U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service- Region 6- Migratory Bird Management Program

May 8, 2012

Questions for MBTA permit applications (50 CFR 21.41) to control Common Raven (CORA) in order to benefit Sage-Grouse (Gunnison or Greater) populations.

A. Required questions that permit applicants need to answer as part of the application process for a CORA depredation permit.

1. Define/describe the specific geographic area where CORA control authority is requested.

2. Describe what is known about Sage-Grouse populations within the specific geographic area where CORA control is requested.

   -How many Sage-Grouse leks occur within this area and what is the size of these leks?

   -Are these leks being monitored and if so what are the population trends for them (over the last 3 years/ last 5 years/ last 10 years)?

3. Describe or provide documentation of all available evidence that CORA populations are actually depredating Sage-Grouse within the specific geographic area where control is requested.

   -Is there evidence that CORA are depredating Sage-Grouse nests within this area? Describe the extent of this evidence.

   -Is there evidence that CORA are depredating Sage-Grouse chicks/young within this area? Describe the extent of this evidence.

   -What specific evidence is available to demonstrate that CORA populations are in fact impacting or limiting Sage-Grouse populations in any way (i.e. survival, recruitment, population growth) within this area?

B. Depredation permit applicants are not required to answer the following additional questions. But USFWS requests that applicants voluntarily answer these questions to

provide further background information, which will assist USFWS in the decision-making process on your permit application.

1. Have non-lethal control methods been attempted to limit CORA populations within the geographic area (i.e. taste-aversion attempts with chemical-injected eggs, putting up perch deterrents on power lines or fence posts, etc.)?

2. Are there other factors present in the geographic area that CORA control is requested that might be maintaining CORA populations at artificially high levels within this area (i.e. a subsidized predator population)? This would include landfills or dumps, proximity to human communities/human waste, availability of livestock carcasses, presence of energy development facilities (e.g. condensate tanks, power lines), etc. If so have specific management actions been undertaken relative to any or all of these factors to avoid or minimize subsidized CORA populations?