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RE: Amendments to Land Management Plans Regarding Sage-Grouse Conservation #52904

Dear Forest Service,

I urge you to retain the 2015 greater sage-grouse habitat conservation plans in Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado. The proposed changes to these plans would undermine years of science-based, collaborative work to protect western wildlife and conserve our sagebrush public lands.

After an unprecedented inclusive effort by a wide range of stakeholders and federal, state, and local governments, the Interior and Agriculture departments in September 2015 finalized land use plans to conserve habitat for the imperiled sage-grouse and 350 other species. These broadly supported plans are the result of sportsmen, local business owners, elected officials, conservationists, and industry officials working together to conserve sage-grouse habitat, preserve the western way of life, and sustain the West's outdoor economy. Hundreds of thousands of Americans participated in a public comment process prior to the final decisions.

The 2015 sage-grouse plans are based on the best available science and responsibly balance energy development, recreation, grazing, and other activities on public lands. Proposed changes to the plans in these five states would undermine the progress that has been made to carefully ensure continued productivity of sagebrush habitat and allow for responsible development across the West on lands owned by all Americans. These changes would also erode fundamental land use planning prescriptions that are needed to avoid the necessity to list the sage-grouse for protection under the Endangered Species Act, creating significant uncertainties for western land users.

Please fully implement the current, science-based sage-grouse plans. Let sage-grouse collaboration continue to work for the people, species, and outdoor economy of the West.

Sincerely,

Alison Dayne Frankel  
Tarzana, CA