

Exhibit D

Sage Grouse Conservation in Oregon

Supplemental Public Correspondence

**Public correspondence received
as of September 27, 2010**

Michelle Tate

From: ODFW Info
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2010 8:26 AM
To: Michelle Tate
Subject: FW: Josephine County Request to Postpone Approval of Sage-Grouse Conservation Assessment

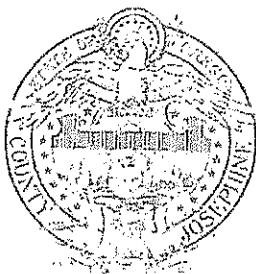
From: Linda McElmurry [mailto:LMcElmurry@co.josephine.or.us]
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2010 11:37 AM
To: ODFW Commission
Cc: 'Odfw.Info@state.or.us'; 'eackland@aocweb.org'; 'mmcarthur@aocweb.org'
Subject: Josephine County Request to Postpone Approval of Sage-Grouse Conservation Assessment

[S35C-410092110240.pdf](#)

*Linda McElmurry, Senior Administrative Supervisor
Josephine County Board of Commissioners
541-474-5221 x2*

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Josephine County, Oregon

Board of Commissioners: Dwight F. Ellis, Sandi Cassanelli, and Dave Toler

Josephine County Courthouse
500 NW 6th Street, Dept. 6 / Grants Pass, OR 97526
(541) 474-5221 / FAX (541) 474-5105
<http://www.co.josephine.or.us>

To: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission

From: Josephine County Board of Commissioners

Date: September 21, 2010

Subject: Request to Postpone Approval of the Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy for Oregon until 2011

Please review the attached Resolution reflecting Josephine County's position regard the Sage Grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy. We will be putting a hard copy in the mail for the record.

Cc: Ron Elicker, Director, ODFW
Mike McArthur, Director, AOC

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF JOSEPHINE
IN AND OF THE STATE OF OREGON

In the Matter of Requesting Postponement of the Oregon)
Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission's Approval)
of the 2010 Draft Version of the Greater Sage-Grouse)
Conservation Assessment and Strategy for Oregon)

RESOLUTION 2010-057

WHEREAS, ORS 496.166 states the need for citizen involvement through partnerships between the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and landowners to manage wildlife on private lands; and

WHEREAS, ORS 496.012 Wildlife Policy (7) obligates the Commission to "make decisions that affect wildlife resources of the state for the benefit of the wildlife resource and to make decisions that allow for the best social, economic, and recreational utilization of wildlife resources by all user groups"; and

WHEREAS, ORS 496.164 states that ODFW "may advise, consult and cooperate with other political subdivisions and private landowners with respect to fish and wildlife management"; and

WHEREAS, Josephine County supports an open stakeholder involvement process for reviewing the "Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy for Oregon"; and

WHEREAS, renewable energy projects in eastern Oregon are needed to meet the State of Oregon's Renewable Portfolio Standard of 25% renewable energy by 2025; and;

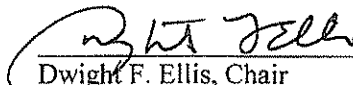
WHEREAS, Josephine County is a member of the Association of Oregon Counties;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Josephine County Board of Commissioners support the postponement of the approval of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's 2010 draft version of the "Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy for Oregon" until 2011 to allow thorough stakeholder review; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Josephine County Board of Commissioners supports the letter dated September 13, 2010 from the Association of Oregon Counties to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission that addresses counties concerns on the "Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy for Oregon".

DATED this 21st day of September, 2010

JOSEPHINE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Dwight F. Ellis, Chair


S. Cassanelli, Vice-Chair


Dave Toler, Commissioner

David Budeau

From: David Budeau [david.a.budeau@state.or.us]
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2010 10:48 AM
To: david.a.budeau@state.or.us
Subject: FW: sage grouse

From: travis williams [mailto:liberty1912@live.com]
Sent: Sunday, September 19, 2010 5:54 AM
To: kasey.bliesner@state.or.us
Subject: sage grouse

to whom it may concern,

i'm a young rancher in a small town in eastern oregon near burns. i recently went to a meeting in burns on the plan for saving the sage grouse habitat, and i must say i was deeply concerned, i and others like my self felt like we were having to defend are selves , we as ranchers are inviormently friendly, if we our not then we are out of business,i felt like there were logical good question brought to the table, but it seemed like there were answers like: "that's a very good question? or "" i will find out more." and that it!. or there facts were just wrong in my eyes , one fact is as follows: " sage grouse need greens that are tender", "and also need sage for survival". although that may be true i see sage grouse out in areas that have burned year a round were there is no brush near by, eating on very dry seeds from wheat grasses..

