scenic aperture
Landscape | Wildlife | Nature | Photography

January 6, 2017

Nathan Seward, Wildlife Conservation Biologist
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
300 W. New York Ave.
Gunnison, Colorado 81230

RE: Gunnison Sage-Grouse Lek Access Application
Spring 2017

Dear Mr. Seward,

Enclosed please find my application for Gunnison Sage-grouse lek access for spring of 2017. I am a professional nature photographer based in Durango, Colorado. I specialize in landscape and wildlife photography. I would be grateful for an opportunity to photograph Gunnison Sage-grouse.

If approved, I am wiling to promote your conservation efforts in my Durango gallery. I propose that this promotion be through display of suitable Gunnison Sage-grouse photographs I successfully execute and other relevant material. In addition, you will note my application includes an offer to share proceeds of print sales of Gunnison Sage-grouse. I am willing to discuss and work with your organization on the specifics of this proposal.

I appreciate your consideration of my application. I would be happy to discuss any portion of it and answer any questions you may have. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Scenic Aperture, LLC
Landscape | Wildlife | Nature | Photography

Frank Comisar
Owner, photographer

708 Main Avenue
Durango, CO 81301

970-385-5853
http://durangogallery.photography

Gunnison Sage-grouse Lek Access Application
Gunnison Basin
Spring 2017

Application deadline: **February 1, 2017**

Name: Frank Comisar
Street Address: 708 Main Ave.
City: Durango State: CO Zip code: 81301
Phone: 970-385-5853 Cellphone: 402-290-6867
E-mail address: fcomisar@scenicaperture.com

Request Type (please circle): **Photography**, Video, Audio recording, Other (specify:)

Applicant type (please circle): **commercial user** non-commercial user

Project Name: Scenic Aperture's Gunnison Sage-grouse Conservation Project

Project Goals: As a professional nature photographer, photography drives me as an artist and a steward of our natural world. My mission is to make great photographs in order promote understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of our natural treasures. Specifically, my goals for this project are to:

1. Increase awareness of Gunnison Sage-grouse through fine-art photography
2. Generate public support for Gunnison Sage-grouse conservation
3. Generate funds for Gunnison Sage-grouse conservation efforts through print sales from my Durango, Colorado fine-art nature photography gallery (http://durangogallery.photography/).

Significance of project to Gunnison Sage-grouse conservation: I own and operate a fine-art nature photography gallery in Durango, Colorado from which I sell photographic prints of landscapes and wildlife of the four-corners area of the American Southwest. If this application is approved I will

- Prominently display in my gallery (http://durangogallery.photography/) fine-art photography prints of Gunnison Sage-grouse along with material developed with CPW assistance to promote conservation efforts of the species.
- Contribute 50% of the net proceeds generated by print sales of Gunnison Sage-grouse to Colorado Parks and Wildlife (or other organization designated by CPW) to support the conservation efforts of Gunnison Sage-grouse.

Justify why you need original photographs, audio recordings or other products? (Note that we have many of these resources available for public use, contact Colorado Parks and Wildlife at 970-641-7882): Original photographs of Gunnison Sage-grouse are required to generate sales and resulting contributions to CPW.

Applicant Credentials:
Frank Comisar has been a nature photographer for over 30 years. Frank's fine-art prints are collected nationally and internationally by collectors and nature lovers. Frank specializes in bird photography. A Nebraska native, he has been photographing cousins of Gunnison Sage-grouse (sharp-tailed grouse and greater prairie chickens) for many years.

Previous experience (please include as attachments examples of work): See attached photographs of sharp-tailed grouse and greater prairie chickens. These images were taken in Nebraska in 2015 and 2016.

Explain your approach for reducing impacts on Gunnison Sage-grouse when you are on or near the lek: I would comply with all CPW rules and viewing protocol. In addition, to avoid disturbing the grouse:

- I will utilize a pop-up blind to conceal my presence on the lek. I would setup the blind in the afternoon prior to the day of the shoot(s).
- I would enter the blind prior to sunrise and exit only after the grouse have left the lek for the day
- I will utilize only a headlamp with red light upon arrival at the lek. Once in the blind, use of artificial light will be minimal or not used at all.

- I will keep noise to a minimum
- I will wear dark clothing
- I will not use the camera's LCD prior to sunrise to avoid illumination of my face
- I will utilize camouflage material to conceal any portion of a lens barrel that extends outside of the blind
- I will not use flash photography

Note that a protocol was developed for lek activities including the number of days you will be allowed to access the lek. Indicate dates you are available: I am available April 9-14 and May 2-10, 2017

Indicate your willingness to share the products you secure with the Gunnison community: Yes, I am willing to share original digital images (.jpg files) taken on the lek as well as 50% of net proceeds derived from print sales of my images of Gunnison Sage-grouse from my Durango gallery (see above).

Explain any special needs that you might require: My pop-up blind is only large enough for one person. If someone must accompany me in the blind, I would request use of one of your blinds if available.