



Wagener, Jeremiah <jwagener@blm.gov>

Fwd: December 2017 Oil & Gas Parcel Lease Sales EA re: Sage Grouse Habitat

Patterson, Jessica <jpatterson@blm.gov>
To: Jeremiah Wagener <jwagener@blm.gov>

Wed, Sep 27, 2017 at 3:44 PM

Hi Jeremiah,

I'm not sure the email address for O&G, but can you forward this along as necessary?

Thanks,
Jessica

Jessica Patterson
Wildlife Biologist
Bureau of Land Management
Ely District - Caliente Field Office
1400 South Front Street
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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Brad Hardenbrook** <bhrdnbrk@ndow.org>
Date: Wed, Sep 27, 2017 at 2:42 PM
Subject: December 2017 Oil & Gas Parcel Lease Sales EA re: Sage Grouse Habitat
To: "Chris Carlton (ccarlton@blm.gov)" <ccarlton@blm.gov>, "Cameron Boyce (cboyce@blm.gov)" <cboyce@blm.gov>, "Jessica Patterson (jpatterson@blm.gov)" <jpatterson@blm.gov>
Cc: Moira Kolada <mkolada@ndow.org>, Tracy Kipke <tkipke@ndow.org>, Jasmine Kleiber <jkleiber@ndow.org>

Chris,

Please find the attached pdf reflecting our follow-up to last Monday's conference call. On your suggestion I looked to submit this letter to the ePlanning website link for the EA, but it no longer seemed to have a link for submitting comments. Please share with Jeremiah Wegener as I do not have his email address.

Thank you again for visiting with us on the present planning and implementation situation for fluid minerals relative to sage-grouse management.

Respectfully,

Brad



D. Bradford Hardenbrook

Supervisory Habitat Biologist

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2 attachments



image001.jpg
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NDOW GRSG Deferral Parcels 27Sep2017.pdf
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September 27, 2017

NDOW-SR#: 18-036

Mr. Chris Carlton, Field Manager
BLM - Caliente Field Office
P.O. Box 237 (1400 South Front St.)
Caliente, NV 89008-0237

Re: Follow-up to Conference Call on September 25, 2017 Concerning Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) Comments to the Draft Environmental Assessment for the December 2017 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale, DOI-BLM-NV-L030-2017-0021-EA (EA) and Proposed Stipulations Addressing Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Considerations Submitted to BLM-Caliente Field Office on September 18, 2017

Dear Mr. Carlton:

Thank you and your staffs for the follow-up conference call last Monday afternoon for discussing NDOW's comments to the EA. Your explaining BLM's policy regarding use of best available information during environmental analyses, especially in consideration of the Greater Sage-Grouse (GRSG) was helpful, yet disappointing relative to using best available science for modeling GRSG Priority Habitat Management Areas (PHMAs) and General Habitat Management Areas (GHMAs). As you know NDOW advocates use of updated GRSG habitat mapping using Coates *et al* (2014) guidance as opposed to Coates *et al* (2013). This letter is generated to extend NDOW's thoughts since our conversation concerning GRSG habitat mapping. Comments made to the EA for other species and habitats are unchanged.

We understand current BLM policy prevents the BLM from utilizing the best available science/data, specifically the most current GRSG Habitat Management Categories (NSEP 2015) produced by Coates *et al* (2014), when applying stipulations in regards to oil and gas parcel leasing. Inadequate impact preventions are the result. In consideration of our conversation, NDOW recommends that the parcels listed below be deferred until such time that the BLM is able to provide adequate protection of the Greater GRSG and their habitats through heightened prevention and full disclosure using best available science. Notations are also provided where appropriate for habitat value emphasis.

