



MEDIA RELEASE

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AGNC THANKS GOVERNOR HICKENLOOPER FOR COMMITMENT ON SAGE GROUSE ISSUE

PARACHUTE, CO– The Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado are pleased with Governor Hickenlooper’s stated commitment to stand with northwest Colorado in pushing back against an overly restrictive Sage Grouse management plan proposed by the Bureau of Land Management, and to assign a point person to work with stakeholders in northwest Colorado on the issue.

The AGNC sat down with Governor Hickenlooper on Monday, November 25th, for a meeting in which several pressing issues facing northwest Colorado were discussed, the foremost being the proposed management of Greater Sage Grouse habitat.

The (BLM) released a draft Land Use Plan Amendment/ Environmental Impact Statement (DLUPA/EIS) in August, presenting alternatives for managing Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, ahead of a possible decision to list the bird under the Endangered Species Act by 2015.

AGNC officials say that none of the proposed alternatives are workable for northwest Colorado.

“The BLM’s alternatives rely on maps that erroneously and haphazardly assign habitat designation to great swaths of land, contrary to that determined by peer-reviewed scientific studies,” said AGNC’s Executive Director Scott McInnis, adding that “the restrictions that each alternative proposes be placed on economic activity would be devastating to northwest Colorado.”

McInnis said that all forms of economic activity would be curtailed. “This is going to hurt grazing, hunting, oil and gas, mining, recreation, renewable energy, and every other economic use of public lands in northwest Colorado.”

AGNC officials were also concerned that their input was being ignored by the BLM, prompting them to reach out to the Governor for assistance. AGNC Chairman and Garfield County

Commissioner Mike Samson specifically asked the Governor to approach the BLM with the message that none of the existing alternatives work for northwestern Colorado, and to assign a point person to work with local stakeholders in developing a made-in-Colorado solution.

Governor Hickenlooper readily agreed to both requests.

“We would like to thank the Governor for his commitment to the northwestern part of his state, and we look forward to working with his office on this critical matter.”

For more information, or to schedule an interview, please contact AGNC Executive Director Scott McInnis at 970-285-7630

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AGNC is a council of governments representing cities and counties in northwest Colorado including Mesa, Garfield, Rio Blanco, Moffat and Routt.