From:	Tom Christiansen
To:	Hogan, Mark
Cc:	Tony Mong; Jeffrey L. Beck; Millspaugh, Joshua; j75morto@blm.gov; Matt Holloran; Matt Dzialak
Subject:	Re: NPL Sage-grouse WCA Final Report
Date:	Wednesday, September 04, 2013 9:00:16 AM

Mark & Jeff,

Thanks for the notes on 50+ birds. I should have gone back to the original report to find my answer. The issue is well discussed there and I have no further questions/concerns in this regard.

As for the 2004-2013 range of conditions, I'm pretty comfortable with the 2010-11 winter being a "heavy" one, though perhaps not "extreme". I don't think we can/should manage for rare events. I'm more interested in whether the NPL birds shift to the modeled habitat further south as development advances. I hope we will have sufficient monitoring/telemetry in place to document any changes that occur.

Best,
Tom

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On Wed, Sep 4, 2013 at 8:25 AM, Hogan, Mark <mark_j_hogan@fws.gov> wrote:

> Hey Guys,
>
> My notes and recollection reflects a discussion on how the number 50 was derived...using that covered the majority of the winter habitat needs on a normal year and only for the UGRBWCA with such large base population to work with.
>
> We may have covered this in the conversations but one question still lingering for me, were the winter conditions in 2010 or 2011 in the UPGR area representative of an extreme as to provide confidence that these birds are contained within the delineated areas as to provide protection in all winter weather conditions? And is this possible? I look at the typical winter range discussed in the literature and just to the south the large, flat expanse of sage brush with minimal sage grouse use.
>
> I'm like Jeff, 5 months has clouded my memory.
>
> Thanks,
> Mark

Mark J Hogan, State Coordinator
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On Tue, Sep 3, 2013 at 7:46 AM, Tony Mong <tony.mong@wyo.gov> wrote:

My recollection is that we decided on the 50 because of the uniqueness of the area in the NPL with the large flock sizes that are seen during the winter. I believe that we wanted to focus on the most important areas and we based this on the larger flock size. Our discussion also eluded to the fact that in any other area, that number would be different, so it is truly a flock size that is specific to the NPL.

~Tony

On Mon, Sep 2, 2013 at 11:54 AM, Jeffrey L. Beck <JLBeck@uwyo.edu> wrote:

Tom,

I checked my notes from the Vee Bar meeting and did not find anything specifically about our selection of 50 or more birds. I do remember that we discussed the relative merits of using locations from all grouse (regardless of group size) or just those in larger groups (50+) to model an RSF and I believe we decided to use certain size groups to identify the winter concentration areas. I believe we even discussed group sizes of 25 or more as being important. We must have decided on using groups of 50+ to demarcate winter concentration areas, but I think that group size had some bearing on the discussion we had with the managers the first morning.

Can anyone clarify what I remember? It has been nearly 5 months since we met at the Vee Bar Guest Ranch and my notes on that topic are not complete…

Jeff

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From: Tom Christiansen [mailto:tom.christiansen@wyo.gov]
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2013 6:42 PM
To: Tony Mong
Cc: Millspaugh, Joshua; j75morto@blm.gov; Hogan, Mark; Matt Holloran; Jeffrey L. Beck; Matt Dzialak
Subject: Re: NPL Sage-grouse WCA Final Report

Just a question, I think I remember (?) a discussion at the VeeBar meeting regarding 50 being an arbitrary #. Can someone refresh my memory on this? Thanks. tc

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On Fri, Aug 30, 2013 at 6:13 PM, Tony Mong <tony.mong@wyo.gov> wrote:

All,

After a fast paced week of reviews and revisions we have come to a final product that incorporates our language regarding having 50 or more birds seen over multiple years to delineate actual winter concentration areas. I know you have seen several iterations of this document but I believe we have a sound document that is based on science and what we said we would deliver.

I want to thank Matt and the Hayden- Wing team for sticking with the analysis and working with me and the rest of the committee to create this GREAT product.

Thanks again for all of your hard work. Please feel free to send major concerns/questions however, I believe this to be the document that we will send to the local managers and SGIT.

Thank you and have a great weekend.

~Tony

-

Tony Mong

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