From:	Dan Ashe
To:	Noreen Walsh
Cc:	Ren Lohoefener; Gary Frazer
Subject:	Re: GrSG: WP on Basin and Range NM - sage-grouse nexus
Date:	Saturday, July 11, 2015 7:20:57 PM

Thanks Noreen.

Dan Ashe
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

On Jul 10, 2015, at 6:53 PM, Noreen Walsh <noreen_walsh@fws.gov> wrote:

> Dan,
>
> Just FYI, you have probably seen the Post article below which quotes Collin O'Mara calling out the Basin and Range National Monument as benefitting sage-grouse.
>
> http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2015/07/10/in-massive-expansion-of-lands-legacy-obama-creates-three-new-national-monuments/
>
>> *Collin O'Mara, president and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation, said in a statement that "permanent protection for Basin and Range will preserve priority sage grouse habitat at a critical time when we're all working hard to recover this iconic bird and avoid the need for further protections under the Endangered Species Act."*
>
> A few other articles today make the same claim. However, all of our information from NV (Ted Koch, Amy Lueders, Tony Wasley) indicates little to no sage-grouse habitat in the monument. Tony checked with his biologist who worked there for the past 15 years and his biologist had seen no sage-grouse, despite looking for them, during his 15 years on the ground there. His father in law, who grazed there prior to that time, had indicated they were present then. So, it is possible this is historic habitat. We are trying to line it out on a map and understand the juxtaposition to current PACs.
>
> Noreen

Noreen Walsh
Regional Director
Mountain-Prairie Region
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
303 236 7920