

From: [Martin, Spencer](#)
To: [Amy Defreese](#)
Subject: RE: Greater sage-grouse Avoidance and Minimization Measures - Additional FWS comments to measures presented December 2014
Date: Tuesday, January 20, 2015 5:06:10 PM

Sounds like a plan—I haven't heard back from and haven't been able to reach Sharon or Steve on the phone so I'm not sure whether they'll want to go ahead with the call or not but hopefully they'll get back to me first thing tomorrow. Thanks for being understanding! If we do go ahead with the call tomorrow, I hope Betsy can make it! If not, I'll be sending out a new Doodle Poll for next week.
-S

From: Amy Defreese [mailto:amy_defreese@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2015 5:01 PM
To: Martin, Spencer
Subject: RE: Greater sage-grouse Avoidance and Minimization Measures - Additional FWS comments to measures presented December 2014

Right, okay. Betsy has left for the day, but I'll check in with her first thing in the morning to see if she can make it at 1 pm.

I think we just want to ensure that local greater sage-grouse biologists have input when TWE makes decisions about which structures to put where. We understand that it isn't black and white, and that site-specific landscapes support flexibility. In my mind, that was the discussion we had with Renee last week, so hopefully if we are absent, that will come through. Regardless, I'll check in with Renee again as I didn't hear back from her after sending the email last week.

Thanks!
Amy

From: Martin, Spencer [mailto:Spencer.Martin@aeacom.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2015 4:47 PM
To: Amy Defreese
Subject: RE: Greater sage-grouse Avoidance and Minimization Measures - Additional FWS comments to measures presented December 2014

From the feedback I've seen from Dennis, Renee, and Christine, I wouldn't say there much angst on the part of the BLM. There are certainly questions though. I think the biggest discussion item will be about your comments to include alternative structure types and line/guy wire marking in PACs or LUP Priority Habitat and opportunity areas rather than within 4 miles of leks. If there's angst, it's on the part of TransWest who is already concerned about the cost of alternative structures and line marking (particularly in terms of long-term maintenance) in the areas identified to date. Your comments would extend that area considerably! -S

From: Amy Defreese [mailto:amy_defreese@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2015 4:31 PM
To: Martin, Spencer
Subject: RE: Greater sage-grouse Avoidance and Minimization Measures - Additional FWS comments to measures presented December 2014

Renee said that there was some angst among BLM staff about FWS Utah Field Office comments ... did you get that impression? I haven't heard back from Renee yet as to whether BLM will incorporate the language we suggested regarding future coordination with all of the resource agencies. Our office would feel much better if we knew there would be a future opportunity to influence the choice of structure design and location before TWE purchases the structures. I can't imagine they will want to put them back in the box and send them back to the distributor. ☺

From: Martin, Spencer [mailto:Spencer.Martin@aecom.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2015 4:26 PM
To: Amy Defreese
Subject: RE: Greater sage-grouse Avoidance and Minimization Measures - Additional FWS comments to measures presented December 2014

OK thanks. I'm checking with Sharon Knowlton and Steve Blazek to see if they would want to proceed without you tomorrow. I wouldn't be surprised if they ask me to go ahead with the call given that we are getting down to the wire with respect to finalizing the mitigation measures in time for them to be incorporated in the FEIS and reviewed by TransWest for technical and economic feasibility. I'll let you know what I hear back. If they say to go ahead, I guess there's some consolation in the fact that your office's perspective is represented in the detailed comments that everyone is responding to! ☺. Sorry it turned out this way. I've been pushing to get your comments on the docket since you submitted them. Between the holidays and the institutional inertia, it's taken a few weeks for me to get any traction! -Spencer

From: Amy Defreese [mailto:amy_defreese@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2015 3:59 PM
To: Martin, Spencer
Subject: RE: Greater sage-grouse Avoidance and Minimization Measures - Additional FWS comments to measures presented December 2014

I will check. If our office isn't represented, will you still hold the meeting tomorrow at 1 pm?

From: Martin, Spencer [mailto:Spencer.Martin@aecom.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2015 3:50 PM
To: Amy Defreese
Subject: RE: Greater sage-grouse Avoidance and Minimization Measures - Additional FWS comments to measures presented December 2014

Thanks, Amy. It's looking like tomorrow at 1pm is going to work for the most people...I noticed that you aren't able to make it tomorrow at all. Is there someone else that can sit in for you?
-Spencer

From: Amy Defreese [mailto:amy_defreese@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2015 12:40 PM
To: Martin, Spencer
Subject: FW: Greater sage-grouse Avoidance and Minimization Measures - Additional FWS comments to measures presented December 2014

Hi Spencer,

Here is the email I sent to BLM (Renee Chi) last Friday. Hopefully it is somewhat self-explanatory. We talked about one particular measure that elicited a number of comments from the Utah Field Office. That is the one highlighted in the attachment.

If you have any questions, give me a call!

Thanks,
Amy

From: Amy Defreese [mailto:amy_defreese@fws.gov]
Sent: Friday, January 16, 2015 2:13 PM
To: Renee Chi
Subject: TWE: Greater sage-grouse Avoidance and Minimization Measures - Additional FWS comments to measures presented December 2014

Hi Renee,

Thank you for your time yesterday discussing Utah Field Office comments to the greater sage-grouse avoidance and minimization measures for the TransWest Express project. The subject measures are those presented to us in a webinar dated December 5, 2014. We provided comment on December 19, 2014.

As we discussed, the Service agrees it is important to maintain continuous communication between the resource agencies (BLM, FWS, and UDWR) and TWE regarding specific structure designs and locations where the line will cross the Strawberry greater sage-grouse PAC. We believe agency biologists with local knowledge can provide crucial site-specific input to guide the selection of lattice versus tubular steel towers, and where perch discouragers will provide the most benefit.

Rather than outline all of the unique landscape or population characteristics that may affect a decision regarding structure design and location, we would recommend a measure that requires TWE to coordinate with the agencies before making decisions that affect greater sage-grouse in the Strawberry PAC. We are envisioning some kind of trigger that would prompt a collaborative process for decision-making.

Sincerely,
Amy Defreese

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