From: Lyons, James
To: Steven Ellis; Neil Kornze; Sarah Greenberger; Noreen Walsh; Chris Iverson
Subject: Re: Meeting with the states on GSG
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 8:35:48 AM

Re: State directors' involvement in the SGTF meeting.

My thinking was that the State directors -- and relevant FS leadership -- provide the overview/briefings re: their individual plans as a part of the webinars. We know that the BLM state directors have worked closely with their individual states, so this would simply be an opportunity to present their plans to the other states who participate in the webinar. (Same is true for states who would share their plans with the other BLM state directors via the webinar.) This would reduce the need for travel while providing the essential background for the conversation that will occur at the SGTF meeting.

I do not expect these discussions will lead to a renegotiation of each state plan. Instead, the goal here is to exchange information about plans, to share ideas and approaches used in each state and BLM plan for addressing conservation threats, and to provide a "big picture" view of what the state and federal plans are starting to look like.

If too many people are at the table for these discussions, I fear that the conversation will go on and the opportunity to get an overview of the federal and state plans, at this point, will be lost. That is, this is to be a conversation about "regional" approaches to dealing with GSG threats and not a discussion of the nuances of individual plans.

Jim

On Tue, Sep 16, 2014 at 8:21 AM, Steven Ellis <sellis@blm.gov> wrote:

> Jim,
> This sounds like a reasonable way to approach the state's engagement with us. Virgil's support will be helpful. As Neil mentioned, the State Director's role should be articulated.
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> On Sep 15, 2014, at 3:05 PM, "Lyons, James" <james_lyons@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
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>> In an attempt to resolve concerns and conflicting scheduled, as well as reduce travel costs for a large number of people, I am suggesting that we engage the states in discussions regarding the BLM/FS and state GSG plans in the following, two-step, manner.
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>> 1. I suggest, as a number of you have proposed, that we plan on conversations with the states on the afternoon of October 8th and the day of the 9th, immediately following the Sage Grouse Task Force meeting in Denver. We can split the meeting between Great Basin and Rocky Mountain plans as we have done for the federal family meetings to try to focus the conversation.
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>> 2. In order to reduce the amount of time required for explanation of the plans in this meeting, I would proposed we set up two webinars --one for each region -- in which the feds and the states can provide an overview of their plans for the SGTF members. These webinars could be scheduled for the week of Sept 22 and Sept 29 at a time that would work for the OR, ID, NV, and UT state

directors and, the MT, WY, and CO directors, relevant FS personnel, and the appropriate state reps. Assuming each state presentation (Fed + state) was one hour long, we could do each of these in 1/2 day to set the stage for discussion when we meet in Denver.

This is the best I can do given parameters provided. We have committed to have face-to-face discussions with the states. We know that the state directors have already had conversations with their state counterparts, so there should be little mystery with regard to the content of each others' plans. So, I do not believe that the state BLM directors need to be involved in the face to face discussions. However, as you recall from our contentious meeting in Denver, we committed to meet face-to-face. If we don't have this scheduled before the next SGTF meeting, I hesitate to think about the "chemistry" in the room when the leadership sit down on the 7th and 8th.

I do not know if this will work for the states, although Virgil was OK with this arranged.

I need your reactions ASAP so that I can check with the states and put this in motion.

Thank you.

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Jim Lyons
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Land and Minerals Management
Jim_Lyons@ios.doi.gov
202-208-4318 (direct)
202-815-4412 (mobile)

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202-815-4412 (mobile)