

From: mailagent@thesoftedge.com

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To: [BLM HQ GRSG Planning](#)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Sage Grouse need active managment - not more restrictions

Importance: Normal

Sensitivity: None

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Dear To Whom it May Concern,:

I am the Vice President of Colorado Offroad Trail Defenders, an organization dedicated to preserving opportunities for full size motorized recreation. I enjoy recreating in public lands, and value the access to nature that public lands offer. I recognize the importance for all people to have access to nature to experience those benefits. I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback for the Greater Sage-Grouse Land Use Plan Amendments.

I would hope the BLM takes seriously their responsibility to, "to ensure appropriate protection for the species while being able to concurrently implement other portions of the BLM's management responsibilities". The BLM's responsibilities include providing recreational opportunities for all people. I believe that through proper management, more restrictions do not need to be implemented in order to protect all wildlife and habitat. In particular, no new restrictions on motorized recreation are warranted, and the BLM should keep existing travel management plans in place.

I don't believe any new land should be considered to be designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Sagebrush availability across all lands studied, only decreased by 3% and of that 3%, 72% is lost from wildfire. Rather than creating more ACECs, public lands need to be actively managed and vegetation improvements need to be moved forward as wildfire is the greatest threat to wildlife and habitat as the studies have shown since 2015. As catastrophic fires destroy species and habitats land agencies should put a greater emphasis on preventing these fires through management projects that will decrease risks.

Sincerely,

Patrick McKay
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