Gunnison Sage-grouse Lek Access Application
Gunnison Basin
Spring 2014

Application deadline: **February 1, 2014**

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Request Type (please circle): Photography, Video, Audio recording, Other (specify:)

Applicant type (please circle): commercial user non-commercial user

Project Name: Sage Spirit

Project Goals: Book and multimedia project – In photos and words show the amazing beauty and diversity of the sagebrush ecosystem to a broad audience. Re: GuS-g – I intend to highlight the great work of the working group and explain why acting locally is so important. I will explain why the GuS-g conservation is so important as umbrella species.

Significance of project to Gunnison Sage-grouse conservation:
The Gunnison community story is significant in part because of the broad coalition that formed to conserve habitat for GuS-g. I believe that story is one of the most important in the west and I intend to include it in the book and media and will speak about GuS-g and the working group in my presentations.

Justify why you need original photographs, audio recordings or other products? (Note that we have many of these resources available for public use, contact CDOW at 970-641-7060):
A defined conservation project like Sage Spirit requires that the photographer make the photographs. Video is secondary for me and will use the same camera that I'm using for stills. Although I've photographed GuS-g leks a number of times, I haven't been very successful (golden eagle, wrong location etc.) and I would like to have a few strong images of GuS-g in good sagebrush habitat.

Applicant Credentials:
I am a full-time professional conservation photographer and author. I am widely published and Sage Spirit will be my second book. Prairie Thunder, winner of a Colorado Book Award, was published in 2007. I am a Fellow Photographer in the International League Of Conservation Photographers. I believe that no photograph is more important than the subject and hold myself to a high ethical standard.

Previous experience (please include as attachments examples of work):
I was a working group photographer in 2011, presented at the GuS-g festival in 2012, and tai=ught a photo workshop that same year. I've been photographer lekking birds for nine years – Greater and lesser prairie chicken, Greater and Gunnison Sage-grouse. In the spring of 2013, I worked with Nate Seward with a camera trap setup on Miller Ranch.

Explain your approach for reducing impacts on Gunnison Sage-grouse when you are on or near the lek:

I scout the location for a blind the day before and setup the blind. I arrive well before the birds (3 a.m.), setup my photo gear, and sit quietly in my blind. I don't make any noise other than the camera shutter while photographing and I stay until all, the birds are off the lek.

Note that a protocol was developed for lek activities including the number of days you will be allowed to access the lek. Indicate dates you are available: The best dates for me are up to April 10, 2014.

Indicate your willingness to share the products you secure with the Gunnison community:
I'm happy to share images as I did in 2011.

Explain any special needs that you might require:
I'm self-sufficient. I would like to photograph on a lek in sagebrush habitat if possible. I do realize that a number of leks are on private lands and that's part of the story. It would be very helpful to get setup in a good location to have a good chance of making images on day 1.