TO: Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee

FROM: Jim Cochran

DATE: January 16, 2013

A number of thoughts have been circulated by email regarding how the Committee should proceed in the next nine months, prior to the final GUSG listing rule due on or before September 30,2013. Rather than copy the emails, I have summarized those thoughts here.

1. Help justify a "not-warranted" or "threatened" listing decision
2. Ensuring FWS conduct timely conferencing on the CCA and accompanying biological assessment
3. Promoting additional CCAA's (*I believe Brian was referring to additional Certificates of Inclusion (CI's))*
4. Promoting private land conservation easements
5. In the long-term, consider the key role of the Committee to be providing input to a Recovery Plan that ensures definable conservation/recovery targets
6. Education/outreach/lobbying of other county boards (to strengthen their land use processes to avoid/minimize/mitigate impacts to GUSG due to fragmentation and habitat loss on private lands *(if the species is listed, this may be in the form of one or more Habitat Conservation Plans?)*
7. CCA implementation

Principal Threat Identified in the January 11, 2013 Proposed Rule:

1. Habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation

Other Threats Identified:

1. Improper grazing management
2. Predation
3. Genetic risks
4. Inadequate local, State and Federal regulatory mechanisms