From: Chi, Renee
To: Romin, Laura
Subject: Re: grouse
Date: Wednesday, March 06, 2013 11:58:05 AM

---

yes, it is accurate. The main thing is that the distances are estimates. So, you may want to include some language that reflects that they area estimates. I did not have the UTMs to estimate but used the map in Natasha Gruber's thesis and other maps to estimate.

Thanks,
Renee

On Wed, Mar 6, 2013 at 8:57 AM, Romin, Laura <laura_romin@fws.gov> wrote:

> Renee - does this sound accurate?
>
> The Plan includes management and conservation of greater sage-grouse populations in eleven SGMAs distributed statewide, supporting greater than 90 percent of the Utah aggregate population of the bird. In the Plan, you conclude that sage-grouse habitat outside the SGMAs is not required for the long-term conservation of the species because much of the habitat is already disturbed from human and natural causes, and is not suitable for enhancement or improvement.
>
> The Carbon and Diamond Mountain SGMAs lie in northeastern Utah and comprise approximately 3 percent and 6 percent, respectively of the statewide population of greater sage-grouse. The majority of the SGMAs in Utah individually comprise less than 3 percent of the statewide population of greater sage-grouse, meaning that Utah's populations are mostly small, and naturally fragmented. Because of the small, fragmented nature of Utah's greater sage-grouse populations, we believe it is essential to ensure that the populations retain sufficient population connectivity, particularly in areas where information suggests movement of birds between areas.
>
> We have previously discussed with you our concerns regarding the omission of the Anthro and West Tavaputs sage-grouse populations from SGMA designation. The locations of these populations appear to be situated such that they provide connectivity between eachother, the Carbon SGMA, and populations of sage-grouse that occur on Ute tribal lands. In particular, sage-grouse from Anthro Mountain have shown large seasonal movements of >50 kilometers (30 miles) to Emma Park (Carbon SGMA), 30 km (18 mi) to Whitmore Park (Carbon SGMA), and 30 km (18 mi) between Anthro Moutain and West Tavaputs. There is also a documented occurrence of a bird moving from West Tavaputs to the Ute tribal lands. Although there are no SGMAs on Ute tribal lands, it is important to ensure that we are considering the conservation importance and maintenance of populations in this area. Migratory movements of sage-grouse are likely important for maintaining

genetic diversity and overall population viability. Therefore, the Anthro Mountain and West Tavaputs area may be essential for overall viability of the northeastern Utah sage-grouse populations.

--

--
Renee Y. Chi
Wildlife Biologist
Utah BLM State Office
440 West 200 South, Suite 500
Salt Lake City, UT 84101-1345
rchi@blm.gov
(801) 539-4058