



February 14, 2012

Erin Dreyfuss, NEPA Coordinator  
Bureau of Land Management  
2815 H Road  
Grand Junction, CO 81506

**RE: *Garfield County participation in the preparation of the BLM Environmental Impact Statement for the Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat***

Dear Ms. Dreyfuss:

We are in receipt of the letter sent by BLM District Manager James Cagney received in January, 2012 inviting Garfield County to participate as a Cooperating Agency in the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement for the Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat. As you are aware, several Garfield County staff members and Commissioner Mike Samson attended the open house hosted by the BLM in the Colorado River Valley Field Office on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Board of County Commissioners met on February 6, 2012 and has requested to participate with the BLM as a Cooperating Agency in this effort. As such, we anticipate providing you scoping comments on or before March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012.

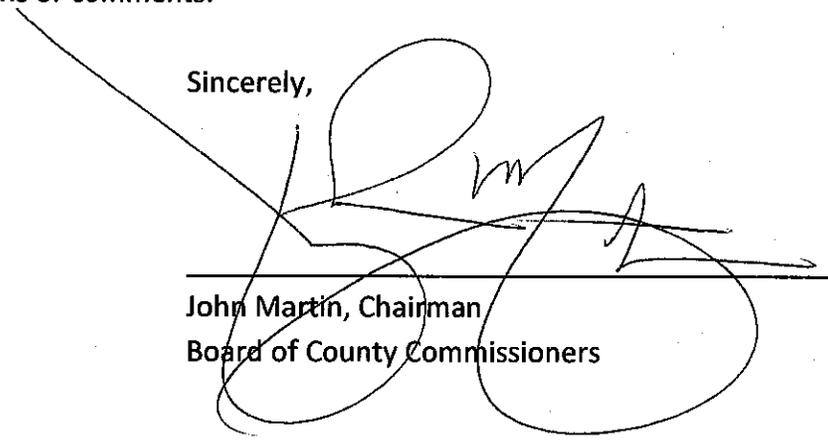
Additionally, Garfield County participated considerably with the Parachute - Piceance – Road Work Group in the creation of the ***Parachute - Piceance – Roan Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan (Plan)*** which was finalized by the Colorado Division of Wildlife on April 29, 2008. This plan provides conservation strategies on habitat change, grazing, predation, energy industry and mineral development, recreation, and water project development and water management. Additionally, this Plan proposes monitoring and evaluation of conservation planning efforts. Along with Garfield County and many other public and private agencies, at least four members of the BLM staff participated in this Plan.

Based on this recently conducted significant work effort, Garfield County also requests, to the degree permitted by process, to be considered as a Coordinating Agency in the EIS scoping and review of the BLM Greater Sage-Grouse planning effort.

We look forward to receiving the updated maps from the Colorado Department and Wildlife (CPAW) as soon as they become available. Additionally, we look forward to participating in the first Cooperating Agency Meeting when that is scheduled.

Again, we appreciate the ability to work with the BLM and are available should you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



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John Martin, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

Cc            *County Commissioner Mike Samson*  
              *County Commissioner Tom Jankovsky*  
              *Andrew Gorgey, Garfield County Attorney & Acting County Manager*  
              *Fred A. Jarman, AICP, Director, Building & Planning Department*