

CHARLES M. RUSSELL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP MEETING

10:00 am — 3:00 pm, Thurs, April 9th, 2015

Methodist Church
Winnett, MT

- 10:00 Welcome & Grounding Question – Bill Milton
- 10:10 Self-Introductions and Answers to Grounding Question – All Participants
- 10:30 **3-Part Goal** Group Discussion
Individual responses and suggested edits to the revised 3-part goal from the Glasgow meeting.
- 11:45 *Set stage for the Breakout Groups – Bill will break the attendees into small groups and provide instructions for the afternoon session.*
- 12:00 Lunch Break – Lunch available for **\$7.50** (correct change is appreciated).
- 12:45 **Small Group Session:** *Bridget has researched and documented the identified threats to sagegrouse from a variety of agency sources that point to Northern Montana threats, put the website links to the documents. These threats are listed in order*
- **Question 1:** *Do you agree with these threats? If not, edit them to your satisfaction, and then rank the threats in order of importance.*
 - **Question 2:** *What are the factors driving these threats? In other words, what is the motivating force (i.e. economics, fear, etc.) behind conversion of rangeland to farmland? This exercise will be done for all the identified threats.*
 - **Question 3:** *Now that we have identified the driving forces behind these threats, what are the 3 most important tasks that this group can do to create solutions to these threats? These solutions should address the causes of the threats, not just the symptoms of the threats; i.e. a solution of stopping the conversion of rangeland to farmland through regulation alone without providing solutions to lessen the motivation of conversion to farmland will likely be less effective and may create problems elsewhere.*
- 2:00 Bring groups back together and report
- 2:30 Identify and prioritize group actions to be completed before the next meeting
Provide guidance and tasks to Sage Grouse Committee
Approve meeting schedule for remainder of 2015
- 3:00 Adjourn

Sage grouse are not the sole focus of the group, but this species connects us all through the landscape that they utilize. In turn, each of us are interconnected in the collective contribution to conserving the species through the land that we manage. Land and the habitat is the one element that we can positively affect for the good of this species. By addressing this BEFORE the ruling is made on sage grouse, we can proactively ensure that our communities and way of life are protected, along with the wildlife we all cherish. – Rachel Frost