

**From:** [Larry Crist](#)  
**To:** [Laura Romin](#); [Betsy Herrmann](#); [Jay Martini](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Rep Stewart Meeting - Alton Coal BP  
**Date:** Monday, January 26, 2015 3:00:10 PM

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**From:** Amy Defreese [mailto:[amy\\_defreese@fws.gov](mailto:amy_defreese@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 26, 2015 2:59 PM  
**To:** Larry Crist  
**Subject:** RE: Rep Stewart Meeting - Alton Coal BP

I think there is our general buffer recommendation, and then a buffer recommendation for the Alton Project. I view the two differently because there is no alternative in the Alton Coal DEIS that allows for anything more than a 0.5 mile buffer. To me, the question the Region should be prepared to answer is whether we are okay with a FEIS (not yet published) that allows for a 0.5 mile buffer.

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**From:** Larry Crist [mailto:[Larry\\_Crist@fws.gov](mailto:Larry_Crist@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 26, 2015 2:43 PM  
**To:** Laura Romin; Amy Defreese; Betsy Herrmann; Jay Martini  
**Subject:** FW: Rep Stewart Meeting - Alton Coal BP

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**From:** Michael Thabault [mailto:[michael\\_thabault@fws.gov](mailto:michael_thabault@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 26, 2015 1:51 PM  
**To:** Larry Crist  
**Subject:** Fwd: Rep Stewart Meeting - Alton Coal BP

Can you answer

Michael Thabault  
Assistant Regional Director  
Ecological Services  
Mountain Prairie Region

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Noreen Walsh <[noreen\\_walsh@fws.gov](mailto:noreen_walsh@fws.gov)>  
**Date:** January 26, 2015 at 1:47:28 PM MST  
**To:** Michael Thabault <[michael\\_thabault@fws.gov](mailto:michael_thabault@fws.gov)>, [nicole\\_alt@fws.gov](mailto:nicole_alt@fws.gov)  
**Cc:** Matt Hogan <[matt\\_hogan@fws.gov](mailto:matt_hogan@fws.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Rep Stewart Meeting - Alton Coal BP

Per my voicemail, great briefing paper.

One question: to be consistent with the USGS Buffer Review and our subsequent recommendations to BLM, we would now generally recommend 3.1 miles as a buffer.

However, I understand our recommendation reflected in the attached predates the

USGS review and our subsequent (recent) recommendations to BLM.

Can we still support 2 miles, knowing what we know now? Are there other protections beyond the buffer that taken together with the buffer mean that 2 miles is sufficient? If so, can we explain? If not, do we need to change our recommendation?

Thanks, let's resolve this and then we can close this out.

Noreen

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**From:** Matt Hogan [mailto:[Matt\\_Hogan@fws.gov](mailto:Matt_Hogan@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 26, 2015 1:35 PM  
**To:** Noreen Walsh  
**Subject:** FW: Rep Stewart Meeting - Alton Coal BP

**From:** Kelhart, Megan [mailto:[megan\\_kelhart@fws.gov](mailto:megan_kelhart@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 26, 2015 1:08 PM  
**To:** John Bryan; Marla Trollan  
**Cc:** Matt Hogan; Michael Thabault; Martin Kodis  
**Subject:** Rep Stewart Meeting - Alton Coal BP

Hi John and Marla,

Dan is scheduled to meet with Neil Kornze (BLM-Director) tomorrow I believe and both are scheduled to meet with Rep. Chris Stewart on Wednesday, January 28th at 1:00 p.m. EST. to discuss the status of the Alton Coal EIS/project.

Attached is the briefing paper, with a few minor edits, as prepared by the Field Office. Gary Frazer asked that we make sure that Matt and Noreen have seen this briefing paper and are okay with it before we provide it to the Director.

Can you please make sure that they see the paper, make any needed edits, and give it a green light as soon as you can? Finally, one question we have is, are we to assume that Alternative K1 is our preferred alternative?

Thank you, we look forward to hearing back from you.

Megan

Megan Debranski Kelhart  
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