

Chris Taggart

From: MACO <MACO@mtcounties.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 7, 2021 2:25 PM
To: MACO
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Montana Sage Grouse Oversight Team to Host Listening Session Oct. 14

Commissioners,

Please see below.

Thank you,

MACO STAFF
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MONTANA SAGE GROUSE Habitat Conservation Program

Media Release

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Montana Sage Grouse Oversight Team to Host Listening Session Oct. 14

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 6, 2021

HELENA, Mont. – The Montana Sage Grouse Oversight Team (MSGOT) announced it is hosting the first of several listening sessions on Thursday, October 14 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm in Capitol Room 455 as well as virtually. Stakeholders and the public are invited to share with MSGOT their thoughts and perspectives regarding the status of the Montana Sage Grouse Program.

In the six years since the Program and MSGOT were created, this will be the first opportunity for stakeholders and the public to provide input and feedback on: 1) the work of the program since its establishment in 2015; 2) where things currently stand with the program; and 3) what opportunities may exist moving forward. MSGOT members will be actively listening and considering participants' insights on these items in addition to any other thoughts and opinions about the current program.

Stakeholders and the public are welcome to participate virtually or in person. To request virtual meeting information to participate in the meeting, please contact Emily Moran at EMoran@mt.gov or 406-444-2613. The meeting will be recorded and available for any interested parties that are not able to attend. Additional webinar-style presentations on the Sage Grouse Program are currently in development. The meeting agenda is available [here](#).

The MSGOT oversees implementation of Montana's Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy by the Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program. Individual MSGOT members also implement Montana's Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy through their respective agencies and programs. Members currently include:

- Amanda Kaster, Director of Montana Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation;
- Chris Dorrington, Director of Montana Dept. of Environmental Quality;
- Hank Worsech, Director of Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks;
- Malcolm Long, Director of Montana Dept. of Transportation;
- Jim Halvorson, Administrator of the Montana Board of Oil & Gas;
- Michael Freeman, Natural Resource Policy Advisor to Governor Gianforte;
- Senator Mike Lang, Senate District 17 (Malta);
- Representative Rhonda Knudsen, House District 34 (Culbertson); and
- Diane Ahlgren, Representative of the Rangeland Resources Committee.

Learn more about the Montana Sage Grouse Oversight Team and associated projects [here](#).

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The Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program works to sustain viable populations of sage grouse and conserve habitat, enabling Montanans to maintain control of their lands, wildlife, and economy by avoiding a listing of the greater sage grouse under the federal Endangered Species Act.

The Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program is hosted by the Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation

Stay Connected with Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program
1539 Eleventh Avenue
Helena MT 59601

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