

# **Meeting of the Western Governors' Wildlife Council**

## **October 4-6, 2009**

Best Western Helena Great Northern Hotel  
835 Great Northern Blvd  
Helena, MT 59601

### **Sunday, October 4**

6:00 pm – **Registration Open** (Oriental Room, Great Northern Hotel)

7:00 – **Opening Reception and Dinner** (Oriental Room)

### **Monday, October 5**

7:30 am – **Registration Open** (Western Star Room)

8:00 – **Breakfast** – A free continental breakfast is provided for hotel guests. Pastries and coffee will be available in the meeting room.

8:30 – **Welcome, Introductions and Recap of Recent Council Activities**

- Pam Inmann, Western Governors' Association Executive Director
- John Harja (UT), Western Governors' Wildlife Council Chair
- Joe Maurier (MT) Western Governors' Wildlife Council Vice-Chair

9:00 – **Opening Remarks of Montana Governor and WGA Chair Brian Schweitzer**  
“Wildlife Corridors in Montana and the West”

9:15 – **Montana's Crucial Areas and Connectivity Assessment Demonstration**

Visual demonstration of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks' Crucial Areas and Connectivity Assessment followed by question/answer period.

*Moderator: Joe Maurier*

- T.O. Smith, Bureau Chief, Strategic Planning and Data Services, MFWP
- Janet Hess-Herbert, Bureau Chief, Information Management, MFWP

10:15 - **Break**

10:30 – **Presentation of Wildlife Council Draft White Paper**, “Western Regional Wildlife Decision Support System: Definitions and Guidance for State Systems”

*Moderators: John Emmerich (WY) and Holly Michael (OR)*

11:00 – **Customer Panel** – Potential users of decision support systems provide feedback on the white paper and demonstration.

- Jack Sahl, Director, Environment and Resource Sustainability, Southern California Edison
- April Johnston, Executive Director, Programs and Policy, American Wildlands
- Paul Matheny, Vice President, Questar Exploration and Production Company
- Danielle Flynn, Wildlife Program Lead, Division of Fish, Wildlife & Plant Conservation, Bureau of Land Management
- Mary Sexton, Director, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

12:30 pm – **Buffet Lunch**

1:30 – **Wildlife Council Presentations of Proposed DSS Pilot Studies**

Council members summarize their Department of Energy pilot proposals and take Council and audience comments/questions.

*Moderator: Joanna Prukop (NM)*

3:00 - **Break**

3:30 – **Briefing on Key Conservation Issues and Regional DSS Development**

Panel presentations and question/answer period.

*Moderator: Bob Broscheid (AZ)*

- Rob Ament, Center for Large Landscape Conservation
- Keith Aune, Wildlife Conservation Society
- Monique DiGiorgio, Western Environmental Law Center
- Jeff Parrish, Freedom to Roam

5:00 – **Wrap Up & Concluding Remarks**

5:30 – **Adjourn**

6:30 – **Reception and Dinner**

*The Montana Club*

24 West Sixth Avenue, Helena

(6:00pm- Registered attendees meet in Great Northern Hotel lobby for bus transportation)

## **Tuesday, October 6**

7:30 am – **Breakfast** – A free continental breakfast is provided for hotel guests. Pastries and coffee will be available in the meeting room.

8:00 – **Reconvene and Review from Day One** (Western Star Room)

### **8:05 – Coordination with Federal Partners and MOU Implementation**

Federal agencies present on their current initiatives related to the Council's workplan.

*Moderator: Kim Titus (AK)*

- Bruce Beard, Basing Directorate, Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, Installations and Environment, U.S. Department of Defense
- Chris Iverson, Assistant Director, Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air and Rare Plants Program, U.S. Forest Service
- Dave Stout, Chief, Division of habitat and Resource Conservation, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Shaun McGrath, Deputy Director, Intergovernmental Affairs, The White House

### **8:50 – Technical Observations – Looking Ahead**

Implementation of pilot projects and further development of a DSS regional framework needs to address data and platform compatibility issues. Two experts will speak from their experience tackling these issues.

*Moderator: J.D. Strong (OK)*

- Patrick Crist, NatureServe
- Chris Friel, ESRI

### **9:10 – Wildlife Council Public Work Session**

- Wildlife Council review white paper and pilot proposals, and determine next steps/action items (*John Harja*)

11:45 – **Meeting Recap, Action Items and Schedule Next Council Meeting**

12:00 pm – **Adjourn**