From: Matt Kales
To: Noreen Walsh
Subject: Re: misc. sage grouse matters
Date: Thursday, March 06, 2014 8:35:55 PM

I recall several states, including WY, indicated waiver/exemption frequency was very rare and an exhaustively documented/ justified process. Think it makes sense to let BLM respond (per folks' notion, below) and yes, agree question 2 is more in our wheelhouse, though I wonder if we have enough examples, and longitudinal data, to know how effective these measures are. I expect Pat can answer that quickly.

On Mar 6, 2014, at 5:08 PM, Noreen Walsh <noreen_walsh@fws.gov> wrote:

Were we convinced about what BLM reported? I heard this only coming from MT myself. The second question seems more appropriate for our expertise?

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

303 236 7920

The Mountain-Prairie Region of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service: *We provide conservation stewardship of some of America's most scenic lands, to ensure healthy fish and wildlife for the enjoyment and benefit of all people.*

From: Matt Kales [mailto:matt_kales@fws.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2014 4:11 PM
To: Noreen Walsh
Subject: RE: misc. sage grouse matters

Agreed. Pat forwarded this earlier and we had a quick sidebar. Outcome:

1. We recall from last week's meeting BLM indicated waiver/exemption frequency is extremely low.
2. We discussed including the second question in our marker memo but felt it would dilute our larger/primary message.

From: Noreen Walsh [mailto:noreen_walsh@fws.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2014 4:00 PM
To: nicole_alt@fws.gov; Michael Thabault; Matt Kales
Cc: pat deibert
Subject: FW: misc. sage grouse matters

It is good that they are talking about this.

Noreen Walsh
Regional Director
Mountain-Prairie Region

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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From: Bean, Michael [mailto:michael_bean@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2014 3:01 PM
To: Noreen Walsh; Pat Deibert
Subject: misc. sage grouse matters

I wanted to make you aware of a discussion that took place today with Jim Lyons, Sarah
Greenberger and others, and that touched upon the "certainty of implementation and certainty of effectiveness" issues. We were discussing how to evaluate various BLM commitments that may be subject to exceptions, waivers, etc. (e.g. NSO stipulations, lek buffers, etc.). One question, which we will look to BLM to answer, is how frequently such exceptions or waivers have been granted in the past (in the belief that this information should inform expectations about the future). A second question, which is more appropriate for FWS, is how effective NSO stipulations, lek buffers and similar practices have actually been in protecting sage grouse. In short, is there good information on the efficacy of NSO stipulations, lek buffers of various sizes, and the like on sage grouse, as well as information on the effects of granting exceptions or waivers to such requirements?

--

Michael J. Bean

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