Gunnison Sage-Grouse Lek Access Application
Gunnison Basin
Spring, 2015

Application deadline: February 15, 2015

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Request type: photography, brief video

Applicant type: non-commercial user

Project name: **www.birdspix.com**

Project goals: educational resource, public awareness

Significance of project to Gunnison Sage-Grouse conservation:

Web site with international following. Blog entry and photos will publicize the birds' situation. (See Kirtland's Warbler page on the web site for similar).

Need for original photographs:

Every one of over 3000 photos on the web site has been taken by me personally over a ten-year effort to reach 700 North American avian species photographed. As of this application date the number is 697.

Applicant credentials:

Founder of www.birdspix.com, an extensive photo resource for North American birds. I am a graduate of M.I.T., UCLA Medical School, and a retired ophthalmologist. I travel extensively in the US, including so far three times to Alaska, for this lengthy ongoing project. Some of my photos have been used by the USFWS.

Previous experience:

Please see www.birdspix.com

Explain approach for reducing impacts on Gunnison Sage-Grouse when on or near lek:

In this instance I will be following to the letter the instructions of the viewing guide. I have also carefully read all the rules and protocol for lek viewing.

Date(s) available:

I will be traveling as part of a small group. Our itinerary consists of 10 days and some 2500 miles, all in Colorado, from April 7 through April 17. The itinerary is tight because of the numerous locales to be visited. We will be in Gunnison on the night of April 11, with the hoped-for Gunnison Sage-Grouse opportunity in the early morning of April 12. If allowed access for photography, I would separate from the group and travel to the lek on my own, reuniting with the group later in the morning back in Gunnison. If possible, I would be very grateful for the chance to share a ride out to the lek with the viewing guide. If that were not an option I would arrange to rent a car the night before and follow driving directions to meet with the guide at the designated time and place.

Willingness to share:

Absolutely! That is the entire point of the endeavor. All content on the web site is freely available to the public.

Special needs:

1. I could use a ride-share in the early morning of April 12 from Gunnison to the photography lek site.

2. I do not own a personal blind, so I would either need to borrow (or rent) one from anyone locally you might be able to suggest, or purchase one prior to the trip and bring it along.

References:

Steve Bird
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