From: Mary Flanderka
To: Deibert, Pat
Cc: Solberg Schwab, Lisa; Steve Ferrell; Caleb Hiner; Alex Schubert; Mark Konishi; Mark Sattelberg
Subject: Re: FWS commments concerning fire in core and general habitat
Date: Thursday, May 30, 2013 2:36:26 PM

8:30 - 2 PM works

On Thu, May 30, 2013 at 1:50 PM, Deibert, Pat <pat_deibert@fws.gov> wrote:

> Lisa - I can do between 8:30 - 10, and anytime after .
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> p
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> On Thu, May 30, 2013 at 11:14 AM, Solberg Schwab, Lisa <lsolbergschwab@blm.gov> wrote:
>
> > Good Afternoon,
> >
> > Alex Schubert discussed the possibility of including the Lander RMP language that Caleb provided to all of us in lieu of the current language/comments the FWS had about the use of fire in general and core habitat and they have concerns about using that language.
> >
> > I would like to try to set up another call to try to resolve this either before 10 am or after 1pm tomorrow Friday May 31. Please let everyone know your availability. If tomorrow is not possible we can have an out meeting on Monday of the preferred alt mtg to figure this out.
> >
> > For a reminder this is the current language:
> >
> > In addition to Alternative A: For fuels management, the agencies will consider multiple tools for fuels reduction and analyze in NEPA compliance documentation before electing to implement prescribed fire in sage-grouse core habitat areas. Avoid the use of prescribed fire in areas of Wyoming big sagebrush, other xeric sagebrush species, or where cheatgrass or other fire-invasive species occur and/or within areas of less than 12 inches of annual precipitation, except where it can be shown to be beneficial to sage grouse habitat.
> >
> > Refer to Appendix XX WGFD Protocols for Treating Sagebrush to Benefit Sage-Grouse (WGFD 2011, as updated) and BLM Washington Office Instruction Memorandum 2011-138 (Sage-grouse Conservation Related to Wildland Fire and Fuels Management). If prescribed fire activities are not in compliance with these protocols, the treatment will be considered a sage-grouse core habitat disturbance. **If pres**cribed fire activities are not in compliance with these protocols, the treatment will be considered a sage-grouse core habitat disturbance.
> >
> > These are FWS's suggested language changes:

In addition to Alternative A: For fuels management, the agencies will consider multiple tools for fuels reduction and analyze in NEPA compliance documentation before electing to implement prescribed fire in sage-grouse core habitat areas.Within sage-grouse priority and general habitat, do not use prescribed fire in less than 12-inch precipitation zones (e.g., Wyoming big sagebrush or other xeric sagebrush species). Avoid the use of prescribed fire in other areas of xeric sage brush species or where cheatgrass or other cheatgrass or other fire-invasive species occur unless it can be shown to be beneficial.

Refer to Appendix XX WGFD Protocols for Treating Sagebrush to Benefit Sage-Grouse (WGFD 2011, as updated) and BLM Washington Office Instruction Memorandum 2011-138 (Sage-grouse Conservation Related to Wildland Fire and Fuels Management). If prescribed fire activities are not in compliance with these protocols, the treatment will be considered a sage-grouse core habitat disturbance.

Thank you.

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