From: Matt Kales
To: Noreen Walsh
Subject: Fwd: GRSG: DQA question
Date: Friday, March 27, 2015 3:15:16 PM

FYI for now. Will still make sure we deliver a formal summary product but just in case you need this on the fly. Thanks.

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Paul Souza <paul_souza@fws.gov>
> **Date:** March 27, 2015 at 3:12:18 PM MDT
> **To:** "Alt, Nicole" <nicole_alt@fws.gov>
> **Cc:** Matt Kales <matt_kales@fws.gov>, Roger Helm <roger_helm@fws.gov>
> **Subject: Re: GRSG: DQA question**
>
> Thanks Nicole . . . I haven't seen the challenges but I assume they are under the Information Quality Act. Roger Helm is our agency's Acting Scientific Integrity Officer, and I assume the challenges will come to him for review. In addition, given that other DOI bureaus received challenges as well, I suspect that Roger will work with other bureau Scientific Integrity Officers to ensure the challenges are reviewed and coordinated as appropriate.
>
> If you'd like to learn more about our IQA guidelines, please visit . . .
>
> http://www.fws.gov/informationquality/
>
> I've also cc'd Roger if you'd like more information.
>
> Best,
>
> Paul Souza
> Assistant Director
> Science Applications
> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
> Department of the Interior
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> Washington, DC 20240
> 202-208-7165 (Office)
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>
> On Mar 25, 2015, at 7:25 PM, Alt, Nicole <nicole_alt@fws.gov> wrote:
>
>> Hey Paul.

I have a tasking from Noreen on DQA issues in general and a specific incoming regarding sage-grouse. I am not sure who the national contact is for these anymore. We have a meeting with the SG Task Force next week and I believe Noreen would like to be prepared if she receives a question on this DQA issue. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

1. Do you know whether there is a short summary regarding how these are handled? A briefing paper, fact sheet or a paragraph would be enough.
2. More specifically, can you or someone else provide a status update on this particular issue noted below?

COALITION CHALLENGES SAGE GROUSE SCIENCE. The Salem (OR) Capital Press (3/24, 113K) reports that "a coalition of western counties and ranching, mining and energy associations filed three formal challenges this week against the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Geological Survey challenging the reports the agencies are using to make public lands and endangered species listing decisions for greater sage grouse." The coalition claims "the agencies are using selective and flawed science to justify top-down restrictive measures that will damage western communities in sage grouse habitat while discouraging more effective state and local conservation efforts."

Nicole Alt
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