

From: mailagent@thesoftedge.com

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To: [BLM HQ GRSG Planning](#)

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

Importance: Normal

Sensitivity: None

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Dear To Whom it May Concern,:

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.

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.

The hands-off approach to land management that results from designation of critical habitat is often a deceptive means to create restrictions to public access to public lands under the guise of species protection. This approach essentially puts a proverbial fence and/or limited range of movement by foot and OHV, across massive areas of public land that humans are thus banned from accessing for recreation and enjoyment. This approach does not serve to fulfill BLM's responsibility to manage public lands for the benefit of both wildlife and humans.

I urge BLM to evaluate alternative means to balance protection for the Sage Grouse while preserving access for human use and enjoyment of BLM managed land.

Sincerely,

Rose Winn
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