

Notes from Pioneers Alliance Meeting
November 27, 2012
Carey, ID

1. Introductions - See attached list of attendees.
2. Reviewed meeting objectives which were to: a) review past successes b) discuss priorities for the future c) develop strategies for pursuing priorities.
3. Past Successes:
 - NRCS Conservation Funding: Wade distributed a handout which documents the landowner participation in conservation easement programs- well over 20 landowners from Blaine and Butte Counties are enrolled! He reported there is no 2013 Farm Bill at this point, and thus no new easement funding until that happens. He then presented an award to Mike Stevens from the NRCS Sage Grouse Initiative program for Mike's outstanding contribution to the SGI and "achieving world class wildlife conservation through Sustainable Ranching."
 - The status of BLM travel planning was reviewed. The Pioneers Alliance hosted a tour in September with landowners, the BLM and conservation groups to explore new routes that cross both public and private land. Issues with damage to roads and private property discussed. BLM will release draft plan and environmental assessment in 2013 for review and comment.
 - CERG report: The Carey Economic Revitalization Group (CERG) been meeting for 2 years now. They collaborated with ICL on 2 bike tours in the foothills. The Boyd Stocking pavilion dedication in August was a huge accomplishment. Carey now has a community facility and public restrooms, and the Wood River Irrigation District was key to this effort. A new project this winter will be a community ice rink. Newsletter can be found on-line at: <http://www.c-e-r-g.org>
4. Updates:
 - We reviewed changes in Pioneer Alliance leadership and members: Mike Stevens has taken a new job as State Director of The Nature Conservancy in Washington and we will all miss him; Brett Stevenson has left ICL for the Wood River Bike Coalition, and we hope to keep her engaged on the spring bike tour; Tess O'Sullivan, Lava Lake Science Institute, who has coordinated the sage grouse and pronghorn research, will be leaving the Institute in February 2013.
 - Due to the departure of Mike Stevens, Trish said she has agreed to help coordinate the Pioneers Alliance and recruited Jim Peterson as co-chair. Thank you Jim!
 - Jim gave an overview of his trip to Montana with Mike and Holly Hampton, BLM, to a workshop put on by the Blackfoot Challenge on how to grow and sustain community-based conservation. Participants came from across the nation with the same goals: find effective and efficient ways to transfer lessons-learned, support ongoing partnerships, and communicate how community-based approaches are a critical tool to retain access to the natural resources that fuel our communities and maintain rural values. He was impressed with how powerful community based conservation can be and how working together to solve problems gets things done. He also learned that agency folks are just like us.
5. Discussion of future collaborations and priorities.

The group had a discussion of issues and opportunities for future collaboration and agreed to the following priority topics, with the identified members of that work group:

- **BLM Travel planning**: work group includes Trish Klahr, TNC; John Robison, ICL; Ray Baird, landowner, and Tom Peavey, landowner (nominated by Trish). **Focus**: Goal is well signed and maintained trail network that encourages riders to stay on designated routes.
- **Grazing management on public lands**: work group includes Mark Davidson, TNC; Jim Barton, landowner. **Focus**: Agency cooperation in seeking flexibility in grazing permits; providing review and input on sage grouse plans.
- **Unit 49 hunting regulations**: Work group includes Sara Mecham, Carey; Keri York; WRLT. **Focus**: coordination with Idaho Fish and Game on better management of this unit.
- **CERG**: Group includes Vonnie Olsen, Sara Mecham, and other regular attendees.
- **Fish Creek Reservoir**: Work group includes Mark Davidson, Theron Fiscus. **Focus**: Explore options for repair/restoration of the reservoir.

Work Assignments: It was proposed and accepted that each of the five work groups above meet before the next Pioneers Alliance meeting to discuss their issue and bring a report to the full PA group.

Next Meeting of the Pioneers Alliance: After much discussion it was determined the next meeting of the full Pioneers Alliance will be **Wednesday February 20, 2013.** Invite anyone who might be interested!

Happy Holidays and see you all next year.