

From: [Matt Kales](#)
To: [Noreen Walsh](#)
Subject: RE: GRSG: tasking; 2014 WGA Sage-Grouse Inventory
Date: Saturday, January 10, 2015 8:27:06 AM

Thanks. I think we need to run a trap line to make 110% sure we aren't replicating efforts at HQ but pretty sure if this task hasn't been controlled to us by now we are on point to respond. I can touch base with Katie to see if we can get a bit more time to deliver the data.

From: Noreen Walsh [mailto:noreen_walsh@fws.gov]
Sent: Saturday, January 10, 2015 8:21 AM
To: Matt Kales
Subject: Re: GRSG: tasking; 2014 WGA Sage-Grouse Inventory

Looks very good - right approach, thanks very much

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

On Jan 9, 2015, at 10:34 AM, Matt Kales <matt_kales@fws.gov> wrote:

Theo,

We can talk more on this when we connect later today, but to give you some context and get you/all going on this:

The past several years, WGA has produced a report documenting GrSG conservation efforts across the range. We've typically reviewed drafts of that report and provided comments. This year, WGA is employing a slightly different (broader) approach, as described in the below message and the attached cover letter.

While this item has not been controlled or assigned to us (yet), we expect it is pending and want to get going since the submittal date is coming up and, clearly, we'll want to respond to WGA and contribute data to the report.

The folks copied here huddled yesterday and, based on Pat's initial read/recommendations, ask that you, together with the EA GrSG PAOs and with technical assistance from ES and NWRs/PFW, please take the lead on developing FWS' response for leadership to review. We recommend simple (NTE 1 paragraph) responses to each of the core questions). For example:

1. what are the efforts FWS is taking for conservation? - a short statement regarding refuge management, private lands conservation (both PFW and CCAAs), and working with our federal and state partners on RMPs and related conservation efforts. Nothing detailed on the latter as the other federal agencies and the states will be providing

most of this. We probably want to hit our funding of Ken Mayer and his group, any additional science funding or tribal partnerships we can identify, as well as our role in various fire-invasive work, including Battalion Pro. I defer to this group if we want to reference the CED and its role as a living, spatially-explicit repository of conservation efforts.

2. how are we ensuring support for voluntary conservation efforts? – further discuss our push to put boots on the ground to deliver CCAAs; continue to invest in private lands restoration via PFW; continue to support SGI/SWAT.

3. plans in the future - a short summary of our commitment as an agency to long-term sagebrush ecosystem conservation, with emphasis on landscape conservation and the importance of getting it right for GrSG and by extension other sagebrush obligates/dependents. This ties back to numbers 1 and 2.

A subset of this group can have a follow-on conversation about the best process for review/surname. In the meantime, please let us know if you have any immediate questions. Thanks in advance for your time on this.

Matt

From: Katie Kalinowski [mailto:kkalinowski@westgov.org]
Sent: Tuesday, December 09, 2014 10:38 AM
To: Dan Ashe (d_m_ashe@fws.gov)
Cc: roslyn_sellars@fws.gov; Thomas Irwin; Noreen Walsh (noreen_walsh@fws.gov); Michael Thabault (michael_thabault@fws.gov); pat_deibert@fws.gov; nicole_alt@fws.gov; Matt Kales; Wiechman, Lief
Subject: 2014 WGA Sage-Grouse Inventory

Dear Director Ashe,

The Western Governors' Association (WGA) is collecting data for our fourth annual *Inventory of Conservation Initiatives for Sage-Grouse*. The attached letter from the Governors describes this effort in greater detail.

Unlike previous inventories which documented only state and local conservation efforts, for the 2014 inventory we are asking for input from a wider range of public and private stakeholders including federal agencies, industry, nonprofits and tribes.

You are asked to please respond with your inventory data by **Wednesday, January 14, 2015** to kkalinowski@westgov.org for inclusion in the 2014 inventory. For more information, feel free to view the 2013 WGA *Inventory of Conservation Initiatives for Sage-Grouse* [here](#). Please do reach out should you have any questions and thanks in advance for your critical participation in this effort.

Best regards,
Katie

Katie Kalinowski

Policy Advisor

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<FWS_LTR_SG Inventory_Cover Letter_FINAL.pdf>

<Inventory Questions_FWS_FINAL.pdf>