

**From:** [Ted Buerger](#)  
**To:** [Doug Young](#)  
**Cc:** [Jeff Everett](#); [Joe Zisa](#)  
**Subject:** RE: ASSIGNMENT: WAFWA materials/bullets of RD & DRD  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 31, 2014 12:05:03 PM  
**Attachments:** [WAFWA materials.doc](#)

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Hi Doug:

Thanks for the input. I took your information and revamped it into the attached bulleted list to be sent on to Rollie. Please review and make sure that I have correctly characterized the issue—feel free to edit in Track Changes as needed.

Ted

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**From:** Doug Young [mailto:[doug\\_young@fws.gov](mailto:doug_young@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 31, 2014 10:02 AM  
**To:** Ted Buerger; Joe Zisa; David Leal  
**Cc:** Jeff Everett  
**Subject:** RE: ASSIGNMENT: WAFWA materials/bullets of RD & DRD

1 issue:

FWS continues to review new Transmission Line project proposals where they occur in sage-grouse habitats across multiple western US states. The FWS' Energy Team (in coordination with BLM and a limited number of states) developed a "Checklist" to determine new transmission line project consistency with FWS recommendations found in the Conservation Objectives Team Report (COT Report) and the FWS' Range-wide sage-grouse mitigation framework. FWS, BLM, and state agencies have begun to collaboratively apply this new energy project Checklist tool to new transmission line projects in multiple western US states (eg, OR, WA, ID, WY, CO, UT, NV), and the results indicate new transmission line projects likely are greatly underestimating their impacts to sage-grouse. Significantly increased compensatory mitigation will likely be recommended, and that will likely result in strong push-back from industry and state-backers of these nationally significant energy projects.

The "heads-up" to FWS managers is to make them aware of this new FWS energy project review tool, and implications (increased mitigation, therefore push-back from industry and states). There may be hallway discussions with FWS at WAFWA meeting. FWS managers should be reassured that this new energy projects tool has been reviewed and approved by FWS' Field Managers Team (FMT), BLM's State Directors have been briefed, and FWS is working closely with BLM and State wildlife agency counterparts to consistently and fairly apply this framework to multiple new transmission line projects.

Thanks, Doug

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**From:** Ted Buerger [mailto:[ted\\_buerger@fws.gov](mailto:ted_buerger@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 30, 2014 12:32 PM  
**To:** Joe Zisa; Doug Young; David Leal

**Subject:** FW: ASSIGNMENT: WAFWA materials/bullets of RD & DRD

Please let me know if you have anything that meets Marilet's criteria for the upcoming WAFWA meeting. I will need to get anything to Rollie by noon on 1/5.

**From:** White, Rollie [mailto:[rollie\\_white@fws.gov](mailto:rollie_white@fws.gov)]

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 23, 2014 5:03 PM

**To:** FW1 OFWO Supervisors

**Cc:** Elizabeth Materna

**Subject:** Fwd: ASSIGNMENT: WAFWA materials/bullets of RD & DRD [DUE: COB Monday, January 5 to Vicki Finn]

Good afternoon,

See Marilet's request, below. Can you get items to me by mid-day January 5?

Thanks,

-Rollie

Rollie White  
Deputy State Supervisor  
Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
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Portland, OR 97266  
(503) 231-6179  
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[rollie\\_white@fws.gov](mailto:rollie_white@fws.gov)

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

**From:** Zablan, Marilet <[marilet\\_zablan@fws.gov](mailto:marilet_zablan@fws.gov)>

**Date:** Tue, Dec 23, 2014 at 4:53 PM

**Subject:** ASSIGNMENT: WAFWA materials/bullets of RD & DRD [DUE: COB Monday, January 5 to Vicki Finn]

**To:** FW1 ES FWO Assignment Contacts <[fw1esfwoassignmentcontacts@fws.gov](mailto:fw1esfwoassignmentcontacts@fws.gov)>

**Cc:** Terry Rabot <[theresa\\_rabot@fws.gov](mailto:theresa_rabot@fws.gov)>, Cynthia Barry <[cynthia\\_barry@fws.gov](mailto:cynthia_barry@fws.gov)>

**TO:** ES Project Leaders/Deputies

Robyn & Richard are preparing to attend an upcoming WAFWA meeting. They would like any materials/ short bullets that you think would help them be prepared. By "prepared," I basically mean (for example) that we don't want them to be caught unaware in a hallway conversation with a State Director.

So in that spirit, they're not looking for anything extensive -- just snippets/bullets, whatever format you think is appropriate -- certainly nothing laborious. We could have discussed this assignment on the phone, but we won't have a Project Leader video call until after this is due, thus my email.

REQUEST: Please provide any materials pertinent to upcoming WAFWA meeting by email to Vicki Finn by COB Monday, January 5. Please also cc Terry Rabot, Cindy Barry, & myself.

~MAZ

Marilet A. Zablan, Acting ARD - Ecological Services  
& Program Manager for Restoration & Endangered Species Classification  
US Fish & Wildlife Service, Pacific Regional Office  
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## WAFWA materials/bullets of RD & DRD

### Transmission line projects and Greater Sage-Grouse habitat

- FWS continues to review new transmission line project proposals where they occur in sage-grouse habitats across multiple western States. The FWS's Energy Team (in coordination with BLM and a limited number of States) developed a "checklist" to evaluate new transmission line project consistency with FWS recommendations found in the Conservation Objectives Team (COT) Report and the FWS's range-wide sage-grouse mitigation framework.
- The review checklist has been reviewed and approved by FWS's Field Managers Team (FMT) and BLM's State Directors have been briefed on this review process.
- FWS, BLM, and State agencies are collaboratively applying this new energy project checklist to new transmission line projects in multiple western States (e.g., OR, WA, ID, WY, CO, UT, NV) and the results indicate that impacts to sage-grouse from these projects likely are far greater than previously estimated. Significantly increased compensatory mitigation likely will be recommended, which likely will result in strong push-back from industry and State-backers of these nationally-significant energy projects.