Gunnison Sage-grouse Lek Access Application
Gunnison Basin
Spring 2016

Application deadline: February 15, 2016

Name: Gary Kramer
Street Address: 883 Pacific Ave.
City: Willows State: CA Zip code: 95988
Phone: 530-934-3873 Cell phone: 530-514-8853
Email address: gkramer@cwo.com

Request Type: Photography

Applicant type: commercial user

Project name: Coffee Table Book: **Gamebirds - A Celebration of Americas Favorite Upland Birds**

Project goals:
To obtain photos of Gunnsion Sage Grouse for inclusion in Gamebirds - a Coffee Table Book - Hardcover with dust jacket - 9.75 x 11 inches - 25 species accounts with range maps, estimated 275 pages with 350+ color photographs. Gamebirds is a photo driven and conservation oriented title.

Significance of project to Gunnison Sage-grouse conservation:
Gamebirds is a natural history and photographic book. Providing general information on the Gunnison sage grouse along with its current status and conservation efforts and an array of stunning images will raise awareness and promote the conservation of this unique species. This one of a kind book will spread the need far and wide to conserve each and every species of gamebird, particularly those in peril like the Gunnsion sage grouse, Attwater's prairie chicken and masked bobwhite quail.

Justify why you need original photographs, audio recordings or other products? (Note that we have many of these resources available for public use, contact Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) at 970-641-7060):
This book will contain only original photos taken by Gary Kramer to meet the requirements of being the only coffee table book ever published on the Gamebirds of North America with the photos and words by a single author/photographer.

Applicant Credentials:
Gary Kramer is an award winning freelance writer/photographer based in Willows, California. His photographs/articles have been published in many magazines including Living Bird, Birder's Digest, National Wildlife, Delta Waterfowl, Ducks Unlimited, Sports Afield and others along with books, calendars and corporate advertising. Gary has

published five books as both the author and photographer. US Navy Vietnam veteran, Gary earned Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in wildlife management from Humboldt State University in California. For 26 years, he was a biologist and refuge manager with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. In 1999, Gary retired from the Service to pursue his writing/photo career full time.

Previous experience (please include attachments examples of work):
See my website www.garykramer.net for articles, magazine covers and books. The cover, title page and contents page of the Gamebirds book is attached.

Explain your approach for reducing impacts on Gunnison Sage-grouse when you are on or near the lek:
During the course of obtaining images for Gamebirds , I have accessed numerous leks. I always arrive the day before the photo shoot and put up a blind. Based on local knowledge (often a Game and Fish biologist) and inspection of the lek for feathers and droppings, I place the blind on the edge of the lek and photograph the satellite birds - generally not the center of the lek and the dominant males. The next morning I arrive at least 2 hours before sunrise. I photograph the birds with a 500 or 600 mm lens from the confines of the blind then wait until all the birds have left the lek before I exit the blind and leave the area. By practicing these measures, I can honestly say I have never disturbed birds on a 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:
Anytime between April 1 and April 22.

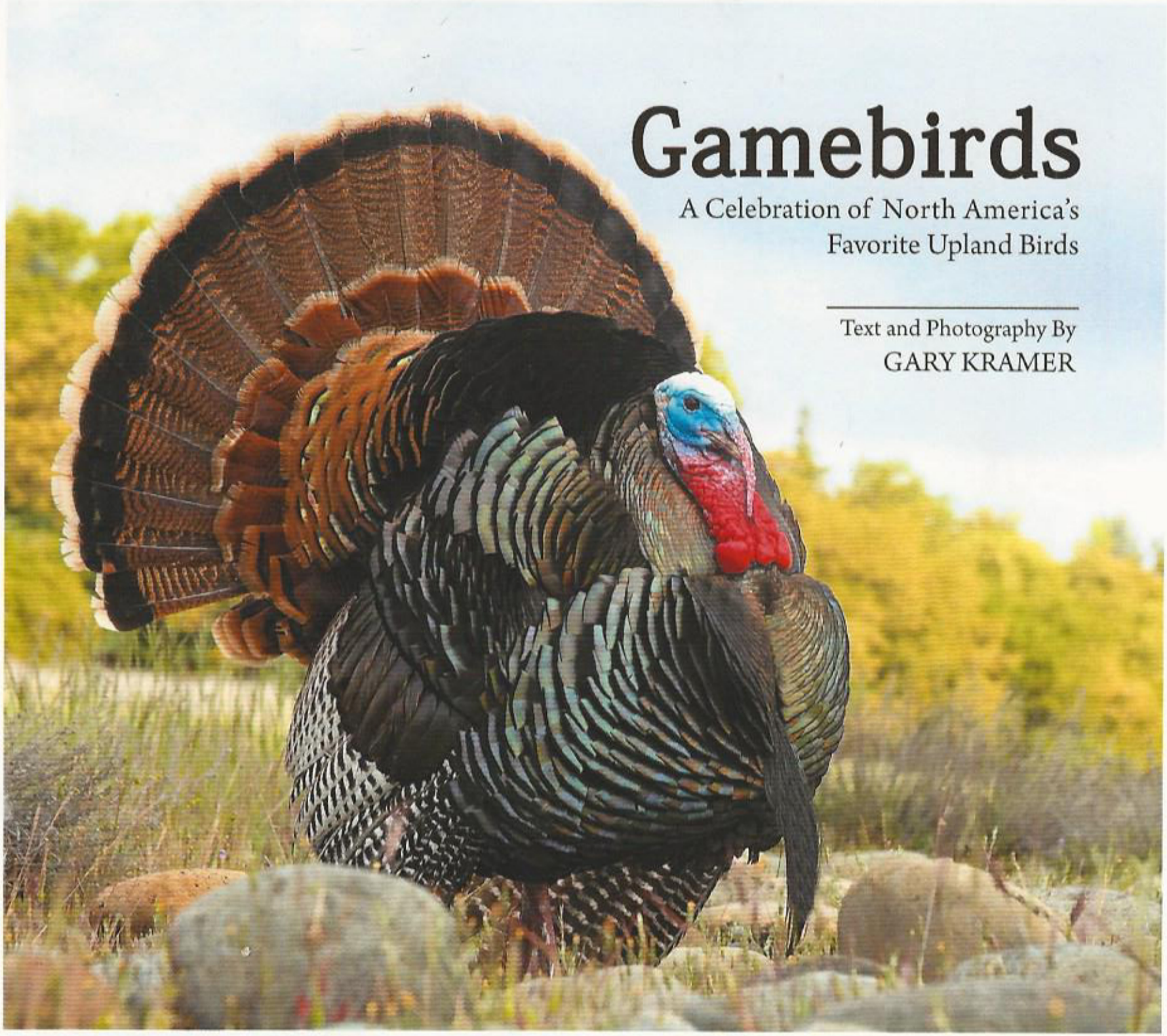
Indicate your willingness to share the products you secure with the Gunnison community:
The images will be made available to Gunnsion Basin Sage Grouse Strategic Committee for projects promoting grouse conservation.

