Workshop Agenda

WGA Working Lands Roundtable: Collaboration and At-Risk Species Conservation

Spring 2019

Embassy Suites Denver, Colorado April 3-4, 2019

Moderated by John Freemuth, Executive Director, Andrus Center for Public Policy

Wedneso	day, April 3						
8:30 am – 10:30 am	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·						
8:30 am – 10:30 am	Roundtable Work Session: West-Wide Cheatgrass Management (to occur in a separate breakout room): Attendees will engage in a facilitated discussion on the threat that cheatgrass poses to the viability of the western working landscape and identify opportunities and innovative new methods to increase coordination and respond to large-scale cheatgrass infestations.						
11:00 am	Welcome Jim Ogsbury, Executive Director, Western Governors' Association John Freemuth, Executive Director, Andrus Center for Public Policy						
11:10 am	Introductory Remarks Matt Lohr, Chief, USDA-NRCS						
11:30 am	Panel: Collaborative Conservation: Collaborative approaches to at-risk species conservation are gaining traction throughout the nation. Panelists will discuss previous collaborative efforts, highlight elements that contribute to success, and discuss challenges and opportunities for expanding collaborative at-risk species conservation efforts in the west. • Paul Souza, Pacific Southwest Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service						
	 David Tenny, President & CEO, National Alliance of Forest Owners Lesli Allison, Executive Director, Western Landowners Alliance 						
12:30 pm	Lunch						

1:00 pm	Panel: Threats to Western Working Landscapes: Cross-boundary collaborative conservation efforts often come in response to a wide-ranging threat. Panelists will describe West-wide threats to working landscapes and identify opportunities to address them.					
	 Jeremy Maestas, Sagebrush Ecosystem Specialist, USDA-NRCS Garth Fuller, Eastern Oregon Conservation Director, The Nature Conservancy Brian Mealor, Director and Associate Professor, Sheridan Research and Extension Center John Ruhs, Idaho State Director, Bureau of Land Management 					
2:15 pm	Panel: Coordination Between Federal Agencies: Successful coordination between federal agencies is a necessary element for most collaborative and cross-boundary conservation efforts. Panelists will highlight organizations and agencies enhancing federal agency coordination.					
	Kristin Thomasgard-Spence, Director, Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration, U.S. Department of Defense					
	Kim Tripp, National Threatened and Endangered Species Program Lead, Bureau of Land Management					
	 Chris West, Director, Rocky Mountain Regional Office, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation 					
3:30 pm	Break					
3:45 pm	Panel: Natural Resource Data Management and Landowner Privacy: Private landowners contribute to species conservation and help inform policymakers by allowing data collection on their property. Panelists will examine opportunities and obstacles surrounding data collection and exchange between private landowners and state/federal agencies.					
	Steve Jester, Executive Director, Partners for Conservation					
	Sara Brodnax, Senior Manager, Habitat Markets, Environmental Defense Fund					
	Thad Heater, USDA-NRCS Outcomes Team					
5:00 pm	Adjourn & Reception					
Thursday	, April 4					
8:00 am	Recap Day 1					
	John Freemuth, Executive Director, Andrus Center for Public Policy					

 Panel: Migration Corridors: Numerous efforts exist to better understand and conserve key wildlife migration corridors and habitat. Panelists will provide an overview on the importance of wildlife migration, the role corridors and migratory habitat play in broader species conservation efforts, and what policy considerations inform their management. Jim Heffelfinger, Wildlife Biologist, Arizona Game and Fish Department Paul Ulrich, Director of Government Affairs, Jonah Energy Matthew Skroch, Officer, U.S. Public Lands Program, The Pew Charitable Trusts David Willms, Senior Director for Western Wildlife Conservation, National Wildlife Federation 					
Panel: Regulatory Certainty and Litigation: From the Gunnison sage-grouse in Colorado to the Arctic grayling in Montana, collaborative conservation efforts sometimes end up the subject of litigation, creating concern for stakeholders. Panelists will discuss how regulatory certainty, litigation, and agency policy can drive or inhibit collaborative conservation.					
Jonathan Houck, Gunnison County Commissioner					
Nada Culver, Senior Director, Agency Policy & Planning Director, The Wilderness Society					
 Austin McCullough, Fisheries Technician, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks 					
Break					
Panel: Case Study – Cross Boundary and Multi-Agency Collaboration: Numerous non-governmental, local, state, and federal agencies mobilized a rapid multi-agency response to the 2012 Waldo Canyon Fire in Colorado Springs. Panelists will share success stories from the response and discuss elements that may be applied more broadly to cross-boundary land management in the West.					
 Sallie Clark, Colorado State Director for Rural Development, United States Department of Agriculture 					
 Oscar Martinez, District Ranger, Pike National Forest, United States Forest Service 					
Eric Howell, Forest Program Manager, Colorado Springs Utilities					
Next Steps and Final Thoughts					