

From: [DElia, Jesse](#)
To: [Pat Deibert](#)
Subject: Fwd: FW: GRSG: ID disturbance calc methodology
Date: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 10:55:24 AM

fyi

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

From: Foss, Jeffery <jfoss@blm.gov>
Date: Wed, Jan 21, 2015 at 9:42 AM
Subject: Re: FW: GRSG: ID disturbance calc methodology
To: "Mackey, Dennis" <dennis_mackey@fws.gov>
Cc: Theresa Rabot <theresa_rabot@fws.gov>, Richard Hannan <richard_hannan@fws.gov>, Jesse DElia <jesse_delia@fws.gov>, Timothy Murphy <tmurphy@blm.gov>, Johanna Munson <jmunson@blm.gov>, Jonathan Beck <jmbeck@blm.gov>, Brent Ralston <bralston@blm.gov>, Jason Pyron <jason_pyron@fws.gov>, Kathleen Hendricks <kathleen_hendricks@fws.gov>

Dennis, as you set up this call for Friday, please work with Sylvia Graves in my office who has access to our calendars and can find a time that works for all of us.

Jeff

Jeff Foss
Deputy State Director- Resources, Idaho BLM
1387 S. Vinnell Way, Boise, ID 83709
208-373-3800
jfoss@blm.gov

On Wed, Jan 21, 2015 at 8:31 AM, Mackey, Dennis <dennis_mackey@fws.gov> wrote:
Thursday will be difficult for us, I need to be in Shoshone tomorrow and Jason is tied up with FIAT meetings. Friday is open so we can make that work, just let us know when.

Thanks.

Dennis

On Wed, Jan 21, 2015 at 8:06 AM, Theresa Rabot <theresa_rabot@fws.gov> wrote:

Agreed, thanks Jeff – I would also like Richard and I to be on if at all possible so we all have the same understanding.

From: Foss, Jeffery [mailto:jfoss@blm.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 6:20 AM
To: Theresa Rabot
Cc: Dennis Mackey; Richard Hannan; Jesse DElia; Timothy Murphy; Johanna Munson; Jonathan Beck; Brent Ralston
Subject: Re: FW: GRSG: ID disturbance calc methodology

Terry

We can be available for a call tomorrow or Friday if there is a need to discuss this issue further. If we do have a call, I think it is important to have Pat, Jesse, and Dennis on the line and I can arrange to have Brent explain Idaho's approach and answer questions.

Dennis, can you check the availability of FWS folks then stop by and we can confirm a time that works for both agencies.

Thanks

Jeff

Jeff Foss

Deputy State Director- Resources, Idaho BLM

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On Wed, Jan 21, 2015 at 6:43 AM, Theresa Rabot <theresa_rabot@fws.gov> wrote:

Jeff –

I'd like to make sure we're all on the same page with the disturbance calculation – I'm not sure my note meant complete endorsement – I'm not knowledgeable enough at this point. I rely on the technical experts to tell me if it's good. As we all know and have said a few times (or more)

what may work in one state may pose some problems when we look rangewide. I know Dennis, Jesse and Pat did engage on this yesterday and I've included the summary statement they sent me – reading this, I'm not quite sure where we are but I think we need to have a conversation next – I know this runs the risk of more frustration but I'd rather have that now than later -

I'm in DC, but could possibly get on a call tomorrow or Friday. I don't know Richard's availability today if that's better for you.

*Idaho BLM generated a novel equation for calculating disturbance for the purposes of monitoring for disturbance caps. Although IFWO did not express significant concerns when the calculation was presented by Idaho BLM, **since the disturbance cap in Idaho is not likely to be hit under either method**, our recent collective review of this equation in more detail (Pat, Jesse, and Jason) suggests that the genesis of this equation was based on the erroneous assumption that other planning efforts were not "incorporating fire" into their disturbance calculations. They note this in their rationale provided in draft proposal - "[a straight 3% disturbance cap] would not account for changes in effective habitat due to loss through fire or gain through restoration and rehabilitation." This is not true - all other planning areas are accounting for changes to the amount of available habitat (what Idaho BLM calls effective habitat) in the denominator of their disturbance calculations. In addition, the equation inserts two terms in their disturbance calculation that make the equation unnecessarily complex and difficult to interpret. First a term for the entire area of the BSU is included in the denominator, yet anthropogenic disturbance is only being measured in the effective habitat. Second, the inclusion of a "constant" is added as a correction factor. The result of adding these terms is that in some circumstances the amount of disturbance (in acres) actually allowed under a 3% cap would vary significantly depending on the equation applied - with Idaho's equation allowing more disturbance before hitting the cap in some scenarios.*

*It is unclear why Idaho BLM developed its own disturbance calculation apart from the rest of the Great Basin planning areas as we have been asking for consistency to the extent possible. That said, IFWO is confident that the conservation outcomes for sage-grouse will be the same regardless of the calculation methodology because the anthropogenic disturbance cap is not likely to be hit under either methodology **in Idaho**. Fire and invasives remain the greatest threat to sage-grouse habitat in that State. However, there is general agreement that applying Idaho's methodology more broadly **could be problematic**, because in areas where an anthropogenic disturbance cap is likely to be hit, Idaho BLM's methodology **could** allow for a higher percentage of anthropogenic disturbance before a cap is hit in some scenarios.*

From: Michael Carrier [mailto:michael_carrier@fws.gov]
Sent: Monday, January 19, 2015 10:59 AM
To: Theresa Rabot
Subject: Re: GRSG: ID disturbance calc methodology

That's a good idea.

Michael Carrier

Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Idaho Office

On Jan 19, 2015, at 7:40 AM, Theresa Rabot <theresa_rabot@fws.gov> wrote:

Still would like Brent to discuss with pat so we don't have same problems later. I left vmail for Jesse

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 19, 2015, at 11:34 AM, Michael Carrier <michael_carrier@fws.gov> wrote:

Sounds like this may have been put to rest.....for now.

Michael Carrier

Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Idaho Office

Begin forwarded message:

From: Timothy Murphy <tmurphy@blm.gov>
Date: January 19, 2015 at 7:19:32 AM HST
To: Michael Carrier <michael_carrier@fws.gov>, Dennis Mackey <dennis_mackey@fws.gov>
Subject: Fwd: GRSG: ID disturbance calc methodology

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Edwin Roberson
<eroberso@blm.gov>
Date: January 19, 2015 at 8:39:12 AM
MST
To: Jeffery Foss <jfoss@blm.gov>
Cc: Timothy Murphy
<tmurphy@blm.gov>, Johanna Munson
<jmunson@blm.gov>, Peter Ditton
<pditton@blm.gov>, Brent Ralston
<bralston@blm.gov>, Jonathon M
Beck <jmbeck@blm.gov>, Stephen
Small <ssmall@blm.gov>
**Subject: Re: GRSG: ID disturbance
calc methodology**

Thank you all. Noreen got the answer
she needed. The issue was not raised by
Dan. All should be fine. Ed

On Jan 19, 2015, at 10:05 AM, Jeffery
Foss <jfoss@blm.gov> wrote:

As noted in the email
below, the FWS at the
Portland Regional Office
(Asst Regional Director
Terry Rabot) confirms
their support for Idaho's
Disturbance calculation.
This was also confirmed at
last falls meeting in the
Govs conf room with
Carrier, Hannan,
Greenberg, and Lyons.

This appears to be a
communication issue at
higher levels in the FWS

Jeff

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From:

"Mackey,
Dennis"
<dennis_mackey@fws.gov>

Date: January
19, 2015 at
7:55:07 AM
MST

To: Jeffery
Foss
<jfoss@blm.gov>,
Tim Murphy
<tmurphy@blm.gov>

Subject: Fwd:
GRSG: ID
disturbance
calc
methodology

Tim and Jeff:

I'm around
today if you
need my help.
Call my cell
208 860 1970.

Dennis

Forwarded
message -----

From: Theresa
Rabot
<theresa_rabot@fws.gov>

Date: Monday,
January 19,
2015
Subject: Fwd:
GRSG: ID
disturbance
calc
methodology
To: Noreen

Walsh
<noreen_walsh@fws.gov>

Cc: Richard
Hannan
<richard_hannan@fws.gov>,
pat deibert
<Pat_Deibert@fws.gov>,
Matt Kales
<matt_kales@fws.gov>,
Michael
Thabault
<michael_thabault@fws.gov>,
"nicole_alt@fws.gov"
<nicole_alt@fws.gov>,
"Mr. Jesse
DElia"
<Jesse_DElia@fws.gov>,
Dennis
Mackey
<Dennis_Mackey@fws.gov>,
Mike Carrier
<michael_carrier@fws.gov>

I believe 3% is
consistent
however there
are differences
within that, for
example
Oregon is 1%
per decade.
I've reached
out to mike
and Denis,
perhaps they
can arrange for
Brent to do a
quick phone
briefing.

Sent from my
iPhone

On Jan 18,
2015, at 5:45
AM, Noreen
Walsh
<noreen_walsh@fws.gov>

wrote:

Dear
friends,

We
will
need
to
circle
our
internal
wagons
on
this
issue.
I
heard
this
past
week,
and
confirmed
yesterday,
that
ID
was
using
a
different
disturbance
calculation
method.
To
my
knowledge,
I
never
had
heard
that
before
(yet
I
am
the
first
to
acknowledge

my
memory
is
not
perfect).
I
thought
we
had
agreed
to
3%
with
one
methodology
across
the
range.
When
I
asked
Ed
Roberson
this
weekend
WHY
ID
is
using
a
different
methodology
to
calculate
disturbance,
he
replied:

*“Idaho
has
a
far
more
detailed
method
that
they*

*worked
out
with
Mike
and
Virgil.
Brent
explained
it
when
we
were
in
the
Governors
office.*

*It
factors
in
more
of
disturbance
variables
from
the
research.
If
you
want
more
info
we
reach
out
to
Brent.”*

*I
had
also
reached
out
to
Pat
who
has*

seen
some
(all?)
of
the
ID
process
and
has
a
potential
concern.

So,
I
think
what
we
need
to
wrestle
with
is
the
following:

Was
this
process
described
in
the
ID
alternative
that
Richard
indicated
at
the
last
TF
meeting
we
support?
As
in,
have

we
already
indicated
as
an
agency
we
support
it?

Is
any
potential
concern
about
the
outcome
of
the
process
significant
such
that
we
should
raise
it
now?

Can
you
all
confer
to
provide
a
consensus
recommendation?
Thank
you,

Noreen

Noreen
Walsh

Regional
Director

Mountain-
Prairie
Region

U.
S.
Fish
and
Wildlife
Service

303
236
7920

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Dennis
Mackey

Deputy State
Supervisor

U.S. Fish and
Wildlife
Service

Boise, Idaho

Office: 208-
378-5267

Cell: 208-860-
1970

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Dennis Mackey
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Boise, Idaho
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Jesse D'Elia, Ph.D.
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Endangered Species Division, Pacific Regional Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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503.231.2349 phone; 503.231.6243 fax
jesse_delia@fws.gov