**From:** Stein, Theodore
**To:** Noreen Walsh
**Subject:** Re: here"s my draft statement; can you tighten it up?
**Date:** Friday, May 29, 2015 11:35:44 AM

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calling

Theo Stein
Public Affairs Specialist
Region 6 External Affairs
US Fish and Wildlife Service
134 Union St.
Lakewood CO  80228
(303) 236-4336 o
(303) 859-4930 - c
Theodore_Stein@fws.gov

On Fri, May 29, 2015 at 11:24 AM, Noreen Walsh <noreen_walsh@fws.gov> wrote:

> Thank you so much Theo.  I liked some of your changes but did not accept all.  Here's what I would like to go with.  When you have a chance, call me about your other question.
>
> We applaud Governor Hickenlooper for preparing an Executive Order to provide additional focus on sage-grouse habitat conservation.  We appreciate his direction that state agencies closely coordinate with the wildlife experts at Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and the commitment to carefully document the results of that coordination.
>
> As the Fish and Wildlife Service moves into the home stretch for making a determination of whether the species still warrants listing, we expect to have to defend any such decision in court.  We suggested to Colorado that the more certainty they can provide about what will happen in the future, the better able we will be to credit their efforts in reducing the threats to the species that led to our 2010 determination that federal listing was warranted.
>
> We're glad Colorado is going to review state oil and gas regulations for potential changes to ensure that priority sage-grouse habitat will be protected. We'd like to see them commit to making those changes. That would give us more certainty about the future for grouse on non-federal lands.  We also recommend that Colorado be very clear that that compensatory mitigation will be required when unavoidable impacts occur.
>
> Colorado is fortunate to be home to amazing wildlife valued by both residents and tourists.  Balanced protections for sage-grouse can go hand in hand with a

thriving economy if we all plan carefully. Colorado doesn't contain the majority of birds, but the importance of Colorado can't be evaluated on numbers alone. Northern Colorado is one of the most important areas ensuring connectivity of grouse populations along the eastern edge of the range. Edges matter, and Colorado plays a key role in ensuring that we don't end up with small, isolated, and fragmented pockets of birds vulnerable to extirpation.

*Noreen Walsh*

*Regional Director*

*Mountain-Prairie Region*

*U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

*303 236 7920*

**From:** Stein, Theodore [mailto:theodore_stein@fws.gov]
**Sent:** Friday, May 29, 2015 10:59 AM
**To:** Noreen Walsh
**Subject:** Fwd: here's my draft statement; can you tighten it up?

Back to you -

Generally tried to tighten and use more colloquial language.

If Chris needs to speak to someone, are you comfortable having me talk with him?

Theo Stein

Public Affairs Specialist

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---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Noreen Walsh** <noreen_walsh@fws.gov>
Date: Fri, May 29, 2015 at 10:29 AM
Subject: here's my draft statement; can you tighten it up?
To: Theodore Stein <theodore_stein@fws.gov>
Cc: Michael Thabault <michael_thabault@fws.gov>

Fish and Wildlife Service is moving into the home stretch for making a determination of whether greater sage-grouse still warrants listing, - a decision we expect we will have to defend in court. What we've told Colorado is that the more certainty they can provide about what will happen in the future, the better.

Governor Hickenlooper's Executive Order providing additional focus on sage-grouse habitat conservation is a welcome step.  Colorado Parks and Wildlife is a top-notch agency and the state has invested $50 million in protecting greater sage-grouse habitat.

We appreciate the Governor's direction that state agencies closely coordinate with CPW and his commitment to carefully document that coordination.

We're glad Colorado is going to review state oil and gas regulations for potential changes to ensure that priority sage-grouse habitat will be protected. We'd like to see them commit to making those changes. That would give us more comfort about the future for grouse on non-federal lands.  We also recommend that Colorado be very clear that that compensatory mitigation will be required when unavoidable impacts occur.

Colorado doesn’t have as many birds as Wyoming, but numbers alone don't tell the story. Northern Colorado is one of the most important areas ensuring connectivity of grouse populations along the eastern edge of the range.  Edges matter, and Colorado plays a key role in ensuring that we don’t end up with small, isolated, and fragmented pockets of birds vulnerable to extirpation.