



Jennifer Halferty ~ District One   Fred Stump ~ District Two   Bob Gardner ~ District Three  
John Peters ~ District Four   Stacy Corless ~ District Five

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## **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF MONO**

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*Shannon Kendall, Clerk of the Board*

Director  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
MAIN INTERIOR  
1849 C STREET NW, ROOM 3331  
WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 20240-0001

**Subject: Continuing Commitment and Assurance to Implement Conservation Actions for the Bi-State Distinct Population Segment of the Greater Sage Grouse**

Dear Director:

The purpose of this letter is to reaffirm Mono County's commitment to aggressively implement conservation actions in support of maintaining and improving habitat and species viability for the Bi-State Distinct Population Segment of the Greater Sage Grouse. As previously stated in the attached June 9, 2014 letter to the Service (Attachment 1), Mono County continues to be highly engaged in the Bi-State Local Area Working Group (LAWG), Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Executive Oversight Committee (EOC) and remains firmly committed to completing its share of the Bi-State Action Plan.

***Accomplishments since 2014***

Since our 2014 commitment letter, Mono County has directed approximately \$1.7 million to sage-grouse conservation work, including setting aside funding to relocate and remove the existing landfill in the South Mono Population Management Unit (PMU) by 2023, updating the 2015 Mono County General Plan to include required mitigation measures for discretionary projects that may impact sage-grouse populations or habitat, review of other plans with sage-grouse conservation measures (e.g., Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Plan update, Inyo National Forest Plan update), developing a website to provide outreach and information dissemination, updating the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) to include best practices to reduce the threat of wildfire to sage-grouse habitat, filing as intervenors on behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to defend the decision to withdraw the listing, reviewing ministerial permits (e.g., building permits) and working with applicants to minimize potential impacts, initiating legal action against the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) for dewatering a portion of the South Mono PMU prior to complying with the California Environmental Quality Act, and responding to LADWP's Notice of Preparation of and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the proposed dewatering project (known as the Ranch Lease

Renewal Project). Mono County has also helped convene other interested parties such as environmental organizations to collaborate on the LADWP dewatering issue.

In addition, Mono County has partnered with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Bishop Field Office on nearly \$225,000 of services and projects (funded by the BLM), including habitat conservation projects to restore/protect wet meadows in Long Valley and Bodie Hills, assistance coordinating and attendance at meetings (Local Area Working Group, Technical Advisory Committee, and Executive Oversight Committee), assistance with annual lek counting, editing annual reports, and engaging in conservation and management issues on lands owned by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP).

### ***Future commitment***

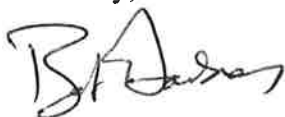
Please see the attached revised Mono County Bi-State Sage-Grouse Conservation Commitments (Attachment 2), which outlines how the agency plans to complete its share of Bi-State Action Plan conservation projects. We remain firmly committed to directing the estimated \$5.08 million required to implement this work and completing it over the next 5-6 years.

### ***Additional info/Closing comments***

The Executive Oversight Committee (EOC) for the Bi-State LAWG has submitted a summary of its conservation accomplishments to date under separate cover to your agency. We hope you will consider our significant accomplishments to date along with this commitment from Mono County as you evaluate development of either a final rule to list the species, or a finding that listing is no longer warranted. With this letter we wish to clearly indicate our commitment to conservation of the species and its habitats.

We will continue to maintain close relationships with your staff and our partners to prioritize funding where biological benefits are maximized. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Wendy Sugimura, Community Development Director, at (760) 924-1814 or [wsugimura@mono.ca.gov](mailto:wsugimura@mono.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Bob Gardner  
Chair

### Attachments:

1. Commitment Letter dated June 9, 2014
2. Updated Mono County Bi-State Sage-Grouse Conservation Commitments (2018)

CC: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Reno Office  
Congressman Paul Cook  
Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Senator Kamala Harris  
State of California, Governor Brown  
State of California, Governor – Elect Newsom  
Office State of Nevada, Governor Sisolak  
Forest USFS, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

BLM, Bishop Field  
Town of Mammoth Lakes  
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)  
County of Alpine  
State of California, Senator Andreas Borgeas  
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)  
USFS, Inyo National  
County of Inyo