From:	Welch, Ruth
To:	Noreen Walsh
Cc:	Ruth Welch; Gregory Shoop
Subject:	Re: GRSG: a question remaining from last week
Date:	Monday, September 15, 2014 5:46:54 PM

Hi Noreen,

Thank you for the insights and discussion last week. It was really helpful to us as we head down the final stretch. And while your answers to our complex questions may not be what we'd all like, it is helpful as we move forward. I felt very positive after the meeting, more so that in meetings past. That we really discussed the sticking points and we all have a better understanding of the our agency's challenges. We are in this together!

The WR RMP Amendment will continue to defer leasing in the PPH. So no, the areas currently closed will remain closed. The RMP does put more stipulations on any leasing that would occur in General habitat for GrSG, and also additional protections for all other species such as mule deer.

I would really like for us all to get together. My October is similarly booked. How about early November. I have Colorado Leadership team meeting that last week a BLM Executive Leadership Team the week of the 20th. So if we could look at November that would be great. Also, my new Associate, Greg Shoop, will be here, and I would very much like for you all to meet him and for him to be part of our conversation.

Thank you! I'll look forward to seeing you and Dan soon.

Ruth

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On Mon, Sep 15, 2014 at 1:27 PM, Noreen Walsh <noreen_walsh@fws.gov> wrote:

> Hello Ruth,
>
> Thanks to you and Bridget for the thorough overview of the BLM – CO sage grouse plan last week; it was very helpful to hear your description of the plan and to go through your summary table. One question arose for me since then, that I was hoping you might be able to help with:
>
> If the White River Oil and Gas RMP amendment will be finalized soon, prior to completing the NEPA process and Northwest Colorado plan for sage-grouse conservation, what will happen to leasing that has been deferred during the White River Amendment process? Will

BLM continue to defer leasing in PPH and PGH until the five RMPs for sage-grouse conservation in Northwest Colorado (including White River) are also finalized, or will those currently deferred areas be open for leasing during the interim?

Thanks for any clarity you can provide.

On another topic, based on our conversation I am also going to ask my assistant Debbie to start work with your assistant and Dan Jiron's to find a time where we and our deputies can have an informal coordination meeting. We would be happy to host it here. I think late October might be the earliest we could realistically make it work, but it will be good to get it on a calendar.

Many thanks,
Noreen

Noreen Walsh

Regional Director

Mountain-Prairie Region

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