Explain any special needs that you might require:
none

References
1) Mike Schroeder, Upland Research Scientist, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 509-670-8838, email: michael.schroeder@dfw.wa.gov

2) Mike Morrow, Wildlife Biologist, Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge, 979-234-3021, email: mike_morrow@fws.gov

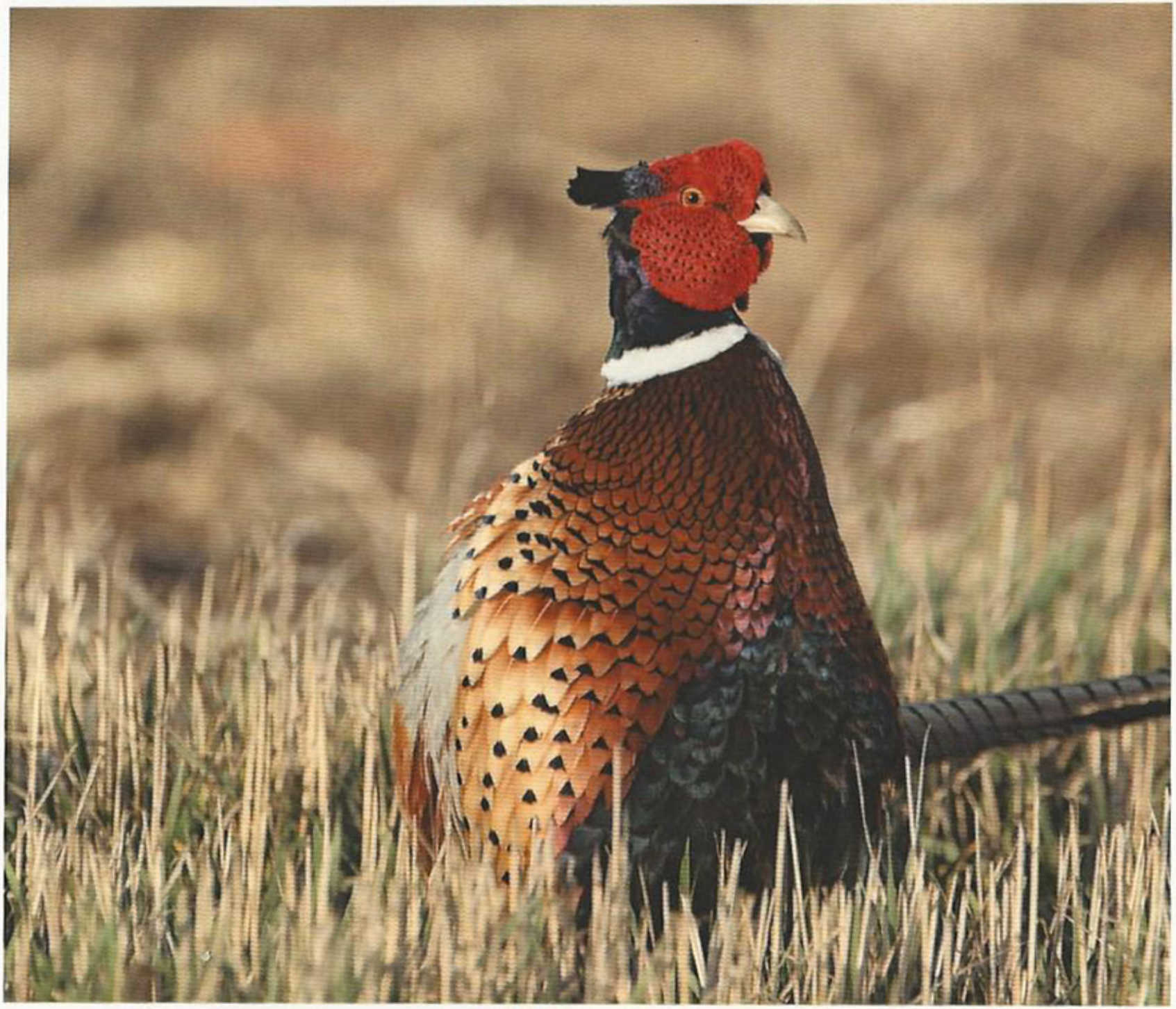
3) Dan Connelly, Pheasants Forever, Regional Representative California/Nevada, 702-606-6775, email: dconnellytri@yahoo.com



Gamebirds

A Celebration of North America's Favorite Upland Birds

Text and Photography By
GARY KRAMER



Ring-necked pheasant

Gamebirds

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