**From:** Matt Kales
**To:** Noreen Walsh
**Subject:** RE: Montana and Sage Grouse
**Date:** Wednesday, March 12, 2014 3:45:03 PM

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Thanks. Happily, your below is very consistent with what I got from Jeff.

Stephenne postponed our call until mid-morning MST tomorrow. In the meantime, I pulled together our (and BLM's) comments on the MT draft strategy and our comments on the 5 BLM plans in that state and will provide those to her. I am also running down a good base map that shows basic features of interest (SG distro/habitat/PACs/BLM planning boundaries). Jeff and his chain, as well as Mike and Nicole, are in the loop and Jeff is available as necessary to help further with any products, etc., which Stephenne indicated won't be intensive/formal.

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**From:** Noreen Walsh [mailto:noreen_walsh@fws.gov]
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 12, 2014 2:55 PM
**To:** Matt Kales
**Subject:** Re: Montana and Sage Grouse

Private lands are very important to these populations/PACs. It is not yet clear if/how/to what degree the MT EO will provide a regulatory mechanism to govern impacts and disturbance on private land. We encourage as much certainty as possible before the listing decision.

We appreciate the 1 mile lek buffer commitment in the draft plan and highly recommend it remain in the final. The reason that a lesser buffer in WY was sufficient is due to the combination of other protective mechanisms in their plan.

Noreen Walsh
Regional Director
Mountain-Prairie Region
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

On Mar 12, 2014, at 2:23 PM, Matt Kales <matt_kales@fws.gov> wrote:

> Yep: called Jodi as soon as I got this but she's out (as is Brent), so got with Jeff B. and we had a good conversation on the below. Mike's in meetings but will brief him once I talk w/Stephenne (scheduled for 4 pm our time). Thanks.
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Noreen Walsh [mailto:noreen_walsh@fws.gov]
> **Sent:** Wednesday, March 12, 2014 2:20 PM
> **To:** Matt Kales
> **Subject:** Re: Montana and Sage Grouse
>
> Please rope in Jodi and Mike. Jodi has a short list of important items that need to remain in MT plan, or be improved in MT plan, before it goes final. Might be helpful to know as Secy goes to MT.
>
> Noreen Walsh
> Regional Director
> Mountain-Prairie Region

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

On Mar 12, 2014, at 1:19 PM, Matt Kales <matt_kales@fws.gov> wrote:

> FYI. I'll let you know if anything specific comes up and/or there are any taskings that come from this. Thanks.
>
> **From:** Harding, Stephenne [mailto:stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov]
> **Sent:** Wednesday, March 12, 2014 1:10 PM
> **To:** Matt Kales
> **Subject:** Montana and Sage Grouse
>
> Matt--
> I am staffing Sally for the mgts with MT this weekend and I am very confident Sage Grouse is going to come up. Can you give me a call a little later this afternoon/tonight to discuss so I have the latest?
> Thanks,
> Stephenne
>
> --
> Stephenne Harding
> Deputy Director
> Congressional and Legislative Affairs
> Department of the Interior
> Stephenne_Harding@ios.doi.gov
> 202-208-6174 (desk)
> 202-341-8080 (cell)