

Wayne Allard

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**SENATOR ALLARD ANNOUNCES \$2.5 MILLION
IN DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR GRANTS AND MATCHING FUNDS
FOR COLORADO CONSERVATION PROJECTS
INCLUDES FUNDING FOR GUNNISON SAGE GROUSE HABITAT RESTORATION**

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado) announced today \$1 million in federal grants from the Department of the Interior for cooperative conservation projects throughout Colorado. These grants will be augmented by an additional \$1.5 million in matching funds from state, local, and private entities, for a total of \$2.5 million.

A highlight of this announcement is the total of \$334,500 in federal grants and Colorado Division of Wildlife matching funds that has been made available to the Bureau of Land Management's Gunnison office and the National Park Service for habitat restoration of the Gunnison Sage Grouse.

"I am extremely pleased to see this funding for the Gunnison Sage Grouse," Senator Allard said. "This is just a part of the ongoing federal effort to save this bird from the endangered species list."

In addition to these grants, Senator Allard urged Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman in April to provide \$5 million from the USDA's Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program for improvement and restoration of Sage Grouse habitat.

The Department of Interior funding also includes many other projects in Western Colorado:

- \$70,000 to the BLM's Uncompahgre office to restore habitat, with matching funds provided by the Colorado Division of Wildlife
- \$167,1820 to the BLM's Glenwood Springs office to scarify and reseed six miles of closed routes and unauthorized use areas, with matching funds provided by Vail Valley Customer Builders, B&B Excavating, the Town of Eagle, volunteers, Masthead Construction, and Eagle County
- \$43,000 to the BLM's Grand Junction office to convert cheatgrass intrusions into native habitat, with matching funds provided by the Colorado Division of Wildlife, Mule Deer Foundation, Rocky Mountain Bighorn SS, and Albertson Ranch Colorado

- \$5,000 to the BLM's Gunnison office to protect eroding banks, improve fish habitat and restore riparian vegetation, with matching funds provided by the Gunnison Basin Habitat Partnership Program and Trout Unlimited
- \$90,000 to the BLM's Little Snake office to treat 1,100 acres infested with weeds, with matching funds provided by the Colorado State Land Board, the Colorado Division of Wildlife, private landowners, the Moffat County Soil Conservation District, and Moffat County Pest Management
- \$31,800 to the National Park Service to implement a network volunteer effort to manage exotic plants and achieve restoration in the Florissant Fossil Beds NM, Bent's Old Fort NHS, Great Sand Dunes NP, and Rocky Mountain NP, with matching funds provided by park volunteers
- \$46,400 to the National Park Service to restore native plants and rehabilitate sites in Colorado NM, with matching funds from Mesa State College, the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, Mesa County, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the Western Colorado Conservation Crew

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