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Dear Bureau of Land Management:

Thank you for considering amendments to the 2015 greater sage-grouse plans to effectively provide habitat conservation and restoration on BLM-managed sagebrush public lands. I commend the agency for examining new scientific information, including the effects of climate change, as part of this process.

The 2015 sage-grouse plans were the result of an unprecedented collaborative effort by a wide range of stakeholders and federal, state, and local governments, and were broadly supported by residents of communities where sage-grouse live. The plans were based on the best available science at the time and responsibly balanced energy development, recreation, grazing, and other activities on public lands.

However, sagebrush landscapes—home to the imperiled greater sage-grouse and more than 350 other species—continue to shrink rapidly due to climate change, wildfire, energy development, urban growth, and the spread of invasive plant species. I urge the BLM to consider new data and expand the bird's important habitat areas, restrict uses that threaten this habitat to ensure the long-term durability of these protections, and address threats from fire and invasive weeds. BLM should use designations like Areas of Critical Environmental Concern to protect priority habitats.

Thank you for providing this important opportunity to build upon the landmark 2015 greater sage-grouse protections to preserve vital wildlife habitat and benefit local communities.

Sincerely,
Commenter