

From: [Kelly, Katherine](#)
To: [Michael Bean](#)
Cc: [Dan Ashe](#); [gary frazer](#); [sarah.greenberger](#)
Subject: Re: updated greater sage-grouse materials
Date: Thursday, May 28, 2015 7:36:23 AM

thanks

On Thu, May 28, 2015 at 9:28 AM, Michael Bean <michael_bean@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Kate. Yes a 4(d) rule could remove the need for a permit

Sent from my iPhone

On May 28, 2015, at 9:25 AM, Kelly, Katherine <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Dan. I can tweak the myth v fact from 'would' to 'could' - I assume you're referring to the idea that there could be a 4(d) rule?

On Wed, May 27, 2015 at 11:01 AM, Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov> wrote:
Great job! A couple comment on the myths doc:

1. Substitute could for would in the following section:

Myth: *The plans will be worse for states than a listing would be.*

Fact: Under a listing, every major project or permit affecting the sage-grouse on federal lands, such as oil and gas development or a new transmission line, would need to undergo consultation with the FWS, and private or state landowners **COULD** be required to get permits for harming the bird. ESA procedural requirements **COULD** add time and uncertainty to the decision-making process. By contrast, the plans provide immediate, up-front certainty to developers and landowners.

- The plans are balanced – protecting important sagebrush habitat while allowing for continued uses and sustainable development. If the plans help the FWS determine that the species no longer warrants protection, private landowners and state land users will not be subject to any further federal requirements, either under the plans or under the ESA.

2. Add Montana Arctic Grayling and Wolverine to the list below:

Myth: *The Fish and Wildlife Service does not recognize state conservation efforts, as recently evidenced by the Gunnison sage-grouse decision in Colorado and Utah.*

Fact: The FWS is committed to using the best available science to determine whether threats to the species' existence have been adequately addressed through federal, state and local actions and to reevaluate proposals in light of new information. For the greater sage-grouse the FWS established an unprecedented conservation efforts database open to all parties, including states, to ensure their efforts are counted in the determination. Looking at the

record of recent decisions not to list species or to list them at a lower threat level, the FWS again and again recognizes state efforts in wildlife conservation. Two recent examples:

- [Bi-State Distinct Population Segment of Greater Sage-Grouse](#) – In April 2015, the FWS determined that, in large part due to an extensive, long-term, local conservation partnership in California and Nevada, the bi-state population did not require ESA protection.
- [Dunes Sagebrush Lizard](#) – In July 2012, the FWS withdrew its proposal to list the species as endangered as a result of unprecedented commitments to long-term, voluntary conservation agreements in New Mexico and Texas.

Thanks!

Dan.

Dan Ashe
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

On May 27, 2015, at 4:03 AM, Kelly, Katherine <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hi folks -

Thanks for everyone's thoughtful edits on the materials.

Attached are the near-final versions of the documents related to Thursday's plan rollout. Please keep these close hold. I expect a few additional tweaks tomorrow morning and will aim to send around finals late tomorrow afternoon.

In addition to these materials, each state will issue a press release (tiering off the national press release), and we are working on state-by-state fact sheets related to acreage and energy potential found inside/outside priority habitat.

Kate

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<05-28-15 GSG plans PR v7.docx>

<BLM-USFS Plan Fact Sheet v5.docx>

<External Q&A v5.docx>

<GSG - 101 v5.docx>

<GSG Myths v Facts v6.docx>

<Timeline v5.docx>

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