

Minutes from the 1/22/04 Aquatic Resources Task Group Meeting

Location: Wyoming Game and Fish office, Sheridan, WY.

Attendance: Warren Mischke (WGFD); Bob McDowell (WGFD); Larry Rau (BLM); Jim Sparks (BLM); Dave Zafft (WGFD); Joe Platz (BLM); Dale Tribby (BLM); Paul Beels (BLM); Jerry Kaiser (BIA); Paula Gunter-Gloss (FS); Jeremy Zumberge (WY DEQ); Larry Gerard (BLM).

- Paul Beels gave an overview of the task groups mandate to monitor the impacts associated with coal bed natural gas. The Powder river basin oil and gas EIS for Wyo. and Mont. was completed in 2003, how other task groups are working and the expected outcomes.
- Bob McDowell was elected as the Aquatic Task Group leader.
- Beels indicated a monitoring plan should preferably be in place by June 2004, but as late as our group got together that may not be possible.
- Larry Gerard agreed to put together meeting minutes as well as other correspondence.
- The first order of business was to work on a charter, a working draft was completed.
- Discussion about timelines, when products were needed, past and on-going surveys, funding sources and needs.
- Paula gave an overview of on-going surveys on the Thunderbasin Grasslands.
- Task group did not want to duplicate surveys planned by the water quality task group, but agreed that both groups need to coordinate on survey sites and results.
- Question was raised as to whether the South Dakota tribes should be involved.
- Platz agreed to put together list of “effects” listed in the EIS as an initial guideline for where to direct our efforts to develop a monitoring plan. He will circulate it to the members for comments and to begin generating ideas for monitoring – this will serve as a discussion item at our next meeting.
- McDowell will finalize draft of the Charter and Larry will mail it around for edits. Goal is to have a completed draft to the IWG for approval at the Feb 18 meeting.
- Task group was asked to send past or on-going aquatic surveys in the Powder river basin to Larry Gerard. Larry will pass on to Bob M.
- The next interagency group meeting is Feb 18 in Billings – McDowell (at a minimum) will attend to present Aquatic Task Group report.
- The next meeting was scheduled for Feb. 19, 2004 at 09:00 at the Hampton Inn (406-248-4949) in Billings, MT. to work on a monitoring plan. Please make your own reservations.