another concern of mine and others was the fact that there is a hunting season on sage grouse? if a species needs to be on the the threatened list then maybe we should not be hunting them or on the other hand do we need to control there numbers to keep down diseases (west nile down in the south end of county for example). it was things. or how about these lext sites and how are they studied?

to make my point, i see little or, no evidence of what your saying? there needs to be absolutes in this draft when presented, like the odfw having a tour with the ranchers only. please forgive me if this has happened.

to end . this my be a just a draft and there is more studies going on (good work by the way) but this will impact agriculture greatly, just as the spotted owl. so please make darn sure your finding our correct and and that money and people opinion stay out of it.

. i would like to raise my family here for many generations but also i like seeing the sage grouse so maybe there common ground. i pray there is.

thank you for listening to me.

travis &linda williams

David Budeau

From: Sage Grouse
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2010 3:05 PM
To: David Budeau
Cc: Christian Hagen
Subject: FW: Sage Grouse Comments 9-10.doc

From: Beth Mackenzie [mailto:beth@mackenzieranch.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2010 4:00 PM
To: chad.boyd@oregonstate.edu; sage.grouse@state.or.us
Subject: Sage Grouse Comments 9-10.doc

Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
3406 Cherry Avenue NE
Salem, OR 97303
September 14, 2010

Attention: Chad Boyd (chad.boyd@oregonstate.edu)

"Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Assessment Draft" Comments:

I feel that this is a great start on a plan for a more stable population of Sage Grouse. In the past, we have managed for only one thing and that caused other parts of our ecosystem to become out of balance. Every ten years or so, the B.L.M and US Forest Service come up with a new management plan, from the Spotted Owl, endangered fish, riparian areas, Endangered Species, etc....the list goes on and on. We need to look at the whole picture and not just one area. I feel that this draft has looked at the overall picture in a "common-sense" manner.

- A. In Category 1, the words "no development" should be taken out. We need to have the ability to be able to develop more water, which would also improve Sage Grouse habitat.
- B. We need to support herbicide use on Public Lands !!
- C. Control predators especially in nesting areas
- D. We need to identify the private lands and landowners, that OWEB and SWCD's are putting into the Sage Grouse Plan.
- E. Juniper eradication is a must and needs to be taken care of immediately before it's allowed to spread further.
- F. Know and identify Sage Grouse areas...we should NOT allow Power Lines etc. in the area, i.e. limited development only.
- G. Wildfires: BLM and USFS rangeland plans look at riparian areas only. This has created excess fuels and that is why we have had so many wildfires the last fifteen years. Today, the BLM and USFS share the same goals for grazing plans...no grazing riparian areas during the heat of the summer. We need to look at all grazing systems and the whole

picture. (Note: We have burned the whole Mahogany Unit (near Jordan Valley) twice in my lifetime under the current plan.)

Thank you for your consideration,

Duncan S. Mackenzie
19265 Chandler Lane
Baker City, OR 97814
541-403-0345

David Budeau

From: Sage Grouse
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2010 3:05 PM
To: David Budeau
Cc: Christian Hagen
Subject: FW: sage grouse recovery plan

From: Terry Keim [mailto:terrykeim@centurytel.net]
Sent: Friday, September 17, 2010 7:51 AM
To: sage.grouse@state.or.us
Subject: re: sage grouse recovery plan

I support the agency's plan to protect sage grouse habitat. Proposed actions will result in a healthier landscape for all species and will provide sustainable jobs for the local economy. The plan is an investment in the area's healthy future, financially and environmentally.

Terry Keim
P.O. Box 305
Hines, OR 97738

David Budeau

From: Sage Grouse
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2010 3:06 PM
To: David Budeau
Cc: Christian Hagen
Subject: FW: recovery plan

-----Original Message-----

From: Foster Fell [mailto:fosterfell6@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, September 17, 2010 4:08 PM
To: sage.grouse@state.or.us
Subject: recovery plan

Please count me as a supporter of the sage grouse recovery plan. I hope to be able to attend the upcoming hearings in Bend.

Thank you.

