



May 12, 2007

**Guest Opinion: Wildlife, oil development coexist in West**

**By Dave Galt**

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Many opposition groups would have folks believe that we can have only development or healthy wildlife populations and development will lead to extinction. However, those of us on the ground know wildlife, agriculture and responsible development do coexist.

Along with the FWS decision not to list the bird, many actions support the fact of a stable sage grouse population. The state of Montana increased the hunting bag limit, and Wyoming recently considered a proposal to lengthen the hunting season.

Wyoming Game and Fish data shows the population has increased the last two years in the Powder River Basin. While range-wide sage grouse populations have decreased over the past two decades, today's grouse numbers in areas of oil and gas development mirror the population trends seen in undeveloped areas.

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*Dave Galt of Helena is executive director of the Montana Petroleum Association.*