From:	Debbie Schreiner
To:	Noreen Walsh
Subject:	RE: Letter from Rick Cables - Conserving Greater Sage Grouse
Date:	Tuesday, June 11, 2013 5:22:59 PM
Attachments:	Signed Letter to Rick Cables Tuttle Easement.pdf

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Here is the signed copy. I have emailed it to Rick Cables. I was just going to mail a copy to John Wessels and Helen Hankins.

From: Noreen Walsh [mailto:noreen_walsh@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2013 4:52 PM
To: Debbie Schreiner
Subject: Fwd: Letter from Rick Cables - Conserving Greater Sage Grouse

Debbie, will you copy me on PDF? I forgot I wanted to call John Wessels first, before he received his copy.

Noreen Walsh
Regional Director
Mountain-Prairie Region
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Debbie Schreiner <Debbie_Schreiner@fws.gov>
> **Date:** June 11, 2013, 12:02:31 PM EDT
> **To:** Noreen Walsh <noreen_walsh@fws.gov>
> **Subject: RE: Letter from Rick Cables - Conserving Greater Sage Grouse**
>
> Another one I haven't seen yet.
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Noreen Walsh [mailto:noreen_walsh@fws.gov]
> Sent: Friday, May 31, 2013 5:22 PM
> To: Michael Thabault
> Cc: Debbie Schreiner
> Subject: Re: Letter from Rick Cables - Conserving Greater Sage Grouse
>
> I just left you a MV at work. Looking for a response from me to Rick copying the other two, for me to sign on Thursday. I will need to call Wessels before it goes. Call if questions.
>
> Debbie please assign in DTS to ES.
>
> Noreen Walsh
> Regional Director
> Mountain-Prairie Region
> U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

On May 31, 2013, at 2:30 PM, Noreen Walsh <noreen_walsh@fws.gov> wrote:

Mike, please let's talk about whether we need to respond and what the gist is. Cables is calling me on it today.

Thanks a bunch,

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: Debbie Schreiner <Debbie_Schreiner@fws.gov>
To: Matt Hogan <matt_hogan@fws.gov>
Subject: *Letter from Rick Cables - Conserving Greater Sage

Grouse*

From: Thabault, Michael
[mailto:michael_thabault@fws.gov<michael_thabault@fws.gov>
]
Sent: Monday, May 06, 2013 11:24 AM
To: Debbie Schreiner
Cc: Nicole Alt; Matt Kales; Matt Hogan
Subject: Re: Letter from Rick Cables - Conserving Greater Sage Grouse

Matt H., lets discuss. Long story.

Michael Thabault

Assistant Regional Director

Ecological Services

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Mountain Prairie Region

303-236-4210

michael_thabault@fws.gov

On Fri, May 3, 2013 at 2:47 PM, Debbie Schreiner
<Debbie_Schreiner@fws.gov>

wrote:

Upon your review, let Matt Hogan know if this requires any immediate action.

<Ltr from Rick Cables Conserving Greater Sage Grouse.pdf> <Attachment to Cables Greater Sage Grouse Ltr.pdf>

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Mountain-Prairie Region

IN REPLY REFER TO:
FWS/R6/ES/054718

MAILING ADDRESS:
P.O. Box 25486, DFC
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

STREET LOCATION:
134 Union Boulevard
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1807

JUN 11 2013

Rick D. Cables, Director
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
1313 Sherman Street, Room 618
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Mr. Cables:

Thank you for your letter of April 26, 2013, regarding the siting of the proposed TransWest Express, Energy Gateway South and Zephyr transmission lines, and your concerns with the preliminary proposed alternative for TransWest Express that crosses the Tuttle Ranch Conservation Easement. As the Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) lead for TransWest Express and other interstate transmission lines, our Wyoming Field Office has been working with the Bureau of Land Management (Bureau), as well as other federal, state and local partners, to ensure conservation and protection of federally listed species and migratory birds within our authorities under the Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

We understand, and share, your concerns regarding the potential impacts of the preliminary alternative for TransWest Express on wildlife species and habitat resources on the Tuttle Ranch Conservation Easement. While the Service recognizes the importance under the National Environmental Policy Act that the Bureau, as the federal permitting agency for these projects, consider and evaluate a number of possible alternatives, the Service supports proposed alignments that avoid and minimize impacts to federally listed, candidate, and proposed species and their habitats, as well as other species of conservation concern, including the black-footed ferret, white-tailed prairie dog, greater sage-grouse, and big game present on the Tuttle Ranch Conservation Easement.

The Service agrees that avoiding impacts to these species and their high quality habitats within the Tuttle Ranch Conservation Easement should be a priority for TransWest Express and other proposed transmission lines. Based on a preliminary review of the information available to date, the Service agrees with the alternative selection supported by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. However, we will reserve judgment on our final decision until we have had an opportunity to review all of the information made available concerning the potential impacts of each of the

alternatives on all biological resources. We anticipate that this information will be available when the Bureau issues the Draft Environmental Impact Statement in the coming weeks.

We appreciate the efforts of Colorado Parks and Wildlife to ensure the conservation of high value wildlife species and their habitats like those found on the Tuttle Ranch Conservation Easement, and we look forward to continuing to work with you in this endeavor.

If you have any further questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact me at (303) 236-7920.

Sincerely,

Acting Regional Director

cc: BLM, Colorado State Director, Lakewood, CO (Helen Hankins)
NPS, Regional Director, Lakewood, CO (John Wessels)