From:	Hansen, Craig
To:	FW6 Sage-grouse FMT
Cc:	Nicole Alt; Kate Norman; Theresa Rabot; Mary Grim; Pat Deibert; Lief Wiechman; Matt Kales; Jesse DElia
Subject:	GRSG 2015 | Request for FO assistance & expertise reviewing "other" conservation plans
Date:	Friday, March 27, 2015 6:30:24 PM

Hello FMT Project Leaders -

We are ready to begin reviewing conservation plans to help inform our status review for the greater sage-grouse. To help this review, we require the local expertise of our biologists in the field who may have worked with our partners to develop or review these important plans. The review effort for *plans* is similar to the recently completed effort to review conservation *projects* that our partners entered into the Conservation Efforts Database (CED).

We will first focus our review on the following types of conservation plans:

- State;
- Local (County, city, etc.); and
- Other Federal, non-BLM, non-USFS, and non-NRCS planning efforts.

This Conservation Plan Review team, with at least one biologist from each State, will:

- Update information for your State's planning efforts, based on your previous collaboration, reviews, and any correspondence;
- Review the conservation *plans* that our partners entered into CED using a process similar to that used for *projects*; and
- Provide information for any other important conservation planning efforts that may be missing from the CED.

This team's efforts, combined with the evaluation of CED projects and our upcoming review of BLM, USFS, and NRCS planning efforts, will inform multiple chapters within the Species Report to describe how conservation plans and their associated regulatory and non-regulatory components may be removing or reducing threats within Management Zones (MZs) and across the landscape. This is an important step to document our review of conservation plans in the record.

Task and Resources

- We ask that you assign **at least 1** member of your staff who has knowledge of sagebrush conservation and planning efforts to assist our review of conservation plans for your respective state.
    - The CED Team will then consolidate these reviews by MZ for further analysis and incorporation into the Species Report.
    - We recognize that the same biologist helping us review the CED data for projects

may or may not be the appropriate person or available to assist with this task.

- We have consolidated all of the information needed for this review on a new page within the Species Report SharePoint site. We have also developed an Excel worksheet table prepopulated with data from the CED to streamline the reviews. These resources are available on the Species Report SharePoint at the following URL:
  - https://portal.doi.net/usfws/SG/PlansRegMech/Forms/PlansRegMechState.aspx.
  - (*COPY AND PASTE SHAREPOINT LINKS INTO INTERNET EXPLORER*)

- Craig Hansen (Craig_Hansen@fws.gov, 303-236-4749) of Region 6 will host webinars before **Friday April 4, 2015**, to demonstrate how to enter data and evaluate plans using the worksheet table. We will also discuss this effort on Thursday's FMT call.

- Craig is also available at any time to answer questions and to facilitate communication between the biologists evaluating conservation efforts, the threat-chapter authors writing the species report, the species leads, and the authors of the species report threat amelioration and MZ-by-MZ summary.

Timing

- **NOW:** Please identify the point person(s) for each state so Craig can coordinate with those individuals early next week.

- **Before April 4:** As described above, we will host webinars to demonstrate how to review plans using the worksheet table, which is very similar to the ongoing process to review CED projects.

- **April 10:** Complete review of Energy Development components, if any, for State, local, and other Federal non-BLM, non-USFS, non-NRCS plans.

- **April 17, 2015:** Complete review of all of all other components for State, local, other Federal non-BLM, non-USFS, non-NRCS plans.

Thank you

We greatly appreciate the expertise, time, and dedication of you and your staff to our status review.