

**From:** [Stein, Theodore](#)  
**To:** [Matt Kales](#)  
**Cc:** [Michael Thabault](#); [Nicole Alt](#); [Noreen Walsh](#); [Kate Norman](#); [Robert Mansheim](#)  
**Subject:** Re: FW: GRSG: 2 Items in advance of 2/24 webinar  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 24, 2015 10:24:56 AM

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Matt

The grazing memo has been uploaded to the website under Resources/Documents/Landowner Resources  
[http://www.fws.gov/greaterSageGrouse/documents/Landowners/20150205\\_FWS%20Sage%20grouse%20and%20Ranching.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/greaterSageGrouse/documents/Landowners/20150205_FWS%20Sage%20grouse%20and%20Ranching.pdf)

The Stronghold Memo and data are here

Stronghold memo

<http://www.fws.gov/greaterSageGrouse/documents/ESA%20Process/GRSG%20Strongholds%20memo%20to%20BLM%20and%20USFS%20102714.pdf>

Stronghold data layer -

<https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/item/546cf30be4b0fc7976bf1d4e>

+ Rob Mansheim, our new digital media specialist

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On Tue, Feb 24, 2015 at 8:03 AM, Matt Kales <[matt\\_kales@fws.gov](mailto:matt_kales@fws.gov)> wrote:

Mike,

Here is the date-stamped grazing memo for use/distro with the states and TF, respectively.

Theo: please post this per the below and provide this group with the URL. Thanks, all.

Matt

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**From:** Trina Vigil [mailto:[trina\\_vigil@fws.gov](mailto:trina_vigil@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 24, 2015 7:52 AM  
**To:** Matt Kales  
**Subject:** RE: GRSG: 2 Items in advance of 2/24 webinar

Matt-

Here you go.

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**From:** Matt Kales [mailto:[matt\\_kales@fws.gov](mailto:matt_kales@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 23, 2015 3:15 PM  
**To:** Michael Thabault  
**Cc:** Nicole Alt; Kate Norman; Theodore Stein; Trina Vigil  
**Subject:** RE: GRSG: 2 Items in advance of 2/24 webinar

Mike,

Per my earlier message, here's the follow up content for your discussion with the states tomorrow. Please holler with questions/revisions. Thanks.

#### Grazing memo

Please see below the language for the SGTF e-mail distribution. Please hold this until after the webinar. Once you've advised the states about memo using the attached talking points, please send the memo (which Trina will date stamp 2/5/15 and send to me NLT 1200 MST tomorrow) to Katie

Kalinowski/WGA with a request she distribute the memo to the SGTF.

Theo: please post the date-stamped version of the memo on the FWS GrSG site (I will provide it to you NLT 1200 MST tomorrow). I recommend you put it under documents/resources/landowner resources. Please then confirm with Mike and this group in advance of the webinar at 2 pm MST tomorrow the memo is up and where the memo can be found (URL).

Note to all: the TPs are for internal use only.

Language for SGTF distro:

Recently, regional program managers for the US Fish and Wildlife Service distributed to Service greater sage-grouse project leaders and personnel a Rangewide Guidance Memo that outlined the Service's position on livestock grazing and working with rangeland owners to conserve sage-grouse.

The purpose of the memo is to communicate - in accessible, unambiguous fashion – that the Service wants to work with livestock producers to help them understand the value of maintaining the habitat conditions that sage-grouse need, both for the long-term conservation of wildlife and for the improved range conditions that will benefit their cattle operations.

The memo is being used to provide guidance to all Service field personnel (Regions 1, 6, and 8) working with rangeland owners on sage-grouse conservation efforts to ensure we are working in an informed, constructive and consistent manner with these partners to find durable solutions to conservation questions related to livestock grazing and sage-grouse protection.

It also provides specific guidance to Service staff who develop and implement Candidate Conservation Agreements/with Assurances (CCAs/CCAAs), Partners for Fish and Wildlife program projects, and perform other activities such as delivery of technical assistance.

We appreciate the Sage-Grouse Task Force's interest in and support for our efforts to engage rangeland owners to conserve greater sage-grouse. Task Force members should feel free to contact me with any follow up questions. The memo is posted on the Service's Greater Sage-Grouse site at: [Theo will provide URL]

### **Strongholds**

I recommend you advise the states the following:

- A recent Greenwire piece on Service Director Ashe's 10/27/14 memo to BLM and US Forest Service leadership transmitting the Service's maps identifying greater sage-grouse "stronghold" areas for consideration in the federal planning process indicated Greenwire obtained the memo and maps through a federal FOIA request.
- As the states may recall, we provided the memo and maps to our state partners in the course of various discussions last fall with the SGTF on this topic, and posted the relevant materials on a public web site (USGS ScienceBase) soon after their transmittal.
- There is no need for anyone to file a FOIA request to obtain these documents, which we've made even easier to access by posting them on our GrSG site at:  
<http://www.fws.gov/greatersagegrouse/documents/ESA%20Process/GRSG%20Strongholds%20memo%20to%20BLM%20and%20USFS%20102714.pdf>
- We remain committed to a transparent and inclusive approach to sage-grouse conservation and welcome any additional questions or comments may have about our stronghold recommendations or any other aspect of our sage-grouse work.