

From: [Wiechman, Lief](#)
To: [Nicole Alt](#); [Matt Kales](#); [Pat Deibert](#); [Michael Thabault](#)
Subject: Fwd: UT and CED
Date: Thursday, January 15, 2015 9:30:48 AM

Let's discuss today. Could be mentioned at SGTF.

Lief Wiechman

Sage-grouse Ecologist
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lief_wiechman@fws.gov

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From: **John Harja** <johnharja@utah.gov>
Date: Thu, Jan 15, 2015 at 9:08 AM
Subject: Re: UT and CED
To: "Wiechman, Lief" <lief_wiechman@fws.gov>
Cc: Alan Clark <ALANGCLARK@utah.gov>, Greg Sheehan <gregsheehan@utah.gov>, Noreen Walsh <noreen_walsh@fws.gov>, Pat Deibert <pat_deibert@fws.gov>, Larry Crist <larry_crist@fws.gov>, Jay Martini <jay_martini@fws.gov>, Kathy Hollar <kathy_hollar@fws.gov>

Thanks Lief for the info.

I was aware of the opinion that state boundaries are some type of issue.

We disagree with this view with respect to a few of the Utah populations. The ones in Utah in the Box Elder, Uintah and Rich areas are clearly separated from the populations in the neighboring states by topography and different habitat areas. Hamlin Valley and Ibapah are more clearly part of a cross-jurisdictional population.

Utah asks again that these populations be identified separately.

John

On Wed, Jan 14, 2015 at 8:48 AM, Wiechman, Lief <lief_wiechman@fws.gov> wrote:

Hi John,

I can provide some background on the population updates. Last summer, we were presented with maps from WAFWA and the BLM containing updated population boundaries. We were informed that while there was no biological rationale for continuous populations being separated by state boundaries (as grouse do not observe them). So, for the purposes of our status review, we removed the state boundaries where appropriate. These layers have been shared or made available to our partners, and are being used as a base layer for our auto-clipping process in the CED.

In relation to your concern about plans, the CED will prompt you to identify the plan boundary and where it has been, is, or will be implemented. The auto-clipping process will still identify the 'Wyoming Basin' for example, but the project/plan boundary is what/where we will consider the effort and it's associated benefit.

Hopefully that clears things up -- and if not, let me know and we can discuss further ([307.214.8426](tel:307.214.8426)).

Take care,

LW

Lief Wiechman

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On Tue, Jan 13, 2015 at 11:38 AM, John Harja <johnharja@utah.gov> wrote:

Lief:

I was the source of the issue, though Alan may agree.

Several of our SGMAs have been subsumed into the larger Great Basin and Wyoming Basin populations.

This does not allow us to feature or WRI projects, fire plans, conifer removal plans and the like in terms of the Utah Plan.

Our data is very localized, and indicative of success.

Can you separate the Box Elder, Hamlin Valley, Ibapah and Rich-Morgan-Summit areas in the CED from the larger populations?

Thanks. John

On Tue, Jan 13, 2015 at 11:18 AM, Greg Sheehan <gregsheehan@utah.gov> wrote:

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From: **Wiechman, Lief** <lief_wiechman@fws.gov>

Date: Mon, Jan 12, 2015 at 6:47 AM

Subject: Re: UT and CED

To: Noreen Walsh <noreen_walsh@fws.gov>

Cc: Greg Sheehan <gregsheehan@utah.gov>, Michael Thabault

<michael_thabault@fws.gov>, Kathy Hollar <kathy_hollar@fws.gov>, Larry Crist

<Larry_crist@fws.gov>

Hi Greg,

Absolutely we can try to address your concern. If at all possible, we should try to connect with you (or Alan Clark) today as Utah (WRI) submitted all of it's data for batch upload last week - in case there's anything we need to change prior to completing the upload. My assumption is the Utah/WRI submission covered collaborative efforts between the state (DNR, DWR, WRI) and other partners (BLM, USFS, etc). Kathy and I are traveling this week and you or your designee can reach me at [307.214.8426](tel:307.214.8426).

Lief Wiechman

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On Sun, Jan 11, 2015 at 2:00 PM, Noreen Walsh <noreen_walsh@fws.gov> wrote:

Hi Greg, good to visit with you this week.

Thanks for raising the issue this morning about a challenge you are seeing with the CED and the drop down menus and efforts that may cross state boundaries. I didn't want to lose sight of it, so by cc here I am asking our CED experts, Lief or Kathy, to assist you or your designee. Let us know if you want one of them to work with you directly, or if you have a POC at UDWR that you want them to call, and they will see how we might help make sure that we get that information into the database in the best way and with a full understanding of its importance.

Best regards,

Noreen

Noreen Walsh

Regional Director

Mountain-Prairie Region

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Gregory Sheehan

Director

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

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"Coming together is the beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."