



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Pacific Southwest Region
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-2606
Sacramento, California 95825

IN REPLY REFER TO:
FWS/R8

JAN - 2 2015

J.J. Goicoechea
Sagebrush Ecosystem Council
201 South Roop Street, Suite 101
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Chairman Goicoechea:

I am writing to inform you of a change I am making with our regional organization to address greater sage-grouse conservation in the Pacific Southwest Region, which covers Nevada, California, and part of Oregon. As you well know, conservation of the greater sage grouse is perhaps the most important conservation issue facing the western states, our federal partners, and the Fish and Wildlife Service. To ensure that we bring the needed focus to collaboration and coordination within the Service and with our partners, I have created a Regional Sage-grouse Coordinator that reports directly to my office.

Ted Koch, the Service's Supervisor of the Reno Fish and Wildlife Office has been admirably working to fill this role but as supervisor of an office dealing with complex issues, he has to array his attentions to many issues besides sage grouse conservation. Conservation of greater sage grouse will require decades of attention in Nevada, California, and Oregon. As I advertise the new position and seek outstanding applicants, I have appointed Mary Grim to serve as the acting Regional Sage-grouse Coordinator. Mary (916/414-6574) will be your main point of contact with the Service on sage-grouse issues. She will be representing my office with the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council, effective at the February 2015 meeting.

We look forward to continuing our work with the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council to achieve sage-grouse conservation in Nevada. Please feel free to call me (916/414-6467) if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Regional Director

cc: Sagebrush Ecosystem Council members
Amy Lueders, Bureau of Land Management
Bill Dunkelberger, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Bruce Peterson, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Tony Wasley, Director, Nevada Department of Wildlife
Ted Koch, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service