

**From:** [Hollar, Kathy](#)  
**To:** [Lief Wiechman](#)  
**Cc:** [Holly Freifeld](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Farm Bill Update  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 17, 2015 7:27:51 AM

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Absolutely! Here ya go, and I'll forward you some of the email chains. Also, you probably remember that FSA did not receive an official data call letter last summer and they're not connected to any of the GRSg teams. The first they heard of this exercise was early November when I first started calling them

Alexander Barbarika - policy level person I left voicemail messages with, who had David Hoge follow up with me (never actually spoke with Alexander).

David Hoge - program person I spoke/emailed with who directed me to John Underwood

John Underwood - in charge of data sharing agreements and providing the digital info requested

*Kathy Hollar*  
503-231-6156 office  
503-961-3993 cell



On Mon, Feb 16, 2015 at 10:10 PM, Lief Wiechman <[lief\\_wiechman@fws.gov](mailto:lief_wiechman@fws.gov)> wrote:  
Alright. I'll try to touch base with her for WA (MZ6), and maybe Folks with MZ1 states.  
Was there a contact from the national FSA you have (and could share)?

LW

Lief Wiechman  
Sage-Grouse Ecologist  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Mountain-Prairie Region  
Cell: 307.214.8426  
Office: 307.772.2374 x236  
[lief\\_wiechman@fws.gov](mailto:lief_wiechman@fws.gov)

On Feb 16, 2015, at 10:29 PM, Hollar, Kathy <[kathy\\_hollar@fws.gov](mailto:kathy_hollar@fws.gov)> wrote:

The Farm Service Agency CRP projects are more of a "contract" than an easement, and I'd be surprised if they're in the easement database. Jessica Gonzales was hoping that the state? analyses would be able to get this info from FSA on a local level since the national folks aren't responsive.

*Kathy Hollar*  
503-231-6156 office  
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On Fri, Feb 13, 2015 at 7:27 AM, Wiechman, Lief <[lief\\_wiechman@fws.gov](mailto:lief_wiechman@fws.gov)> wrote:

I'm going to have to keep teasing through the Nat'l Conservation Easement Database, and I'll see if I can't ask for this stuff again. They gave us some 'farm protection' (not the term, but I can't remember it), GRP, WRP, and Wetland protections...

LW

***Lief Wiechman***  
Sage-grouse Ecologist  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Mountain-Prairie Region  
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[lief\\_wiechman@fws.gov](mailto:lief_wiechman@fws.gov)

On Fri, Feb 13, 2015 at 8:04 AM, Hollar, Kathy <[kathy\\_hollar@fws.gov](mailto:kathy_hollar@fws.gov)> wrote:

FYI - note the national announcement from FSA about data sharing. Never did get the CRP data.

*Kathy Hollar*  
503-231-6156 office  
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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Walker, Dave** <[dave\\_walker@fws.gov](mailto:dave_walker@fws.gov)>

Date: Fri, Feb 13, 2015 at 6:38 AM

Subject: Fwd: Farm Bill Update

To: Kathy Hollar <[Kathy\\_Hollar@fws.gov](mailto:Kathy_Hollar@fws.gov)>, Chris Swenson <[chris\\_swenson@fws.gov](mailto:chris_swenson@fws.gov)>, Don Wilhelm <[Don\\_Wilhelm@fws.gov](mailto:Don_Wilhelm@fws.gov)>, John Huffman <[John\\_Huffman@fws.gov](mailto:John_Huffman@fws.gov)>, Lori Nordstrom <[lori\\_nordstrom@fws.gov](mailto:lori_nordstrom@fws.gov)>, Kelly SrigleyWerner <[kelly\\_srigleywerner@fws.gov](mailto:kelly_srigleywerner@fws.gov)>, Ted Koehler <[ted\\_koehler@fws.gov](mailto:ted_koehler@fws.gov)>, Christie Deloria <[christie\\_deloria@fws.gov](mailto:christie_deloria@fws.gov)>, Sergio Pierluissi <[sergio\\_pierluissi@fws.gov](mailto:sergio_pierluissi@fws.gov)>, Cynthia Bohn <[cynthia\\_bohn@fws.gov](mailto:cynthia_bohn@fws.gov)>, Matthew Barry <[matthew\\_barry@fws.gov](mailto:matthew_barry@fws.gov)>, Heather Johnson <[Heather\\_Johnson@fws.gov](mailto:Heather_Johnson@fws.gov)>, Matthew Filsinger <[matthew\\_filsinger@fws.gov](mailto:matthew_filsinger@fws.gov)>, David Wigglesworth <[david\\_wigglesworth@fws.gov](mailto:david_wigglesworth@fws.gov)>, Mike Edwards <[mike\\_edwards@fws.gov](mailto:mike_edwards@fws.gov)>, Samantha Marcum <[samantha\\_marcum@fws.gov](mailto:samantha_marcum@fws.gov)>, Joe Milmoie <[Joe\\_Milmoie@fws.gov](mailto:Joe_Milmoie@fws.gov)>, Michael Murray <[michael\\_murray@fws.gov](mailto:michael_murray@fws.gov)>, Linh Phu <[linh\\_phu@fws.gov](mailto:linh_phu@fws.gov)>, John Schmerfeld <[john\\_schmerfeld@fws.gov](mailto:john_schmerfeld@fws.gov)>, Dave Walker <[dave\\_walker@fws.gov](mailto:dave_walker@fws.gov)>, Chris Eng <[chris\\_eng@fws.gov](mailto:chris_eng@fws.gov)>, Chris Darnell <[Chris\\_Darnell@fws.gov](mailto:Chris_Darnell@fws.gov)>, Bill Wilen <[Bill\\_Wilen@fws.gov](mailto:Bill_Wilen@fws.gov)>, Bradly Potter <[bradly\\_potter@fws.gov](mailto:bradly_potter@fws.gov)>, Caitlin Snyder <[caitlin\\_snyder@fws.gov](mailto:caitlin_snyder@fws.gov)>, Dennis Mackey <[Dennis\\_Mackey@fws.gov](mailto:Dennis_Mackey@fws.gov)>, Dolores Savignano <[Dolores\\_Savignano@fws.gov](mailto:Dolores_Savignano@fws.gov)>, Don Maclean <[don\\_maclean@fws.gov](mailto:don_maclean@fws.gov)>, Edith Thompson <[edith\\_thompson@fws.gov](mailto:edith_thompson@fws.gov)>, Heather Whitlaw <[heather\\_whitlaw@fws.gov](mailto:heather_whitlaw@fws.gov)>, Jason Goldberg <[jason\\_goldberg@fws.gov](mailto:jason_goldberg@fws.gov)>, Jason Miller <[jason\\_miller@fws.gov](mailto:jason_miller@fws.gov)>, Jeffrey Kiefer <[Jeffrey\\_Kiefer@fws.gov](mailto:Jeffrey_Kiefer@fws.gov)>, Jeff Underwood <[Jeff\\_Underwood@fws.gov](mailto:Jeff_Underwood@fws.gov)>, Jim Serfis <[jim\\_serfis@fws.gov](mailto:jim_serfis@fws.gov)>, Julie H Moore <[Julie\\_H\\_Moore@fws.gov](mailto:Julie_H_Moore@fws.gov)>, Julio Rodriguez <[Julio\\_Rodriguez@fws.gov](mailto:Julio_Rodriguez@fws.gov)>, Ken Kriese <[ken\\_kriese@fws.gov](mailto:ken_kriese@fws.gov)>, Kurt Forman <[kurt\\_forman@fws.gov](mailto:kurt_forman@fws.gov)>, Leopoldo Miranda <[leopoldo\\_miranda@fws.gov](mailto:leopoldo_miranda@fws.gov)>, Lesli Gray <[lesli\\_gray@fws.gov](mailto:lesli_gray@fws.gov)>, Martha Naley <[Martha\\_Naley@fws.gov](mailto:Martha_Naley@fws.gov)>, Paul Pajak <[Paul\\_Pajak@fws.gov](mailto:Paul_Pajak@fws.gov)>, Paul Richert <[Paul\\_Richert@fws.gov](mailto:Paul_Richert@fws.gov)>, Richard Gooch <[Richard\\_Gooch@fws.gov](mailto:Richard_Gooch@fws.gov)>, Scott McLeod <[scott\\_mcleod@fws.gov](mailto:scott_mcleod@fws.gov)>, Seth Mott <[Seth\\_Mott@fws.gov](mailto:Seth_Mott@fws.gov)>, Sheldon Myerchin <[Sheldon\\_Myerchin@fws.gov](mailto:Sheldon_Myerchin@fws.gov)>, Tamara McCandless <[tamara\\_mccandless@fws.gov](mailto:tamara_mccandless@fws.gov)>, Tom Busiahn <[tom\\_busiahn@fws.gov](mailto:tom_busiahn@fws.gov)>, Vanessa Kauffman <[vanessa\\_kauffman@fws.gov](mailto:vanessa_kauffman@fws.gov)>, Glen Salmon <[glen\\_salmon@fws.gov](mailto:glen_salmon@fws.gov)>, Paul Souza <[Paul\\_Souza@fws.gov](mailto:Paul_Souza@fws.gov)>, Ruth Ostroff <[ruth\\_ostroff@fws.gov](mailto:ruth_ostroff@fws.gov)>, Jeff Rupert <[jeff\\_rupert@fws.gov](mailto:jeff_rupert@fws.gov)>, "Philip Herzig@fws.gov" <[Philip\\_Herzig@fws.gov](mailto:Philip_Herzig@fws.gov)>, Gwen White <[gwen\\_white@fws.gov](mailto:gwen_white@fws.gov)>, Cynthia Martinez <[cynthia\\_martinez@fws.gov](mailto:cynthia_martinez@fws.gov)>, Doug Helmers <[Doug\\_Helmerts@fws.gov](mailto:Doug_Helmerts@fws.gov)>, Bridget Collins <[bcollins@fishwildlife.org](mailto:bcollins@fishwildlife.org)>, Bill O'Brian <[bill\\_o'brian@fws.gov](mailto:bill_o'brian@fws.gov)>, Rob Campellone <[rob\\_campellone@fws.gov](mailto:rob_campellone@fws.gov)>, Mark Shaffer <[mark\\_shaffer@fws.gov](mailto:mark_shaffer@fws.gov)>, Jill Webster <[jill\\_webster@fws.gov](mailto:jill_webster@fws.gov)>, Roya Mogadam

