From: Hannan, Richard
To: Robyn Thorson; Renne Lohoefener; Walsh, Noreen
Cc: Vicki Finn; Robin West
Subject: Re: MOU to establish Great Basin Coordination Center
Date: Thursday, October 31, 2013 5:03:53 PM

I believe this issue centers in how the federal agencies, principally FS and BLM and FWS, coordinate in wildland fire management in the GreatBasin. BLM and FS have had 2 fire centers in the Great Basin and because of economics, etc. they can no longer afford to maintain both and, therefore, are consolidating these functions into a single center. I believe that FWS fire program reps have been engaged in the deliberations leading up to this consolidation. This is a reasonable response to the realities of the budget and with all fire response being coordinated out of one office for the Great Basin, presumably, it will be easier to coordinate across this landscape with benefits for both the agencies as well as the resources that are important, including sage grouse.

Richard Hannan
Deputy Regional Director
Pacific Region
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232-4181
503/231-6119

On Thu, Oct 31, 2013 at 3:43 PM, Robyn Thorson <robyn_thorson@fws.gov> wrote:

> Sent from my iPhone
>
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **From:** "Lohoefener, Ren" <ren_lohoefener@fws.gov>
> > **Date:** October 31, 2013, 3:29:42 PM PDT
> > **To:** Noreen Walsh <noreen_walsh@fws.gov>
> > **Cc:** Robyn Thorson <robyn_thorson@fws.gov>
> > **Subject: Re: MOU to establish Great Basin Coordination Center**
> >
> > certainly not urgent from my point of view!
> >
> > rl
> >
> > On Thu, Oct 31, 2013 at 3:19 PM, Noreen Walsh <noreen_walsh@fws.gov> wrote:
> >
> > > Thanks Ren.

Checking in with staff now – I will get back to you. Will probably take a day or two for me to respond, unless for some reason it is urgent – then let me know.

Noreen

Noreen Walsh

Regional Director

Mountain-Prairie Region

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

303 236 7920

The Mountain-Prairie Region of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service: *We provide conservation stewardship of some of America's most scenic lands, to ensure healthy fish and wildlife for the enjoyment and benefit of all people.*

From: Lohoefener, Ren [mailto:ren_lohoefener@fws.gov]
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2013 1:58 PM
To: Noreen Walsh; Robyn Thorson
Subject: MOU to establish Great Basin Coordination Center

I have on my desk an MOU that involves FWS (our 3 regions and 3 signatures, although R6 isn't identified in the MOU (but should be)), BLM, FS, NPS, BIA and NV, UT, and ID. Your signatures are required.

The MOU is to support merging the Western Great Basin Coordination Center and the Eastern Great Basin CC to a single CC in Salt Lake City. Shrinking funding is cited as the reason.

I have no reason to oppose the merger but it does seem like it should be viewed from the sage grouse conservation perspective (does this lessen, neutral, or enhance?) and since our 3 regions are involved, I wanted to make

> sure we were internally of like mind before I signed off on it.
>
> any concerns?
>
> Ren