

From: [Bush, Jodi](#)
To: [Karen Newlon](#)
Cc: [Jeff Berglund](#)
Subject: Re: FW: FW: grsg Status of TBGPEA CCAA?
Date: Friday, September 04, 2015 8:25:22 AM

All correct. We need to make sure we know what that CCAA says and what commitments are in it because it sets a precedent in MT for our future CCAAs.

Jeff. I thought we had asked them to keep us in the loop. I don't feel like we have been. Did I miss some coordination efforts?

JB

Jodi L. Bush
Field Supervisor
Montana Ecological Services Office
585 Shepard Way, Suite 1
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 449-5225, ext.205

On Fri, Sep 4, 2015 at 8:09 AM, Karen Newlon <karen_newlon@fws.gov> wrote:

Jodi—I had asked for clarification about the CCAA in the Powder River Basin (which I later realized was the Thunder Basin CCAA). The covered area shows two qualifying “peripheral areas” that are in Montana. Looks like the Montana properties are considered enrolled in the CCAA as of January 2013.

-Karen

Karen Newlon
Fish & Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Montana Ecological Services Field Office
585 Shepard Way, Suite 1
Helena, MT 59601
406-449-5225, ext. 209
karen_newlon@fws.gov

From: Rogers, Brad [mailto:brad_rogers@fws.gov]
Sent: Friday, September 04, 2015 7:56 AM
To: Karen Newlon
Cc: Clark McCreedy; Tyler Abbott; Pauline Hope; Jodi Bush

Subject: Fwd: FW: grsg Status of TBGPEA CCAA?

Hi Karen,

It sounds like your field supervisor was referring to the Thunder Basin Grasslands Prairie Ecosystem (Association) proposed CCAA/CCA/CA. The Association's Conservation Strategy (CCAA/CCA/CA) includes the five northeastern Wyoming counties of Campbell, Converse, Crook, Niobrara, and Weston and two qualifying peripheral areas in Big Horn, Powder River and Rosebud County, Montana. The five-county area is enlarged to the west and south to include lands within 10 miles of the action area, spanning portions of seven additional Wyoming counties (Albany, Carbon, Goshen, Johnson, Natrona, Platte and Sheridan). These additional lands are included in this analysis in the event that existing Association members with agricultural lands (i.e., minimal impact) enrolled in the action area expand their operations in the future.

The Association's CCAA/CCA/CA will include the greater sage-grouse, Brewers sparrow, sage thrasher, sagebrush sparrow, black-tailed prairie dog, mountain plover, burrowing owl and ferruginous hawk.

Karen, see Dave Pellatz's response regarding the question about enrollment of the Montana properties.

As an update on the CCAA:

We have sent out the Tribal consultation letters;

the draft EA is completed and being reviewed by FO & RO;

We are working on the conference opinion

If you have any questions about the Association's Conservation Strategy please feel free to contact me, Clark McCreedy or Tyler Abbott.

Bradley Rogers

Fish & Wildlife Biologist

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Wyoming Ecological Services Field Office

c/o 1425 Fort Street

Buffalo, Wyoming 82834

Phone: 307 684-1046

Cell Phone: 307 631-2484

Fax: 307 684-1122

brad_rogers@fws.gov

"Our duty to the whole, including the unborn generations, bids us to restrain an unprincipled present-day minority from wasting the heritage of these unborn generations." Theodore Roosevelt

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From: **Dave Pellatz** <dave@rswyoming.com>

Date: Thu, Sep 3, 2015 at 8:07 PM

Subject: FW: grsg Status of TBGPEA CCAA?

To: Brad Rogers <brad_rogers@fws.gov>

Hi Brad,

You are correct about the Montana properties—they were enrolled prior to January 31, 2013.

I've included my response to Clark on what I presume is the same question.

Dave

From: Dave Pellatz [mailto:dave@rswyoming.com]

Sent: Wednesday, September 02, 2015 8:47 AM

To: 'McCreedy, Clark'

Subject: RE: grsg Status of TBGPEA CCAA?

I don't remember if Karen was in the briefing we gave to USFWS-Helena or not. Anyway, I suppose TBGPEA is the CCAA she's referencing. The quote from Section 4.2 leaves out the opening paragraph:

Where Association members own property within 50 miles of the five-county area that can be demonstrated through vegetation and/or habitat baseline assessments to have characteristics that are commensurate with those found within the five-county area, they are considered to qualify for potential enrollment under this Strategy. To allow for appropriate NEPA analysis, Association members desiring coverage had to identify peripheral property by January 31, 2013. [this covers the MT property as identified in the definitions, Figure 1, Figure 2, etc.]. The Association and member conducted an on-site visit and made an initial determination of the similarity of peripheral acreage to the five-county area prior to June 15, 2013.

