From: Carlson, John
To: Berglund, Jeff
Subject: Re: Greater Sage-Grouse Update
Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2014 1:48:16 PM

Thanks. Will check it out. Can I call tomorrow? I need to get these memos figured out today.
Thanks - J

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John C. Carlson
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****

On Tue, May 20, 2014 at 9:18 AM, Berglund, Jeff <jeff_berglund@fws.gov> wrote:

> fyi
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: **Carr, Adam** <acarr@blm.gov>
> Date: Fri, May 16, 2014 at 1:36 PM
> Subject: Greater Sage-Grouse Update
> To: Carl Seilstad <cseilstad@co.fergus.mt.us>, G C Hughes <thughes@mtintouch.net>, king@midrivers.com, skipndiane@midrivers.com, Clive Rooney <clrooney@mt.gov>, Nikki Rife <Nakaya.Rife@mt.usda.gov>, Peter Husby <Peter.Husby@mt.usda.gov>, grant.petersen@mt.usda.gov, Lee Iverson <iverson@midrivers.com>, nmschultz@midrivers.com, j_swillmore@yahoo.com, sonjasmith@mt.gov, Jeff Berglund <jeff_berglund@fws.gov>, Catherine Wightman <cwightman@mt.gov>, tsstivers@fs.fed.us
> Cc: "Beyersdorf, Geoff" <gbeyersd@blm.gov>, Gary Benes <gbenes@blm.gov>, Jonathan Moor <jmoor@blm.gov>
>
> Good Afternoon everyone! It has been sometime since I have provided you with an update regarding the Greater Sage-Grouse plan amendment. I gave an update to the local Resource Advisory Council this week and wanted to share the information with you as well.
>
> Our team is working on developing responses to and making updates to the plan based on the 240 unique and substantive comments that we received during the comment period. The majority of the comment came from 25 commenters (Groups, Associations, Agencies, local gov't, citizens). We also received around 7,000 form letter submissions from two main groups (Defenders of Wildlife, WildEarth Guardians), 1,000 of these letters were submitted after the deadline and will not become part of the record; however, all comments are considered in case they provide new information that could be considered substantial. We are still waiting for additional direction from our Washington and State offices regarding monitoring, adaptive

management and other issues, which will lead to several changes in the final document. The majority of the comments that we are addressing are related to the following issues/resources:

- Range of Alternatives Analyzed
- Monitoring
- Mitigation Measures (RDFs/BMPs) (Appendix D)
- NEPA
- Best Available Information (Baseline Data)
- Sage Grouse
- Minerals
- Livestock Grazing

Regarding a couple of changes that we know will be made to the document; we will as I believe we discussed in January that be adding an appendix that includes habitat objectives (vegetative requirements) that will be used during rangeland health assessments for permit renewal proposes. The objectives (attached to this e-mail) are identified in the 2005 MANAGEMENT PLAN AND CONSERVATION STRATEGIES FOR SAGE GROUSE IN MONTANA – FINAL, issued by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/management/sageGrouse/default.html

We will also be removing the retirement of grazing privileges language from Alternative D. We are removing this measure because the retirement of privileges is included within Alternative B and based on the fact that we have grazing regulations in place to provide for changes in livestock management if allotments are not meeting standards and have made management changes to all of the allotments within Sage-Grouse habitat that were not meeting standards due to livestock grazing.

The schedule for completing the document has been pushed back and we are expecting further guidance next week on when a record of decision is expected to be signed; the current date is the end of December this year. The remaining public involvement regarding the final plan will be limited to a 30 day protest period when the final EIS has been issued. A 60 day Governors consistency review will run concurrently during the protest period and end 30 days after the protest period; we will also offer Government to Government consultation with appropriate tribal governments when the final EIS is issued.

Finally, we still plan on scheduling a meeting with all of you to go over what the proposed plan (final preferred alternative) once we have been able to incorporate all of the changes related to comments and the WO/SO guidance. As always if you have questions regarding any of this information don't hesitate to give me a call and I look forward to an upcoming meeting with all of you. Adam

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Adam Carr
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(406) 538-1913

"In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing" - Theodore Roosevelt

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