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February 20, 2002

Instruction Memorandum No. WY-2002-014

Expires: 09/30/2003

To: Field Managers

From: State Director

Subject: Request for Comments on Framework Assessment of Sage-Grouse Habitat on Public Lands in Wyoming DD 3/1/02

During the early summer of 2001, Wyoming Instruction Memorandum WY-2001-047 and WY-2001-047, Change 1, requested the Field Offices to field test the draft Framework Assessment of Sage-Grouse Habitat on Public Lands in Wyoming for the remainder of the 2001 field season. This assessment, which is an on-the-ground habitat measurement process, in part, is expected to be used to provide an information base for future local level sage-grouse conservation efforts. This assessment will also be used to provide standardized qualitative and quantitative assessments in our future healthy rangelands Standards and Guidelines (S&G) evaluation process.

During the range/wildlife workshop held in Jackson last November, we discussed some of the early impressions and comments that each Field Office had concerning the assessment methodology. At that time, we indicated we would be soliciting formal Field Office comments at a later date. We are now formally requesting the input of each Field Office concerning the draft process and methodology. Please submit any comments, suggestions, experiences, etc., you and your staffs had this past field season with the draft framework assessment to this office by NLT COB on March 1, 2002. Your comments will be used by an interdisciplinary team to revise the assessment based on your input.

Some of the topical areas that you should consider when preparing your comments include:

- How easy was it to locate and place the measurement transects?
- Did you have any difficulty determining what type of seasonal habitat for which to measure?
- Were the proper layout of transects sufficiently described?
- What intensity of sampling is required, and is that sufficiently described?
- Were the measurement parameters of the methodology sufficiently described?
- How much time and effort was involved in using the various methods?
- How easy was it to assimilate the data and utilize the various forms?

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Tom Rinkes in the Lander Field Office at (307) 332-8404, or Dave Roberts at (307) 775-6099.

/s/Alan R. Pierson