From: Kelly, Katherine
To: Noreen Walsh
Cc: Gary Frazer; Sarah Greenberger
Subject: Re: Final review of fact sheet
Date: Wednesday, April 29, 2015 10:07:02 AM

Thanks. Made those changes.

On Wed, Apr 29, 2015 at 10:43 AM, Noreen Walsh <noreen_walsh@fws.gov> wrote:

> I think the doc is really well done. I know you are not looking for wordsmithing. I suggest three minor changes that I believe would help improve the meaning in very key areas that various audiences will key in on:
>
> First, I suggest adding this last sentence to the mitigation bullet. Otherwise the bullet does not at all explain how mitigation fits under the heading "Improve Habitat Condition" which will be a question of critical readers.
>
> - **Mitigation** – Consistent with valid existing rights and applicable law, the BLM will require and ensure mitigation that provides a net conservation gain to the species by avoiding, minimizing and mitigating for unavoidable impacts from development. Compensatory mitigation will be designed to enhance and improve priority habitats.
>
> Secondly, I recommend moving the commitment to prioritize reviews up to the front of the grazing bullet, and explicitly stating that best available science will drive "locally developed management objectives" and "rangeland health standards." Very polarized audiences are looking to understand how the plans address rangeland health; I suggest this because I think it is a little more balanced.
>
> - **Livestock Grazing** – Properly managed grazing is not identified as a threat to the sage-grouse. Livestock grazing and sage-grouse conservation are compatible when sustainable grazing practices are employed that provide essential sage-grouse habitats. The BLM and USFS will prioritize monitoring for compliance, review, and processing of grazing permits in Sagebrush Focal Areas, followed by Priority Habitat Management Areas, with a focus on lands containing riparian areas and wet meadows. During grazing permit renewals and modifications on lands within sage-grouse habitat, the BLM will use the best available science to incorporate locally developed management objectives for sage-grouse habitat and rangeland health standards consistent with ecological potential.

Lastly, could you replace “dramatic” with “identified threshold” to indicate that adaptive management will kick in before population extirpation is likely? I think that is true to the intent of the plans.

- **Adaptive Management –** In response to the aforementioned monitoring and evaluation, the plans may be adjusted based on a series of pre-determined benchmarks and actions developed with state wildlife agencies to ensure there is an immediate, corrective response to any ~~dramatic~~ identified threshold declines in population or habitat.

Thanks very much for the chance to have input.

Noreen

Noreen Walsh

Regional Director

Mountain-Prairie Region

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

303 236 7920

From: Frazer, Gary [mailto:gary_frazer@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2015 6:21 AM
To: Kelly, Katherine
Cc: Noreen Walsh; Sarah Greenberger
Subject: Re: Final review of fact sheet

Just one edit from me, in the definition of Sagebrush Focal Area on pg 2.

I also forwarded to Noreen for a look. -- GDF

Gary Frazer

Assistant Director -- Ecological Services

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

(202) 208-4646

On Tue, Apr 28, 2015 at 8:23 PM, Kelly, Katherine <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

There have been additional edits to this fact sheet over the past few days; I want to make sure that everyone has a chance for a final look at the updated version.

[caveat: we are still working on the grazing section language. I will circulate a final when we're in agreement there.]

The plan is for this fact sheet be hosted on BLM and USFS websites as early as tomorrow afternoon.

This version has undergone many reviews, so this is not a time for word-tinkering; rather, please let me know if there are any fatal flaws or need for discussion.

Thanks,

Kate

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Kate Kelly
Senior Advisor
Department of the Interior
(202) 208 2409
kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov

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Kate Kelly
Senior Advisor
Department of the Interior
(202) 208 2409
kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov