

From: [Deibert, Pat](#)
To: [Scott Larson](#); [Kevin Shelley](#); [Mark Sattelberg](#); [Jodi Bush](#); [Seth Willey](#); [Terry Ireland](#); [Larry Crist](#)
Subject: Fwd: GRSG: SGTF prep
Date: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 1:10:24 PM
Attachments: [FWS.GrSG.Jan14SGTF meeting prep.docx](#)

Please see attached. For those of you I've not contacted (yet) I need a few bullets from you about what additional items would ensure sage-grouse conservation in your state. For example, provide the sufficient funding and staffing for implementing the state plan, streamlining processes to allow conservation to happen on the ground, etc. You can see the format in the attachment.

Unfortunately I need this by tomorrow noon so I can finalize. for Matt by Thursday. Director Ashe will be meeting with governor designees next week and he wants to deliver an honest evaluation of what else may be needed to make conservation a success.

find me if you have questions.

pat

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

From: **Matt Kales** <matt_kales@fws.gov>

Date: Tue, Jan 13, 2015 at 11:15 AM

Subject: GRSG: SGTF prep

To: Pat Deibert <pat_deibert@fws.gov>, Lief Wiechman <lief_wiechman@fws.gov>, Nicole Alt <nicole_alt@fws.gov>

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Pat, Lief, Nicole:

As discussed, please see attached a first draft of Dan's round robin TPs and related content for next week's SGTF meeting. I've indicated in red where I need your input by 1200 MST this Thursday (1/15), please.

Copying our friends in 1 and 8 for awareness only; no action needed from you all at this time.

Thanks.

Matt Kales

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US Fish and Wildlife Service
Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation
Sage-Grouse Task Force Meeting, January 20-21, Denver, CO
Draft, January 13

“Round Robin” talking points (Dan)

Appropriations rider and what it means for our GrSG work

- **The Service cannot:**
 - Use FY15 appropriations to write a proposed rule for greater sage-grouse; a proposed rule for Columbia Basin; or, a final rule for bi-state.
- **The Service can:**
 - Determine by Sept. 30, 2015, if the species still warrants protection under the ESA.
 - Continue to develop, implement, and analyze conservation efforts to support the species.

Status review update (*note: we will cover status review more fully later on the agenda*)

- We continue to pursue the following process for our ESA status review for GrSG:
 - Evaluate current status
 - trends, abundance, distribution
 - threats
 - conservation efforts
 - Evaluate future status
 - projected trends, abundance, and distribution
 - projected threats
 - projected conservation efforts
 - Legal and policy evaluation of data
 - Publication of determination in Federal Register

Conservation Efforts Database update:

- One of the biggest challenges in evaluating the conservation status of GrSG is the sheer volume of data that has been and will be generated by our conservation partners - an unprecedented number of projects, plans and other efforts throughout the 11-state range of greater sage-grouse.
- [Insert updated highlight numbers from Lief, e.g., 4500 records representing x partners]
- **We will consider all information our partners enter into the CED, but we need your information as soon as possible so we can consider your efforts in our status review:** under the ESA, we are required to accept all information submitted prior to our decision, but the practical reality is that the earlier we receive it, the more fully we will be able to integrate it into our decision-making process.
- Accordingly, we set a date of January 15, 2015, for our partners to populate the CED and are available to assist any partner who experienced any difficulty meeting this goal.

Outstanding issues, outstanding opportunities

- As we shift much of our focus from federal planning efforts to our status review, we believe it is important to identify outstanding issues and the opportunities that remain to address those issues. **Many of these issues, we believe, are ripe for the SGTF and its member states to pursue as we transition from data collection to data analysis.** Specifically:
 - [Insert selected, state-specific examples (gap analysis), from Pat and Co.; e.g., OR, ID need to complete their plans; CO needs to address O&G issues]

Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (see enclosed CCAA primer and associated products)

- Regardless of the final regulatory status of GrSG, **FWS is in the sagebrush-steppe landscape conservation business for the long haul.** As such, we continue to refine and deliver effective tools for our private landowner partners. CCAAs are one such tool and we are working on multiple levels to advance CCAAs (and CCAs), including:

- completing **additional CCAAs** in OR; reviewing additional applications for WY statewide grazing CCAA; discussing new CCAAs with industry in CO (oil and gas) and WY (wind); working with BLM to develop new CCAs in WY.
- adding on-the-ground capacity (collaborative biologists, now numbering x [R6 ES – please insert current number of bios who are hired, deployed and active] to deliver additional CCAAs;
- working closely with our partners to **clarify and communicate** the relationships between CCAAs and **complementary programs** such as NRCS/SGI; and,
- developing a **CCCA “tool kit”** to serve as a guide for FWS staff to efficiently develop programmatic or umbrella CCAAs for ranching and agriculture activities to benefit GrSG (implementation began in December, 2014)

Other agenda items:

Status review TPs (Noreen) – use recent WAFWA presentation

GuSG TPs (Dan) – need TPs/key messages for Dan’s presentation; R6 ES is lead

Supplemental materials:

- Rider language and SRJ statement on same
- CCAA primer and related products
- WSB update