



## **National Association of Conservation Districts**

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June 27, 2008

Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS-R6-ES-2008-0022  
Division of Policy and Directives Management  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 222  
Arlington VA 22203

### ***Status Review for the Greater Sage-Grouse as Threatened or Endangered***

On behalf of the nation's 3,000 conservation districts, the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) submits the following summary comments to be included in the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) Status Review for the Greater Sage-Grouse.

Conservation district and individual landowner projects related to sage-grouse conservation efforts in California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming were summarized and provided to the interagency teams as part of their standardized data collection effort. Similarly, those sage-grouse projects conducted or planned in partnership with conservation districts and other federal agencies such as FWS, Natural Resource Conservation Service and Bureau of Land Management were also part of the data collection conducted by the interagency teams. As reflected by the data, sage-grouse has been, and will continue to be, a major focus of habitat improvement and conservation by federal land management agencies, state departments of wildlife, industry, conservation districts and private landowners in the West. Conservation and monitoring programs are in place. Education projects are planned. Millions of dollars have been expended affecting sage-grouse habitat over millions of acres of western state, federal and private agricultural and range lands. Subsequently, NACD does not believe the data warrant the sage-grouse listing since conservation efforts have been, and will continue to be, effective in sustaining, expanding and improving sage-grouse habitat.

On behalf of the members of NACD, I thank the FWS staff for their cooperation and assistance. The inclusion of conservation district representatives on the interagency teams is greatly appreciated. We believe that this is an important step in assuring that the project data are complete and the best available. We further believe that sage-grouse populations will be sustained and even increase without the need for listing as planning, monitoring and implementation of conservation efforts continue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John H. Redding'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'J'.

John Redding  
President