



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Washington, D.C. 20240



JUL 18 2005

Mr. Jim Sims  
Executive Director  
Partnerships for the West  
350 Indiana Street, Suite 230  
Golden, CO 80401

Dear Mr. Sims:

On September 23, 2004, you submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), pursuant to section 515 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Public Law 106-554), also known as the Information Quality Act (IQA), a request for Correction of Information concerning: (1) three petitions that we had received to list the Greater Sage-grouse as Threatened or Endangered pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, (2) the Service's 90-day Finding concerning those petitions that was published in the Federal Register (69 FR 2148) on April 21, 2004 and (3) information in a June 2004 report compiled by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) entitled, Conservation Assessment of Greater Sage-grouse and Sagebrush Habitat.

On December 2, 2004 you were notified that the Service needed additional time to respond to your request. Subsequently, the Service published a final rule in the Federal Register (70 FR 2279), that the petitioned action to list the greater sage-grouse was not warranted, that the species is not in danger of extinction, nor is it likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future. The data quality issues you raised in your IQA resulted in additional review and we believe our response addressed them affirmatively. We believe the issues you raised were addressed in the final rule and unless you feel that they were not adequately addressed, we will not be providing a separate response.

Sincerely,

Thomas O. Melius  
Assistant Director-External Affairs