



Western Grouse Coalition

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The Western Grouse Coalition has crafted federal legislation that will allow states to manage and conserve sage grouse populations in a manner that protects their jurisdiction over state wildlife and takes into account the needs of the state, the people, and their economy. The Federal Government's "one size fits all" approach to protecting species does not consider impacts on energy development, agriculture, outdoor recreation, mining, or tourism. The Western Grouse Coalition's legislative proposal will provide states reasonable time to develop and implement locally supported sage grouse conservation activities that allow for continued use of federal, state, and private lands.

The Federal Government does not have a monopoly on the expertise required to manage wildlife and habitat in a manner to recover sage grouse. Several states have submitted conservation plans to the Secretary but the Department of Interior refuses to work with state professionals to implement these plans. Several other states are preparing conservation plans but there is no evidence the federal agencies will work with these states in a fashion that will allow locally generated plans to recover these species. To address this, WGC legislative proposal will:

- Prevent federal overreach and keep management of state wildlife with state agencies where it belongs.
- Prohibit the Secretary from listing any of the sage grouse species as an Endangered or Threatened Species in states that submit a conservation management plan, which would effectively force the Secretary to work with the states and share critical data, research, and scientific information to assist the states in their efforts conserve the bird and its habitat.
- Give states a decade to demonstrate that their plans will conserve and recover sage grouse.
- Compel the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service to amend their land use management plans to comply with state sage grouse plans and prevent federal land management agencies from circumventing the states.
- Insures that the experts who are closest to the land, people, and economy of the state craft balanced plans that recover these birds and continue to allow responsible use of our public, state and private lands.

WGC believes that we do not have to choose between sustainable wildlife populations and our economy. We truly can have both and the states deserve the right to manage their wildlife in a manner that is supported by their citizens.

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