

Erin Jones

From: Harriet Horton
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2013 8:52 AM
To: blm_co_nw_sage_grouse@blm.gov
Subject: Please Ensure Sustainable Management for Greater Sage-Grouse

Dear Ms. Jones:

I am pleased that BLM is leading the effort to conserve the Greater Sage-Grouse, one of the most iconic and imperiled bird species of the American West. However, I am concerned that BLM's preferred alternative does not comply with the best available science or with standards necessary to stabilize and recover grouse populations. I encourage BLM to adopt the conservation measures in Alternative C to ensure sustainable management and to conserve the species. These include recommendations to limit future development and to create protected areas.

A report by the U.S. Geological Survey and other peer-reviewed research indicate that conserving the Greater Sage-Grouse will require both protecting large areas of habitat and making significant changes in land management to reverse population declines of this wide-ranging species. The Survey found that most priority sage-grouse habitat is already heavily degraded and that grouse are only persisting in large, relatively undisturbed blocks of habitat. The species' survival requires a plan that will effectively reduce the rate of its decline and stabilize its population.

For years, fossil fuels production and other commercial uses have dominated public land management across sagebrush habitats, resulting in significant impacts to wildlife, public recreation, and air and water quality. Protecting large expanses of important sage-grouse habitat—as outlined in Alternative C—will help stem the decline of many species of wildlife across the American West. This alternative will also begin restoring balance to an over-utilized and degraded landscape, while at the same time identifying areas most appropriate for development and those that need to be avoided. If habitat & thus species will be lost, they will be gone forever.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Harriet Horton
404 Marigold Ln
Cedar Park, TX 78613

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From: Kellie Sagen
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2013 4:44 PM
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Thank you for considering these comments.

Kellie Sagen
13211 16th St. NE
Lake Stevens, WA 98258