From: Amy Defreese
To: Pat Deibert
Subject: RE: Monthly sage-grouse biologist call
Date: Tuesday, May 14, 2013 12:11:43 PM

Hi Julie!
I just drafted up this email to send to Pat Deibert … wondering if you have any thoughts? I hate to bother her with little stuff like this, but on the other hand, it is a challenge we are facing in the field. Let me know what you think!

Thanks,
Amy

****

Hi Pat,
I just wanted to follow up on an Action Item that came out of the last monthly call. I won't be able to make the May 16 call.

Last month, we talked briefly about the greater sage-grouse Framework for transmission line projects, including the Habitat Equivalency Analysis, and a field office concern regarding the effect of transmission lines to greater sage-grouse behavior (i.e. avoidance response). Specifically, while we (FWS) may have an expectation that project proponents will provide compensatory mitigation for this impact, I don't know that they will offer it.

I know you are very familiar with the gsg Framework for transmission line projects, but my understanding is that it is (in part) an umbrella document that outlines the need for a direct and indirect impact analysis. It also identifies the HEA process as a tool to quantify an appropriate amount of compensatory mitigation for impacts to gsg habitat. Two transmission line companies (Rocky Mountain Power and Transwest Express) have "adopted" the Framework and are spearheading the HEA process for their respective projects, asking the state and federal agencies for input. As we've discussed, there isn't enough literature support to include the avoidance effect in the HEA. So, we've had some conversations with the transmission line companies and BLM (lead NEPA agency) where we've verbally communicated that we want the avoidance effect to be identified in the NEPA impact analysis and included in a compensatory mitigation plan (separate from the results of the HEA process).

On our last monthly call, I offered to try to put together an impact table outlining the various impacts associated with transmission projects. We discussed that we might be able to attach this to the Framework for example or provide a reference to it. Julie Reeves hosts a monthly conference call with the field offices in our region working on transmission line projects. We thought this might be a good place to vet the impact table.

We've started a table and have solicited input from the field offices who participate in our monthly transmission line calls. We've received some feedback that we may be duplicating efforts already on-going around the region. Are you aware of anything that we should be referencing?

Best regards,
Amy

Amy Defreese, Ecologist
Utah Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2369 W. Orton Circle, Suite 50
West Valley City, Utah 84119

Email: amy_defreese@fws.gov
Phone: 801-975-3330 x 128

From: Laura Romin [mailto:laura_romin@fws.gov]
Sent: Monday, May 13, 2013 6:10 PM
To: betsy_herrmann@fws.gov; amy_defreese@fws.gov
Subject: Fw: Monthly sage-grouse biologist call

From: Deibert, Pat [mailto:pat_deibert@fws.gov]
Sent: Monday, May 13, 2013 03:03 PM
To: Jeff Berglund <Jeff_Berglund@fws.gov>; Kevin Shelley <kevin_shelley@fws.gov>; Terry Quesinberry <terry_quesinberry@fws.gov>; Alex Schubert <alex_schubert@fws.gov>; Lynn Gemlo <lynn_gemlo@fws.gov>; Jessica Gonzales <Jessica_Gonzales@fws.gov>; Creed Clayton <creed_clayton@fws.gov>; Jason Pyron <jason_pyron@fws.gov>; Jeffrey Dillon <jeffrey_dillon@fws.gov>; Jesse DElia <jesse_delia@fws.gov>; Laura Romin <laura_romin@fws.gov>; Steve Abele <steve_abele@fws.gov>; Terry Ireland <terry_ireland@fws.gov>; Mark Hogan <mark_j_hogan@fws.gov>
Cc: Nicole Alt <nicole_alt@fws.gov>; Matt Kales <matt_kales@fws.gov>; Heather Johnson <heather_johnson@fws.gov>
Subject: Monthly sage-grouse biologist call

Hey everyone -

Its that time! The call will be this Thursday, May 16 at 2:00 pm MDT. Call in number is 1-877-992-6918, passcode 6546112#

Agenda items (please add!):
1. BLM (again)
2. Suggestions for agenda for Boise meeting
3. Any burning questions you have
4. Round the lek.

Please feel free to invite your Partner's folks. I've added some R6 contacts to this call, but welcome our Partner's folks if they feel its worth their time!

Talk to you soon!

p

--
Pat Deibert
National Sage-grouse Conservation Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5353 Yellowstone Road, Suite 308A
Cheyenne, WY 82009
307-772-2374, ext. 226

got leks?