From:	Larson, Scott
To:	Nicole Alt
Cc:	Michael Thabault; Matt Kales; Terry Quesinberry; Pat Deibert; Kevin Shelley
Subject:	Re: GRSG SDGFP Sage Grouse Plan updated briefing paper
Date:	Friday, October 03, 2014 3:19:12 PM
Attachments:	GRSG BP_SD 10.3.14.docx

Nicole,

Attached is a revised briefing paper on the SDGFP sage grouse plan.

With the SD plan finalization put off until November or later can we wait on a draft FWS response for a while?

Thank You
Scott Larson
North and South Dakota Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Suite 400
420 South Garfield Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Phone: 605-224-8693 ext. 224
Fax: 605-224-9974
Email: scott_larson@fws.gov

On Fri, Oct 3, 2014 at 12:43 PM, Nicole Alt <nicole_alt@fws.gov> wrote:

> Thank you for checking with the State. Can you take a look at the briefing paper you prepared and add that new development an make any other relevant updates? Thank you.
>
> Nicole Alt
> Deputy ARD Ecological Services
> Mountain-Prairie Region
> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
> nicole_alt@fws.gov
>
> On Oct 3, 2014, at 11:01 AM, "Larson, Scott" <scott_larson@fws.gov> wrote:
>
> Nicole,
>
> After seeing your note - I inquired to Tom Kirschenmann if the SDGFP Commission passed the revised SDGFP GRSG management plan yesterday afternoon at their scheduled time to do so. You can see in Tom's response that the SDGFP GRSG plan was not finalized and it looks like Tom will bring the Plan forward again in November but not sure if there will be changes.
>
> Thank You
> Scott Larson
> North and South Dakota Field Supervisor
> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Kirschenmann, Tom** <Tom.Kirschenmann@state.sd.us>
Date: Fri, Oct 3, 2014 at 11:20 AM
Subject: RE: SDGFP Sage Grouse Plan
To: "Larson, Scott" <scott_larson@fws.gov>

They did not finalize. Some landowners showed up and discussed concerns within the plan and other issues such as predators and obtaining local information from landowners such as local hail storms etc. Not sure how I am going to proceed over the next few weeks but the plan is to bring forward the plan in November. We can visit more on the phone, but I am on a sage grouse webinar for the rest of the day.

Tom

From: Larson, Scott [mailto:scott_larson@fws.gov]
Sent: Friday, October 03, 2014 11:13 AM
To: Kirschenmann, Tom
Subject: SDGFP Sage Grouse Plan

Tom,

Do you know if the Commission acted on the SDGFP Sage grouse plan yesterday?

Thank You

Scott Larson

North and South Dakota Field Supervisor

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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420 South Garfield Avenue

Pierre, South Dakota 57501

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Email: scott_larson@fws.gov

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE REGION 6 DIRECTOR

FROM: Field Supervisor, South Dakota and North Dakota Field Office

CC: Assistant Regional Director, Deputy Assistant Regional Director; Ecological Services

SUBJECT: South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks revised Greater Sage Grouse Management Plan – not final as of October 3, 2014

The SDGFP revised GRSG Management Plan has these good components:

1. Expands the GRSG Priority Areas for Conservation (PACs) to State Core Areas which includes 982,834 acres consisting of approximately 75 percent private land, 13 percent state land (primarily School Lands), and 12 percent federal land (primarily BLM lands).
2. Continues funding SGI biologist via Pheasants Forever Agreement.
3. Develops MOUs with other state agencies to ensure a review process for activities in GRSG Core Areas.
4. Additional features added to address wildfire threat.
5. Process to establish or close GRSG hunting season. Season currently closed.
6. Many voluntary and advocacy actions to help GRSG and sage steppe habitats.

The SDGFP revised GRSG Management Plan lacks these components:

1. Strong regulatory actions.
2. Mitigation process to offset impacts to sage steppe habitat.
3. Adaptive management process to adjust management based on monitoring.
4. No binding authority to other state agencies such as SD School and Public Lands or the Mineral and Mining Program with the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources.

Recent noteworthy actions:

1. SDGFP Commission did not finalize the SDGFP sage grouse management plan on Oct. 2, 2014 as expected due to input from landowners. Unknown if plan will change.
2. Next opportunity to finalize SDGFP plan will be at the November 2014 Commission Meeting.
3. SDGFP indicated they are likely to follow the standardized reporting protocols (rollup) for GRSG activities rather than create their own methods.

DRAFT