From: Morton, Jennifer
To: Mary Flanderka
Cc: John Emmerich; Lynn Gemlo; Lisa Solberg Schwab; Caleb Hiner; Tom Christiansen
Subject: Re: Noise wording proposal
Date: Thursday, March 07, 2013 2:14:50 PM
Attachments: new Noise language_030713.docx

Try this. I will attach the wording....I promise.

On Thu, Mar 7, 2013 at 1:43 PM, Mary Flanderka <mary.flanderka@wyo.gov> wrote:

> Concept is good! Scott or Tom could present it. I still didn't see the wording.
>
> On Wed, Mar 6, 2013 at 4:46 PM, Morton, Jennifer <j75morto@blm.gov> wrote:
>
> > The wording is included as part of the email. Is that not visible? I was trying to make it easier, but maybe google mail just makes it harder.
> >
> > I would be more in support of presenting it as a concept, period. The details of the wording are predecisional, draft or not.
> >
> > On Wed, Mar 6, 2013 at 4:16 PM, Mary Flanderka <mary.flanderka@wyo.gov> wrote:
> >
> > > Hi Jennifer, Nothing is attached. Perhaps Tom C can present it as a draft recommendation to the SGIT with you as co-presentor?
> > >
> > > On Tue, Mar 5, 2013 at 9:25 AM, Morton, Jennifer <j75morto@blm.gov> wrote:
> > >
> > > > John and Lynn,
> > > >
> > > > Below is the wording proposal that went out to our smaller team (Tom C., Scott, Tim Byer, Lisa Solberg-Schwab, and Gail). I have received very few comments to date and welcome anything you might want to add (deadline of tomorrow unless a large much-needed conversation is started).
> > > >
> > > > As I mentioned yesterday, we still need to work out some details on locations of measurements and I still have a question of what should be used for ambient in a "disturbed" area (if L90 is for a nondisturbed area and L50 is for compliance). Also, I checked with Gail about a cost estimate and she indicated that the most inexpensive (and maybe not the greatest quality) would likely cost about $150K.
> > > >
> > > > Hey, Mary - You asked for me to present this at the next SGIT. This is a proposal to include in our RMPs and may be appropriate for the Big Dog SGIT, as they are all cooperators, but I don't think this can be shared at the larger gathering as it would approach, if not cross, some predecisional boundaries....
> > > >
> > > > --

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Please excuse typos and grammer mistakes - I'm am working from a limited keyboard during my extended leave.
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E-Mail to and from me, in connection with the transaction of public business, is subject to the Wyoming Public Records Act and may be disclosed to third parties.

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Noise:

BLM/FS's will continue to support the establishment of ambient baseline noise levels for occupied core area leks. Due to the complexity of obtaining accurate a~~A~~mbient baseline noise levels, establishment of these levels must only be determined ~~established~~ by professionals with experience in environmental acoustics~~sal physicist~~. As ambient noise levels are established for a region/project area, new noise levels should not exceed 10 dBA above ambient noise for that region/project area. BLM/FS will work with proponents to limit project related noise sources to reduce impacts to core area sage-grouse ~~core habitats~~populations. BLM will evaluate the potential for limitation of new noise sources and project specific noise reduction methods, on a case-by-case basis, using appropriate, mandatory BMPs (Appendix X). As additional research and information emerges, specific new limitations appropriate to the project type will be evaluated and appropriate BMPs will be implemented.

Habitat-selection models are currently being developed to analyze changes in sage-grouse populations, measuring relative variations in noise levels in disturbed areas. The habitat-selection model (or other approved modeling techniques) should be used to aide in project placement/design in sensitive sage-grouse core habitats to mitigate effects of new noise sources within a project area.

Noise Monitoring
Appendix XX

Measurements must be made during times when noise exposure is most likely to affect greater sage-grouse: nights and mornings (i.e. 6 pm – 9 am). Using the average of L_{50} values at multiple (3-4) locations between each noise source and the edge of the protected area. Since noise values can change with topography and local ground cover, this will reduce the impact of aberrant measurements (high or low) at particular locations. Measurements should be taken with a Type-1 sound level meter[11] (or a method with similar accuracy and a noise floor <25 dBA). Measurements must be taken for at least 1 hour at each site, ideally over multiple days and climactic conditions, since weather (temperature [especially temperature inversions], humidity and wind) can affect noise levels. We recommend collecting additional metrics whenever possible, for research and long-term monitoring[14].

11 Most Type-1 (ANSI S1.4-1983) precision sound level meters (SLM) have a "noise floor" of ~17 dB, meaning that they cannot measure quieter sounds, since these sounds will be masked by the noise from the SLM itself. Some SLM noise is typically detected up to 10 dB above the noise floor (i.e. 27 dB), especially when using A-weighting, as discussed in the text. This is not a problem when measuring louder sounds (i.e. many noise sources associated with development) which overwhelm any contribution of the noise from the SLM (as well as noise from a slight breeze or other incidental sounds). Measurements of quiet sounds are thus particularly challenging. Type-2 SLMs are more affordable (often ~$400 rather than ~$9,000 for Type-1) but can have noise floors of ~35 dB and should therefore never be used to measure ambient noise or quiet sound sources (expected to be <35-40 dBA); some more expensive Type-2 meters have noise floors approaching 22 dBA and would therefore be more useful for measuring quiet sounds, but not ambient levels. Within a few decibels above the noise floor, the accuracy of Type-2 meters is typically only slightly lower than Type-1 meters. Type-3 SLMs have higher noise floors and lower accuracy and should not be used for measuring ambient or assessing compliance.