

Date submitted (UTC-11): 1/28/2019 4:16:28 PM

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Don't Weaken Greater Sage-Grouse conservation plans

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I am a wildlife biologist who works with threatened and endangered bird species. The conservation plan that was agreed upon by biologists and industry was designed to keep this species off of the Endangered Species list. I strongly oppose any amendments to the Forest Service sage-grouse land management plans.

Instead of amending the plans, the Forest Service should be applying the best available science to strengthen protections for the Greater Sage-Grouse by:

- \* Maintaining sagebrush focal areas and priority habitat;
- \* Limiting waivers, exceptions, and modifications from lease stipulations to narrow circumstances ensuring that input is gathered from the Fish and Wildlife Service and confirming that concurrence is obtained from state game and fish agencies; and
- \* Only permitting activities that will cause loss of sagebrush habitat where a net gain of habitat can be assured.

The plans in place are working exactly as intended. The Forest Service's proposed amendments would threaten to undo this progress and ultimately harm the sagebrush landscape for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Janine Spencer- Glasson

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