

Sep 23, 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House, 1st Floor, West Wing
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama, President Obama,

I am pleased that your administration 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 the draft management plans do not comply with the best available science or with standards necessary to stabilize and recover grouse populations.

Science should direct our plans of action to conserve this charismatic and near-threatened species. Research indicates that to maintain healthy, sustainable populations of the Greater-Sage Grouse, we need to start with protecting their preferred habitat, which is large, undisturbed blocks of sagebrush dominated landscapes. The disturbance of remaining habitat for the purposes of natural resource and urban development should be limited, if not stopped all together.

This is our chance to be proactive in conservation and to prevent another significant loss of biota on the Great Plains of North America. Please advise agencies such as the Forest Service and BLM to take the appropriate steps, back up by scientific research, to create protected habitat for these birds.

Best Wishes,
Maureen McClung
Conservation Chair
Arkansas Audubon Society

Protecting large expanses of important sage-grouse habitat, as outlined in the conservation alternative of each plan, will help stem the decline of many species of wildlife across the American West.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Dr. Maureen McClung
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