



Society for Range Management

6901 S. Pierce St. Suite 223

Littleton, CO 80128

(303) 986-3309

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September 19, 2018

The Honorable John Barrasso
U.S. Senator, Wyoming
Chairman, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
Washington, D.C.

RE: Endangered Species Act Amendments of 2018

Dear Senator Barrasso;

It is the honor and privilege of the Society for Range Management (SRM) to comment on the bipartisan discussion draft for the Endangered Species Act Amendments of 2018.

The Society for Range Management supports your and the Senate Committee's efforts to ensure that the bipartisan ESA discussion draft includes updated direction that provides regulatory certainty to promote conservation and recovery activities related to rangeland habitat ecology and management. Regulatory certainty in recovery plans and efforts would be greatly enhanced through legislatively required consultation between professionally certified rangeland/habitat ecologists and policy writers. Under the current consultation process, individuals with little or no education, training or experience in rangeland and habitat ecology and management are providing recommendations, often resulting in unreasonable or unachievable habitat expectations and standards. We strongly urge you and the EPW Staff to consider including legislative authorization for consultation with qualified rangeland/habitat ecologists, which will allow their assessments to stand as a record of decision in conservation and recovery plans on rangelands.

The Society for Range Management applauds legislative language that requires local and regional professional expertise, experience, and knowledge as part of national decisions on ecologically comprehensive (plants, soils, water, animals, etc.) management plans.

Thanks in advance for allowing the Society for Range Management to comment on this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely;

Barry Irving
President, Society for Range Management