

From: [Berglund, Jeff](#)
To: [Jodi Bush](#)
Subject: Fwd: Sagebrush Focus Area (for now)
Date: Thursday, January 08, 2015 7:15:50 AM

Here's my draft reply, based on Pat and Mike's suggestions. Thoughts? I'll call BLM before sending...

Hi Ruth & Jake. Thanks for reaching out to us - Jake and I also had a brief phone discussion about this. No, we haven't seen this proposed map revision. John and I generally discussed the stronghold area map (and BLM's intent to propose a revision), but were not engaged in detailed revised mapping discussions or review. Our current understanding of the stronghold maps is that modifications are appropriate to correct GIS mapping errors only. Otherwise the maps are intended to stand as originally drafted. While we understand your efforts to revise portions of this map, we cannot support any changes of the original boundaries outside of correcting mapping errors.

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From: **Deibert, Pat** <pat_deibert@fws.gov>
Date: Wed, Jan 7, 2015 at 9:25 AM
Subject: Re: Sagebrush Focus Area (for now)
To: "Berglund, Jeff" <jeff_berglund@fws.gov>
Cc: Jodi Bush <Jodi_Bush@fws.gov>, Michael Thabault <michael_thabault@fws.gov>, Matt Kales <matt_kales@fws.gov>

Hi Jeff -

I've checked in with Mike and we agree on the following response (re-worded as necessary for your partner relationships):

Thanks for reaching out to us. We have not been engaged in these mapping discussions with John. Our understanding of the stronghold maps is that modifications are appropriate to correct GIS mapping errors only. Otherwise the maps are to stand as originally drafted. While we understand your efforts to re-construct portions of this map we cannot support any changes of the original boundaries outside of correcting mapping errors.

or something similar. What do you think?

p

On Wed, Jan 7, 2015 at 6:42 AM, Berglund, Jeff <jeff_berglund@fws.gov> wrote:

Hi all - received this email while at another meeting yesterday afternoon and am looking for some guidance as to how to (and who should) respond. Any thoughts? Thanks!

Jeff

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From: **Miller, Ruth** <ramiller@blm.gov>
Date: Tue, Jan 6, 2015 at 3:21 PM
Subject: Fwd: Sagebrush Focus Area (for now)
To: Jeff Berglund <jeff_berglund@fws.gov>
Cc: John Chaffin <jchaffin@blm.gov>

Hi Jeff,
John is out for the next 5 weeks and Jake and I are filling in, so I'm sorry if you've had some conversations on this topic already that we aren't up to speed on... but John has proposed these refined 'focus areas' and we were wondering if you had worked with him on this and are good with it; or, if you had any comments on this proposal (if you've not seen it already)? Thanks. Ruth.

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From: **Carlson, John** <jccarlso@blm.gov>
Date: Tue, Dec 30, 2014 at 10:10 AM
Subject: Sagebrush Focus Area (for now)
To: "Brooks, Sandra S" <ssleach@blm.gov>, Jamie Connell <jconnell@blm.gov>, Stephanie Carman <scarman@blm.gov>
Cc: Ruth Miller <ramiller@blm.gov>, Jake Chaffin <jlchaffi@blm.gov>, Randall Schardt <rschardt@blm.gov>

Hello all,
Attached is a map for the BLM proposed Sagebrush Focus Area in MT.
This map was built using the FWS provided data layer from their mapping exercise with modifications based on BLM land parcel continuity, size and location to achieve an area that can better provide sage-grouse conservation certainty on BLM lands at a scale that matters to GRSG.

The parcels removed from the data provided as a starting point by the USFWS were generally peripheral, small and isolated parcels where changes in BLM management actions would not necessarily provide conservation gains to sage-grouse due to current and ongoing changes to habitat on the interstitial lands (in particular the areas south of the Missouri River have high levels of current impairment from agricultural conversion and human disturbance (J. Smith pers. comm)). All are within PHMA already identified.

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