



**RESOLUTION 2019-06
CONCERNING THE IMPACT ON STATE TRUST LANDS
FROM FEDERAL GREATER SAGE-GROUSE LAND MANAGEMENT RESTRICTIONS**

Whereas, the Western States Land Commissioners Association ("WSLCA") and its member states manage over 515 million acres of trust lands, minerals, and waterways that are interspersed with federal lands; and

Whereas, members of WSLCA have state constitutional mandates to manage millions of acres of lands for economic development, public education, conservation, recreation, and other public purposes provided by state law; and

Whereas, the ability of member states to fulfill their constitutional mandates is severely hindered when trust lands are surrounded by federal lands and federal wildlife management mandates; and

Whereas, the habitat of Greater Sage-Grouse covers more than 173 million acres of land in the western United States and millions of acres of State Trust assets are intermingled within this habitat; and

Whereas, on June 7, 2017, then Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke signed Secretarial Order 3353, "Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation and Cooperation with Western States" which aims to improve sage grouse conservation by strengthening communication and collaboration between states and the federal government, with the shared goal of conserving and protecting sage grouse and its habitat while also ensuring that conservation efforts do not impede local economic opportunities; and

Whereas, on December 7, 2018, the Bureau of Land Management published Final Environmental Impact Statements for proposed Resource Management Plan Amendments for the management of Greater Sage-Grouse on federal lands; and

Whereas, on March 15, 2019, the Bureau of Land Management issued Records of Decision for WSLCA members states of Oregon, Nevada/Northeastern California, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, and Wyoming; and

Whereas, the U.S. Forest Service has undertaken revisions of the 2015 Forest Service Greater Sage-Grouse plans and published Draft Environmental Impact Statements to amend forest plans in the Intermountain and Rocky Mountain Regions on October 5, 2018 for the purpose of incorporating new information to improve the clarity, efficiency, and implementation of the 2015 Greater Sage-Grouse (GRSG) Plan Amendments, including better alignment with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and state plans, in order to benefit GRSG conservation at the landscape scale; and

Whereas, Federal Greater Sage-Grouse land management regulations significantly impact the ability of WSLCA member states to generate income from state trust lands and assets that are intermingled with federal land ownership within Greater Sage-Grouse habitat; and

Whereas, States have primary jurisdiction for the management of wildlife within their own borders.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The WSLCA urges the Department of Interior and the U.S. Forest Service to continue to work with the Governors of Greater Sage-Grouse states to review current data and actions carried out by states to manage and improve Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, curtail predator impacts, protect against wildfire, and manage and increase species populations within their borders under state management; and
2. The WSLCA urges the Department of Interior to implement the 2019 Land Use Plan Amendments in coordination and cooperation with state wildlife management agencies to insure the continued recovery of Greater Sage-Grouse and insure that trust lands can continue to generate income from lands within sage grouse habitat; and
3. The WSLCA urges the U.S. Forest Service to finalize the Intermountain and Rocky Mountain Region management plans to compliment the Bureau of Land Management plans to insure coordinated management across federal lands and to coordinate and cooperate with state management plans; and

4. The WSLCA urges the Department of Interior, the U.S. Forest Service, and state wildlife managers to fully consider the implications of Greater Sage-Grouse management restrictions on adjacent state lands and minerals and the economic impacts on education funding within WSLCA member states.

Adopted this 31st day of July, 2019.



President, WSLCA



Secretary, WSLCA

*This Resolution will remain in effect through July 31, 2021
unless otherwise terminated, amended, or replaced by the Association.*