

Western Governors' Association
Western Renewable Energy Zones
Environment & Lands Working Group
August 5, 2008
9:00 – 10:00 am MDT

CALL SUMMARY

Next Steps
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. WGA will send out regulatory screen documents from NREL and prepared by Pam Eaton. WGA will post all necessary documents on the public WREZ site and will also set-up a E&L work group site through Central Desktop for sharing/editing documents.2. E&L members will send WGA comments on the proposal for the division of labor on lands issues between ZITA and E&L by Thursday, August 7.3. E&L members will send WGA comments on proposed edits to the workplan by Thursday, August 7.4. WGA will edit the process chart to include context for how the task of identifying exclusion areas based on regulatory designation fits into the overall WREZ project and other WG tasks.5. Next Call: Tuesday, August 19; 9:30am (MDT). Calls will be held at 9:30am MDT every other Tuesday.

Member Introductions and Update

Work Group members briefly introduced themselves and their organization on the first full E&L work group call. The call also included several observers representing various stakeholder groups. A list of all the call participants is available at the end of this summary.

WGA has had conversations with the wind industry, NACO and the governments of Alberta, British Columbia and Baja California to identify specific representations for the E&L work group. Representation from those groups will be finalized up ASAP.

Process for Identifying Regulatory Precluded Lands

Work Group members generally supported the outline for the process of identifying lands that are protected by law and regulation, and supported the idea of using joint fact-finding to separate areas into two boxes based on their legal designation. Additional areas without that level of designation will be identified through a consensus process where the group determines whether development should be avoided, minimized or mitigated.

Carl Zichella, WG co-chair, did remind the group that the overall objective of the E&L work group is to identify the least controversial places for renewable energy development and did ask other members to keep that objective in mind as we work through the process. Other members suggested WGA clarify how the steps in this initial process fit into the entire work of the work group and into the rest of the work in the WREZ project.

The group decided to begin the process by using screens outlined in a spreadsheet prepared by Pam Eaton and also information sent from NREL. WGA will circulate these documents to the group and will post them on the WREZ website in a separate area dedicated to the E&L work group. This site will be public very shortly.

Environmental & Non-environmental Land Issues

Work group members had been asked to review a proposal by WGA to clarify leadership in discussing environmental and non-environmental lands issues in the WREZ zone identification process. The items included on the list are not all inclusive, but the overall categories are intended to describe which types of lands issues E&L will be responsible for discussing and which issues ZITA will have responsibility for. The E&L work group has plenty of work to do in dealing with wildlife and protected lands, therefore ZITA can address lands that are potentially incompatible with resource development. ZITA can also incorporate lands that are unambiguously precluded from development such as archeological and cultural lands and National Park Service and Fish & Wildlife Service lands.

Some members briefly commented that wilderness areas should be moved into the unambiguously protected lands. Time for the call was running out, so comments on the general proposal for dividing work between ZITA and E&L will be sent to WGA by Thursday, August 7.

Workplan

Members will send WGA comments on the changes in the workplan by Thursday, August 7. The Technical Committee reviewed the initial workplan and provided the track changes. WGA is asking members to determine whether or not to accept these changes. WGA staff will also bring a more specific outreach plan to work group members for comments.

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Call Participants

Work Group Members

Jim Bartridge	California Energy Commission
Nada Culver	The Wilderness Society (proxy for Pam Eaton)
Mary Klein	NatureServe
Laura Konaka	AZ Fish & Game (proxy for Bob Brosheid)
Shay LaBray	PacifiCorp (proxy for Brian Weber)
Julia Levin	National Audubon Society
Mary Murray	Tri-State Generation
Scott Paulson	AZ Public Service
Stephanie Stavrakas	USFWS

Observers

Lin Adler	Citizens for Dixie's Future
Steve Arenson	DOD, OSD Sustainability Office
Jon Beyer	Tri-State Generation (proxy for Mary Murray)
Laura Canaca	Arizona Game and Fish Department (proxy for Bob Brosheid)
Patrick Crist	NatureServe

Tom Darin	Western Resource Advocates
Monique DiGiorgio	Western Environmental Law Center
Karen Hevel-Mingo	National Parks Conservation Association
John Koberg	?
LaVerne Kyriss	Western Area Power Administration
Kevin Lynch	Iberdrola Renewables
Joseph Merrill	California Energy Commission (proxy for Jim Bartridge)
Brian Rutledge	Audubon, WY Office (proxy for Julia Levin)

WGA Staff

Shaun McGrath

Madeleine West

Facilitation Support

Will Singleton