From:	Stein, Theodore
To:	Noreen Walsh
Subject:	Re: GRSG: CED outreach
Date:	Tuesday, December 16, 2014 9:27:22 AM
Attachments:	GRSG_CED_Reminder_letter_v(3).docx

Dang it!
I had the wrong version on my desktop
The last suggestion he made was in this paragraph

This week, Congress passed a spending bill that includes specific provisions for greater sage-grouse. These provisions limit the Services' ability to publish rules regarding sage-grouse, but do not affect our ability to develop, implement, and analyze conservation efforts to support the species. **That means we must transition from the process of data collection to data analysis to determine if "warranted" is still the appropriate designation for the species.**

Theo Stein
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(303) 859-4930 - c
Theodore_Stein@fws.gov

On Tue, Dec 16, 2014 at 9:16 AM, Noreen Walsh <noreen_walsh@fws.gov> wrote:

> Thanks; did you decide to drop Mike's addition?
>
> 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: Stein, Theodore [mailto:theodore_stein@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2014 9:14 AM
To: Noreen Walsh
Subject: GRSG: CED outreach

Noreen

The doc is living in sharepoint - below - for reasons of version control

https://portal.doi.net/usfws/SG/docs/GRSG_CED_Reminder_letter_v(3).docx

The same version is attached for your convenience.

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Mountain-Prairie Region

Dear Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Partner:

We are writing to you to encourage you to submit data about your conservation efforts that benefit greater sage-grouse to our online Conservation Efforts Database and to ask you to contact us if you are having any difficulty in doing so.

As you know, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is in the process of evaluating the status of the greater sage-grouse *(Centrocercus urophasianus)*, to determine the need for potential listing as a threatened species or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.)*. The greater sage-grouse was designated as a candidate species on March 23, 2010 (75 FR 13910). The Service has been working to meet a court-approved settlement agreement deadline of September 30, 2015 to determine if the species still warrants protection under the ESA.

This week, Congress passed a spending bill that includes specific provisions for greater sage-grouse. These provisions limit the Services' ability to publish rules regarding sage-grouse, but do not affect our ability to develop, implement, and analyze conservation efforts to support the species. **That means we must transition from the process of data collection to data analysis to determine if "warranted" is still the appropriate designation for the species.**

We know that many of you have completed or will soon complete projects and plans that benefit greater sage-grouse. One of the biggest challenges in evaluating the status of the greater sage-grouse is the sheer volume of data that has been and will be generated by our conservation partners -- an unprecedented number of projects, plans and other efforts throughout the 11-state range of greater sage-grouse.

We need your help in capturing this information so that we can understand how your efforts have addressed threats to the species. Under the ESA, we are required to accept all information submitted prior to our decision, but the practical reality is that the earlier we receive it, the more fully we will be able to integrate it into our decision-making process. We are therefore encouraging you to submit data about your conservation efforts as soon as possible into our online Conservation Efforts Database (CED), **no later than January 15, 2015.**

The CED is a secure, online database that allows for multiple users to enter data at different scales, upload documents and spatial information, and link conservation actions to one or more threats. Conservation Plans, on-the-ground projects, tabular data from existing data sets, spatial data, and documentation of the data sources can all be entered in the CED (which is housed on the data sharing platform, LC Map).

To register and provide data, as well as locate additional information about the CED, please visit: https://conservationefforts.org.

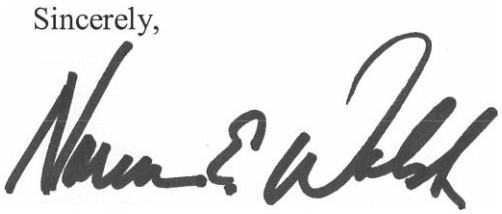
We also recognize that not all of our partners will be able to fulfill this request by January 15, 2015. Under the ESA, the Service is required to - and in fact will - consider all the information received up to the point of our decision. However, the nature of how we consider information and how it is incorporated in our analysis may be affected by when the Service receives that information.

If you are unable to complete data entry in the CED by January 15th, or if you are experiencing difficulty in doing so, please contact us so that we may try to assist you.

Kathy Hollar at Kathy_Hollar@fws.gov, 503-231-6156; or,
Lief Wiechman at Lief_Wiechman@fws.gov, 307-772-2374, x236

Thank you for your assistance in providing the Service with the best scientific and commercial data available to help us complete our status review.

Sincerely,



Noreen Walsh
Director, Mountain-Prairie Region