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February 20, 2019
Chris Hammond
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
490 North Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901
Dear Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks,

Dear Mr. Hammond:

Flathead Audubon Society represents about 400 members from northwest Montana. Our mission is to conserve birds, wildlife habitat and ecosystem diversity; promote awareness and appreciation of the natural world through education and advocacy; work with diverse groups and agencies to achieve sound decisions on natural resource issues; provide community services such as school programs, work projects, and field trips.

We have reviewed the Draft Environmental Assessment for WESTERN MONTANA SHARP-TAILED GROUSE REINTRODUCTION. We heartily endorse the proposed action to re-establish self-supporting populations of sharp-tailed grouse west of the continental divide in Montana. We further support the selection of Alternative B that would utilize 3 sites in western Montana.

We realize that historical efforts to augment or re-establish sharp-tail populations have had limited success but the proposed action has a high probability of success due to the incorporation of a variety of actions based on the most recent available data on habitat, genetics, and translocation methods.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this proposal.

Sincerely,

Kay Mitchell, President
Flathead Audubon Society