

From: [Ann Widmer](#)
To: [Amy Defreese](#)
Subject: RE: Question about HEA model and suitable sage-grouse habitat
Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 11:09:04 AM

GRTS:

http://www.epa.gov/nheerl/arm/designing/design_intro.htm

From: Amy Defreese [mailto:amy_defreese@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 9:54 AM
To: Ann Widmer
Subject: Question about HEA model and suitable sage-grouse habitat

Hi Ann,
I hope this finds you well!

I wanted to check in with a question about sage-grouse habitat identification for the HEA (specific to Utah). For context, I've been corresponding with AECOM (the consultant for Transwest Express and BLM on the NEPA process for that project) about the Section 7 consultation for the project, which will include greater sage-grouse as a courtesy. Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) occupied habitat polygons are not inclusive of all suitable habitat and while they have done some bird surveys to clear areas, not all potentially suitable habitat has been surveyed for grouse. Consequently, I would like TWE to identify potentially suitable habitat (outside of the occupied habitat polygons). We've been discussing how best to do this.

My question for you is: For the purposes of the HEA, you are modeling all potentially suitable sage-grouse habitat across Utah regardless of the UDWR occupied habitat polygons, correct? If so, I am wondering if there is an opportunity for AECOM to use your results to guide their future survey efforts. I'm guessing the same would apply for the Energy Gateway South project, but since TWE is on a much faster timeline, I'm addressing that project first.

I'd appreciate your thoughts ... if you'd prefer to speak over the phone, feel free to give me a call.

Thanks!
Amy

*Amy Defreese, Ecologist
Utah Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2369 W. Orton Circle, Suite 50
West Valley City, Utah 84119*

*Email: amy_defreese@fws.gov
Phone: 801-975-3330 x 128*