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Just thought I would send out my thoughts on the CROmnibus bill. I have not heard that either house has voted on it yet. If they don't vote this morning, My guess is that we will get a few day Continuing Resolution (CR) so they have time to pass it. (So show up for work tomorrow) There are too many important things in it for it to go to long before voting (Defense Authorization, budget, many riders). I have not heard the President's opinion, but I would think he would sign it. One of the riders is that the Service would not be allowed to write a draft or final rule on any of the four grouse programs (Gunnison, Bi-state, Columbia basin, greater). The rider is somewhat loose in the language (Like the final rule came out for Gunnison last week, but doesn't take effect for another week or so...the solicitor's office is figuring out what it all means). Please note that our work on sage-grouse will not stop, we will continue to work with the states, BLM, and FS, we will continue writing the species status assessment, and depending on the solicitor's interpretation...start a draft of a rule. Hopefully we will know more by tomorrow or Monday!

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