

From: [Noreen Walsh](#)
To: [FW6 Sage-grouse FMT](#)
Cc: [Richard Hannan](#); [Ren Lohofener](#)
Subject: GRSG: FMT update
Date: Monday, November 10, 2014 2:11:03 PM

Dear FMT,

I know we have an FMT call on Thursday, yet there are many things moving in the GRSG world, and I wanted to take a minute to give you a brief update. We can talk in more detail on Thursday on these issues and the status review. Please share this note as appropriate with your team.

Federal planning efforts: We continue to maintain an ongoing dialogue with our federal partners about our advice on finalizing the RMPs and LMPs. We have shared with them in that dialogue those global items that we saw as warranting further discussion in order to ensure that the final plans have addressed the threats. I expect we will hear something from our BLM partners today about the way in which they plan to address those remaining issues. The agencies are working hard to make these final decisions in order to finalize plans asap. By our call on Thursday we should be able to have a good internal dialogue on where that and related issues stand.

State planning efforts: Please continue your dialogue with your state partners. At the regional and national level, we continue to urge states to bring their efforts to closure as soon as possible in order that they can enter the plans and actions into the CED by the end of the year. You all will know better than me, but many states appear to be still a work in progress. Please overcommunicate with your RO as things are (needing to) move fast to bring these plans to completion and we want to continue to speak with one Service voice about the status of the state plans and how they conserve grouse.

The Next Steppe: Rangeland Fire/Invasives and Sage-grouse conference

last week: Many thanks to Dawn Davis and the team in R1 for providing briefing material to leadership in advance of the workshop. Thanks to Ted Koch for providing a presentation on the FWS perspective. I thought it was a good forum both to understand the background of the threat, some of the latest research, developments in management techniques, and to think about the policy decisions needed to move us forward in addressing this threat vigorously. FWS staff who attended commented on the marked collaboration and convergence of thought across agency/organization boundaries by attendees, and the importance of keeping the lines of communication open across these boundaries if we are going to make a difference. Assistant Secretary Janice Schneider who spearheaded the workshop and attended each session is committed to following through with needed actions. She advises they will be compiling draft action items of both a policy and funding nature and will keep us in the loop.

As always I remain in awe and appreciation of the work you and your teams are doing on the ground, at the local level – where it really counts. And I enjoyed meeting in Boise some of the talented folks on our team that I had not yet had the pleasure to meet!

Best,

Noreen

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