

From: [Martini, Jay](#)
To: [Amy Defreese](#)
Cc: [Betsy Herrmann](#); [Larry Crist](#)
Subject: Fwd: GRSG: working agenda for 2/12/15 FMT call
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2015 1:28:46 PM
Attachments: [FWS GRSG Protective Buffer Recommendations for Transmission Lines.pdf](#)

Hi Amy

Please see the attachment as it pertains to some FWS guidance on transmission line buffer recommendations. This the first I have seen or heard of it but there may be some explanation for it on the FMT call. Anyway, this is mostly just FYI and passing along to you.

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

From: **Matt Kales** <matt_kales@fws.gov>
Date: Tue, Feb 10, 2015 at 1:17 PM
Subject: GRSG: working agenda for 2/12/15 FMT call
To: FW6 Sage-grouse FMT <fw6_sage-grouse_fmt@fws.gov>
Cc: Kris Tita <kris.tita@sol.doi.gov>, Theodore Stein <theodore_stein@fws.gov>, Anna Harris <anna_harris@fws.gov>, Daniel Hottle <daniel_hottle@fws.gov>, Will Meeks <will_meeks@fws.gov>

FMT and Friends:

Please see below a working agenda and related information for our monthly FMT call, scheduled for this Thursday, 02/12/15 at 2:00 pm MST. We have a good amount to cover, so please budget at least 90 minutes for the call.

Please note we've budgeted 30 minutes for discussion about key items from around the range, so please bring those items to the call as you see fit.

Project Leaders: if you are unable to attend, please advise in advance and please indicate who will attend in your stead. Thanks, and we look forward to speaking with everyone later this week.

Matt

FWS GrSG FMT

Monthly call, 02/12/15

2-3:30 pm, MST

Phone #: 1-877-357-9157

Participant Passcode: 9960360

Working agenda

- Federal planning: FWS Project leader feedback on interaction with state BLM/FS leadership following distribution of allocation information (Project Leaders) – 20 mins.
- Status review update, including staffing needs for conservation effort review and MZ chapter development
(Mike T.) – 10 mins.
- Fire and invasives update, including FIAT status and SO 3336 implementation (Terry, Dawn) – 10 mins.
- NRCS coordination issues (Will, Matt) – 5 mins.
- Energy team issues, including Energy Project COT Consistency checklist (https://fishnet.fws.doi.net/projects/home/NSGC/Econ/GRSG_EnergyChecklist.doc); and FWS range-wide avoidance buffer recommendations for transmission lines (see attached) (Drue) – 5 mins.
- Grazing memo, including external communications (Mike T., Theo) – 5 mins.
- Communications update (Theo) – 5 mins.

- Other business (Matt, All), including pending briefings/meetings and key items from around the range – 30 mins.

Matt Kales, Senior Advisor for Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation

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If state, BLM, or USFS land use planning guidelines do not specify buffer distances, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service recommends the following protective buffer distances around sage-grouse leks to reduce direct and indirect impacts to sage-grouse. The buffer distance recommendations below could be relaxed to 3.1 miles of a lek if other required conservation measures address disturbance and provide sage-grouse protection, as is the case with the BLM RMP revisions.

In Priority Areas for Conservation (PACs):

Existing Transmission or Distribution lines:

- Within 5.0 miles of a lek, implement seasonal timing stipulations/restrictions for activities with the potential to impact sage-grouse.

New Transmission or Distribution Lines or Upgrading or Expanding Existing Transmission or Distribution Lines:

- Do not build new transmission lines or expand existing transmission lines within 5.0 miles of a lek.

Outside of Priority Areas for Conservation (PACs):

Existing Transmission or Distribution lines:

- Within 5.0 miles of a lek, implement seasonal timing stipulations/restrictions for activities with the potential to impact sage-grouse.

New Transmission or Distribution Lines or Upgrading or Expanding Existing Transmission or Distribution Lines:

- Construction of new transmission lines or expansion of existing transmission lines is discouraged within 5.0 miles of a lek.

- Do not build new transmission lines or expand existing transmission lines within 2.0 miles of a lek.