From:	Snow, Karl
To:	Kershaw, Jessica
Cc:	Amy Lueders; Noreen Walsh; Jeff Krauss; Gavin Shire; Betsy Hildebrandt; Celia Boddington; Craig Leff
Subject:	Re: fact checking
Date:	Tuesday, May 06, 2014 5:57:00 AM

Jessica:
Not sure what his source was for his land owned percentages.

I checked his figures with our 2012 Public Land Statistics, issued in June 2013 and thus the latest we have available. He can check our website for the publication if he wants to verify the source. The data come from Table 1.3.

Nevada has 70.26 million acres of land, with 58.4 million acres of Federal surface lands. Per my calculator (I'm no math whiz), that's about 83 percent of the land.

Utah has 52.7 million acres of land, with 34 million acres of Federal surface lands, which works out to about 64.5 percent of the land.

Idaho has 52.93 million acres of land, with 33.1 million acres of Federal surface lands, about 62.5 percent of the land.

Oregon has 61.6 million acres of land, with 32.4 million acres of Federal surface lands, about 52.5 percent of the land.

The term Federal surface lands cover all the land in Federal control, regardless of who does the surface management.

In many cases, BLM manages the subsurface mineral rights, but doesn't own the surface. These are called split estate lands. It is not so much an issue in Nevada, with only 300,000 acres of split estate lands. It is a bigger issue in Utah, with 1.2 million acres of split estate lands, Oregon with 1.5 million acres of split estate land, and Idaho, with 3.4 million acres of split estate lands. The above percentages don't include the split estate lands.

Hope this helps.

Mitch

K. Mitchell Snow
Bureau of Land Management
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On Mon, May 5, 2014 at 9:29 PM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

> Can you guys help to make sure you're comfortable with these facts as he's presented below. Would be useful to have before noon tomorrow EDT.
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: **Wilson, Reid H** <Reid.Wilson@washpost.com>
> Date: Monday, May 5, 2014
> Subject: fact checking

To: "jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>

Just going through my story one more time, wanted to fact-check a few things. Yell at me if you see any issues with these:

■ Listing the Northern Spotted Owl in 1990 impacted timber operations on about 24 million acres of land

■ Sage grouse habitat covers 160 million acres over 11 western states

■ The first petitions seeking sage grouse listings landed in FWS inboxes in 1999.

■ In 2010, FWS decided the bird warranted protection.

■ Under an agreement between Fish and Wildlife and the environmental groups, the service has until the end of Fiscal Year 2015 to propose rules governing the bird's habitat, or to decide to change its mind.

■ The service is expected to seek a six-month extension on its deadline to make a determination on the Gunnison sage grouse.

■ The service must make a final determination on the bi-state sage grouse, which inhabits the high desert on the Nevada-California border by the middle of next year.

■ By September of next year, it will make a final call on the greater sage grouse.

■ If the sage grouse is listed under the ESA, development on the bird's historical rangeland will be severely limited.

■ The federal government owns almost half the land west of the Mississippi, including 81 percent of all territory in Nevada, 66 percent of Utah, 61 percent of Idaho and 53 percent of Oregon.

■ In February, ten governors met with Jewell and Fish and Wildlife Service Director Daniel Ashe.

■ Officials in five states worked to build conservation plans for the lesser prairie-chicken, which ranges across Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Kansas and Colorado. But in March, Fish and Wildlife listed the bird as threatened under the ESA.

Thanks again for your time!

--

Reid Wilson

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