From: jcsagegrouse@aol.com
To: noreen_walsh@fws.gov
Cc: virgil.moore@idfg.idaho.gov
Subject: Re: information from Pat Deibert
Date: Wednesday, February 13, 2013 10:47:27 AM

Dear Noreen,

I'm not sure that I understand your message. If you are saying that some individuals will be listed as authors (and I will not be one of them) and COT members will be acknowledged elsewhere in the document for "providing information, participating in discussions and debates, reviewing and editing" then that is fine and thank you. However, if you are indicating that the COT will be identified either directly or indirectly as authoring this document and members of this team will be identified later in the document (this was the approach used in the draft) then that is not acceptable to me. I would appreciate some clarification.

My lack of support is not, as you seem to imply, due to a lack of consensus on every issue. Rather, I am deeply concerned about inconsistencies in logic, application of the concepts of resiliency, redundancy, etc., use of inappropriate examples of "successful" conservation efforts (e.g., dunes sagebrush lizard and lesser prairie chicken), unsupported assertions, special treatment for a single state, and many ambiguous statements. Additionally, after considerable effort to address the reviewers' comments a final draft was completed by USFWS personnel and, I assume, sent to you. I never had a chance to review this final document and so do not know if the concerns were adequately addressed.

Jack Connelly
Principal Wildlife Research Biologist
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Northwest Section Representative to The Wildlife Society
83 West 215 North
Blackfoot, ID 83221
208/785-4220 (office)
208/681-1414 (cell)
-----Original Message-----
From: Noreen Walsh <noreen_walsh@fws.gov>
To: jcsagegrouse <jcsagegrouse@aol.com>
Cc: Virgil Moore <virgil.moore@idfg.idaho.gov>
Sent: Tue, Feb 12, 2013 4:51 pm
Subject: RE: information from Pat Deibert

Jack,

Thank you for your note. I understand from it that you do not wish to be listed as an author but you did not resign from the team. The final report will not list you as an author. It will list the members of the team, and will note that members of the team contributed to the overall effort in a variety of ways, such as providing information, participating in discussions and debates, reviewing and editing.

In a process such as this, with the number of scientists involved, it seems that it is highly unlikely that complete consensus on each and every issue. I thank you for your contribution to the robust discussions and debates I know the team undertook.

Sincerely,
Noreen

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

303 236 7920

From: jcsagegrouse@aol.com [mailto:jcsagegrouse@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2013 11:18 AM
To: noreen_walsh@fws.gov
Subject: information from Pat Deibert

Dear Noreen,

The brief e-mail from Pat Deibert to me (below) suggests some clarification is needed. Several months ago when the drat of the COT report was finalized and sent for peer-review I told Pat that I did not believe the draft was a very high quality effort and thus I did not want to be listed as an author. I had done my best at the time to try to and make the document rigorous and scientifically defensible. Unfortunately, I fell far short of this goal, and thus my request to Pat. Pat's response to me indicated I had resigned from the COT even though I did not offer to resign. Regardless, my name remained on the draft report and I was subsequently embarrassed when two peer reviewers asked me why I was associated with such poor quality document. I did not respond then to Pat's claim that I resigned because I thought the COT was nearing an end. However, the peer reviews supported my belief that the COT report was a poor product and much more work was in store for the COT.

Because much more work was needed on the COT report, the state of Idaho asked me to re-engage with the COT and I was happy to comply. Now after months of additional work the COT report will be submitted. During this period I again tried to point out inconsistencies in logic, the weakness of using concepts of resiliency, redundancy, etc., use of inappropriate examples of "successful" conservation efforts (e.g., dunes sagebrush lizard and lesser prairie chicken), unsupported assertions, special treatment for a single state, and various examples of ambiguity. Again, I was not overly successful in convincing USFWS participants that the document was seriously flawed. Still, time was up and the report must be submitted so I again told Pat that I do not wish to be listed as an author. My exact wording to Pat on 23 January was "Pat-I still have fundamental problems with this report and do not wish to have my name associated with it as an author. Also Don Kemner from IDFG helped on this as well. I suggest you have an acknowledgment section where you thank the reviewers and there you can thank Don and me for critical review, etc." Again on 30 January I reiterated the request by saying "On an important and related issue, **I do not wish to be listed as an author of this document**. Despite efforts to improve it, the report still falls far short of being a high quality scientific document and the COT is out of time to fix anything else, if that were even possible. So, to be perfectly clear, either **remove my name as a member of COT (on the last page) if you continue to indicate the Conservation Objectives Team as the author of this report** *or* (better in my mind) **list those individuals as authors that wish to be authors and indicate that the efforts of these authors were guided by advice and insight provided by members of the COT**." The important point here is that I did not resign from the COT, I simply asked to

have my name removed from authorship. I am still willing to help the COT with additional deliberations and revisions. Unfortunately, this entire process has led me to believe that the USFWS was much more interested in validation by, and not collaboration with, the states on the report. If you would like to discuss my concerns in more detail, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jack Connelly
Principal Wildlife Research Biologist
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Northwest Section Representative to The Wildlife Society
83 West 215 North
Blackfoot, ID 83221
208/785-4220 (office)
208/681-1414 (cell)

-----Original Message-----
From: Deibert, Pat <pat_deibert@fws.gov>
To: jcsagegrouse <jcsagegrouse@aol.com>
Sent: Wed, Jan 30, 2013 5:38 pm
Subject: Re: New version of part 6

Jack - your resignation request was sent to Noreen last Thursday.

Pat

Pat Deibert
National Sage-grouse Conservation Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5353 Yellowstone Road, Suite 308A
Cheyenne, WY 82009
307-772-2374, ext. 226

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