From: Noreen Walsh
To: Matt Kales
Subject: RE: GrSG: MT state efforts update
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 5:43:54 PM

Missing word in last sentence? Otherwise looks great.

Noreen Walsh
Regional Director
Mountain-Prairie Region
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
303 236 7920

From: Matt Kales [mailto:matt_kales@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 2:37 PM
To: Noreen Walsh
Cc: Jodi Bush; brent_esmoil@fws.gov; Jeff Berglund; Michael Thabault; Nicole Alt; Theodore Stein
Subject: GrSG: MT state efforts update

Noreen,

Please see below the subject information. Thanks to Jodi and her folks for ground-truthing and revising this content, and for all their efforts to engage the state.

Matt

- The Montana Legislature recently approved two pieces of legislation re: sage-grouse conservation, and Governor Bullock has signed these bills into law.

- The first bill appropriates $10 million for sage-grouse conservation activities, including easement acquisition. (The state's Sage-Grouse Oversight Team, which was established in Executive Order 10-2014, will decide whether to approve proposals for any transfer to the state of any fee simple interest in real property). Industry is expected to target this program heavily to offset future development in sage-grouse habitat in Montana.

- The second bill appropriates ~$500,000 to MT DNRC to staff the FTEs identified in the state's Sage-Grouse Conservation Habitat Conservation Program and Executive Order 10-2014..

- The Governor's Office has advised they continue to target Fall 2015 as a release date for the Final (follow up) Executive Order requiring mandatory state agency compliance. Tim Baker with the Governor's Office has indicated that this June the Governor's Office will provide to the Service that clarifies which of the Service's concerns with the 9/14 EO have been addressed.

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