



Fish and Wildlife Stewardship
9920- 108 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2M4

October 20, 2023

Mr. Dustin Temple
Director, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks
1420 East 6th Avenue
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Subject: Request to proceed with 2024 capture and translocation of greater sage-grouse from Montana to Alberta (postponed in 2023)

Dear Mr. Temple,

I would like to thank you for the support Montana - Fish, Wildlife and Parks has provided to Alberta in our efforts to recover greater sage-grouse in the province. We continue to work with various partners on a number of actions including habitat improvements, captive rearing trials, predator management and population monitoring. We are also in the process of undertaking a situational analysis and updating our recovery plans. Translocations from Montana have been critical to prevent the extirpation of greater sage grouse in Alberta. Further to that, we would like to request continued support from Montana to complete the previously approved translocation of 40 greater sage-grouse hens in April of 2024.

As you are likely already aware, the last translocation from Montana to Alberta occurred in the spring of 2019. This was the third translocation in a series previously approved by the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission (January 14, 2016). The intent was to perform an additional translocation in 2021; however, it was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and again in 2022 due to the severe winter conditions. Requesting your support for another proposed translocation of forty (40) sage-grouse would carryout the third and last translocation evaluated in the 2015 Sage-Grouse Translocation Environmental Assessment (EA). Due to the time that has now lapsed, it is our understanding that our proposal would need to again be approved by the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission.

Although the EA evaluated a total of three translocations, translocations continue to be an important tool for the recovery of the species in Alberta and we would like to maintain options for possible future translocations. The translocation of greater sage-grouse continues to be an important tool in the recovery of the species in Alberta. Although we are making great progress on habitat restoration, we believe this action has been integral in helping to stave off extirpation.

As a result of this project, our respective agencies have worked cooperatively towards the management of this transboundary species. The support and collaboration from your staff in Region 6 has been significant to the success of past joint initiatives between our agencies. The ongoing communication and cooperation between staff from our agencies under the Northern

Sage-brush Steppe Initiative has provided tangible results with respect to collaborative research, data sharing, increased communication and coordination, and more cooperative trans-boundary management along our border. I look forward to continuing collaborative management in order to benefit sage-grouse and many other wildlife species shared by our jurisdictions.

Should you have any questions, please reach out to Craig Johnson (craig.johnson@gov.ab.ca), Director Fish and Wildlife Stewardship- South Region.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kelly Williams".

Kelly Williams on behalf of Sue Cotterill
Acting Executive Director, Fish and Wildlife Stewardship
Alberta Environment and Protected Areas

cc: Drew Henry (MFWP) DHenry@mt.gov
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