From: Birdsong, Bret
To: Sarah Greenberger
Cc: Bean, Michael; Ted Boling; James Lyons; Neil G Kornze; Dan Ashe; Kate P Kelly; John Blair; Fay Iudicello; Robert Howarth
Subject: Re: Draft Letter
Date: Thursday, January 22, 2015 4:32:47 PM
Attachments: (b) (5) [redacted]

(b) (5) [redacted]

On Thu, Jan 22, 2015 at 4:27 PM, Sarah Greenberger <sarah_greenberger@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

> Fair. I was focused more on the scope of the paragraph as a whole. Will edit the sentence to read:
>
> "The Department intends to spend the $15 million appropriated for greater sage-grouse conservation to complete the BLM land management plans and implement actions critical to sagebrush conservation and restoration."
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On Jan 22, 2015, at 3:55 PM, "Bean, Michael" <michael_bean@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
>
> > Sarah: Did you attach the correct version of the letter? Given Neil's explanation of how the $15M is to be spent, I don't think it is right to say "The Department intends to spend the $15 million appropriated for greater sage-grouse conservation to complete the BLM land management plans."
> >
> > On Thu, Jan 22, 2015 at 3:45 PM, Greenberger, Sarah <sarah_greenberger@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
> >
> > > Actually with Fay and Rob this time.
> > > ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> > > From: **Greenberger, Sarah** <sarah_greenberger@ios.doi.gov>
> > > Date: Thu, Jan 22, 2015 at 3:42 PM
> > > Subject: Re: Draft Letter
> > > To: "Boling, Edward" <ted.boling@sol.doi.gov>
> > > Cc: Michael Bean <michael_bean@ios.doi.gov>, "Lyons, James" <james_lyons@ios.doi.gov>, Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov>, Neil G Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Bret Birdsong <bret.birdsong@sol.doi.gov>, Kate P Kelly <Kate_Kelly@ios.doi.gov>
> > >
> > > Hi. Here is a new version of the letter which I believe captures everyones edits. I didn't add the details from the budget language Neil circulated because I think Jim's edits cover it. I've copied Fay and Rob Howarth in the hopes that this email chain can help expedite the surname process and we can get this out tomorrow or Monday. Thanks all! Sarah
> > >
> > > On Wed, Jan 21, 2015 at 8:54 AM, Boling, Edward

<ted.boling@sol.doi.gov> wrote:

(b) (5) [redacted]

Ted Boling
Deputy Solicitor -- Parks & Wildlife
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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
Director of Communications
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Jim Lyons
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<Governor Response Letter v1_JRL comments_1,21.15.docx>

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Michael J. Bean

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(b) (5)