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From: [Amanda O'Keefe](#)

Mail received time: Mon, 7 Feb 2022 19:51:19

Sent: Mon, 7 Feb 2022 12:48:42

To: [BLM_HQ_GRSB Planning](#)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] 86 FR 66331, Greater Sage-Grouse Land Use Plan Amendments

Importance: Normal

Sensitivity: None

Attachments:

[WCCD_86 FR 66331 Comments.pdf](#) 

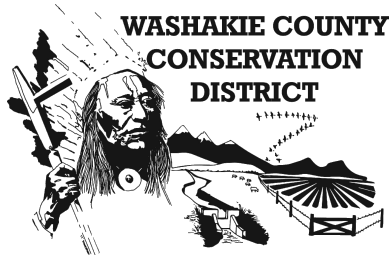
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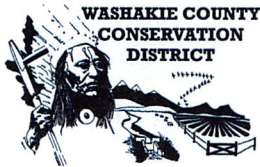
Dear Ms. Deibert,

Please find attached Washakie County Conservation District comments relating to the notice of intent to amend land use plans regarding the Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation and the associated Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Amanda O'Keefe
Director-Washakie County Conservation District
307-347-2456, Ext. 101
www.washakiecd.com





February 7, 2022

Patricia Deibert
National Sage-Grouse Coordinator
Bureau of Land Management
440 W 200 S, Suite 500
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

RE: Notice of Intent to Amend Land Use Plans Regarding Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation and Prepare Associated Environmental Impact Statement (86 FR 66331)

Dear Ms. Deibert,

On behalf of the Washakie County Conservation District (WCCD), the only locally elected Board charged specifically with the responsibility of representing local people on natural resource issues, please find below our response to the Notice of Intent to amend the Land Use Plans regarding Greater Sage-Grouse and the preparation of the associated Environmental Impact Statement.

WCCD was actively engaged in the Sage-Grouse Resource Management Plan Amendment process in 2015 and 2019 as a Cooperating Agency. WCCD has demonstrated through numerous efforts that we have a vested interest in the proactive management of Sage-Grouse to prevent a threatened or endangered listing under the Endangered Species Act. We appreciate the opportunity to once again engage under Cooperating Agency status pertaining to the land use planning process to address potential inconsistencies with previous plans.

WCCD asks the BLM to coordinate with Counties, Conservation Districts and others with local policies and plans in place, as per Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA) requirements. WCCD has prepared a Long-Range Land Use Plan that includes our goals, objectives and priorities for conservation and management of resources within our District boundaries. We ask for you to utilize these plans and seek input as you move forward.

WCCD urges BLM to use scientific data compiled and monitored over the years, and not only over short-term weather patterns, to effectively make decisions. Where it can utilize local level data, we recommend BLM to do so, instead of on a regional scale where numerous variables are present.

WCCD would expect that the wild horse populations and the irreparable damage that has resulted due to overpopulation be considered a significant threat to the GRSG habitat, and the impacts be analyzed across every alternative that is proposed.

WCCD thanks you again for the opportunity to provide comment, and for the invitation to participate in this process as a Cooperating Agency.

Sincerely,

Amanda O'Keefe
Director, a Representative of the Board of Supervisors