

From: [Noreen Walsh](#)
To: [Matt Kales](#)
Subject: RE: GRSG: 2 questions from RD re: our stronghold mapping exercise
Date: Thursday, January 08, 2015 12:16:43 PM

Based on the below, the only refinement I would recommend (tell me if you see it differently) is to encourage BLM to include in their management areas inside our polygons that they control subsurface rights, even if they do not control surface rights.

From: Matt Kales [mailto:matt_kales@fws.gov]
Sent: Thursday, January 08, 2015 12:13 PM
To: Noreen Walsh
Subject: RE: GRSG: 2 questions from RD re: our stronghold mapping exercise

You bet. Lara (and I) are available to talk/help further at your convenience. On a related note, I saw traffic from MT ES FO indicating Jeff B. – per the earlier messages I forwarded you - advised BLM we support minor technical changes to our MT mapping to address any artifacts from the GIS/mapping exercise but otherwise are standing firm on existing boundaries. Thanks,

From: Noreen Walsh [mailto:noreen_walsh@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, January 07, 2015 8:09 PM
To: Matt Kales
Subject: Re: GRSG: 2 questions from RD re: our stronghold mapping exercise

Just what I needed. Now we need to think about implications and next steps... Tku and lara for speedy turnaround.

Noreen Walsh
Regional Director
Mountain-Prairie Region
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

On Jan 7, 2015, at 4:25 PM, Matt Kales <matt_kales@fws.gov> wrote:

Please see below. Happy to talk more or dig further. Thanks.

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Juliusson, Lara" <lara_juliusson@fws.gov>
Date: January 7, 2015 at 5:17:23 PM MST
To: Matt Kales <matt_kales@fws.gov>
Cc: Pat Deibert <pat_deibert@fws.gov>, Michael Thabault <michael_thabault@fws.gov>, Nicole Alt <nicole_alt@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: GRSG: 2 questions from RD re: our stronghold mapping exercise

Hi Matt, see answers below. Sorry in advance for some GIS-speak.

Short answer: We did not analyze subsurface mineral rights during

our mapping exercise.

1. We did include some private land in the strongholds polygons as a result of the coarse nature of the analysis, and the introduction of overlay analysis errors such as slivers when combining data sets. Most of the private lands were in-holdings (about 540,000 acres) and a small amount were not (27,000 acres all in NV). However, we did not analyze subsurface mineral rights for this private land when we created our polygons. Recall that during the week we were working on the strongholds areas, we received subsurface data from the BLM, but due to time constraints, we did not consider it in our analysis.

For the private lands included in the stronghold areas, I just did a quick retrospective analysis with what we have from BLM for subsurface mineral rights, and here is what I found. Please note that on 10/24/14 Frank Quamen from the BLM stated that BLM NV and OR do not have a subsurface mineral ownership layer.

ID: 45,000 acres (appx.) private in-holding with BLM subsurface mineral rights

OR: No subsurface data available, and Frank in his email said that this may be because BLM may not have much of any subsurface management outside of what is BLM, or other federal surface, in these states.

MT: 37,000 acres (appx.) private in-holding with BLM subsurface mineral rights

NV: No subsurface data available, and Frank in his email said that this may be because BLM may not have much of any subsurface management outside of what is BLM, or other federal surface, in these states.

UT: 5,000 acres (appx.) private in-holding with BLM subsurface mineral rights

WY: 46,000 acres (appx.) private in-holding with BLM subsurface mineral rights

2. We did not do any analysis using subsurface data, therefore, we did not exclude any lands based on the private surface ownership/federal subsurface combination.

Hope this helps. Let me know if you have other questions.

Lara

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On Wed, Jan 7, 2015 at 3:33 PM, Matt Kales <matt_kales@fws.gov> wrote:

Lara,

Noreen has 2 additional questions about the “stronghold” mapping exercise we undertook late last year. Both questions involve subsurface mineral rights:

1. Did we include in our polygons private surface lands with federal subsurface rights (or did we exclude all private lands, with the exception of inholdings, based on surface ownership)?
2. Relatedly, did we exclude any lands from our polygons that were biologically significant but are in private surface ownership but have federal subsurface rights?

Noreen will be at WAFWA and related meetings tomorrow through Sunday so we'd be grateful for your feedback on the above soon, since this issue is likely to be a topic of discussion. Thanks in advance.

Matt

Matt Kales

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