

GOOD MORNING CHAIRMAN WITT AND COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

My name is Carol Dunten. I am a 4th generation rancher in the Drewsey area of Harney County. As Representative Bentz may have mentioned, this sagebrush steppe is a vast area. Our county is 10,000 square miles. My family operates approximately 4500 acres of wet meadows and upland habitats including lands homesteaded by my great-grandparents and grandparents. ALL of our private land is Preliminary Priority Habitat for Greater Sage Grouse identified within the Oregon Sage Grouse Plan. We manage a 400 commercial cow/ natural beef program on our property along with US Forest Service and BLM allotments, which our family has managed since the 1934 Taylor Grazing Act adoption. Our BLM allotments are also identified as a Priority Area of Conservation (PAC) or PPH habitat.

We are involved in partnerships with local and federal agencies as part of a large collaborative partnership addressing the spread of invasive species, like Medusahead rye and juniper removal to improve wildlife habitat and maintain a healthy landscape. Our grazing management practices provide sustainable ranching while reducing fine fuel loads that reduce catastrophic wildfire risk while maintaining sage grouse habitat and healthy pastures for wildlife and livestock.

Implications within the BLM Environmental Impact Statement for Greater Sage Grouse are of grave concern to our community members. It is imperative that the State Plan consistency review involve a collaborative community based approach to retaining the economic driver for Oregon- Agriculture. I can foresee losing our legacy due to loss of grazing and over-regulation. We are dependent on BLM and US Forest Service allotments. We stand to lose 50% of our herd due to potential delayed grazing or agency mandated non-use. We could no longer afford to support the 12 people associated with our ranching operation.

BLM RMP--- ?

Marty-- CCAA process-- how many landowners (Scope & Scale)

Carol-- Closing

Ladies and gentleman,

Landowner and community commitments have been made with the US Fish & Wildlife Service for 30 years. We will continue to work toward maintaining and enhancing sage grouse habitat on our land through our cooperative CCAA- Site Specific Plans. It is imperative that this type of collaborative processes on over 3.5 million acres of private land have dedicated funding for plan development and monitoring.