From: Brent Ralston
To: Baxter, Rick -FS; Lisa Solberg Schwab; Christopher Keefe; Bode, Pam -FS; Alex Schubert; Quincy Bahr; Ronald Bolander; Rodriguez, Ron -FS; Laura Romin; Scott Hoefer; Paul Makela; Mickelsen, Robert -FS; Jason Pyron; sharphay@att.net; Melvin (Joe) Tague; Steve Abele; Joan Suther; Glenn Frederick; jeff_dillon@fws.gov
Cc: Malengo, Katherine -FS; Colt, Chris J -FS
Subject: RE: GSG Subregional BAs, Consult initation leter with list
Date: Tuesday, September 17, 2013 11:39:05 AM

Rick,

I appreciate all your work on the consultation aspect of this enormous planning effort. I wanted to drop you a quick note and shoulder the blame regarding the Consultation Initiation Letter. Chris had done a wonderful job getting that compiled and nearly ready to send and it was up to me to get it vetted through the final steps to actually send out. I misunderstood the timeframes and the initial need and so did not move this as rapidly as I should have. It is now undergoing our final look and we will be working to get that out within the next week or so. So I dropped this ball and don't want to be silent, implying the failure is somewhere with Forest Service or Fish and Wildlife Service. I apologize for any delay this created and I'll work to get this back on track.

Brent Ralston
Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Lead
Idaho and Southwestern Montana Subregion
Idaho State Office
208-373-3812

From: Baxter, Rick -FS [mailto:rbaxter@fs.fed.us]
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2013 12:32 PM
To: lsolbergschwab@blm.gov; ckeefe@blm.gov; Bode, Pam -FS; alex_schubert@fws.gov; qfbahr@blm.gov; Bolander, Ron (rbolande@blm.gov); Rodriguez, Ron -FS; laura_romin@fws.gov; bralston@blm.gov; shoefer@blm.gov; pmakela@blm.gov; Mickelsen, Robert -FS; jason_pyron@fws.gov; sharphay@att.net; jtague@blm.gov; steve_abele@fws.gov; jsuther@blm.gov; gfrederick@blm.gov; jeff_dillon@fws.gov
Cc: Malengo, Katherine -FS; Colt, Chris J -FS
Subject: GSG Subregional BAs, Consult initation leter with list

All:

I am writing this email as a follow up to the communication you received from Chris Colt regarding our work together on the upcoming Biological Assessments associated with the Greater Sage-Grouse sub-regional EISs. **First**, I've attached a BA template for you to review. There are many ways to format the BA and address the listed species, we hope this will largely suffice. Please let me know of any comments, revisions, or edits you would like to see made.

Second, we wanted to make sure that you folks from the USFWS received your Consultation Initiation Letter with the attached species list, in order to ensure the process is moving forward. Please let me know if you have not received those documents and we'll do what we can to get them to you as soon as possible.

We look forward to a close working relationship with each of you as we proceed through the consultation process!

Rick Baxter

Rick Baxter
Wildlife Biologist
USDA Forest Service
TEAMS Enterprise Unit
496 West 1430 South, Payson, UT 84651
Cell: 559-920-4676
Conf. Line: 888-858-2144 Passcode: 4007965

Visit us today at: www.fs.fed.us/teams

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