

June 10, 2022

Henry

Mr. Henry ~~Worsech~~, Director
Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks
1420 East 6th Avenue
P.O. Box 200701
Helena Montana USA 59620-0701

Dear Mr. Worsech:

I would like to thank you for the support of Montana, Fish Wildlife and Parks during the capture and translocations of Greater sage-grouse from Montana to Alberta initiated in 2011. Translocations from Montana have been critical to enhance the Greater sage-grouse population and support recovery of the species in Alberta. As a result of this project, our respective agencies continue to work cooperatively to manage transboundary wildlife species. The support and collaboration from your staff in Region 6 has been significant to the success of past joint initiatives between our agencies. For example, 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.

Greater sage-grouse in Alberta continue to be critically endangered with fewer than 100 birds. However, with continued actions such as translocation and habitat restoration this species will continue to persist on the Alberta landscape and be enjoyed by future generations. The translocation of sage-grouse continues to be an important tool in the recovery of the species in Alberta. Originally, four translocations were proposed, however additional translocations may be desirable to support ongoing recovery in Alberta. The last translocation from Montana to Alberta occurred in the spring of 2019. This was the third translocation previously approved by the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission on January 14th, 2016. The intent was to perform the fourth translocation in 2021, although it was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We believe that translocations of Greater sage-grouse from Montana has been integral to prevent extirpation in Alberta.

My wildlife team has utilized results obtained from detailed monitoring of translocated birds and the local population to adjust our recovery efforts in order to increase the success of sage-grouse. These adjustments include management of confirmed sage-grouse predators through direct removal as well as removal of structures that provide a

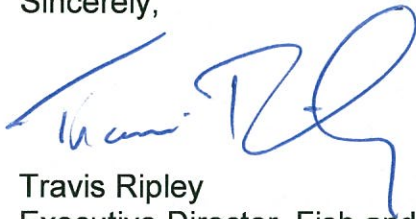
subsidy to predators. Habitat restoration and reclamation remains an active and ongoing process. Currently a large-scale effort by provincial and federal governments to reclaim oil and gas well sites is underway, with well site removal being prioritized in critical sage-grouse habitat. These management initiatives continues to position Alberta for improved success from additional translocations.

To support ongoing recovery in Alberta, I am requesting your support for another translocation of 40 sage-grouse in April 2023. It is our understanding that our proposal to translocate additional birds would need to be reviewed and approved by the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission. My team will provide information or support to your team required to navigate this process. Translocations continues to be an important tool for the recovery of the species in Alberta and we appreciate consideration for future translocations.

I look forward to continued cooperative management between our agencies to benefit transboundary wildlife, including Greater sage-grouse. If you have any questions related to this project, please contact me or my staff.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Travis Ripley
Executive Director, Fish and Wildlife Stewardship, Resource Stewardship Division
Alberta Environment and Parks

Enclosure

cc: Sue Cotterill, Director Species at Risk, Alberta Fish and Wildlife Stewardship
Craig Johnson, Regional Director South Region, Alberta Fish and Wildlife
Stewardship