I am writing to urge you to continue protections to save sage-grouse habitat. These protections were enacted back in 2015 with much scientific and collaborative input from various stakeholders and should remain in place. Sage grouse require special habitat that covers an entire range rather than a patchwork of habitats. The prior administration has ignored the scientific view that habitat is critical to the long term survival of sage-grouse. This administration further changed the sagebrush focal area and replaced them with priority habitat management areas in the "preferred alternative", putting the critical habitat to the bird's survival in danger.

The US Forest Service also needs to protect sage-grouse habitat by prioritizing protection of sage-grouse habitat over oil and gas leasing and development.

The protection of the sage-grouse habitat should prevent further declines in their populations and prevent their listing as Endangered Species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue.