



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



FWS/R9/D-SCI/DCN041981

AUG 13 2009

Mr. Christopher I. West
Sage Grouse Coalition
c/o Pac/West
8600 S.W. St. Helens Drive
Suite 100
Wilsonville, Oregon 97070

Dear Mr. West:

In accordance with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Information Quality Act (IQA) guidelines, this letter responds to your request for correction dated May 28, 2009, regarding the 12-Month Finding for Three Petitions to List the Greater Sage-Grouse as Threatened or Endangered (2005 Final Listing Determination).

The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) IQA guidelines, at section V-3 entitled "Will FWS consider all requests for correction of information?" address the situation that your request for correction presents. Section V-3 reads "Yes. FWS will consider all requests submitted pursuant to these guidelines, and consider it for correction unless the request itself has been made in bad faith or without justification, or deemed inconsequential, *and for which a response would be duplicative of existing processes, unnecessary, or unduly burdensome on the agency* (emphasis added)." The 2005 12-month finding has been remanded back to the FWS by the U.S. District Court with a February 26, 2010, deadline to complete a status review and new 12-month finding. As a result, the development of a response to your IQA request is duplicative of this process. However, the issues raised in your request will be considered during preparation of the new 12-month finding.

If you disagree with the position presented in this response, you may appeal to the Director within 21 calendar days of the date of this response. The appeal must be addressed to: Correspondence Control Unit

Attention: Information Quality Correction Request Processing
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street, N.W., Mail Stop 3238-MIB
Washington, D.C. 20240

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The procedures for an appeal are found in section V-7 of the FWS IQA guidelines at <http://www.fws.gov/informationquality> The Director has 60 calendar days to respond to your appeal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ralph O. Morgenweck". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ralph O. Morgenweck
Senior Science Advisor