



The Wyoming Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Wyoming's agriculture, natural resources and quality of life.

October 2, 2014

Tyler Abbott
Wyoming Ecological Services Field Office
US Fish and Wildlife Service
5353 Yellowstone Road, Suite 308A
Cheyenne, WY 82009

Dear Mr. Abbott,

Following are the Wyoming Department of Agriculture's (WDA) comments pertaining to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) proposing to issue Enhancement of Survival Permit (EOS permits) Applications under the Greater Sage-grouse Umbrella Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA) with Assurances for Wyoming Ranch Management.

Our comments are specific to our mission within state government: dedication to the promotion and enhancement of Wyoming's agriculture, natural resources, and quality of life. As this decision impacts our agriculture industry, our natural resources, and the welfare of our citizens, we believe it is important you continue to inform us of proposed actions and decisions and continue to provide us the opportunity to express pertinent issues and concerns.

The WDA continues to commend and support the Service for their efforts to implement the Statewide CCA. As part of this process we understand the Service also must approve each applicant's EOS permit to authorize incidental take of Greater Sage-grouse. We write in support of the following EOS permit applicants:

- TE32286B: Bousman Livestock, Inc.
- TE32288B: G & E Livestock, Inc.
- TE40466B: Blaha Ranch, Inc.
- TE 40464B: Boroff Land and Livestock
- TE40467B: Pape Ranches, Inc.
- TE40478B: Donald W. Rogers, Jr.
- TE40463B: HIP Investments LLC
- TE40602B: Merlin Ranch
- TE42567B: Longreach Buffalo Company LLC

We believe it is important for the Service to ensure these applicants experience with the CCA and EOS permit process is positive. Many prospective landowners will seek information and advice from the

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above mentioned applicants regarding the process and overall experience. We are willing to cooperate with the Service to ensure this happens.

We thank you again for the opportunity to provide a support letter for the Service and the applicants. If you have further questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason Fearneyhough". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jason Fearneyhough
Director

JF/jw

CC: Governor's Policy Office
Wyoming Board of Agriculture
Wyoming Stock Growers Association
Wyoming Wool Growers Association
Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation
Wyoming State Grazing Board
Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts
Wyoming Game and Fish Department