

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
United States Senate

September 20, 2016

Dear Speaker Ryan, Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Pelosi, and Minority Leader Reid:

Hunting and fishing are big business in America, supporting the \$646-billion annual outdoor recreation economy. Our businesses are dependent on robust fish and wildlife populations, and that's why we support ongoing efforts to conserve and restore millions of acres of habitat through sage-grouse conservation plans by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, eleven Western states, and private landowners. These conservation plans will directly benefit 350 species of plants and animals, including deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep, and wild trout.

The conservation of sagebrush landscapes began with a concerted effort to keep the greater sage-grouse off the Endangered Species list. This goal energized stakeholders across the West to build durable conservation plans for federal, state, and private acres to protect and restore the core habitat for the bird and insulate a wide swath of the West from the immense regulatory burdens of listing sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act. Success was achieved in September 2015, as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decided not to list the bird. However, it is important to note that all current and planned conservation efforts – federal, state, and private – were needed to reach that landmark “not-warranted” decision.

In the West, 72 percent of sportsmen depend on public lands for their hunting access and opportunities. Popular big game animals and upland birds depend on intact and healthy habitat on public lands. Many of our best trout streams are sourced from public lands, where conservation supports cool, clean water necessary for coldwater fisheries. The historic effort to keep the greater sage grouse off of the endangered species list culminated in the creation of conservation plans for federal public lands that complement state plans and voluntary efforts on private lands. The federal plans alone will result in the conservation of 67 million acres of some of the best public fish and wildlife habitat in the West, including upland and riparian habitats. These are the very same lands that support the fish and wildlife species our customers depend on and, as a result, millions of hunters, anglers, and outdoor recreation business owners are directly benefiting from the conservation of sage grouse.

The successful not-warranted decision by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service came after years of coordination between state, federal, and private entities, and it should be celebrated as a historic win for wildlife conservation. This achievement should also be seen as a boon for business, and that's why we are writing to request that you oppose the inclusion of any language, in any legislation, that seeks to delay, defund, or otherwise undo the federal conservation plans for millions of acres of greater sage-grouse habitat, and that you fully support all federal, state, and private sagebrush conservation efforts.

Sincerely,

Major Retailers and Manufacturers

Airflo	Washington
American Leathers	Idaho
Black Gold Bowsights	Montana
Bowtech	Oregon
Costa Del Mar	Florida
Echo Fly Rods	Washington
Elk101.com	Idaho
First Lite	Idaho
Fishpond	Colorado
Gary Lewis Outdoors	Oregon
Joe Riis Photography	South Dakota
Kryptek	Wisconsin
KUIU	California
Leupold & Stevens, Inc.	Oregon
Maven Outdoor Equipment Company	Wyoming
Mystery Ranch	Montana
onXmaps	Montana
Oregon Pack Works	Oregon
Orvis	Vermont
Redington	Washington
Rio Products	Idaho
Sage	Washington
Saracione Manufacturing	Oregon
Seek Outside	Colorado
Simms	Montana
<i>The Upland Almanac</i>	Arizona
<i>Traditional Bowhunter Magazine</i>	Idaho
Traditional Pursuit Inc.	Idaho

Local Retailers and Service Providers

Arizona

Arizona Wanderings	Phoenix
Cliff Dwellers Lodge	Marble Canyon
Lee's Ferry Anglers	Marble Canyon
Lee's Ferry Lodge	Marble Canyon
TerryGunn.com Photography	Marble Canyon

Colorado

Breckenridge Outfitters	Breckenridge
Duranglers Flies and Supplies	Durango
Dvorak Fishing and Rafting Expeditions	Nathrop
Elkhorn Outfitters	Craig

Estes Park Outfitters
Between the Lines Boating Hardware
Red Rock Archery
Waterfowl Haven Hunt Club and Outfitters
Winterhawk Outfitters

Estes Park
Nathrop
Grand Junction
Kersey
Collbran

Idaho

Downwind Archery
Fishbite Media
Henry's Fork Lodge
House of Harrop
Intermountain Aquatics Inc.
Jimmy's All-Seasons Angler
KG's Fly Tying Specialties
Life-Like Taxidermy
Mountain Sports Photography
Real Animal Management, LLC
Red Shed Fly Shop
Ross Coin & Gun
Silver Creek Outfitters
Tucker Flies

Idaho Falls
Boise
Island Park
St. Anthony
Driggs
Idaho Falls
Idaho Falls
Carmen
Idaho Falls
Boise
Peck
Idaho Falls
Ketchum
Boise

Michigan

Caddis Shack Fly Fishing Guide Service
Dancing Duke Kennels

Escanaba
Twin Lake

Montana

Big Sky Beetle Works
Custom Bird Works
Don's Store
Freestone Fly Shop
Missoulian Angler
Reel Women Fly Fishing Adventures
Riverside Anglers, Inc.
SFE Gun Sales
Sweetwater Travel
Taxidermy Unlimited

Florence
Missoula
Lewistown
Hamilton
Missoula
Willow Creek
West Yellowstone
Hamilton
Livingston
Missoula

Nevada

Borrego Outfitters
Ground Zero Outfitters
Mountain Man Outfitters
TG Taxidermy

Hawthorne
Sparks
Winnemucca
Fallon

Oregon

Alpine Archery and Fly
Brian Silvey's Guide Service
Dean Finnerty Guides and Outfitters

La Grande
Maupin
Cottage Grove

Deschutes Canyon Fly Shop
Emergent Expeditions
Fin and Fire
Fly Water Travel
Anderson Custom Rods
Herz Gun Dogs
High Life Pudiel Pointers
Little Creek Outfitters
On the Fly Guide Service
Royal Treatment Fly Shop
Western Fishing Adventures

Washington

Swing the Fly
PNW Spey Guides

Wyoming

Bear Basin Adventures
Dewey Wildlife Studios
Dunoir Fishing Adventures
Guided Connections
JD High Country Outfitters
Jeff Vanuga Photography
Monteith Taxidermy
North Fork Anglers
Out West Safaris
Owl Creek Flies
Rams Horn Guest Ranch
Stewart Taxidermy
Sweetwater Fishing Expeditions
Teton Mountaineering
Tour Yellowstone
Wind River Outdoor Company
Wyoming Wildlife Outfitters

Maupin
Portland
Redmond
Ashland
Rogue River
Bend
Redmond
Maupin
White City
West Linn
West Linn

Pullman
Pullman

Fort Washakie
Cody
Lander
Wilson
Jackson
Dubois
Laramie
Cody
Rawlins
Thermopolis
Dubois
Dubois
Lander
Jackson
Cody
Lander
Sheridan