**From:** Berglund, Jeff
**To:** Miller, Craig
**Cc:** John Carlson; Jake Chaffin
**Subject:** Re: HiLine Biological Assessment (DRAFT)
**Date:** Tuesday, March 18, 2014 1:26:47 PM

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Hi Craig - I sent my comment on the draft to you yesterday - did you receive those? Thanks

On Tue, Mar 18, 2014 at 12:55 PM, Miller, Craig <cmiller@blm.gov> wrote:

> Jeff,
>
> As you mentioned, there will be some sage-grouse adjustments to the HiLine RMP. The biggest change will be the expansion of the Priority Habitat to include all PAC on BLM managed lands. This will expand the Priority Habitat by 167,000 acres of BLM surface and Federal fluid minerals.
>
> BLM is currently running a new RFD for fluid minerals and there will be acreage adjustments for many resources. That being said, there will be no determination changes for Listed or Proposed species in the Biological Assessment.
>
> It is my hope that you can review the Draft and return to me. I will then review recommendations and adjust numbers to reflect management changes for sage-grouse when GIS and RFD has been completed.
>
> The numbers will change, but the determinations for T&E listed and Proposed species will not.
>
> Thanks for taking the time to review the Draft BA.
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> ==========
>
> **Craig Miller**
> **Wildlife Biologist**
> **Havre Field Office**
> **3990 HWY 2 West**
> **Havre, MT 59501**
> **406/262-2849**
> **CMiller@blm.gov**

On Thu, Mar 13, 2014 at 9:02 AM, Berglund, Jeff <jeff_berglund@fws.gov> wrote:

> Hi Craig - thanks for the revised draft. So you're looking for comments on this, then you will finalize, then submit for concurrence - is that what you're thinking? Based on the Fed Family meeting, it seems like there are still a number of SG issues floating out there to be resolved by BLM (largely global - but some MT-specific and HiLine-specific

issues) that could influence the proposed action. So is your plan to make sure that all of that is addressed before submitting the BA so that the proposed action in the EIS matches the proposed action in the BA? Just curious what the approach is there. I'm trying to look at this draft ASAP (hopefully by Monday). We have 30 days to concur with final BAs - my goal would be to handle it sooner than that, but given our situation I couldn't steadfastly promise anything quicker. I'm ccing John & Jake also since this is an issue for all of the MT/Dakotas plans. Thanks

Jeff

On Mon, Mar 3, 2014 at 7:46 AM, Miller, Craig <cmiller@blm.gov> wrote:

Jeff,

I know you are very busy, but I am getting more questions on a time line for the BA. Any thoughts on a date for review of the BA? thanks much...

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---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Miller, Craig** <cmiller@blm.gov>
Date: Thu, Feb 20, 2014 at 10:05 AM
Subject: HiLine Biological Assessment (DRAFT)
To: Jeff Berglund <Jeff_Berglund@fws.gov>
Cc: Kay Haight <khaight@blm.gov>, Brian Hockett <blhocket@blm.gov>, Stanley Jaynes <sjaynes@blm.gov>, Jake Chaffin <jlchaffi@blm.gov>

Jeff,

I wanted to send you Version 2 of the BA. I have added the (3) new proposed species and adjusted the PPA map. Everything else is basically the same.

This is a draft and I plan to respond to your recommendations and have this back to in time for a Letter of Concurrence by mid-April so we can include it in the FEIS.

What are your thoughts on that time table?

thanks much...

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