From:	Theresa Rabot
To:	Paul Henson; Eric Rickerson; Mike Carrier
Cc:	Marilet Zablan; Dawn Davis
Subject:	FW: Question re. our commitment to revisit sage-grouse in 5 years
Date:	Wednesday, September 23, 2015 8:03:38 AM

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fyi

From: Frazer, Gary [mailto:gary_frazer@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 7:41 AM
To: Dan ASHE; Robert Dreher; Jim Kurth; Steve Guertin; Noreen Walsh; Michael Thabault; Richard Hannan; Assistant Regional Director - Ecological Services Theresa Rabot; Ren Lohoefener; Michael Fris; Betsy Hildebrandt; Gavin Shire; Alyssa Hausman; Gina Shultz; Bridget Fahey
Subject: Question re. our commitment to revisit sage-grouse in 5 years

See the note from Darren Benjamin below. Got a similar question during yesterday's Hill staff briefing from Sen. Heller's staff. We can probably expect more. So I've drafted up the following as our basic message. I'm going to discuss with Darren by phone. -- GDF

Gary Frazer
Assistant Director -- Ecological Services
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
(202) 208-4646

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Frazer, Gary** <gary_frazer@fws.gov>
Date: Wed, Sep 23, 2015 at 10:23 AM
Subject: Re: Conference call on important conservation announcement - Tuesday, 9/22
To: Chris Nolin <chris_nolin@fws.gov>
Cc: Rachel Merkel <rachel_merkel@fws.gov>, Martha BalisLarsen <Martha_BalisLarsen@fws.gov>

I'll call Darren. Here's the explanation, FYI and future reference:

Our "not warranted" finding considered a number of conservation efforts that have yet to be fully implemented or proven effective. We carefully analyzed each of those and relied upon those that we were reasonably certain would be implemented and effective, based upon the information we have today. Most significant among those were the federal and state plans that provide regulatory mechanisms to control and reduce habitat loss and fragmentation.

Effective implementation of those plans will be critical to conserving this bird. Accordingly, we committed in our "not warranted" finding to continue to participate in and monitor the conservation efforts and to re-evaluate the status of the species in 5 years. Doing so is prudent and proactive, given the loss of momentum that occurred following our "not warranted" finding in 2005, the potential for litigation challenging our "not warranted" finding, and the likelihood that we will again be petitioned to list if these conservation efforts are not effectively implemented.

The Service's authority to re-evaluate the status of the species is section 4(a)(1) of the Act, the same authority as the Service uses to review any species to determine whether a listing proposal is warranted. The Service can, on our own initiative, assess whether a species

should be added to the candidate list or proposed for listing. The Service need not be petitioned to initiate that process, and our Candidate Conservation program element funds such candidate assessments.

While the Service is resource-limited and sometimes is unable to do everything that is expected or desired of us (e.g., 5 year reviews of all species every 5 years), we strategically prioritize our work effort to accomplish the most conservation with the resources we do have available. The scale and significance of this sagebrush ecosystem conservation effort makes this a very high priority for the Service and one for which we will prioritize our work effort. -- GDF

Gary Frazer
Assistant Director -- Ecological Services
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
(202) 208-4646

On Tue, Sep 22, 2015 at 4:38 PM, Chris Nolin <chris_nolin@fws.gov> wrote:
I think it would be good if you call him, but I'd like to know the answer too.

Sent from my iPad

On Sep 22, 2015, at 4:09 PM, Frazer, Gary <gary_frazer@fws.gov> wrote:

> I'll get something to you soon. Or would you prefer that I just call him? -- gDF
>
> *Gary Frazer*
> *Assistant Director -- Ecological Services*
> *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*
> *(202) 208-4646*
>
> On Tue, Sep 22, 2015 at 3:16 PM, Nolin, Chris <chris_nolin@fws.gov> wrote:
> Do you want to take a crack at this?
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: **Benjamin, Darren** <Darren.Benjamin@mail.house.gov>
> Date: Tue, Sep 22, 2015 at 2:17 PM
> Subject: RE: Conference call on important conservation announcement - Tuesday, 9/22
> To: "Nolin, Chris" <chris_nolin@fws.gov>
>
> Chris,

I need information on FWS' commitment to review the status of greater sage-grouse in five years. People are confused about why FWS would review an unlisted species and under what authority. FWS isn't able to conduct 5-year reviews of all of its listed species, as required by law. Please explain.

Thanks,
Darren

From: Nolin, Chris [mailto:chris_nolin@fws.gov]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2015 3:32 PM
To: Tomassi, Chris (Appropriations); Benjamin, Darren; Rice, Julianna; Zimmerman, Melissa (Appropriations)
Subject: Fwd: Conference call on important conservation announcement - Tuesday, 9/22

Hi all,

Details for the sage-grouse call tomorrow.

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Bratt, Jeremy** <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Mon, Sep 21, 2015 at 3:05 PM
Subject: Conference call on important conservation announcement - Tuesday, 9/22
To: Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Hello,

Tomorrow, Tuesday 9/22, at 12:30 p.m., representatives from the Department of the Interior, including staff from the Bureau of Land Management and the Fish and Wildlife Service, will hold a conference call to make an historic conservation announcement and discuss the details of an important collaborative conservation effort.

Call-in details are below. Please feel free to share with others in your office who may be interested.

Call-in #: 800-779-1626
Participant passcode: 5433469

Thank you,

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

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Martin Kodis
Chief, Division of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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Falls Church, VA 22041

703-358-2241 ph
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Chris Nolin

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