



WYOMING WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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April 27, 2016

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Public Comments Processing
Attn: Docket No. FWS-HQ-ES-2015-0126
Acting Director James K. Wurth
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
ABHC-PPM
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

RE: Proposed Revisions to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Mitigation Policy

Dear Director Wurth,

The Wyoming Wool Growers Association (WWGA) respectfully request a 60-day extension to the comment period for the draft policy on Proposed Revisions to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Mitigation Policy that was published in the Federal Register on March 8, 2016 (Docket No. FWS-HQ-ES-2015-0126). We believe the proposed policy represents a significant change and requires equally significant consideration.

The WWGA represents Wyoming's sheep and wool industry and serves to protect, preserve, promote and enhance the interests of sheep producers and other livestock owners in Wyoming. Incorporated into our organization's purpose is the goal to enhance and ensure Wyoming's natural resources through sound environmental practices, including those that promote healthy and productive rangeland and water resources. The WWGA has been working toward these goals since its formation in 1905.

Our members have a direct interest in ensuring that the USFWS's policy regarding landscape-scale approaches to mitigation does not interfere with their ability to operate their sheep ranches, including their positive stewardship practices. Due to the complexity of the draft mitigation policy, we find it necessary to formally request more time to evaluate the changes and how they might impact our members. To this end, we request a 60-day extension to the comment period as we feel it would provide all parties involved the opportunity to better evaluate the policy changes and make more informed comments.

We appreciate your consideration of our request for a deadline extension. If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

Amy W. Hendrickson
Executive Director

mr/awh