From: Lohoefener, Ren
To: Nolin, Chris
Cc: Noreen Walsh
Subject: Re: Long-term funding needs for Sage Grouse conservation success
Date: Tuesday, January 07, 2014 12:03:49 PM

Great Chris - your strategic thoughts will be a huge help. Do you need us to make sure you get invited to the briefing or can you just show up? Just let us know.

Ren

On Tue, Jan 7, 2014 at 10:14 AM, Nolin, Chris <chris_nolin@fws.gov> wrote:

> Thanks Ren,
>
> This is helpful. I would love to be in on the meeting, as that will provide information I can use in negotiations with OMB and the Department on 2015.
>
> I am pretty sure that OMB had some extra funding for sage-grouse in our passback for 2015, but as you know passback was delayed. They may have to redo their numbers, depending on what Congress does for 2014, and how the White House reacts to that. However, the timing is right for this meeting to clarify Dan's priorities so we know how to react to passback once we get it.
>
> Director's deferred is also a possibility for 2014 and 2015, but I think Dan and Rowan would prefer to save that for emergencies, and not use it for priorities that we can anticipate. That decision will also depend on how much we can gather in other ways.
>
> I have several other thoughts, depending on how the 2014 approps bill and 2015 passback turn out. Let's keep up the dialogue.
>
> On Tue, Jan 7, 2014 at 11:56 AM, Lohoefener, Ren <ren_lohoefener@fws.gov> wrote:
>
>> Hello Chris, Happy New Year and best wishes for you and family in 2014. Has your daughter settled on a college?
>>
>> Please find attached a briefing paper we (Regions 6, 1, and 8) shared with Dan and Gary at WAFWA. This was follow up to our earlier discussions with them at the last Directorate meeting.
>>
>> We don't need to walk you through the importance of succeeding in conserving greater sage grouse - to the Administration and to the Service - with your background in ESA and OBM, you totally get it.
>>
>> We can not succeed unless we increase our level of effort and there is no way to do that without increasing staff. Obviously this is not the optimal time to be discussing staff increases!
>>
>> We parsed out the need for Dan and Gary last week. To get to where we need to be, we

need about $3.5 M for staffing by September 2014 and another $3.5M by September 2015. These are only the first two steps of a phased build up, primarily in Region 6 but also in Regions 1 and 8. Regions 1 and 8 will be working to ensure the success of the leadership of Region 6.

Dan committed to helping find the $7M. We discussed Director's deferred, potential potential difference between our planning for FY14 and actual FY14, and carry over in Headquarters.

This is a great first step, but we have to find a way to solidify long-term funding. We cannot hire the workforce needed unless we can be sure (at least as sure as you can be given congress and appropriations) of sustainability.

We recognize you as a strategic thinker and we wanted to bring you into helping find a solution as soon as possible. There is a briefing on 1/13 to bring Rowan and Steve up to speed. I think you should be at the briefing and we can make that request if we need to and if you concur.

Please call me or Noreen if you have any questions, and thanks!

Ren

--
Chris Nolin
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