From:	Bean, Michael
To:	Noreen Walsh
Cc:	Dan Ashe
Subject:	Re: end result of TF call on metrics today.
Date:	Monday, January 13, 2014 3:43:22 PM
Attachments:	BLM Greater Sage Grouse Initative Governance_Draft_01132013 er (2).docx

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Noreen: You summarized the discussion well. The concern that Utah and Wyoming seem to have is that the quantitative measures proposed by FWS will, in practice, turn out to be of pivotal importance in the listing decision, even though those states believe there is other qualitative information that is also important, as well as contextual information that might be useful in understanding the quantitative information. I think the best course for FWS is to continue to emphasize that its proposed quantitative measures is an important -- but not the only important -- data need. Thus, the states should be encouraged to provide at least that data, but invited to submit whatever additional or explanatory data they think is useful.

One related item: you will recall that some BLM leaders, at their recent NCTC retreat, expressed uncertainty regarding who their FWS counterparts were. Attached is a BLM "Sage Grouse Governance" chart (essentially an org chart) that sets out the BLM hierarchy with respect to sage grouse. I think they would like to have FWS produce a counterpart chart. Note in particular the position of "National Sage Grouse Project Manager." This reflects Jim's suggestion that BLM (and FWS) have a project manager whose sole responsibility is to keep on track the various sage grouse activities. Jim sent me the document, but whether BLM has agreed to it, I do not know.

On Mon, Jan 13, 2014 at 4:20 PM, Noreen Walsh <noreen_walsh@fws.gov> wrote:

> In the end, I said we need any additional comments on the list of 34 metrics by Friday, and will send them our final list by early next week.
>
> There was a big push for us to take information beyond that. I said that if information comes to us after, that suggests we got something wrong in this list, or that will improve how we can roll common metrics up at a rangewide scale, I will of course consider that but we need to move on now.
>
> After next week, we will then continue our efforts to build a data collection system that will inform our needs for the listing process (i. e. , our Conservation Efforts Database) and the work that WY and UT have done could possibly be valuable to us as we craft that overall structure of a database, so we appreciate them sharing their state tracking approaches.
>
> We plan to ask a state or two and BLM and NRCS to work with us on completing that

creation of a database so that our approach jives to the extent possible with work being done by others. In the end, it must help us meet our need to make a defensible decision in 2015, which will rest on the degree to which the threats have been reduced since 2010.

Michael, please chime in with your reactions.

Thanks,

Noreen

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.*

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Michael J. Bean

Counselor to the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Room 3152, Department of the Interior

Washington, DC 20240

202-208-4416

202-208-4684 (fax)

michael_bean@ios.doi.gov

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Greater Sage Grouse Initiative Governance

Executive Leadership – Edwin Roberson, Assistant Director Resources and Planning

Responsibility: Executive oversight of the process for developing regulatory mechanisms across the range of the Greater sage-grouse for the BLM, coordinates with USFWS and USFS executive leadership, and supervises the National Sage Grouse Project Manager.

National Sage Grouse Project Manager– To be Named

Responsibility: Agency point of contact for the BLM national sage grouse initiative. Responsible for overall project management, including the coordination and development of national sage grouse initiative policies. Oversees the implementation of national policy and coordination between the Washington Office divisions and staff, and the Great Basin and Rocky Mountain regional coordinators. Advisor and consultant to the National Policy Team and Land Manager's Group to ensure that direction and decisions of both teams are incorporated into the regional management team planning direction. Works closely with national level partners to support the planning efforts of the two regions and to maintain an appropriate level of consistency.

Division Chief – Decision, Support, Planning and NEPA – Joe Stout

Responsibility: Planning and NEPA guidance and oversight and direction for timely completion of the 15 separate EISs being conducted as part of the national strategy.

Division Chief – Fish and Wildlife Conservation – Steve Small

Responsibility: Provides guidance and scientific support for the Greater sage grouse and their habitat.

Rocky Mountain Regional Executive — Donald Simpson, Wyoming State Director

Regional Project Manager– Johanna Munson

Great Basin Regional Executive– Amy Lueders, Nevada State Director

Regional Project Manager– Lauren Mermejo