From: Lyons, James
To: Noreen Walsh
Subject: Re: FW: R6 Secretary"s Report
Date: Tuesday, April 28, 2015 4:45:07 AM

Thanks Noreen. That is what I understood you to say and reflects the situation as I understand it.

Jim

On Mon, Apr 27, 2015 at 8:43 PM, Noreen Walsh <noreen_walsh@fws.gov> wrote:

> Jim, Per your call today, I wanted to share what I sent in to our HQ. Please let me know if you heard any different interpretation from your other calls today. Thanks,
>
> Noreen
>
> *Noreen Walsh*
>
> *Regional Director*
>
> *Mountain-Prairie Region*
>
> *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service*
>
> *303 236 7920*
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> **From:** Noreen Walsh [mailto:noreen_walsh@fws.gov]
> **Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2015 1:51 PM
> **To:** Anna Munoz; Gary Frazer (gary_frazer@fws.gov); Robert Dreher; Jim Kurth; Steve Guertin (stephen_guertin@fws.gov); Dan Ashe (d_m_ashe@fws.gov)
> **Cc:** Matt Hogan (matt_hogan@fws.gov)
> **Subject:** R6 Secretary's Report
>
> **GREATER SAGE-GROUSE AND TRANSWEST:** Transwest is a Presidential Priority transmission project that will carry power generated in Wyoming through Colorado, Utah, and Nevada, intersecting sage-grouse priority habitat along the way. BLM is moving quickly towards the FEIS. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the state of Colorado have asked BLM to reconsider the proposed final route which crosses through priority habitat in northwest Colorado and across two conservation easements (one of which was purchased

with ESA Section 6 funds granted to the state of Colorado.) The Service and the State (Governor's rep) have asked BLM to instead make minor adjustments to avoid conservation easements as much as possible and minimize impacts to sage-grouse and cooperating landowners. Because the minor adjustment may mean that the alignment needs to cross the entrance road to Dinosaur National Monument, the NPS indicates they would have to explain why no other routes are "practicable." The Service has volunteered to work with Colorado, NPS, and BLM toward that end. BLM indicated that is a change that could likely be made after the FEIS is published and before the ROD is signed in the fall.

Noreen Walsh

Regional Director

Mountain-Prairie Region

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