

Montana Sportsmen ALLIANCE

Voice of Reason on Montana Fish and Wildlife Issues

TO: Senate Fish and Game Committee

RE: SB 247

POSITION: The Montana Sportsmen Alliance OPPOSES SB 247

One might assume this bill is being brought forth to impress the FWS not to list Sage Grouse. If so, it misses the boat badly.

FWP has been carefully trying to improve the lot of the Sage Grouse in Montana for some time now. The Upland Game Bird Program has spent considerable funds on grazing management systems to benefit this iconic bird. Seasons have been adjusted based on lek counts and trend surveys. In places where the bird is in trouble, seasons have been eliminated.

Hunter harvest of Sage Grouse is an inconsequential part of Sage Grouse mortality. Sportsmen know that. So does the FWS. Sportsmen have always been willing to sacrifice for the good of the resource!

If the legislature really wants to improve the lot of Sage Grouse, you could support things that really help and really impress the FWS. Things like reducing core area disturbance more. Like increasing the distance requirements of activities near leks just as the Sage Grouse Committee suggested. We recommend a DO NOT PASS!

Montana Sportsmen Alliance Leadership Group

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