

**From:** [Matt Kales](#)  
**To:** [Megan Kelhart](#)  
**Cc:** [Martin Kodis](#); [angela\\_gustavson@fws.gov](#); [Maria Trollan](#); [John Bryan](#); [Theodore Stein](#); [Jason Holm](#); [Miel Corbett](#); [Scott Flaherty](#); [Anna Harris](#); [Daniel Hottle](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Follow up from the Secretary's SENR Hearing  
**Date:** Thursday, February 26, 2015 10:19:09 AM

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2 of 2. Thanks.

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**From:** Matt Kales [mailto:[matt\\_kales@fws.gov](mailto:matt_kales@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 26, 2015 11:09 AM  
**To:** Chris Nolin  
**Cc:** Martha BalisLarsen; Jocelyn Hunn; Noreen Walsh; Michael Thabault; Nicole Alt  
**Subject:** RE: Follow up from the Secretary's SENR Hearing

Hi, Chris.

Here's the short answer, excerpted from Q&A we prepared for Dan for his 2/13 Hill briefing. We have more in-depth talking points if you/all need.  
Thanks. MK

**Q: Last fall, provided maps showing greater sage-grouse "stronghold" areas to BLM. Are those maps public? Are you requiring the BLM to conduct business any differently on those lands?**

**A:** On October 27, 2014, FWS Director Ashe – acting in response to a request from BLM asking FWS to identify high-value landscapes where we recommend BLM consider maximizing conservation for sage grouse - provided BLM and USFS leadership with a memo transmitting maps identifying areas within sage-grouse range that the scientific literature indicates is essential to the persistence of the species. These maps, which represent a synthesis of current spatial data showing large, contiguous blocks of high-value sage-grouse habitat on federal lands, and the associated transmittal, have been made available to all partners and interested parties. Our response does not *require* BLM to manage differently on those lands; rather, it recommends BLM consider taking steps to effectively safeguard these areas from further anthropogenic disturbance. One example of such as approach could be the withdrawal of locatable minerals from further development in these areas. BLM is currently considering how to incorporate our recommendations in their final resource management plans for sage-grouse.

To view the maps and Director Ashe's associated memo, please visit:

<http://www.fws.gov/greatersagegrouse/documents/ESA%20Process/GRSG%20Strongholds%20memo%20to%20BLM%20and%20USFS%20102714.pdf>

**From:** Nolin, Chris [mailto:[chris\\_nolin@fws.gov](mailto:chris_nolin@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 26, 2015 11:01 AM  
**To:** Kales, Matt  
**Cc:** Martha BalisLarsen; Jocelyn Hunn  
**Subject:** Fwd: Follow up from the Secretary's SENR Hearing

Hi Matt,

What do we have to say about this? Thanks!

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

**From:** Moss, Adrienne <[adrienne\\_moss@ios.doi.gov](mailto:adrienne_moss@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Date:** Thu, Feb 26, 2015 at 11:46 AM  
**Subject:** Re: Follow up from the Secretary's SENR Hearing  
**To:** "Nolin, Chris" <[chris\\_nolin@fws.gov](mailto:chris_nolin@fws.gov)>  
**Cc:** Jocelyn Hunn <[jocelyn\\_hunn@fws.gov](mailto:jocelyn_hunn@fws.gov)>, "Kristen (Kris) Sarri" <[kristen\\_sarri@ios.doi.gov](mailto:kristen_sarri@ios.doi.gov)>, Olivia Ferriter <[olivia\\_ferriter@ios.doi.gov](mailto:olivia_ferriter@ios.doi.gov)>, Denise Flanagan <[Denise\\_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Denise_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov)>, Trish Hall <[Latricia\\_A\\_Hall@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Latricia_A_Hall@ios.doi.gov)>, steve farrell <[Steven\\_Farrell@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Steven_Farrell@ios.doi.gov)>, Jason Freihage <[jason\\_freihage@ios.doi.gov](mailto:jason_freihage@ios.doi.gov)>, "Joos, PatrickPatrick Joos" <[Patrick\\_Joos@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Patrick_Joos@ios.doi.gov)>

Thank you, Chris. The Secretary has also gotten a lot of comment about letters sent out by FWS, in December I think, showing focal areas. The members are upset with the lateness of this input. Do you have a Q and A on this?

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