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Don't Weaken Greater Sage-Grouse conservation plans

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

The future of conservation and protection efforts for the Greater Sage-Grouse, and over 350 other species that rely on the sagebrush to thrive, have never been more at risk. As someone who cares about birds and the places they need, now and into the future, 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,

James McFarland

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