

**From:** [Wiechman, Lief](#)  
**To:** [Glover, John - NRCS, Washington, DC](#)  
**Cc:** [Ortiz, Elaine - NRCS, Fort Worth, TX](#); [Matt Kales](#); [Jim Lindstrom](#)  
**Subject:** Re: GRSG: FWS GIS POC for SGI data  
**Date:** Thursday, February 26, 2015 7:57:18 AM

---

Hi John,

Just wanted to circle back and thank you again for your time and assistance. I also spoke with Elaine and would like to thank her for her time assisting Jim and I with this easement data. I think we're covered moving forward but will holler your way if we have any questions. The easement data will be useful in our status review and having the spatial information to go along with it is very helpful. We also received some assistance from the folks at the National Conservation Easement Database (Mitchel Hannon), which will help compliment the NRCS data nicely.

Take care,

LW

***Lief Wiechman***  
Sage-grouse Ecologist  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Mountain-Prairie Region  
Cell: 307.214.8426  
Office: 307.772.2374 x236  
[lief\\_wiechman@fws.gov](mailto:lief_wiechman@fws.gov)

On Fri, Feb 20, 2015 at 1:31 PM, Glover, John - NRCS, Washington, DC  
<[John.Glover@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:John.Glover@wdc.usda.gov)> wrote:

Lief,

Attached is a PDF file of the 2014 farm bill.

Responses to your inquires are populated in red font below. Our regulation and program policies are expected to be published soon and will provide more in depth information. As you will note, the statute is somewhat vague.

FRPP, GRP and the new ACEP ALE provide “protection against agricultural conversion.”

Please feel free to contact me if you need additional information or have additional questions.

Thank you,

John Glover

Land Stewardship Leader

Easement Programs Division

Natural Resources Conservation Service

1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Rm 5245-S (NEW)

Washington, D.C. 20250

Off: (202) 260-8106 (NEW)

CL: (202) 834-2404

Email: [john.glover@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:john.glover@wdc.usda.gov)

**From:** Wiechman, Lief [mailto:[lief\\_wiechman@fws.gov](mailto:lief_wiechman@fws.gov)]

**Sent:** Thursday, February 19, 2015 4:00 PM

**To:** Glover, John - NRCS, Washington, DC

**Cc:** Jim Lindstrom; Matt Kales

**Subject:** Re: GRSG: FWS GIS POC for SGI data

Hi John,

Thanks again for your time today. We're attempting to determine which agreements downloaded from both the NRCS and NCED protect against agriculture conversion.

NRCS Data:

After speaking with you today, sounds like we've addressed those from the NRCS, with FRPP, WRP, and GRP all protecting against agriculture conversion. (To clarify, I recommend that you reference the program purposes as identified in the 2014 farm bill (H.R. 2642), Title II, Subsection D, Sec. 2301, Subtitle H, Sec. 1265, (b) (page 210). Exceptions may exist in the form of modifications and exchanges. Is there a document or

guidance you could point us to, that describes the potential modifications so we may incorporate the necessary language in our status review? (Please see Sec. 1265D (c) (Page 239) of the 2014 farm bill (H.R. 2642). In addition, the only category we did not discuss was "Emergency Watershed Protection Program for Floodplain Easements" and whether they carry the same protections as GRP, etc. (Please see the following link for information regarding EWPP-FPE; [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/financial/ewp/?cid=nrcs143\\_008225](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/financial/ewp/?cid=nrcs143_008225). The protection EWPP-FPE is stated on the page in the link above. EWPP-FPE is also part of the 2014 farm bill; see page 267.)

NCED Data: (I am not able to attest to or make assumption about the NCED data. You will need to contact the data owner for explanation and analysis regarding the information)

In the attached excel file, the 2nd tab has the information exported from the attribute table of all polygons within sage-grouse management zones (downloaded from the NCED). I've highlighted the 'Purpose' column. Given that these data don't share the attributes and program description the NRCS data does, we're left wondering how we should group and analyze that data. Any information you could steer us to, in order to determine whether or not agriculture conversion is allowed would be greatly appreciated.

There appear to be 6 different purposes: Environmental System, Historic Preservation, Open Space - Farm, Open Space - Forest, Open Space - Other, Recreation or Education, and we'd like to know if any one or combination of them would provide the same protections as those programs identified in the NRCS data.

We've also noticed that some of the agreement duration's identified as 'temporary' and/or 'unknown' don't contain information about length, and may be omitted from our analysis.

Let me know if I can provide any clarification to our question(s), and thanks for you help.

Take care,

LW

***Lief Wiechman***

Sage-grouse Ecologist

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Mountain-Prairie Region

Cell: 307.214.8426

Office: 307.772.2374 x236

[lief\\_wiechman@fws.gov](mailto:lief_wiechman@fws.gov)

---

**From:** Matt Kales [[mailto:matt\\_kales@fws.gov](mailto:matt_kales@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2015 10:07 AM  
**To:** Griffiths, Tim - NRCS, Bozeman, MT  
**Cc:** James Lindstrom; Mark Sattelberg; Lief Wiechman; Pat Deibert  
**Subject:** GRSG: FWS GIS POC for SGI data

Morning, Tim. Thanks again for your time on the phone yesterday. As discussed, copied here is Jim Lindstrom, our GIS lead for the Service's WY Ecological Services Field Office in Cheyenne. Jim is available to serve as our GIS POC and interface with your folks to share and assimilate spatial data for SGI conservation easements. Jim's full contact information follows.

Thanks in advance to you/r folks and Jim for their efforts to move us forward on this front and please let me know how else we can support those efforts.

Regards,

Matt

email: [james\\_lindstrom@fws.gov](mailto:james_lindstrom@fws.gov)

phone: 307.772.2374 (x240)

Matt Kales, Senior Advisor for Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation

Office of the Regional Director

US Fish and Wildlife Service, Mountain-Prairie Region

Office: (303) 236-4576

Mobile: (720) 234-0257

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.