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Bi-State Distinct Population of Greater Sage-Grouse

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) submits that additional consideration of the Bi-State Distinct Population Segment of Greater Sage-Grouse (Bi-State DPS) and its habitat needs to be afforded. The Bi-State DPS has a long history of conservation efforts. Many Private, NGO, State and Federal partners have invested over \$50 million into conservation actions and much time working to conserve this species over the past 20 years. The Bi-State DPS and its critical habitat are currently recognized as a proposed Threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and its habitat requirements and current distribution are well known. The Service is currently working on our final ESA listing determination with completion likely in late 2023 to mid 2024. The DPS occurs along the California/Nevada border from approximately Carson City, NV south to Crowley Lake, and into the White Mountains, California. Spatial mapping products of its habitat as well as its proposed critical habitat are readily available to be shared and land use plans in the area afford significant protection to the species and its habitat.

The Service submits that these data need to be incorporated into this proposal and fully considered. Impacts to Sage-Grouse are well known from anthropogenic infrastructure including renewable energy and powerline developments. These peer reviewed research investigations are also readily available for consideration.

Please reach out to discuss.

regards-steve