From:	Leith Edgar
To:	Seth Willey
Subject:	RE: FW: Saint George Spectrum eEdition Article
Date:	Wednesday, February 20, 2013 3:36:20 PM

Thanks, Seth.

From: Willey, Seth [mailto:seth_willey@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2013 4:33 PM
To: Michael Thabault; Nicole Alt; Bridget Fahey; Larry Crist; Laura Romin; Leith Edgar
Subject: Fwd: FW: Saint George Spectrum eEdition Article

Mike,

Below is some local negative UT press on PDs. Such negative press has our UT folks (Larry and Laura) thinking there might be some advantage to responding and getting our message out via our own op ed. EA is willing to work on this for us, but wants RDT blessing on the approach before putting a lot of time into it.

Any thoughts? Is this something that you would want to bring up at the coffee meeting?

Seth

****
Seth L. Willey
Regional Recovery Coordinator &
Assistant Regional ESA Chief
Mountain-Prairie Region
Seth_Willey@fws.gov
303-236-4257 (Fx) 303-236-0027
****

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Leith Edgar** <leith_edgar@fws.gov>
Date: Wed, Feb 20, 2013 at 12:19 PM
Subject: FW: Saint George Spectrum eEdition Article
To: Seth Willey <seth_willey@fws.gov>
Cc: Larry Crist <larry_crist@fws.gov>, Laura Romin <laura_romin@fws.gov>, Bridget Fahey <bridget_fahey@fws.gov>

Seth,

FYI: Since I received Bridget's out of office reply that you're acting.

Thanks,

Leith

From: Leith Edgar [mailto:leith_edgar@fws.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2013 12:17 PM
To: Bridget Fahey
Cc: Laura Romin; Larry Crist
Subject: FW: Saint George Spectrum eEdition Article

Bridget,

I missed you in the ES-RD brief yesterday. FYI: Marla and Meg, the intern you met recently, attended. It was probably an EA record for attendance.
As you are probably aware, UPD recovery by the Service and its partners continues to be under attack: the new Iron County commissioner is calling for a change in leadership (see below) and the recent bill the UT legislature is considering similarly seeks to usurp Service leadership on UPD recovery efforts (http://le.utah.gov/~2013/bills/static/SCR003.html).
There might be an opportunity here to dispel much of this misinformation, especially claims that the Service and its partners plan more than they implement, for example. Please let me know if we ought to try to set the record straight once again. If you, ES and the D/RD are on board, I can draft a general letter to the editor for UT newspapers, which all, including HQ if need be, can review before we push it to media.

Safe travels,

Leith

From: Romin, Laura [mailto:laura_romin@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2013 10:09 AM
To: Edgar, Leith
Subject: Fwd: Saint George Spectrum eEdition Article

Hi Leith - I thought this might be of interest to you...Dave Miller is the newest Iron County Commissioner.

Laura.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Bill Branham** <branham@suu.edu>
Date: Wed, Feb 20, 2013 at 8:32 AM
Subject: Fwd: Saint George Spectrum eEdition Article
To: Bill Branham <branham@suu.edu>, Chris Keleher <christopherkeleher@utah.gov>, Elizabeth Burghard <eburghar@blm.gov>, Laura Romin <laura_romin@fws.gov>, Lou Brown <loubrown@utah.gov>, Reed Erickson <reed@ironcounty.net>, Ron Rodriguez <rrodriguez01@fs.fed.us>, Teresa Griffin <teresagriffin@utah.gov>, Wes Curtis <curtis@suu.edu>

February 20 OP-Ed Cedar City Spectrum paper

Bill Branham
Utah Prairie Dog Recovery Implementation Program Coordinator

Southern Utah University
351 West University Boulevard, Adm. 111
Cedar City, Ut. 84720
(435) 865-8050 office (435) 868-8373 cell
branham@suu.edu

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **No Reply** <noreply@newsmemory.com>
Date: Wed, Feb 20, 2013 at 8:30 AM
Subject: Saint George Spectrum eEdition Article
To: branham@suu.edu

branham@suu.edu sent you this article.

Cedar City 02/20/2013, Page A05

Protect property owners in Iron County

David Miller

Southern Utah Voices

Iron County not only expects but demands constitutionally protected rightful use of private property. The injustices and adverse economic impact on Iron County and citizens perpetrated by ex post facto legislation in the name of Utah Prairie Dogs under endangered species provisions have gone on way too long.

Efforts from groups like PETPO and others have brought additional substance to this debate. As an Iron County commissioner, I will not rest until private property owners have full rightful use of their lands as protected under the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Article 1 section 22 of the Utah State Constitution.

Right now, a cooperative effort between the Iron County Commission and the Legislature has introduced Senate Concurrent Resolution 003 sponsored by Sen. Evan Vickers, and co-sponsored by Rep.

John Westwood. This resolution makes some very clear expectations regarding who should have jurisdiction for rightful land use of private property in Iron County, and it is not the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It is not even Iron County.

Rightful land use should be left to the owner of private property, and it is the sworn duty of all public officials to protect those rights.

This does not mean we subscribe to wasteful, negligent or exploitative practices regarding our precious surroundings in these beautiful areas. On the contrary, we assert we are better suited to make decisions and respond to efforts to recover prairie dogs locally and accomplish community support for the best interests of all concerned.

To be clear, in pursuit of relief and protection of rightful land use of private property, it is not the intent to impede efforts to recover Utah Prairie Dog populations in Iron County but rather to enhance and expedite it. The initiative is federally mandated and must be paid for federally. The burden of costs for these efforts must not come at the cost of Iron County citizens. The notorious fact that Utah Prairie Dogs located on private property cannot be counted toward recovery is evidence enough that the charades of stifling land use under the guise of their protection must end.

Despite statements that insinuate Iron County is demanding control for the sole survival of Utah Prairie Dogs, the fact is that we anticipate positive working relationships with those interested in recovering prairie dog populations on protected lands. The agencies involved are staffed with excellent biologists, and efforts through UPDRIP and others to develop recovery plans have improved.

However, the problem is that they are in perpetual planning mode and they need leadership, not the same old guard. It's time to get beyond planning mode and get the job done.

David Miller is an Iron County commissioner.

"Rightful land use should be left to the owner of private property, and it is the sworn duty of all public officials to protect those rights."

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