

## United States Department of the Interior

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

December 17, 2015

Kent Holsinger Holsinger Law, LLC 1800 Glenarm Pl., Suite 500 Denver, CO 80202

Dear Mr. Holsinger,

On July 24, 2015, the U.S. Department of the Interior responded to three Information Quality Act (IQA) Requests for Correction of Information (Requests) submitted (March 18, 2015) by Holsinger Law, LLC on behalf of various Petitioners, regarding three documents: the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Comprehensive Review of Ecology and Conservation of the Greater Sage Grouse: A Landscape Species and its Habitats (the "Monograph"); the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) National Technical Team Report on National Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Measures (NTT); and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Objectives: Final Report (COT).

This letter follows up on our letter of July 24, 2015, where we described the process through which the Bureaus would respond to your Requests, and responds to your correspondence of August 12 and 20, 2015. Apart from the FWS oversight regarding posting of the peer review plan, which has been corrected, the Bureaus did not find merit in your Requests for corrective action, therefore no corrective actions related to the three Requests will be taken. Complete documentation of our consideration of and response to your three Requests are included in the Decision File for the BLM Records of Decision (for the NTT Report) amending or revising the BLM Resource Management Plans (RMP) in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, and the Decision File for the FWS's determination regarding the status of the Greater Sage-Grouse with respect to the applicability of the Endangered Species Act (for the COT Report and the Monograph).

For your convenience, we are providing links to the publically posted response documents. For the BLM, responses can be found in the BLM Director's Protest Resolution Reports

(<a href="http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/planning/planning\_overview/protest\_resolution/protest\_treports.html">http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/planning\_overview/protest\_resolution/protest\_treports.html</a>), and the documents fulfilling the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act for each RMP

(<a href="http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/sagegrouse/final\_eiss.html">http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/sagegrouse/final\_eiss.html</a>). An index for where the Final EISs address the NTT can be found at <a href="http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/National\_Page/Notices\_used">http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/National\_Page/Notices\_used</a> in Footer/data quality.html.

For FWS and USGS, responses can be found on the FWS's Greater Sage-Grouse webpage related to the 2015 Endangered Species Act Finding. Specifically, the FWS response can be found at

http://www.fws.gov/greaterSageGrouse/PDFs/20150917 FinalIQADecisionFileRespons eWithCover.pdf and the USGS response can be found at

http://www.fws.gov/greaterSageGrouse/PDFs/USGS%20IQA%20Monograph%20Response%20Record.9.16.15.pdf

We appreciate your continued interest in our work regarding the important issue of the Greater Sage-Grouse across the West, and your assistance in highlighting the critical role of sound information.

Sincerely,

Anne E. Kinsinger, USGS\Associate Director

for Ecosystems

Michael Tupper, BLM Acting Assistant Director

for Resources and Planning

Gary Frazer, FWS Assistant Director for

**Ecological Services**