



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

November 12, 2015

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 (CCAA) 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 CCAA. 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:

- TE73336B-0: Heward's 7E Ranch, LLC
- TE73339B-0: Spring Gulch Cattle Co
- TE73341B-0: Garret Ranch Co.
- TE73342B-0: Madeleine S. Murdock
- TE73343B-0: William Matthew Harber
- TE40463B-1: HIP Investments LLC
- TE73344B-0: Huish Outdoors
- TE73357B-0: M and D Land Company
- TE73359B-0: Merle Jay Clark
- TE73361B-0: Charles R. Firnekas
- TE74947B-0: Flitner Ranch Limited Partnership

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

*Stacia Berry
for Doug Miyamoto*

Doug Miyamoto
Director

DM/jw

CC: Governor's Policy Office
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Wyoming Stock Growers Association
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