

EXHIBIT B  
Science Summary FOIA Request



June 17, 2013

Sent via U.S. mail and email to: [djnewman@usgs.gov](mailto:djnewman@usgs.gov)

David J. Newman  
USGS FOIA Officer  
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive  
Mail Stop 807  
Reston, VA 20192

**Re: Freedom of Information Act Request to the U.S. Geological Survey**

Dear Mr. Newman:

This letter serves as a request by Western Energy Alliance ("Western Energy") pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA," codified at 5 U.S.C. § 552) for access to and copies of documents related to the report entitled "Summary of Science, Activities, Programs, and Policies That Influence the Rangeland Conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*)."<sup>1</sup> Specifically, Western Energy requests access to and copies of documents related in whole or in part to the Team Report<sup>2</sup> with respect to the following:

1. The names and institutions of employment and/or affiliations (*e.g.*, university, scientific organization, corporation, agency, etc.) of all persons contacted for the purposes of providing peer review<sup>3</sup> of the Team Report, including internal USGS reviews that are required prior to release.
2. The names and institution of employment or affiliation (*e.g.*, university, scientific organization, corporation, etc.) of those who actually engaged in peer review of the Team Report (the "Peer Reviewers").
3. The questions asked and/or issues presented to the Peer Reviewers with respect to the Team Report.

<sup>1</sup> Manier, D.J., Wood, D.J.A., Bowen, Z.H., Donovan, R.M., Holloran, M.J., Juliusson, L.M., Mayne, K.S., Oyler-McCance, S.J., Quamen, F.R., Saher, D.J., and Titolo, A.J., 2013, Summary of science, activities, programs, and policies that influence the rangeland conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*): U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2013-1098, 170 p., <http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2013/1098/>.

<sup>2</sup> Reference to the Team Report herein necessarily includes draft(s) of the Team Report that existed prior to the release of the final report and any part or portion of the Team Report that existed independently of any other part or portion at any time during the Team Report's drafting process.

<sup>3</sup> For the purposes of this request, "peer review" is defined to mean review by persons knowledgeable in the field of inquiry with respect to the methods, evidence, and conclusions drawn by the document subject to the review.

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4. Any formal or informal report(s), paper(s), data compilation(s), communication(s), comment(s), red-line(s), summary(ies) or other document type related to the Peer Reviewers' review or impression of the Team Report.

Please send the copies of the requested documents to:

Kathleen Sgamma  
Western Energy Alliance  
410 17th St., Ste 700  
Denver, Colorado 80202  
T: (303) 623-0897  
E: [ksgamma@westernenergyalliance.org](mailto:ksgamma@westernenergyalliance.org)

Please waive any applicable fees with respect to this request. Western Energy is a non-profit organization; accordingly, Western Energy has no commercial interest in the disclosure of this information. Moreover, release of the information is in the public interest because it will contribute significantly to public understanding of government operations and activities; in particular, with respect to the best available science requirement under the Endangered Species Act (codified at 16 U.S.C. § 1531, *et seq.*).

If Western Energy's request is denied in whole or part, please identify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of FOIA. Western Energy will also expect you to release all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material. Western Energy reserves the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to deny a waiver of fees.

Should you have questions or require clarification of any of the foregoing, please contact me at the contact information listed above. We look forward to your reply within twenty (20) business days, as the statute requires. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Sgamma  
Vice President of Government & Public Affairs



**WESTERN ENERGY ALLIANCE**