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To: [FW6 Sage-grouse FMT](#)
Cc: [Kris Tita](#); [Will Meeks](#); [Paul Santavy](#); [Theodore Stein](#); [Anna Harris](#); [Daniel Hottle](#)
Subject: GRSG: communications for our recent stronghold map/memo
Date: Monday, November 17, 2014 12:48:19 PM
Attachments: [FWS GrSG map TPs revised 111714.docx](#)
Importance: High

Folks,

Per our discussion on last week's FMT call, please see attached the subject information. Here are the topline messages re: what this product is and why we developed and provided it to BLM and FS:

- **As we await final land use allocation and other important planning decisions from BLM and Forest Service, we have provided our federal partners an additional product: A series of landscape-scale maps identifying highly important areas for sage-grouse conservation (i.e., strongholds). Within these areas, we suggested that BLM and Forest Service ensure the areas are well conserved and we noted that one threat not otherwise addressed at all via the planning process is that of locatable minerals (e.g., gold, uranium, etc.). We suggested the land management agencies consider withdrawal to mineral entry in these areas. These maps, which are not intended to supersede or otherwise alter the PACS or to diminish the conservation priority of the PACs as a whole simply highlight those places on the landscape that contain the following criteria:**
 - Existing high-quality sagebrush habitat for sage-grouse;
 - Highest breeding densities of sage-grouse;
 - Areas identified in the literature as essential to conservation and persistence of the species
 - (Knick and Hanser 2011); and,
 - A preponderance of current federal ownership, and in some cases, adjacent protected areas that serve to anchor the conservation importance of the landscape.

Please use this and the attached content to communicate as necessary with external partners and please let me know if you have immediate questions or need additional information. (I will follow up with those of you who have recently contacted me on related, specific issues separately.)

Thanks.

Matt