

APR 25 2005



Suite 500  
675 East 500 South  
Salt Lake City, UT 84102  
April 21, 2005

The Honorable Governor Bill Owens  
The Honorable Governor Janet Napolitano  
Western Governors Association  
Suite 200  
1515 Cleveland Place  
Denver, Colorado 80202-5114

Dear Governor Owens and Governor Napolitano:

On behalf of the Western States Land Commissioners Association, we support the efforts of the Western Governors Association to make common-sense changes to the Endangered Species Act. As state land managers we must manage lands to comply with the Endangered Species Act and daily deal with the complexities associated with threatened and endangered species. Your recent letter to Senator Inhofe and Senator Jeffords is closely aligned with the position of our organization.

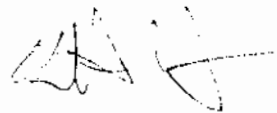
We support greater involvement of and collaboration with states, especially in the listing and recovery plans. We believe that recovery planning should be improved by clarifying what constitutes recovery and setting deadlines for issuance of recovery plans. Good science is essential in developing ESA decisions.

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We believe that increased flexibility should be available on non-federal lands. Efforts to reduce the cost and time associated with the development and approval of Habitat Conservation Plans would result in greater use of this tool. We agree that providing incentives for conservation is essential to more cost-effective participation in conservation efforts that will result in quicker recovery of species.

The Western States Land Commissioners Association offers its assistance to your efforts to revise the Endangered Species Act. We would welcome the opportunity to work closely with you. We appreciate the leadership and effort that the Western Governors Association has focused on this important issue. You may contact me at 801-538-5101.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin S. Carter". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

KEVIN S. CARTER  
PRESIDENT