposia (2 max) – options: ISSRM, SRM, ESA, TWS, etc.
	2. Strategic presentations / networking – The North American, AFWA, …
5. Nothing else needed here for now…..

**Future meeting plans, writing assignments, etc.**

*Writing assignments (see parentheses @ Objectives section for groups & leads)*

* Statement of the Issues/Justification: **Terry\***, others review
* Related, current, and previous work: (covered)
* Objectives: (covered)
* Methods: (covered)
* Measurement of Progress and Results: **J.D.\*** (draft from bullets above), others review
* Outreach Plan: **Eric\*** (graft off of outputs section)
* Organization & governance: **Lance\*** (boilerplate we edit from John T.)

*Next meeting plan:*

* Votes for Boise
* Host: J.D.? (ck into Water Center), and Christian/Dave as Jen Forbey (for BSU opt), w/ fallback @ Caldwell R&E
* Meeting, Nov 7-9 (travel Tues pm, Thurs pm, meeting Wed-all & Thurs am)
* Writing deadlines for drafts (full working draft @ Boise meeting): **Oct 13**
* Intent for the Boise meeting is to finalize the new W proposal and begin work on a conceptual model that ties ecology, economics, and sociology together.