From: Boling, Edward
To: Michael Bean
Cc: Lyons, James; Sarah Greenberger; Dan Ashe; Neil G Kornze; Bret Birdsong; Kate P Kelly
Subject: Re: Draft Letter
Date: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 8:54:47 AM
Attachments: (b) (5) [redacted]

(b) (5) [redacted]

Ted Boling
Deputy Solicitor -- Parks & Wildlife
U.S Department of the Interior
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On Wed, Jan 21, 2015 at 8:30 AM, Michael Bean <michael_bean@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

> Good letter. Regarding the $15 million, is any of it intended to begin the implementation of the BLM plans (recall Neil's comment yesterday that BLM will need significant resources to monitor rangeland health and compliance with grazing permit conditions).
>
> Sent from my iPad
>
> On Jan 21, 2015, at 4:54 AM, Lyons, James <james_lyons@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
>
>> My suggestions attached.
>>
>> Jim
>>
>> On Tue, Jan 20, 2015 at 11:24 PM, Sarah Greenberger <sarah_greenberger@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
>>
>>> Hi, here's a draft response to the WGA letter Kate and I worked on today. Would appreciate feedback and help answering what the $15M is for. We'd like to get this out the week so if you and your team can provide feedback tomorrow on the text and Kate's two questions, that would be great!
>>>
>>> Sent from my iPhone
>>>
>>> Begin forwarded message:
>>>
>>>> **From:** "Kelly, Katherine" <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>
>>>> **Date:** January 20, 2015 at 5:09:24 PM MST
>>>> **To:** Sarah Greenberger <sarah_greenberger@ios.doi.gov>
>>>> **Subject: Re: Draft Letter**

Some edits to take or leave! Redline version attached... or text pasted below. I thought it was good.

Other thoughts for consideration:
1) do we want to make any asks in the letter? (ie therefore, please get your info in to FWS... or make your plans awesome)
2) do we want to suggest any other timelines? like the BLM plans? I'm assuming not... but just raising.

Dear Governor,

Thank you for your January 16, 2015 letter regarding the Interior Department's timeline and funding plans for greater sage-grouse protection and sagebrush steppe restoration.

The rider attached to H.R. 83 concerning several grouse species has no effect on our efforts to develop and implement state and federal plans and to build partnerships to incentivize conservation. Further, it does not affect the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's court-ordered obligation to make a determination by September 30, 2015 as to whether the greater sage-grouse does or does not warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act.

In line with that obligation, the Service is on schedule to make a determination by that date, informed by revised Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service land management plans, an enhanced rangeland fire strategy as called for in my recent Secretarial Order, and the actions states take to develop and strengthen their plans. As you outline in your letter, together we are creating a model for conservation and are making important strides to protect the iconic sagebrush-steppe landscape of the American West.

We are moving full steam ahead with our efforts to conserve sagebrush habitat and advance the unprecedented collaboration happening across 11 states, leading up to that September 30, 2015 determination. The Department intends to spend the $15 million appropriated for greater
sage-grouse conservation to complete the BLM land management plans, the Service will continue to collect

data and analysis… (help from BLM, FWS, USGS and USDA?). Interior's Bureaus will continue to seek states' advice and expertise as we prioritize implementation activities.

Of all the important work happening at Interior, there is no project or partnership of which I am more proud than this joint effort with you and the other Governors to protect a landscape that sustains hundreds of species of wildlife, robust economic activity and the Western way of life.

There's no doubt that this is a difficult and complex issue, but I am more determined than ever to work with the states, ranchers, energy developers and other stakeholders who are putting effective conservation measures in place with the shared goal of reaching a 'not warranted' determination by the end of the fiscal year.

Thank you for your continued leadership on this important issue.

--

Kate Kelly
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<Governor Response Letter v1_JRL comments_1,21.15.docx>

(b) (5)

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