From: Noreen Walsh
To: Dave Smith
Cc: Michael Thabault
Subject: RE: FWS Continues to Invest in Sage-grouse Conservation Efforts
Date: Friday, March 14, 2014 9:02:31 PM

Dave, you are a class act. Thanks for calling this morning – I really appreciated the spirit in which you called.

I asked Mike Thabault (copied here) to give you a call as soon as he can to discuss how we best capitalize on the excellent work of the existing partner biologists and perhaps utilize the training infrastructure you have in place. He or Nicole can share ideas with you and Kathy about how we gain the most synergy for the whole network. And while I am looking forward to the spring meeting, I think we might need to have that conversation sooner than our meeting so we put any necessary wheels in motion.

Have a great weekend.

Noreen

Noreen Walsh
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The Mountain-Prairie Region of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service: *We provide conservation stewardship of some of America's most scenic lands, to ensure healthy fish and wildlife for the enjoyment and benefit of all people.*

From: Dave Smith [mailto:dave_w_smith@fws.gov]
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 8:55 PM
To: noreen_walsh@fws.gov
Subject: Re: FWS Continues to Invest in Sage-grouse Conservation Efforts

Nicely stated, Noreen!

I had a hour-long discussion with Kathy today and came away with some additional thoughts for helping on the "collaboration" side of this equation. I'll get those ideas fully fleshed out before our Spring Management Board Meeting; maybe the three of us can have a conference call, pre-Spokane.

Thanks so much for the time this morning. Let me know, anytime, if there's anything I can do to help in the partnership vein.

Thanks!

Dave
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From: Noreen Walsh [mailto:noreen_walsh@fws.gov]
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 04:49 PM
To: Noreen Walsh <noreen_walsh@fws.gov>
Subject: FWS Continues to Invest in Sage-grouse Conservation Efforts

Greetings Partners,

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is committed to working with our partners to reduce the threats to the greater sage-grouse such that it would no longer be likely to become in danger of extinction. We are also committed to making the most transparent, thorough, sound, and defensible decision about its status in September of 2015. Moreover, we are looking into the future and we know that the hard work being done by all now will benefit the entire sage-steppe ecosystem and all the species that call this habitat home.

Conservation of sage grouse and its habitat is a challenge that will impact the future of conservation in the American west and is our highest priority. The Service's Western regions (Regions 1, 6, and 8) have already reoriented priorities and workforces to address this nationally significant conservation issue, yet our staffing capacity is not currently sufficient to help us partner effectively to achieve our collective conservation goals. Consequently, the Service is investing in additional staff in the following areas:

biological expertise in sagebrush and sage-grouse to help address all the threats

expertise in collaborating with a wide variety of partners to achieve conservation objectives

communications capacity - telling the story of conservation to the public

expertise in scientific analysis to make sure we consider all relevant information

administrative and file management capacity - keeping our information in order

These opportunities still open are being advertised on USAJobs at the following links:

https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/363558300

https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/363571800
R6-14-1063268-M
R6-14-1063204-D

These new positions are intended to support existing working relationships that have been developed, and not take away from all the excellent work that is currently being done by many partners on behalf of sage grouse and the sage steppe ecosystem. Rather, this is an effort to bring additional capacity to this extremely important effort and be additive and complimentary to all the work that is ongoing.

Please let me know if you have questions,

Noreen

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