

**WYOMING STATE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TELECONFERENCE MINUTES
June 28, 2016**

Members present:

Bob Mountain, USFS
Mark Hogan, USFWS
Danny McBride, USFS
John Crisp, Wyoming State Forestry
Doug Miyamoto, Wyoming Department of Agriculture
Bo Alley, Wyoming Stock Growers Agricultural Land Trust
Jim Cochran, Laramie County Conservation District
Jennifer Hinkhouse, Campbell County Conservation District
Ian Tator, Wyoming Game and Fish
Jennifer Zygmunt, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
Brent Lathrop, The Nature Conservancy
Jody Pavlica, Wyoming State Engineers Office
Dave Pellatz, Producer
Michael Ranta, Wyoming Woolgrowers Assn.
Gregor Goertz, Farm Service Agency
Cindy Hottel, Farm Service Agency
Clayton Schmitz, NRCS
Dennis Sun, Producer
Rigo Lopez, NRCS
Rusty Schwartz, NRCS
James Bauchert, NRCS
Astrid Martinez, NRCS
Grant Stumbough, NRCS

Grant Stumbough, NRCS Partnership Liaison started the meeting at 1:05 PM with introductions around the room and on the phone, discussed the agenda, and introduced Astrid Martinez, Wyoming State Conservationist.

State Conservationist Update

Astrid Martinez then welcomed the group and updated the committee on NRCS programs, issues and recent meetings. Her presentation is attached.

Rocky Mountain Area Conservationist Update

Rigo Lopez introduced himself and then provided a program, personnel, and budget update of the Rocky Mountain Area. His presentation is attached.

High Plains Area Conservationist update

Rusty Schwartz also introduced himself and then provided a program, personnel, and budget update of the High Plains Area. His presentation is also attached.

Farm Service Agency Update

Gregor Goertz, Director and Cindy Hottel, Program Specialist provided an Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) and a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) update which is attached.

Roundtable Discussion

Several topics were discussed to include:

- Astrid suggested that STAC members (possibly organize a subcommittee) need to identify a target species of concern as well as address the 6 critical elements outlined in the conservation model to enable Wyoming to participate in the broader application of the WLFW program. Ian Tator offered to assist in this effort and will be in contact with Astrid.
- Danny McBride, USFS expressed his willingness to work with NRCS and other agencies and landowners on forest issues in the Rocky Mountain Area. Grant Stumbough will contact Danny this week to discuss a potential partnership strategy.
- Brent Lathrop asked the following questions:
 - Does NRCS intend a Conservation Innovation Grant cycle for WY this year? *Astrid stated that as per the State Technical Advisory Committee's recommendation we do not have a State CIG program, however Wyoming is eligible to apply for the National CIG grant program. Deadline for national CIG applications for this year was May 10th.*
 - What is the number of RCPP applications for this round and/or can NRCS give dollar amounts that might be available next round? *Please see Astrid's attached presentation.*
 - Any Info on easement program allocations? *Please see Astrid's attached presentation.*
- Dave Pellatz asked if NRCS was going to start utilizing an ecosystem approach when delivering the Working Lands for Wildlife program rather than a single species approach. Dave's question is based on a recent National NRCS teleconference. Clayton Schmitz will get back to Dave on his question.

Closing:

Astrid closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their participation. She also mentioned that our next State Technical Advisory Committee meeting will be scheduled sometime in September.