United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Migratory Bird Permit Office, Region 6

IN REPLY REFER TO
USFWS/PERMITS
Depredation

MAILING ADDRESS:
Post Office Box 25486
Denver Federal Center (60154)
Denver, Colorado 80225

STREET LOCATION:
134 Union Blvd.
Lakewood, Colorado 80228

March 15, 2013

Gunnison County Public Works Department
ATTN: Allen Moores, Assistant Public Works Director
195 Basin Park Drive
Gunnison, CO 81230

Dear Allen,

Enclosed is your renewed Depredation Permit for the Gunnison County Public Works Department to control Common Ravens at the Gunnison County Landfill during 2013.

Per Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 50 CFR § 22.41, permits authorizing take of migratory birds can only be authorized for up to one year. In accordance with previous permits issued to your office for control of Common Ravens, permit MB071941-0 will expire on December 31, 2013. The regulation also states that no permit is required merely to haze or harass migratory birds, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) includes as a condition on all Depredation Permits that "active hazing, harassment, or other non-lethal techniques must continue in conjunction with any lethal take of migratory birds."

The supporting materials with the application (form 3-200-13) provided to this office were very helpful in our biological review. However, these materials also brought several issues to our attention that we would like to discuss with your office and other local partners (e.g., Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services, Sage Grouse Working Group, etc.). The main concern at hand is trying to balance long-term conservation of Gunnison Sage-grouse in the area with the need to reduce (and possibly eliminate the need for) lethal take of Common Ravens at the Gunnison County Landfill. With a projected closing date of mid-2080's for the landfill, the Service's Migratory Bird program does not consider lethal control of Common Ravens at the landfill (at current or increasing levels, anyway) as a sustainable practice. Therefore, we would like to discuss possible alternative and/or experimental methods that we could explore onsite to reduce lethal take of Common Ravens over the long-term.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter, and we hope to hear from you soon regarding the potential to discuss this issue. We would be glad to assist (or take the lead) with setting up a meeting, likely in the Gunnison area to facilitate participation by local partners and possibly even conducting a site visit. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (303) 236-4403.

Sincerely,

Brian W. Smith
Deputy Chief, Migratory Bird Program
Region 6

Enclosures: 2013 Permit #MB071941-0
50 CFR § 22.41

CC: Bridget Fahey, USFWS, ES, Region 6