From:	Deibert, Pat
To:	Kevin Doherty; Lief Wiechman; James Lindstrom; Lara Juliusson
Subject:	GRSG: mapping write-up
Date:	Thursday, March 26, 2015 12:42:19 PM
Attachments:	Species report mapping updates wyoming and montana.docx

---

Hello all -

In an attempt to document our decisions on mapping (and provide supporting information for the metadata) I have drafted the following memo to the file. Please review and make sure I have correctly and accurately reflected the decisions. Please feel free to provide any corrections and return.

Thanks!

pat

--
Pat Deibert, PhD
Certified Wildlife Biologist®
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5353 Yellowstone Road, Suite 308A
Cheyenne, WY 82009
307-772-2374, ext. 226

got leks?

Draft summary – provided for review and not to be considered final

To: GRSG mapping file for species report
From: Pat Deibert
Date: March 26, 2015
Subject: Changes to the status review map regarding Wyoming and Montana

As part of the review of the greater sage-grouse distribution model developed by Kevin Doherty (FWS), Kevin reached out to states where his model extended beyond the range of the species as described by WAFWA in 2014. In Wyoming the discussion resulted in also receiving a new shapefile from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department on March 24, 2015 that deviated from the range map currently being considered for the species report. After conferring with Tom Christiansen (sage-grouse coordinator) and Nyssa Whitford (GIS specialist), both employed by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, we determined that the range adjustments in Wyoming were the result of a collaborative effort within their agency to improve the accuracy of the range map in Wyoming. Consultations within Wyoming Game and Fish occurred with their local wildlife biologists and game wardens, and in many cases the local BLM and FS biologists. In one case a local working group was consulted (Jackson). The resulting map produced by Wyoming Game and Fish was the best estimate of sage-grouse range in the state of Wyoming.

We determined that the new Wyoming range map would be used in our species report analyses as it constitutes the best available science as provided by the State of Wyoming.

We also were made aware (March 25, 2015) of the availability of a new range map for the State of Montana, as derived by Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, and available on their web page. We considered also using this map for our species report analyses (including modeling), but were informed on March 26, 2015 that BLM-MT disagreed with the state's map and the two entities were in negotiation to resolve. We therefore reverted to the existing range map in MT for our species report analyses.

As part of our internal discussions to make final determinations on which range map would be the final one used for modeling and GIS analyses (and therefore the species report), we determined that any delays after March 25, 2015 would preclude our ability to complete the necessary analyses to inform our species report. Therefore the map finalized on March 26, 2015 will be the range map used for these purposes.

We acknowledge that the range map within each state and range-wide may have future additional changes. We will review any new mapping information, and any necessary updates will only be assessed qualitatively in our species report, including any potential future changes in Montana.

In working with the states within the range of the greater sage-grouse on the distribution model we did not receive any additional information that other states had updated the species range maps. Additionally, no state submitted updated range maps during our August 2014 data call for data for the species report, nor did any state express concern with the range map used for collecting conservation efforts in our on-line conservation efforts database. Therefore, the final adjustments made to the range map for the species report will be limited to those jointly determined between Kevin Doherty and state biologists relative to Kevin's distribution model, and those presented by Wyoming Game and Fish Department. No further adjustments will be made quantitatively after March 25, 2015. Should an extension be granted by either Congress or the courts on the decision date for the listing determination (currently Sept. 30, 2015), we will re-visit this information to determine if updates are needed.