From: Alt, Nicole
To: Carrier, Michael
Cc: Theresa Rabot; Jesse DElia; Matt Kales
Subject: Re: GRSG: Congressional QFRs
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 3:22:19 PM

Thanks Mike. I'm going to assume a lack of response from Terry is acquiescence and make the changes you suggest. Speak now if there is an issue.

Nicole

Nicole Alt
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On Wed, Mar 25, 2015 at 1:20 PM, Carrier, Michael <michael_carrier@fws.gov> wrote:

> Terry and Nicole,
>
> The first sentence makes reference to the State Lands Department Plan that we are currently reviewing and continue to comment to IDL and is not expected to be adopted until late May.
>
> Regarding the first question, (GSD1), we were referring to "additional" executive orders that the Governor's Office has advised us it is preparing. We have not seen the contents but assume it directs state agencies to work with private landowners to voluntarily support the Idaho SG conservation plan. So I recommend that either the reference to executive orders be dropped to the work "additional" precede it.
>
> I don't know where the last sentence came from. IFWO did not offer it in our suggested language. However, the GSD2 question is correct and the last sentence is accurate. Idaho has no regulatory plan for private lands and we do not expect one - only voluntary cooperation and RFPAs. My recommendation would be to leave the second to last sentence in but change the last sentence to be more responsive to what the Representative is asking. Something along the lines of:
>
> "A clear and timely indication of what measures and mechanisms the State of Idaho plans to utilize to promote sage-grouse conservation on private lands would be very beneficial."
>
> Mike
>
> On Wed, Mar 25, 2015 at 12:25 PM, Theresa Rabot <theresa_rabot@fws.gov> wrote:
>
>> Definitely need to update the state plan sentence since we did get one.
>>
>> Will get the revised language to you COB

From: Alt, Nicole [mailto:nicole_alt@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 11:18 AM
To: Terry Rabot; Jesse DElia; Michael Carrier
Cc: Matt Kales
Subject: GRSG: Congressional QFRs

DOI had two questions regarding the draft response you provided. I need to get back to HQ today whether we have alternate language or if we want to push back on the comments. Please review and let me know whether you have changes or if you'd like to leave the response as is. Thanks.

Simpson Q5: It is my understanding that Idaho has a good plan that has been commended by both BLM and USFWS. Does the state and private lands portion still need work and if so, what can be done to help them on those lands to prevent a listing?

Answer: The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) has prepared a draft sage-grouse conservation plan for its 2.5 million acres of State endowment lands, half of which contain sage-grouse habitat. The FWS and BLM are actively engaged with the State to further revise its draft plan to achieve sage-grouse conservation. With regard to private lands, leadership from the Governor, via support for Rural Fire Protection Associations, executive orders[GSD1] , and other State resources, has been and will continue to be very important. Additionally, the FWS and the Natural Resource Conservation Service continue to engage private landowners in Idaho to raise awareness of and facilitate participation in Federal partnerships to conserve sage-grouse and sustain working landscapes. The State of Idaho has not provided the FWS a final plan to conserve sage-grouse on private land. Therefore, we cannot comment on the merits of such a plan at this time.[GSD2]

[GSD1]It would be good to be able to describe what the order did, Is there any but the one creating the task force that developed a “state plan” that is implemented mostly through the BLM and USFS planning effort?

[GSD2]I am not sure what this refers to? The fact that the state has proposed no regulatory plan for private lands (only voluntary BMPs and the fire protection associations)? Or that the state plan for state/private lands is not final?

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