From: Berglund, Jeff
To: Chaffin, Jake
Subject: Re: HiLine Biological Assessment (DRAFT)
Date: Monday, March 17, 2014 8:30:34 AM

Hi Jake - I thought is was already understood at a national BLM level that BLM would not be conferencing on candidates, including GSG, in conjunction with these EISs/BAs. So I think you guys have already made that decision. It seems the way GSG are dealt with in all the draft BAs that I've seen is consistent with that approach (including GSG and other candidates in the up front list, but no effects analysis or determinations of effect provided). The reason GSG measures, etc. are included in the action descriptions in the BAs is that some of those actions could indirectly benefit listed species - which makes sense. The question I have is whether you plan to include proposed species determinations of effect in the BAs for all plans (HiLine did that). It makes sense to me - but it's your call.

The way these BAs seem to be shaping up, the draft determinations of effect have been "no effect" or "not likely to adversely affect". If those hold through the process, and we agree, then we won't be issuing a biological opinion (because no formal consultation required or take anticipated) - rather, we'd issue letters of concurrence. Make sense?

Jeff

On Fri, Mar 14, 2014 at 11:03 AM, Chaffin, Jake <jlchaffi@blm.gov> wrote:

> Jeff,
>
> We are discussing pulling Sage-Grouse out of RMP BA's completely....I'm not sure why SG in BA's to begin with.
> -We are not required to consult on SG
> -More time/etc. for both parties to have to deal with it in the BA/BO process
> -FWS cannot issue decisions/concurrence (jeopardy) on SG in a BO because it is a candidate
> -Sage Grouse is addressed in RMP's and that is what FWS will be looking at for not listing/listing?
>
> Thoughts?
>
> Thanks, Jake
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: **Berglund, Jeff** <jeff_berglund@fws.gov>
> Date: Thu, Mar 13, 2014 at 9:02 AM
> Subject: Re: HiLine Biological Assessment (DRAFT)
> To: "Miller, Craig" <cmiller@blm.gov>
> Cc: John Carlson <jccarlso@blm.gov>, Jake Chaffin <jlchaffi@blm.gov>
>
> 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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Craig Miller
Wildlife Biologist
Havre Field Office
3990 HWY 2 West
Havre, MT 59501
406/262-2849
CMiller@blm.gov

---------- 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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Craig Miller
Wildlife Biologist
Havre Field Office
3990 HWY 2 West
Havre, MT 59501
406/262-2849
CMiller@blm.gov

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Jeff Berglund
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Montana Field Office
585 Shepard Way, Suite 1
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 449-5225, ext. 206

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Jake Chaffin
Fish, Wildlife, and T&E Program Lead
BLM MT/Dakotas State Office
5001 Southgate Dr. Billings, MT 59101
406-896-5034

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Jeff Berglund
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Montana Field Office
585 Shepard Way, Suite 1
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 449-5225, ext. 206