Foster Fell
1104 NE 12th St.
Bend, OR 97701

541-728-0825

David Budeau

From: Sage Grouse
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2010 3:06 PM
To: David Budeau
Cc: Christian Hagen
Subject: FW: ODFW at odds with needs of people again. JOBS and the ECONOMY set to suffer.

From: Terry Braun [mailto:terryjbraun@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, September 18, 2010 1:02 PM
To: ODFW
Cc: Chris Dudley; Jim Huffman; Dave Hunnicutt; Lars Larsen
Subject: Re: ODFW at odds with needs of people again. JOBS and the ECONOMY set to suffer.

On Sat, Sep 18, 2010 at 12:51 PM, Terry Braun <terryjbraun@gmail.com> wrote:
Oregon's own proposal of listing the sage grouse for protection in various counties in Eastern Oregon is a bad idea. This bird is not federally listed nor is the species even considered endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

In Eastern Oregon the economy depends on the land and the use it is put to. Consideration is only on public lands, however citizens use these public lands in their everyday work. But more important, listing will open the door making it easy for other state agencies to affect adversely the use of private land. This would take away the rights of property owners to use their land to full value for obtainment of their livelihoods.

Formerly I had family ties to Eastern Oregon. Through time I heard quite a few assessments of tragic situations in Union County. Some of these assessments go like this: "We got a chance to sell the mill so we did." "Small places with some cattle will not make a living for most." "The young starting out are financed to the hilt for all their possessions." "They were not making any money on the fruit orchard so they sold it and moved on." "We closed the antique store after Grandpa Jim's death and moved antiques to the garage." "Around LaGrande there is high unemployment." "The big timber company is effectively shut down."

In the family was a unique piece of recreational/timber property completely surrounded by National Forest land. It was to stay in the family. It was to serve as an insurance policy for an elderly grandmother. We were supposed to harvest enough timber to exceed taxes and insurance. None of this worked out as planned and the place had to be sold. We were lucky to get what we got for it. The grandparents once sold timber to pay for annual winter trips to Mexico to escape the cold winters. Cattle using public land to graze on used our property also. All it took was a fence to keep them out where we did not want them. Cattle were often found in roadways and along highway right-a-ways. Some drivers of motor vehicles keep their speed down for this reason even for wide open long straight level stretches of road. Individuals involved are the best managers. Edicts from above get in the way and are usually less than competent.

Certainly detrimental to our ability and desire to maintain and use this property were a multitude of

government restrictions starting with the train wreck called Oregon Land Use. Ridiculous salmon regulations on a trickle of a stream less than a mile from its source would prevent the cutting of much valuable timber. High fees charged for road use was further disincentive. Fire danger from changed policy on surrounding public land, disease and increasing taxes sealed the deal. Who would want to own land knowing that the future would only bring continuing limitation on its use? If it had been purchased to use as an insurance policy what good would it be if its value dropped because of this kind of stuff despite the desire to work hard at making improvements if you are even allowed to make improvements?

If you choose to add additional economic hardship it will not be without precedent. And it will fit right in with 37 years of oppressive policy that Oregon is good at producing. It is time the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife assume a role of entirely serving the people instead of assuming the role of masters over the people. You should not continue misguided and questionable policies of serving animals while ignoring the needs of people. Eastern Oregonians are a tenacious people and their precarious existence does not need to be placed in further jeopardy.

Sincerely,

Terry Braun

22093 S Ridge Rd
Oregon City, Oregon 97045

terryjbraun@gmail.com
503 631-8120 H 503 821-9264 M

add cc: Greg Walden, US Representative, -Oregon, walden.house.gov
cc: Chris Dudley, Jim Huffman, Dave Hunnicutt, Lars Larsen

9/21/2010

David Budeau

From: Sage Grouse
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2010 3:07 PM
To: David Budeau
Cc: Christian Hagen
Subject: FW: Greater sage-grouse Conservation Assesment and Strategy for Oregon

From: onda@onda.org [mailto:onda@onda.org]
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2010 10:05 AM
To: sage.grouse@state.or.us
Subject: Greater sage-grouse Conservation Assesment and Strategy for Oregon

Your E-Mail Address

dh@oregonwild.org

Name

Doug Heiken

City

Eugene

State

Oregon

Subject

Greater sage-grouse Conservation Assesment and Strategy for Oregon

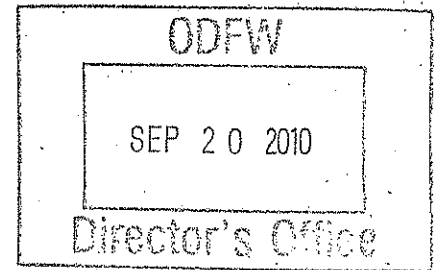
Comments on the Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy for Oregon