After February 1, 2013, only property within Wyoming, within 10 miles of the five-county area, and with minimal impact (e.g., ranch properties with appropriate grazing management) will be considered for peripheral enrollment. These lands will be included in the analysis but will require a determination of NEPA adequacy by the FWS prior to enrollment. If necessary, the participating member applying for peripheral acreage shall fund any additional analysis that may be necessary.

That should help explain her question about the MT properties. If not, I would be glad to provide more detail.

Dave

From: Mccreedy, Clark [mailto:clark_mccreedy@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, September 02, 2015 7:39 AM
To: Dave Pellatz
Subject: Fwd: grsg Status of TBGPEA CCAA?

See the red high-lighted text below - something to check.

Clark McCreedy

Contaminant Specialist

USFWS - East Lansing Field Office (ES)

2651 Coolidge Road, Suite 101

East Lansing, MI 48823

Phone: 517.351.2555 ext. 273

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From: **Hope, Pauline** <pauline_hope@fws.gov>

Date: Fri, Aug 28, 2015 at 1:02 PM

Subject: grsg Status of TBGPEA CCAA?

To: Karen Newlon <karen_newlon@fws.gov>

Cc: Clark McCreedy <clark_mccreedy@fws.gov>, Brad Rogers
<brad_rogers@fws.gov>, Tyler Abbott <tyler_abbott@fws.gov>

I don't have any more information about the TBGPEA CCAA, but I can certainly direct you to others who can help answer your questions. Clark McCreedy has worked the most on the TBGPEA CCAA, but he is now located in MI as you know. Brad Rogers is currently working on the CCAA and taking over where Clark left off, or at least that is my understanding. I'll copy both Brad and Clark on this response, and I'll also copy Tyler Abbott in case he has the latest updates as well.

Clark, Tyler and/or Brad--- can you please provide Karen (and me) with an update on the status of the TBGPEA CCAA?

Thanks!!

Pauline

PAULINE HOPE

Fish and Wildlife Biologist

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

1425 Fort Street, Buffalo, WY 82834

Office: 307-684-1069

Cell: 307-214-1834

Email: pauline_hope@fws.gov

On Fri, Aug 28, 2015 at 9:26 AM, Karen Newlon <karen_newlon@fws.gov> wrote:

Hi Pauline,

So, the TBGPEA CCAA shows some "peripheral properties" that occur in Montana. However, in Section 4.2 Qualifying Peripheral Enrolled Property, it states that only property within Wyoming will be considered for peripheral enrollment. I'm thinking that was the issue she had in mind. If you have any other information on the status of the agreement—or who I should contact about it, that would be helpful.

Thanks again! Karen

Karen Newlon
Fish & Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Montana Ecological Services Field Office
585 Shepard Way, Suite 1
Helena, MT 59601
406-449-5225, ext. 209
karen_newlon@fws.gov

From: Hope, Pauline [mailto:pauline_hope@fws.gov]

Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 8:22 AM

To: Karen Newlon

Subject: Re: PRB CCAA

Hi Karen,

I don't know anything about a potential CCAA in the PRB. The only CCAAs held in the PRB would be those for ranch management, and those are the ones I've been working on with ranchers. The Thunder Basin Grasslands (TBGPEA) CCAA/CCA/CA is partially in the PRB, and that one will cover sage-grouse and 7 other species. Is that the one he's referring to? It is still in the works. Other than that, I haven't heard anything more about CCAAs in this part of Wyoming. If he is referring to the TBGPEA one, it is really different than the one we did for ranch management. I haven't worked on that one, but I can find out the status for you if that is the one you're asking about?

Pauline

PAULINE HOPE

Fish and Wildlife Biologist

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

1425 Fort Street, Buffalo, WY 82834

Office: 307-684-1069

Cell: 307-214-1834

Email: pauline_hope@fws.gov

On Thu, Aug 27, 2015 at 1:56 PM, Karen Newlon <karen_newlon@fws.gov> wrote:

Hi Pauline,

Our field supervisor just informed me of the potential CCAA in the PRB in Wyoming. Can you fill me in on the status of that?

Thanks, Karen

Karen Newlon
Fish & Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Montana Ecological Services Field Office
585 Shepard Way, Suite 1
Helena, MT 59601
406-449-5225, ext. 209
karen_newlon@fws.gov