Parcels that are within GRSG Priority Habitat Management Areas (PHMA) using December 2015 mapping:

NV-17-12-001

NV-17-12-217

NV-17-12-010*

NV-17-12-231

NV-17-12-216

* parcel is within 4 miles of a lek

Parcels that are within 4 miles of an active or pending active lek in GRSG General Habitat Management Area (GHMA):

| | | |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| NV-17-12-010** | NV-17-12-033 | NV-17-12-213** |
| NV-17-12-018** | NV-17-12-034 | NV-17-12-215** |
| NV-17-12-021** | NV-17-12-035 | NV-17-12-216** |
| NV-17-12-022** | NV-17-12-036 | NV-17-12-219** |
| NV-17-12-031 | NV-17-12-100 | NV-17-12-221** |
| NV-17-12-032 | NV-17-12-205 | NV-17-12-234** |

**Parcel occurs within both PHMA and GHMA

Winter Habitat with GHMA:

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| NV-17-12-040 | NV-17-12-200 | NV-17-12-210 |
| NV-17-12-059 | NV-17-12-201 | NV-17-12-211 |
| NV-17-12-060 | NV-17-12-202 | NV-17-12-212 |
| NV-17-12-061 | NV-17-12-203 | NV-17-12-227 |
| NV-17-12-138 | NV-17-12-204 | NV-17-12-230 |
| NV-17-12-191 | NV-17-12-208 | NV-17-12-233 |
| NV-17-12-199 | NV-17-12-209 | NV-17-12-234 |

Early Brood Rearing Habitat in GHMA:

| | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| NV-17-12-040 | NV-17-12-138 | NV-17-12-193 | NV-17-12-202 | NV-17-12-210 |
| NV-17-12-059 | NV-17-12-139 | NV-17-12-197 | NV-17-12-203 | NV-17-12-211 |
| NV-17-12-060 | NV-17-12-140 | NV-17-12-198 | NV-17-12-204 | NV-17-12-212 |
| NV-17-12-061 | NV-17-12-141 | NV-17-12-199 | NV-17-12-205 | NV-17-12-221 |
| NV-17-12-100 | NV-17-12-191 | NV-17-12-200 | NV-17-12-208 | NV-17-12-224 |
| NV-17-12-137 | NV-17-12-192 | NV-17-12-201 | NV-17-12-209 | NV-17-12-225 |

Parcels in Late Brood Rearing GHMA:

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| NV-17-12-009 | NV-17-12-193 | NV-17-12-203 | NV-17-12-212 |
| NV-17-12-013 | NV-17-12-197 | NV-17-12-204 | NV-17-12-220 |
| NV-17-12-040 | NV-17-12-198 | NV-17-12-208 | NV-17-12-221 |
| NV-17-12-141 | NV-17-12-200 | NV-17-12-209 | NV-17-12-234 |
| NV-17-12-191 | NV-17-12-201 | NV-17-12-210 | NV-17-12-093 |
| NV-17-12-192 | NV-17-12-202 | NV-17-12-211 | |

Greater Sage-Grouse Lek Habitat – Noise. Based on the work by Blickley (2013), Blickley and Patricelli (2012), and Blickley *et al* (2012a, 2012b), NDOW believes that when evaluating if noise from discretionary activities would exceed 10 decibels (dBA) above ambient sound levels at least 0.25 miles from active or pending active leks, a 4-mile buffer should be imposed. If a 4-mile buffer cannot be used then the following parcels should be deferred:

| | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| NV-17-12-001 | NV-17-12-007 | NV-17-12-014 | NV-17-12-031 | NV-17-12-205 |
| NV-17-12-002 | NV-17-12-008 | NV-17-12-016 | NV-17-12-033 | NV-17-12-213 |
| NV-17-12-003 | NV-17-12-009 | NV-17-12-018 | NV-17-12-034 | NV-17-12-214 |
| NV-17-12-004 | NV-17-12-010 | NV-17-12-019 | NV-17-12-035 | NV-17-12-215 |
| NV-17-12-005 | NV-17-12-011 | NV-17-12-021 | NV-17-12-036 | NV-17-12-216 |
| NV-17-12-006 | NV-17-12-013 | NV-17-12-022 | NV-17-12-100 | NV-17-12-217 |

| | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| NV-17-12-219 | NV-17-12-223 | NV-17-12-227 | NV-17-12-231 | NV-17-12-235 |
| NV-17-12-220 | NV-17-12-224 | NV-17-12-228 | NV-17-12-232 | NV-17-12-236 |
| NV-17-12-221 | NV-17-12-225 | NV-17-12-229 | NV-17-12-233 | NV-17-12-237 |
| NV-17-12-222 | NV-17-12-226 | NV-17-12-230 | NV-17-12-234 | NV-17-12-238 |

The following parcels are within 3.1 miles of an active or pending lek and should include stipulation #SG-9-CSU. If the stipulation #SG-9-CSU cannot be applied the following parcels should be deferred:

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| NV-17-12-001 | NV-17-12-033 | NV-17-12-219 | NV-17-12-229 |
| NV-17-12-009 | NV-17-12-034 | NV-17-12-220 | NV-17-12-234 |
| NV-17-12-018 | NV-17-12-035 | NV-17-12-221 | NV-17-12-237 |
| NV-17-12-031 | NV-17-12-100 | NV-17-12-223 | NV-17-12-238 |
| NV-17-12-032 | NV-17-12-214 | NV-17-12-228 | |

Should there be any questions, please contact Habitat Biologist Moira Kolada, (775.289.1655 x29; mkolada@ndow.org), Habitat Biologist Tracy Kipke at (702.486.5127 x3612; tkipke@ndow.org), and/or myself.

Sincerely,



D. Bradford Hardenbrook
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 Nevada Department of Wildlife, Southern Region
 4747 Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89108
 702.486.5127 x3600; bhrdnbrk@ndow.org

References

- Blickley, J. L. 2013. The effects of anthropogenic noise on Greater Sage-Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) lek attendance, communication, and behavior. University of California, Davis.
- Blickley, J. L., and G. L. Patricelli. 2012. Potential acoustic masking of greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) display components by chronic industrial noise. *Ornithological Monographs*: 23–35.
- Blickley, J. L., D. Blackwood, and G. L. Patricelli. 2012a. Experimental evidence for the effects of chronic anthropogenic noise on greater sage-grouse at leks. *Conservation Biology*. 26:461–471.
- Blickley, J. L., K. R. Word, A. H. Krakauer, J. L. Phillips, S. N. Sells, C. C. Taff, J. C. Wingfield, and G. L. Patricelli. 2012b. Experimental chronic noise is related to elevated fecal corticosteroid metabolites in lekking male greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*). *PLOS One* 7:e50462.
- Coates, P. S., M. L. Casazza, E. J. Blomberg, S. C. Gardner, S. P. Espinosa, J. L. Yee, L. Wiechman, and B. J. Halstead. 2013. Evaluating greater sage-grouse seasonal space use relative to leks: implications for surface use designations in sagebrush ecosystems. *J. Wildlife Mgt.* 77:1598–1609.
- Coates, P.S., Casazza, M.L., Brussee, B.E., Ricca, M.A., Gustafson, K.B., Overton, C.T., Sanchez-Chopitea, E., Kroger, T., Mauch, K., Niell, L., Howe, K., Gardner, S., Espinosa, S., and Delehanty, D.J. 2014, Spatially explicit modeling of greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) habitat in Nevada and northeastern California—A decision-support tool for management: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2014-1163, 83 p., <http://dx.doi.org/10.3133/ofr20141163>. ISSN 2331-1258 (online).
- NSEC (State of Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Program). 2015. Management Category Map (SEC Approved December 2015). Online September 27, 2017 at: <http://sagebrusheco.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/sagebrushconvgov/content/HSM/Dec%202015%20Management%20Category%20Map.pdf>.