From:	Matt Kales
To:	Noreen Walsh
Subject:	RE: GRSG DQA challenge etc
Date:	Wednesday, March 25, 2015 9:08:44 AM

Will do. Meeting with Nicole shortly to go over and get after a number of items. Thanks.

From: Noreen Walsh [mailto:noreen_walsh@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 5:31 AM
To: Matt Kales
Cc: Michael Thabault; Nicole Alt
Subject: GRSG DQA challenge etc

Good morning Matt,

When you are back in the saddle, could you work with ES to investigate and provide me and the other RDs a brief summary of this DQA challenge referenced below, including what is the process and next steps?

Also, it occurred to me that during any round robin at SGTF a I would like to share a summary of recent (couple months) correspondence we (fed agencies) have received that is critical 1) that science shows conservation efforts are not enough and 2) that science shows conservation efforts are too much or misguided. A bulleted list of who sent it and what it says would work.

Thanks very much,
Noreen

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."

Noreen Walsh
Regional Director
Mountain-Prairie Region
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service