



September 3, 2013

Ms. Noreen Walsh, Regional Director
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - Region 6
134 Union Boulevard
Lakewood, CO 80228

RE: *Request for Coordination Meeting in Garfield County, Colorado regarding the Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat*

Dear Director Walsh,

Over the last 18 months, Garfield County has been working diligently with our federal and state agency partners and private land owners in addressing a multitude of issues surrounding Greater Sage Grouse (GSG). Through these efforts, we have developed a GSG Conservation Plan based on the most recent and best available science that we believe will affect the decision being made by the Service to either list or not list the GSG as Threatened or Endangered.

Because there is strong interest among counties in the Mountain Prairie Region, we invite you to Grand Junction, Colorado on October 2, 2013 at 1:00 PM to meet with us so that we can present our plan and describe our recent habitat modeling efforts and conservation measures. We recognize that under the settlement agreement, the Service is obligated to make a final listing determination in 2015 on the GSG. We also recognize that prior to making this determination, you must take "into account those efforts, if any, being made by ... political subdivision of a State ... to protect such species" (16 USC 1533(b)(1)(A)).

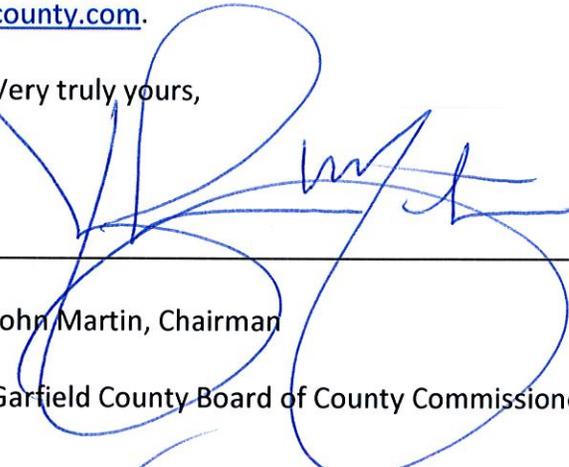
Because we have been actively involved in implementing conservation measures for the Greater Sage Grouse and, because the habitat in our county is distinctive and cannot be compared to any other area of the species national range, we believe it is critical that we meet

prior to you issuing your proposed rule to ensure you have the benefit of our unique experiences, science, data and knowledge regarding the viability of the Greater Sage Grouse.

More than that, we hope to have a meaningful discussion with you so we can more fully understand what the Service is looking for as it deliberates a listing decision. We would look forward to meeting with you personally as well as any additional staff that is closely involved in the preparation of the proposed notice.

We would appreciate hearing from you by September 16th, 2013 as to whether you will be able to attend this meeting, or whether an alternate date would be better suited with your schedule. Please do not hesitate to call Commissioner Jankovsky at (970) 618-2712 or email at tjankovsky@garfield-county.com.

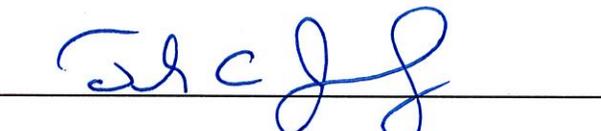
Very truly yours,



John Martin, Chairman
Garfield County Board of County Commissioners



Mike Samson, Commissioner
Garfield County Board of County Commissioners



Tom Jankovsky, Commissioner
Garfield County Board of County Commissioners

- Cc Andrew Gorgey, Garfield County Manager
- Frank Hutfless, Garfield County Attorney