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Subject: GRSG: advance outreach information - close hold
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In advance of our call this afternoon and in preparation of the outreach next week, here is some information for you. Additional information and communication materials will be available on Tuesday.

Press: From today through at least next Wednesday, all press inquiries need to be directed to the department. The contact is Jessica Kershaw, DOI Press Secretary, Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov.

Congressional: If anyone in the field receives a congressional inquiry, please work with your regional Congressional Affairs staff before responding. Most inquiries will likely need to be directed to DOI or HQ.

Please note that this guidance may change in the coming days. We will be sure to provide updates as we hear them.

Additionally, the short, key messages below have been developed to reflect what we most need to translate to the public regarding the announcement:

- The Fish and Wildlife Service is confident that the unparalleled conservation effort by federal, state and private partners has addressed the major threats to greater sage-grouse by putting the right protections in the most important places so that the bird no longer warrants protection under ESA.
- Since 2010, science-based regulatory mechanisms in federal and state plans have substantially reduced risks to more than 90 percent of the species' breeding habitats across its 173-million-acre range.
- Conservation actions for the greater sage-grouse focus on the health of the range, protecting hundreds of wildlife species and a traditional way of life in the West.
- This decision allows states and communities greater certainty to plan for conservation, as well as economic development and growth.
- A sustained commitment to sagebrush conservation is needed to ensure effective conservation for sage-grouse and other wildlife including big game, and certainty for important economic sectors in the coming years.

We'll discuss and answer questions on the call today.

Nicole

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