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Greetings Coordinators;

Some notes on recent announcements regarding Farm Bill implementation.

#### Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has released the attached Notice (CRP -781) *Working With Partners to Advance CRP*, which encourages state and county FSA offices to partner with state agencies, conservation NGOs, and other third party organizations to help deliver the CRP. The Notice doesn't change current policy, but is intended to address misconceptions and other barriers to partnering with FSA in some parts of the country. The Notice includes a set of FAQs on partnering with FSA and a template CRP data sharing agreement. The template data sharing agreement addresses the conditions under which FSA will share data with a "certified USDA Cooperator" under section 1619 of the Farm Bill for purposes of providing outreach, technical assistance, and/or financial assistance in support of CRP.

#### NRCS Landscape Conservation Initiatives

**Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI)** - NRCS has released an [accomplishments report on the Sage Grouse Initiative](#) and Chief Weller will be hosting a **webinar today, February 13, from 11-12 eastern time** to discuss the report and to announce future NRCS commitments to SGI.

Log-in information is provided below:

Webinar Login: <http://emsp.intellor.com/login/418730>

Dial-in: After you've connected your computer, audio connection instructions will be presented

**Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI)** - NRCS State Conservationists will select new watersheds to target under the MRBI by March 13 and NRCS is [asking partners for their recommendations on new 12-digit HUC watersheds](#). The MRBI contacts in each of the MRBI states is included in the link, so this is an opportunity for the Service to recommend priority watersheds for fish and wildlife conservation.

**Migratory Bird Habitat Initiative (MBHI)** - The Mississippi State [analysis of the MBHI](#) has been released. USDA also put out a [press release](#) on the report. MBHI was initiated in response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and provided nearly \$40 million to create 470,000 acres of alternative habitats for migrating birds in Arkansas, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Texas. MBHI is what NRCS terms a "legacy initiative" because it no longer receives funding at the national level. States can use their general program fund allocations to address resource issues identified in the legacy initiatives. NRCS state offices in Louisiana and Texas have continued to set aside funds for migratory bird habitat.

Thanks to Bridget Collins at the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies for information and links used for this update.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thanks

Dave

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