



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

APR 05 2016

READINESS

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Grijalva:

This letter is in response to the letter co-signed by you and Representative Smith, dated March 23, 2016, regarding the greater sage grouse and asking whether a future decision to list the bird under the Endangered Species Act may affect military training, operations, and readiness.

At this time, we believe existing statutory authorities sufficiently protect the interests of the Department of Defense (DoD) and we do not anticipate the need for additional legislation from Congress. However, we will continue to closely monitor the status of the greater sage grouse. Our specific responses to your four questions are attached.

The DoD appreciates your continued interest in maintaining the sustainability of military training, operations and readiness and looks forward to continuing our working relationship to address the many challenges affecting the Department's training ranges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Feehan", is positioned above the typed name.

Daniel P.C. Feehan
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of
Defense (Readiness), Performing the Duties
of the Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Readiness)

Attachments:
As stated