From: "Kemner,Don" <don.kemner@idfg.idaho.gov>
To: "Jeri_Wood@fws.gov"; Jason_Pyron@fws.gov
Cc: Renee_Chi@fws.gov
Subject: RE: Sage-Grouse Habitat Mitigation
Date: Thursday, November 17, 2011 4:26:24 PM

Renee,

I don't have anything to add. Jeri covered it well.

Don Kemner

Wildlife Program Coordinator

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

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From: Jeri_Wood@fws.gov [mailto:Jeri_Wood@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, November 09, 2011 1:29 PM
To: Jason_Pyron@fws.gov
Cc: Kemner,Don; Renee_Chi@fws.gov
Subject: Re: Sage-Grouse Habitat Mitigation

Thanks Jason - Renee - I would be happy to discuss the mitigation that the Wildlife Working Group used for sage grouse mitigation at a wind project (China Mtn). Our ratio was basically a baseline of 10:1, with additive ratios for habitat types lost (winter habitat was +4, so 14:1, spring was +2, so 12:1, nesting was +2, so 12:1, summer was +1, so 11:1, and fall was +1, so 11:1). So if we are looking at winter and fall habitat only the mitigation ratio would be winter (4:1) + fall (1:1) + baseline (10:1) = 15:1 mitigation ratio for those habitat type acres lost. The DEIS had a total of 200,000 acres of lost habitat due to avoidance by sage grouse (so indirect) and 780 acres direct lost. The 10:1 ratio came from an NRCS document that I have attached for your information. Go to page 53 in that document where they applied a 10:1 ratio for all birds, including sage grouse. The group felt that these numbers were appropriate given the status of the species and that the affected population is an extremely important population of sage grouse and is one of 2 good sized

populations left across the range of the species. We also tried to assign costs to habitat acreage. We used the Ruby Pipeline as a template and determined that cost per acre would range from $250/acre (for restoration) to $759/acre for procurement. I hope this is helpful. Jeri

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May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome, and dangerous, leading to the most amazing view. May your mountains rise into and above the clouds. - E Abbey
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Jason Pyron/R1/FWS/DOI

11/03/2011 04:22 PM

To

Jeri Wood/ESBO/R1/FWS/DOI@FWS, don.kemner@idfg.idaho.gov

cc

Renee Chi/R6/FWS/DOI@FWS

Subject

Sage-Grouse Habitat Mitigation

Don & Jeri,

Renee Chi (Utah FWS) is working on a mitigation plan for a project that involves late brood-rearing habitat for sage-grouse. Both of you have a lot more experience than I do regarding this topic and have been discussing this topic fairly regularly. If either of you have any information regarding mitigation ratios and variation of values based on different aspects of a project, could you please pass it along to her? She is just trying to have some consistency between States etc. and try to keep from setting a bad precedent. I appologize for asking like this, but am heading out of town for the next week and wanted to get it out there before I left. Thanks a bunch and I'll be in touch...

Jason

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