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Comments: To Chris French:

Wasatch Audubon Society submitted comments regarding the DEIS for the Greater Sage-grouse plan amendments. We stated that the Plan amendments weaken GRSG protections and expressed a preference for the No Action alternative. There are a number of ways by which the plan amendments weaken protections. One example is several places where something was prohibited in the 2015 plan, but the FEIS provides an exception if mitigation is applied. The truth is that mitigation almost never makes up for damage or loss of habitat.

We object to GRSG-GEN-ST-006-Guideline in the FEIS, where a "clarification" reduces protection to Greater Sage-grouse. The wording is changed from Do not authorize new surface disturbing and disruptive activities that create noise at 10dB above ambient measured at the perimeter of an occupied lek ... to do not authorize new large scale infrastructure or facilities that create sustained noise levels of >10 dB above ambient baseline at the perimeter of an occupied lek. This limits the protection to a restricted set of circumstances. A compromise would be to say do not authorize new infrastructure or facilities that create sustained or frequent intermittent noise levels of >10 dB above ambient baseline at the perimeter of an occupied lek.

GRSL-FM-GL-048 must be rewritten. It introduces new confusion through use of a double negative. It could be interpreted as intended or the exact opposite.