



WESTERN
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Mr. Steve Williams
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street, NW, MS 3238MIB
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Williams,

In the West, we are witnessing an unprecedented conservation effort. Eleven states are working to protect the Greater Sage Grouse, a bird whose habitat covers most of the Western United States. Given the scope of this area, which stretches from Colorado to California and north from Utah to Montana, the collaborative conservation effort highlighted in the attached documents is nothing short of remarkable.

Hundreds of stakeholders representing a cross section of Western interests—including ranchers, environmental organizations, industry groups and government agencies—have joined together to form sixty-four local working groups. These groups are busy collecting new scientific data about the grouse, identifying key conservation priorities and forging partnerships for conservation with local landowners.

The Western Governors' Association would like you to consider the information compiled in the attached two documents - the report entitled, *Conserving the Greater Sage Grouse – Examples of Partnerships and Strategies at Work Across the West*, and the second document, *Conserving the Greater Sage Grouse - A Compilation of Efforts Underway on State, Tribal, Provincial, and Private Lands*.

The Western Governors believe that the efforts documented in these publications are significant and demonstrate the commitment of all parties involved, from the private landowner to the federal partner, to ensure the conservation and preservation of the Greater Sage Grouse. The Western governors further believe that the initiative of the local working groups is vital to the implementation of projects that will protect habitat and address other needs of the sage grouse

Thank you for considering the information presented in these publications.

Sincerely,

Bill Owens
Chairman WGA
Governor of Colorado

Janet Napolitano
Vice-Chair WGA
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cc: Brian Kelly - Field Supervisor, Wyoming Ecological Services Office
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