

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 21, 2015

The Honorable John Hickenlooper, Governor
State of Colorado
Office of the Governor
136 State Capitol Building
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Grand Junction Field Office (GJFO) Proposed
Resource Management Plan (PRMP) – Governor’s Consistency Review

Dear Governor Hickenlooper:

We would like to reiterate many of the concerns and sentiments of local governments and stakeholders regarding the BLM’s GJFO PRMP that have been brought to our attention, and to encourage you to carefully scrutinize the PRMP during the 60-day Governor’s Consistency Review period.

It is vitally important that federal lands and resources management maintain consistency with state and local planning efforts, especially in western states and counties where federal land ownership commonly makes up a greater proportion of land holdings. This is recognized in federal regulation under 43 C.F.R. 1610.3-2, which mandates that Governors have the opportunity to compare proposed federal resource management with state, local, and tribal policies, identify inconsistencies, and provide recommendations to the BLM State Director’s office to resolve and reconcile those inconsistencies.

BLM’s defining statute, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), establishes the agency’s mission to manage according to a multiple-use policy. While we fully understand the difficulty in actually carrying out this apparently simple commission, there is, we believe, a trend regarding certain uses like motorized recreation and energy development that demonstrate they are increasingly squeezed into ever tighter regulatory and spatial confines. Both of these uses, among many others, are vitally important to local and state economies, as recognized by state plans like the “Colorado Blueprint: A Bottom-Up Approach to Economic Development” and the “2014 Colorado Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan”. The “Colorado Blueprint” in particular, which embodies the kind of economic strategy that utilizes local expertise and will prove most effective, specifically identifies overregulation as a major impediment to the

economic prosperity of Region 11, where the Grand Junction Field Office planning area is predominantly located.

This is in no way meant to detract from other uses, but we believe the assumption that there are inherent conflicts between the various user groups, and that the “solution” is to increasingly segregate them, is erroneous.

Lastly, though Greater Sage-Grouse management will be largely defined by the pending Northwest Colorado Resource Management Plan Amendments, the issue is of great importance, and the GJFO PRMP should be carefully analyzed to ensure consistency with state and local management of the species as defined by local working group plans and the “Colorado Package”. We applaud the hard work that the state and local communities have long undertaken to manage and conserve the species, and we very much wish to see it fully recognized and utilized in federal lands management.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns and your vigilance in looking out for the needs of Coloradoans and West Slope communities. As always, it is a pleasure working with you and your administration, and please feel free to contact us at any time.

Sincerely,



Cory Gardner
United States Senator



Scott Tipton
Member of Congress

Cc: Mr. Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management
Ms. Ruth Welch, State Director, BLM Colorado
Mr. Joe Meyer, District Manager, BLM Colorado Northwest District
Mr. Wayne Werkmeister, Acting Field Manager, BLM Grand Junction Field Office
Mr. Mike King, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Natural Resources
Mr. Robert Broscheid, Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife