



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



JUL 18 2005

Mr. Hal Tolmie
Chairman of the Board
Owyhee County Board of Commissioners
P.O. Box 128
Murphy, Idaho 83650-0128

Dear Chairman Tolmie:

On June 21, 2004, the Owyhee County Board of Commissioners filed a request for correction of information under Section 515 of Public Law 106-554, commonly referred to as the Information Quality Act (IQA), with our Wyoming Ecological Services Field Office in regards to a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) 90-day Finding for Petitions to list the greater sage grouse as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), published April 21, 2003 (69 FR, No. 77). In that notice, we announced that there was substantial information available to initiate a status review of the species and asked the public to submit any pertinent information concerning the status of or threats to this species.

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,

Megan Durham for

Thomas OMelius
Assistant Director-External Affairs

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