

From: [Martini, Jay](#)
To: [Betsy Herrmann](#)
Cc: [Laura Romin](#)
Subject: Fwd: FW: GRSG 2015 Agriculture Conversion chapter ready for review
Date: Tuesday, January 27, 2015 11:35:58 AM
Attachments: [GRSG2015_CommentMemo_JM 20150127.doc](#)

Hi Betsy,

Attached are my comments that I am providing to the Agricultural Conversion chapter author. The memo template came from the one they provided for us. Nothing too significant to note in this one. Comments are due tomorrow.

Thanks

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Larry Crist** <Larry_Crist@fws.gov>
Date: Wed, Jan 21, 2015 at 10:19 AM
Subject: FW: GRSG 2015 Agriculture Conversion chapter ready for review
To: Laura Romin <Laura_Romin@fws.gov>, Betsy Herrmann <betsy_herrmann@fws.gov>, Jay Martini <jay_martini@fws.gov>

Hey all,

As these early draft chapters come in I will forward to everyone. As indicated not every chapter needs to be reviewed by us but if we do we will need to consolidate comments for the office in a memo as requested to avoid confusion. See attached links for agconversion chapter and comment template.

From: Nicholas, Amy [mailto:amy_nicholas@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2015 5:56 PM
To: Mark Sattelberg; Seth Willey; Paul Henson; Scott Larson; Kevin Shelley; Jodi Bush; Larry Crist; Michael Carrier; Tom McDowell
Cc: Kate Norman; Joy Gober; Nicole Alt; Bridget Moran; Jessica Gonzales; Tyler Abbott
Subject: GRSG 2015 Agriculture Conversion chapter ready for review

Hello All,

FYI, the Agricultural Conversion chapter is ready for review, link below. Joy Gober is the author. If you have particular interest in reviewing this chapter (MT?, WA?) please have comments back to me no later than Jan 28.

At this stage we are asking review for logic and clarity of argument. Is the chapter logically organized? Is the argument compelling? Are the dots connected? We are asking for your questions or comments to be included in a memo (link below) not track changes. We will have others doing technical edits at a later time.

[20150112_agconversion_PMEExp_Rv](#)

[GRSG2015_CommentMemo_Template](#)

We do not expect all project leaders to review every chapter. However, I will be sending out a similar FYI for each chapter as it becomes available.

Don't hesitate to call if you have any questions.

Amy Nicholas, Ph.D.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

5353 Yellowstone Road, Suite 308A

Cheyenne, WY 82009

307-772-2374 Ext. 242

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Jay Martini

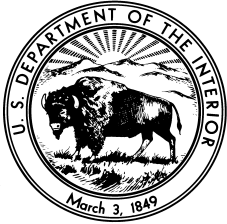
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Utah Ecological Services Field Office

2369 W. Orton Circle

West Valley City, Utah 84119

ph: 801-975-3330, ext. 144



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region



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Post Office Box 25486
Denver Federal Center
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

STREET LOCATION:
134 Union Blvd.
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1807

January 27, 2015

TO: Greater Sage-Grouse Status Review Team
(Attn: Joy Gober)

FROM: Jay Martini, Utah Fish and Wildlife Service Field Office

SUBJECT: Greater Sage-grouse Status Review: Comments Regarding Agriculture
Conversion Chapter

Specific comments

Page 2-Historical Sources Section-This section only includes discussion of Great Basin and Washington portions of the GRSG range. Should include the rest of the range or rationale for why areas are not included here.

Page 3-Current Sources Section-Paragraph 1, Sentence 2: There are only two states mentioned (Idaho and Washington)--Looking at the threat map below (P. 6), it appears that agricultural conversion is a significant threat in Montana and could be included here as a further example.

Page 3-Current Sources Section-Paragraph 1, last Sentence: There does not appear to be further analysis of this in the document--is there a quantification of how many historical/current acres of GRSG habitat has been lost to these activities and do we suspect this threat to grow in the future as a result of climate change (e.g., do we expect the creation/expansion of more reservoirs?). This could be addressed in Projected Future Impacts Section (page 13) or stated that it will be addressed further in the Climate Change Chapter.

Page 4-Current Sources Section-Paragraph 2: Needs clarification. Suggest using the term partial barrier here (?). As it is currently worded it implies that there is no migratory movement across this area due to the barrier created by agricultural conversion, however you cite evidence that migration is occurring to some degree.

Page 5-Result of Impact section-Paragraph 1: It would be beneficial for the reader to reiterate what this means--"Sage-grouse are more likely to be extirpated from areas containing greater than 25 percent cropland and less than 25 percent sagebrush"

Page 8-Map: For reader clarity it would be good to show where the management zones are at on the map.

Page 20-Actions and Effectiveness Section: Section only discusses Washington-Should also include discussion of how this has impacted the Great Plains Management Zone.