To Whom it May Concern: Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy for Oregon. Though the USFWS determined that Greater sage-grouse should remain unlisted for now, there are still a number of threats facing Greater sage-grouse and sagebrush habitat in Oregon. Without science-based management practices and common sense policies geared to protect Greater sage-grouse we may continue to see their range and numbers decrease. The most pressing threats to sage-grouse include degradation of habitat through development, livestock grazing and agriculture, and energy development coupled with accompanying roads and power lines. However, with policies like mitigation requirements and restrictions in core sage-grouse habitat, the State of Oregon can help facilitate responsible renewable energy development in Oregon while protecting this important landscape and iconic species. The current plan makes assumptions that the amount and quality of sagebrush habitat will be constant for the next 50 years. Nowhere does the plan take into account the potential for sagebrush range contraction due to the action of drought and increased fire intensity as a result of climate change. ODFW needs to use the best available science to model the potential impacts of climate change on sage-grouse and sagebrush habitat in Oregon. ODFW must also address the increase in applications for renewable energy projects within sage-grouse range by creating standards and guidelines for energy development. Currently, 44% of the most important remaining habitat for sage-grouse shares a landscape with future energy development. Now, more than ever sage grouse need a balanced approach to protection. I hope that ODFW will also address the following deficiencies in the final Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy for Oregon: 1. Create a plan to address research gaps that exist related to lek data, nesting habitat, climate change, and energy development. 2. Make changes to the core habitat map by filling in "doughnut holes" and joining together core areas that are in close

proximity for more fluid management. 3. Improve guidelines related to man-made water features, such as guzzlers and livestock ponds to reduce the threat of West Nile virus. 3. Create a plan to educate landowners about threats to sage-grouse and how they can help improve sagebrush habitat and reduce impacts to sage-grouse on private lands. 4. Create a plan to work with County officials to incorporate recommendations into county planning and governance. The importance of creating a proactive and authoritative plan to protect Greater sage-grouse and the sagebrush habitats of Oregon cannot be overstated. We need to protect this declining species so that Oregonians today and in the future will have an opportunity to experience and enjoy one of the high deserts most enigmatic creatures. By protecting Greater sage-grouse and the sagebrush habitat they rely on, hundreds of species stand to gain. Currently there are over 20 sensitive or threatened species associated with sagebrush, including Oregon's state bird, the Western Meadowlark. Thank you for considering my comments and this opportunity to take part in this process. Sincerely,



September 9, 2010.



Roy Elicker, Director
ODFW
3406 Cherry Ave. NE
Salem, OR 97303

Fred Warner Jr.
Commissioner Chair
fwarner@bakercounty.org

Tim L. Kerns
Commissioner
tkerns@bakercounty.org

The Baker County Board of Commissioners is requesting that ODFW slow down the process of updating the Sage Grouse Management Plan. We believe that there was very little public input in the process which resulted in the draft plan. We also believe that Baker County should have been advised of the process which was taking place and asked for our input.

We would ask that the Sage Grouse Management Plan not be adopted until the following points are cleared up.

Carl E. Suff, M.D.
Commissioner
cstiff@bakercounty.org

1. We have been told by staff that this plan is advisory only. Frankly, this is an insult to the people of Baker County. Adoption of this plan will be the standard for all state and federal lands. It has the potential to alienate private landowners who have contributed to the recovery of sage grouse.
2. What data set was used to come up with the boundaries of the critical habitat? This question was asked of ODFW staff and the Board of Commissioners received no conclusive answer. It is imperative that the reasoning and the science of the boundaries be explained and validated using data.
3. The maps which have been circulated do not adequately delineate Category I and II habitat. Additionally, the public needs to understand what development means and how mitigation can or can not occur.
4. What is the overreaching need to make these changes within the Sage Grouse Management Plan? Are populations dwindling over the last five years and if so, what is the reason?

The Board of Commissioners believes that the proposed changes to the Sage Grouse Management Plan will have a significant impact on the citizens of Baker County and we believe that more time and effort need to be provided to fully explain the ramifications of these changes.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Fred Warner, Jr., Chairman
Baker County Board of Commissioners