



STATE OF UTAH

GARY R. HERBERT
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
84114-2220

SPENCER J. COX
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

July 29, 2015

Jenna Whitlock
Acting State Director
Utah Office
Bureau of Land Management
440 West 200 South, Suite 500
Salt Lake City, UT 84101-1434

Nora Rasure
Regional Forester
Intermountain Region
324 25th Street
Ogden, UT 84401

Dear Acting Director Whitlock and Regional Forester Rasure:

The State of Utah has reviewed the *Proposed Land Use Plan Amendment and Final Environmental Impact Statement* for the conservation of greater sage-grouse, released by the BLM and the Forest Service on May 29, 2015. The document was transmitted to the state for both a protest review, and the statutorily required Governor's Consistency Review. The state submitted its protest letter to the appropriate BLM authority on June 29, 2015. Pursuant to the terms of your letter transmitting the document to the state, and as verified by BLM staff in Washington D.C., the Governor's Consistency Review must be submitted to you by the end of the day today, July 29, 2015.

The attached document entitled *An Evaluation of BLM and Forest Service Proposed Plan Amendments As Adequate, Necessary and Balanced Conservation Provisions for Greater Sage-grouse* contains the substance of the state's concerns about the lack of consistency with the state's Conservation Plan for greater sage-grouse, and other state law. The document contains recommendations for changes to the provisions of the BLM and Forest Service's proposed plan amendments, and contains recommendations for additional work which must be performed before a final Record of Decision may be signed.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with the BLM and the Forest Service on a balanced approach to conservation of the species, in line with the other many uses of the federally managed lands. We look forward to working with both the BLM and the Forest Service on resolution of the consistency issues raised, as well as the protest issues raised earlier.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary R. Herbert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Gary R. Herbert
Governor