

Society for Range Management



For Immediate Release

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Society for Range Management Applauds Sage-Grouse Decision; Supports Continued Conservation and Management Practices Across West

SRM (September 29, 2015) - The Society for Range Management (SRM) applauds this week's decision by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to not list the Greater Sage-grouse under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The decision, which comes as a reversal to a 2010 finding that the species was at risk of extinction and possible ESA listing, is a welcomed announcement by those across the western landscape.

SRM President Pat Shaver commented on the decision, "The decision marks a significant milestone for land managers and users across the country. Many SRM members, from those in the agencies to ranchers and land managers, were crucial in bringing about the decision. We appreciate the commitment of those across the region to bring about such a positive outcome to this issue."

"As we look to move forward and continue the species and habitat management practices initiated by the grouse on public and private lands, the benefits of sustainable ranching operations in maintaining large and intact landscapes cannot be ignored."

"The Sage-Grouse Initiative, a critical component of the successful non-listing decision, has been integral in fostering and supporting collaborative conservation work between ranchers, land managers and other users. SRM has partnered with SGI since its inception and remains committed to assisting SGI in its implementation of the recently announced SGI 2.0 which commits an additional \$211 million to the effort through 2018."

President Shaver concluded, "The Greater Sage-grouse decision marks a notable success on the overarching issue of species and habitat management as it relates to maintaining ranching operations and multi-use practices across the western landscape. The work started by the grouse effort must be used for future potential listing scenarios and SRM looks forward to continuing the best science available to guide best management practices. The Greater Sage-grouse decision clearly shows that when collaborative, on the ground partnerships are enacted, the outcome achieved will benefit not only the species at stake, but also the users and managers of the land."

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MISSION: *Providing leadership for the Stewardship of Rangelands based on sound ecological principles.*

VISION: *A well-trained and highly motivated group of professionals and rangeland users working with productive, sustainable rangeland ecosystems.*

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