

**From:** [Matt Kales](#)  
**To:** [Pat Deibert](#); [Lief Wiechman](#); [Jesse DElia](#); [Kathy Hollar](#); [Mary Grim](#)  
**Cc:** [Nicole Alt](#); [Kate Norman](#); [Paul McKim](#); [Megan Kelhart](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Sage Grouse Briefing  
**Date:** Thursday, May 01, 2014 11:16:33 AM  
**Attachments:** [FWS GrSG Congressional briefing potential QA \(2\).docx](#)  
**Importance:** High

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Folks,

My apologies: the highlighted items in the general Q&A failed to save as such so I am re-sending this with flagged items (“**need input**”). Thanks.

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**From:** Matt Kales [mailto:[matt\\_kales@fws.gov](mailto:matt_kales@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 01, 2014 9:58 AM  
**To:** Pat Deibert; Lief Wiechman; Jesse DElia; Kathy Hollar; Mary Grim  
**Cc:** Nicole Alt; Kate Norman; Paul McKim; Megan Kelhart  
**Subject:** FW: Sage Grouse Briefing  
**Importance:** High

Coordinators,

Noreen has asked we spend the remainder of our preparation time for next week’s Congressional briefings developing responses to the hard questions we’ll get likely from staff on this issue. Attached are 2 sets of Q&A, one general set I drafted earlier this week and a more specific set developed by Paul McKim based on his dialogue with the NV CoDel.

- For the more general set, I’ve highlighted the questions I need your input in answering (I have enough existing content to answer everything else here). For the NV-specific set, I ask a subteam, perhaps Mary and another coordinator, please work with Paul or his delegate (and Ted if he’s available) to line out responses to those questions.
- Finally, in light of some of the questions in the NV-specific document, Noreen asked we identify some examples of listings and delistings where we’ve made a determination based not on a particular number or population goal, but rather on a broader suite of considerations. Mike T. mentioned polar bear listing and WV flying squirrel delisting as examples. He also recommended we touch base with HQ on this one, so perhaps Nicole and Kate can make that connection and address this item.

We’d like to get these ready to go by COB tomorrow, so I’d be grateful for 2, bundled responses by **1200 MDT tomorrow (5/2)**. Thanks in advance, and please let me know if you have any questions or another way to skin this cat.

MK

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**From:** Paul McKim [mailto:[paul\\_mckim@fws.gov](mailto:paul_mckim@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 30, 2014 3:06 PM  
**To:** Ren Lohofener  
**Cc:** Matt Kales  
**Subject:** Sage Grouse Briefing  
**Importance:** High

Ren

In my discussions with the NV delegation, they are looking for answers to questions, as well as a briefing on where we are and what's next. I've tried to organize their questions and comments in the attached document, which may be helpful as you prepare for next week.

Regards,

**Paul McKim** | Assistant Regional Director  
External Affairs  
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**From:** Matt Kales [mailto:[matt\\_kales@fws.gov](mailto:matt_kales@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 30, 2014 1:12 PM  
**To:** Noreen Walsh; Robyn Thorson; Richard Hannan; Ren Lohofener  
**Cc:** Michael Thabault; Nicole Alt; Pat Deibert; Theresa Rabot; [michael\\_fris@fws.gov](mailto:michael_fris@fws.gov); Marla Trollan; Jason Holm; Paul McKim; Megan Kelhart; Mary Grim  
**Subject:** Follow up from our 1230 call/draft products  
**Importance:** High

Thanks again for everyone's time on our earlier call re: next week's GrSG Hill briefings. Per our conversation:

- Megan Kelhart is working with her BLM and USDA counterparts to [re]schedule the pre-briefing for early on 5/7. Exact time and location TBD.
- Attached are 3 products:
  - **Draft .ppt:** as mentioned, this is built on an existing platform and will be the core of our presentation to both the approps and personal office/authorizing committee staff. Any/all feedback welcome. Please note: R6 ES is developing an additional "drop in" slide for the approps briefing that will contain content re: FWS SG capacity items in the President's FY15 budget request. We'll share that slide as soon as it is ready for review.
  - **Draft Q&A for the briefing:** this is an initial cut at potential questions we may receive. Please review and provide feedback based on region/member-specific issues about which you are aware or anything we may have missed in this first scoping effort. Some of these things we can answer readily; others may require a bit of thought and nuance. This is an internal product and by definition won't capture every question we get but gives us a jump on that portion of the briefing.
  - **GrSG range map:** this is the map we plan to distribute at the approps briefing and have displayed in poster format at the larger general briefing. Thanks to Pat Deibert and her folks in WY for this item.

Lastly, Megan and I will work with our federal partners to develop a 1 page leave-behind for

Congressional staff that contains URLs for federal partner websites and agency POCs for follow up.

We'll be in touch with any updates, and thanks in advance for everyone's comments on the attached drafts. Our goal is to have these finalized by the end of this week and then share the relevant items with our partners.

Regards,

Matt

**FWS, Greater sage-grouse conservation**  
**Congressional status briefing, May 8, 2014, Washington, DC**

Potential Q&A:

- How is FWS working with:
  - states?
  - federal land management agencies?
  - private landowners?
  - industry on sage-grouse? **Need input**
- What is the role of tribes in sage-grouse conservation?
- What is FWS doing on its NWRS units to support and advance sage-grouse conservation?
- Can we extend the current time frame for our listing determination?
- What do the recent proposed/final listing determinations for other native grouse species mean for Greater sage-grouse?
- How much money has FWS expended on sage-grouse conservation to date? What does FWS propose to spend for FY15 (in the President's budget request)?
- What are the key gaps (data, science, policy) affecting sage-grouse conservation?
- How can/will FWS ensure it is using the best available science and highest quality data to inform its sage-grouse status review? **Need input**
- How will FWS consider/address invasive species and fire in its listing determination?
- How will FWS consider/address climate change impacts in its listing determination? **Need input**
- How will FWS consider/address predation in its listing determination?
- What is FWS' overarching goal w/re: greater sage-grouse conservation?
- If FWS lists the species, what will impacts be on:
  - federal land use
  - state land use
  - private land use
  - tribal land use