

From: [Bush, Jodi](#)
To: [Matt Kales](#)
Cc: [Brent Esmoil](#); [Jeff Berglund](#)
Subject: Fwd: GrSG: recent developments in MT
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 2:21:36 PM

See clarification in text below. Thanks. JB

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From: **Matt Kales** <matt_kales@fws.gov>
Date: Tue, May 19, 2015 at 11:45 AM
Subject: GrSG: recent developments in MT
To: Jodi Bush <jodi_bush@fws.gov>
Cc: Michael Thabault <michael_thabault@fws.gov>, Nicole Alt <nicole_alt@fws.gov>

Hi, Jodi. I want to make sure I accurately captured what you reported on the recent legislation/policy actions in MT on last week's FMT call. Noreen would like to update Dan and HQ on this topic, so I'd be grateful for any edits you want to make to the below. Thanks in advance.

Matt

- The Montana Legislature recently approved two pieces of legislation re: sage-grouse conservation. Governor Bullock signed these bills into law.
- The first item appropriates \$10 million for sage-grouse conservation activities, including easement acquisition (the Oversight Team is to decide whether to approve proposals for any transfer to the state of any fee simple interest in real property). Industry is expected to target this program heavily to offset future development in sage-grouse habitat in Montana.
- The second item appropriates ~\$500,000 to MT DNRC to staff the FTEs identified in the state's Sage-Grouse Conservation Habitat Conservation Program and associated Executive Order (No. 10-2014).
- The Governor's Office has advised they continue to target Fall 2015 as a release date for the Final (follow up) Executive Order (requiring mandatory state agency compliance). Tim Baker has indicated that in the interim the Gov's Office will be providing a memo in June to the Service which will clarify which FWS

concerns have been addressed with the 9/14 EO.

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