From: Ver_Steeg - DNR, Jeff
To: Thabault, Michael
Subject: Re: October meeting re: GrSG
Date: Friday, September 20, 2013 12:24:39 PM

Thanks Mike. Might call as we get closer to the date.

Jeff

On Thu, Sep 19, 2013 at 3:40 PM, Thabault, Michael <michael_thabault@fws.gov> wrote:

> Thanks Jeff. I appreciate the concern. Nicole will go with the Field office to ensure we provide clear direction on what our thinking is.
>
> Give me a call if there is any more you want to add.
>
> Michael Thabault
> Assistant Regional Director
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> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
> Mountain Prairie Region
> 303-236-4210
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>
> On Thu, Sep 19, 2013 at 2:39 PM, Ver_Steeg - DNR, Jeff <jeff.ver_steeg@state.co.us> wrote:
>
>> Mike,
>>
>> We are having a meeting with Susan Linner (and I don't know who else) on October 17 to discuss the BLM's EIS alternatives for greater sage-grouse in Colorado. Given that comments are due November 14 and that we will need to develop CPW's comments and then brief DNR and the Governor's office (all before November 14), October 17 is about as late as we can meet with you guys.
>>
>> Right now we (and likely the BLM) feel a little like we're trying to "pin-the-tail on the donkey" blindfolded (in terms of knowing where the FWS sees serious weaknesses in the various alternatives). We suspect that a new hybrid alternative will likely have to be crafted by the BLM that is somewhere between the NTT and subregional alternatives. But where along that continuum Colorado needs to be is totally unknown to us. We want to ensure we protect sage-grouse for the long term, but we want to avoid doing that in a way that unnecessarily inhibits economic uses of the land (grazing, recreation, energy, etc.).
>>
>> So we are looking to you for some feedback. This is the last opportunity that the FWS will have to help CPW and the BLM "get it right." We hope your staff can share a perspective that we don't feel we've been privy to to-date. I am aware and respectful of the constraints you are operating under in that regard. We're just asking for all the help

> you can provide.
>
> I just wanted to convey our expectations, in all fairness to you and your staff. Thank you.
>
> Jeff