

Mike Crapo
United States Senator
239 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

James E. Risch
United States Senator
483 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510



Mike Simpson
Member of Congress
2312 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Raúl Labrador
Member of Congress
1523 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

June 22, 2011

Dr. Rowan Gould, Ph.D.
Acting Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Dr. Gould:

The Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) is in the process of writing its first ever Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP), as mandated by the National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act of 1997. The Refuge released a series of alternatives (including a preferred alternative) on May 27, and provided a two month period for the public to review and comment on the draft alternatives. As you know, the CCP process at Deer Flat has been contentious, and our constituents remain concerned about the curtailment of recreational opportunities at the Refuge. As such, we are requesting that you extend the public comment period an additional 120 days. Considering the importance of the Refuge to our constituents and, in particular, the local businesses and communities that depend on recreation at Deer Flat, this extension is necessary in order for the Fish and Wildlife Service to have a full, comprehensive understanding of where the public stands on this CCP.

Thank you for your timely consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature is "Mike Crapo" and the second is "James E. Risch".

MIKE CRAPO
United States Senator

JAMES E. RISCH
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Simpson".

MIKE SIMPSON
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Raúl Labrador".

RAÚL LABRADOR
Member of Congress