Gunnison Sage-grouse Lek Access Application

Gunnison Basin

Spring 2018

Application deadline: February 1, 2018

Name:	Frank Comisar				
Street Address:	708 Main Ave.				
City:	Durango	State:	CO	Zip code:	81301
Phone:	970-385-3856 (gallery) or 402-290-3867 (mobile)				
E-mail Address:	fcomisar@scenicaperture.com				

Request Type: ☑ Photography ☐ Video ☐ Audio recording ☐ Other (specify) _____

Applicant Type: ☑ Commercial User ☐ Non-commercial User

Project Name: Scenic Aperture's Gunnison Sage-grouse Conservation Project

1. Project Goals.

As a professional nature photographer, photography drives me as an artist and a steward of our natural world. My mission is to make great photographs in order promote understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of our natural treasures. Specifically, my goals for this project are to:

1. Increase awareness of Gunnison Sage-grouse through fine-art photography
2. Generate public support for Gunnison Sage-grouse conservation
3. Generate funds for Gunnison Sage-grouse conservation efforts through print sales from my Durango, Colorado fine-art nature photography gallery (http://durangogallery.photography/).

2. How will your project contribute to Gunnison sage-grouse conservation efforts?

I own and operate a fine-art nature photography gallery in Durango, Colorado from which I sell photographic prints of landscapes and wildlife of the four-corners area of the American Southwest. Everything in my gallery was taken by me. If this application is approved I will

1. Prominently display in my gallery (http://durangogallery.photography/) limited edition fine-art photography prints of Gunnison Sage-grouse along with material developed with CPW assistance to promote conservation efforts of the species.
2. Contribute 50% of the net proceeds generated by print sales of Gunnison Sage-grouse to Colorado Parks and Wildlife (or other organization designated by CPW) to support the conservation efforts of Gunnison Sage-grouse.

3. Justify why you need original photographs, audio recordings, or other products? (Many of these resources are available for public use, contact Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) at 970-641-7060)

Original photographs of Gunnison Sage-grouse are required to generate sales and resulting contributions to CPW.

4. Explain your qualifications and experience related to this project (please attach examples of your work).

Frank Comisar has been a nature photographer for over 30 years. Frank's fine-art prints are collected nationally and internationally by collectors and nature lovers. Frank specializes in bird photography. A Nebraska native, he has been photographing cousins of Gunnison Sage-grouse (sharp-tailed grouse and greater prairie chickens) for many years.

See attached photographs of sharp-tailed grouse and greater prairie chickens. These images were taken in Nebraska in 2015 and 2016.

5. Explain your approach for reducing impacts on Gunnison sage-grouse when you are on or near the lek.

I would comply with all CPW rules and viewing protocol. In addition, to avoid disturbing the grouse:

- I will utilize a pop-up blind to conceal my presence on the lek. I would setup the blind in the afternoon prior to the day of the shoot(s).
- I would enter the blind prior to sunrise and exit only after the grouse have left the lek for the day
- I will utilize only a headlamp with red light upon arrival at the lek. Once in the blind, use of artificial light will be minimal or not used at all.
- I will keep noise to a minimum
- I will wear dark clothing
- I will not use the camera's LCD prior to sunrise to avoid illumination of my face
- I will utilize camouflage material to conceal any portion of a lens barrel that extends outside of the blind
- I will not use flash photography

6. A protocol was developed for lek activities including the number of days you will be allowed to access the lek. Please indicate dates you are available between April 1 and May 15.

April 7-9, April 22-30

7. Are you willing to share the products you secure with the Gunnison community?

Yes, I am willing to share original digital images (.jpg files) taken on the lek as well as 50% of net proceeds derived from print sales of my images of Gunnison Sage-grouse from my Durango gallery (see above).

8. If you are working on a conservation related book, please provide information about the book (for example what it the timeline for completion, what is the conservation message you are trying to communicate to readers, etc).

N/A

9. If working on a conservation related book, are you open to providing sample text to the Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee for review and recommendations?

N/A

10. If working on a conservation related book, have you secured a publisher or formal contract?

N/A

11. Are you willing to share a blind with a Strategic Committee representative to ensure no violations of the lek viewing protocal occur?

Yes

12. Please explain how you will prepare yourself for potentially negative degree weather while sitting motionlessly in a cold blind.

I have extensive winter photography experience and have the necessary clothing and equipment for cold weather conditions.

13. Explain any special needs you might require.

My pop-up blind is only large enough for one person. If someone must accompany me in the blind, I would request use of one of your blinds if available.

Additional Comments

This is a profit sharing proposal. Together we can work out the logistics. I will maintain a record of all Gunnison-sage Grouse prints sold, including contact information of the buyer. Near year's end, I will provide sales records and a donation equal to 50% of the net proceeds generated by Gunnison-sage print sales to Colorado Parks and Wildlife (or other organization designated by CPW)

List two professional references

Adam Switzer
Calamus Outfitters
83720 Valleyview Ave.
Burwell, NE 68823
(308) 214-0725

Ruth Hoyt
Photo Bound Tours
PO Box 3
Linn, TX 78563
(956) 330-2900