



Martha Williams, Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Williams:

Established in 1935, Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge has been essential to conserving pronghorn, greater sage-grouse and myriad of other fish, wildlife and native plants in the northern Great Basin. It is also a centerpiece of the National Wildlife Refuge System, implementing innovative, ecological management that has become a model for how best to conserve and restore sagebrush habitats across the West.

The Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge needs a new comprehensive conservation plan. The current management plan from 1994 was both precedential and fundamental to the refuge's success over the past decades, but will become increasingly outdated as Hart Mountain confronts new challenges posed by climate change, unnatural fire regimes, invasive species and other factors.

A new refuge planning process would also allow for public consideration of new science, management prescriptions and opportunities to elevate wildlife conservation on Hart Mountain and across the region.

Thank you for your timely consideration of our request.

Oregon Natural Desert Association