I am writing about my concerns for the Sagebrush Sea ecosystem in eastern Washington and Oregon. I urge you to drop the sage grouse rider that prevents ESA listing of sage grouse. The sage grouse are threatened from energy development, habitat fragmentation, climate change, and predation.

I also urge you to support voluntary grazing permit retirements and reductions. Please require federal land agencies like the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service to set aside and protect lands in designated Research Natural Areas and Wilderness Study Areas.

I also urge you to require the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service to monitor and meet rangeland Health Standards. Furthermore, damaged lands which have been overgrazed should be rested for a minimum time period until rangelands standards can be met.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.