

From: [Larson, Scott](#)
To: [Matt Kales](#)
Cc: [Terry Quesinberry](#)
Subject: Re: Urgent action, please read: SG data call for Secretary of the Interior, due 1200 MST, 11/21/13
Date: Thursday, November 21, 2013 8:23:16 AM
Importance: High

Matt,

Per the Data call.

State: South Dakota

State plan status: *Where in the continuum (of no plan to completed plan) is your state?*

SDGFP is revising their 2008 - 2017 Sage Grouse Management Plan.

What key milestones are approaching?

SDGFP indicates they hope to have the revision completed by December 31, 2013.

How has FWS contributed to the development of the state plan?

SDGFP has indicated that FWS will be given an opportunity to review the revision while in draft before it has been finalized but after it has been vetted internally through state agencies. We have met and discussed various considerations for the revision including the COT report objectives.

If a state has a completed plan, what does implementation look like to date?

Not applicable.

FWS assessment of state plan: *this information should be based on your state's completed self-assessment plan, if available, and your review of that plan.*

We don't yet have the benefit of reviewing the revised state plan.

Please address high points of how your state believes their plan comports with COT final report

objectives.

In meetings, the State has indicated they are not confident some of the threats (fire/mining for example) in COT report for the SD range portray their inclination. SDGFP has also indicated that their revised Sage Grouse Management Plan is unlikely to have an extensive regulatory emphasis and is more likely to lean heavily on voluntary incentive based conservation actions.

FWS assessment of state plan: *please address the degree to which you agree with the state's self-assessment and identify any major areas where we have a different opinion about the ability of the state's plan to meet COT final report objectives.*

The state's self assessment was quite modest, but without a revised state plan to review, we are unable to offer an opinion on whether the state plan will meet the COT objectives or if the State's self assessment is accurate.

Further, please note the degree to which you have been able to develop a dialogue with the state to date over those differences of opinion. Please don't be shy about reporting significant positive aspects of state plans; we are seeking to develop as balanced and comprehensive an assessment of state planning efforts as possible via this exercise.

We do have a good working relationship with SDGFP and will discuss differences of opinion if we have them.

Note: I have attached a copy of the state self-assessment status table as of 1200 MST today; please let me know if you haven't seen your respective state's self-assessment and I will send it to you right away.

Interface between state planning efforts and federal conservation planning efforts in your state *(i.e., BLM/FS land management planning revisions): this is especially important for those states where the state plans may be under consideration by the federal land managers as an alternative in their planning process.*

SDGFP has been engaged in the with BLM RMP process. The FWS, SDGFP, SDDOA have received joint updates from and participated in informational BLM meetings on the RMP revisions. There has not been an expressed interest by the State of South Dakota to have the revised South Dakota State Sage Grouse Plan put forth as an alternative in the BLM RMP.

Thank You
Scott Larson
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Suite 400
420 South Garfield Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Phone: 605-224-8693 ext. 224
Fax: 605-224-9974
Email: scott_larson@fws.gov

On Mon, Nov 18, 2013 at 2:38 PM, Matt Kales <matt_kales@fws.gov> wrote:

FMT:

I hope everyone had a good weekend. As we discussed on last Thursday's FMT call, the Secretary will meet with the sage-grouse Governors in conjunction with the Western Governors Association meeting in mid-December. The Department, through our Director, has asked the Service for briefing information for that meeting, specifically an update on the status of state conservation planning efforts, our assessment of same, and the interface between state and federal conservation efforts in each of the 11 affected states. The informal feedback you all kindly provided last week in advance of today's federal principals' meeting should serve as a foundation for your more formal contributions to this exercise.

This e-mail message serves as the data call for this briefing information. **It also contains a template that contains the questions we must answer for the data call.** Please review the tasking description and template and let me know if you have any immediate questions. Please note we have a hard due date of **1200 MST this Thursday, 11/21**. Thanks in advance for your time. Matt

Tasking Description:

What: Data call for briefing information about state conservation planning efforts in each of the 11 sage-grouse states.

Why: Secretary will meet with sage-grouse Governors and wants a fine-level understanding of the status of each individual state efforts so she can offer a "mid-term assessment" consisting of (a) Department support for ongoing progress and (b) opportunities to identify and address aspects of each state planning process that requires improvement.

Who/how: FMT members or their proxies will complete the standard template (see below) and provide to a central FWS POC (Kales), for QA/QC and transmittal to HQ via DTS.

When: All information is due to Kales **by 1200 MST on Thursday, 11/21**. We are

operating under an extremely tight deadline from the Department and ask everyone please respect this deadline, since we must transmit a complete product and any missing/late information will hold up the larger package.

Template for Completing Data Call:

State:

State plan status: Where in the continuum (of no plan to completed plan) is your state? What key milestones are approaching? How has FWS contributed to the development of the state plan? If a state has a completed plan, what does implementation look like to date?

FWS assessment of state plan: this information should be based on your state's completed self-assessment plan, if available, and your review of that plan. Please address high points of how your state believes their plan comports with COT final report objectives.

FWS assessment of state plan: please address the degree to which you agree with the state's self-assessment and identify any major areas where we have a different opinion about the ability of the state's plan to meet COT final report objectives. Further, please note the degree to which you have been able to develop a dialogue with the state to date over those differences of opinion. Please don't be shy about reporting significant positive aspects of state plans; we are seeking to develop as balanced and comprehensive an assessment of state planning efforts as possible via this exercise.

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Matt Kales

Special Assistant for Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation

Office of the Regional Director

US Fish and Wildlife Service, Mountain-Prairie Region

Office: (303) 236-4576

Mobile: (720) 234-0257