October 8, 2010

Jarbridge Planning Team
BLM Jarbridge Field Office
2536 Kimberly Road
Twin Falls, ID 83301

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit our comments to the Jarbridge BLM Planning Team regarding the Jarbridge Draft RMP/EIS. Please give careful consideration to our comments before preparing the final EIS for this project.

Currently, WI-NA-MA-17 on page 2-64, in the Resources Wildlife section of chapter 2 reads as follows: “Restrict occupancy for oil and gas activities in crucial wildlife habitats as shown below...Mid March through June within 0.25 miles of Western burrowing”. Our monitoring of breeding Burrowing Owls in northwestern Utah and northeastern Nevada for >10 years suggests that the seasonal protection for this species should instead be mid-April through July. Additionally, we would also recommend adding spatial protections of 0.5-mile radius for Prairie Falcons (April–June), Ferruginous Hawks (April–early July), and Red-tailed Hawks (late March–early July) based on our recent assessment of the relationship between oil and gas development and nesting raptors in Utah and Wyoming (see BLM Technical Note 43; available online at: http://hawkwatch.org/images/stories/NewsEvents/BLMTN433-2.pdf) and our research on breeding season windows for these species.

HawkWatch International (HWI) is a 501(c)3 non-profit science-based raptor conservation organization. We thank you for the opportunity to share our insights into the specific raptor-related issue associated with the Draft RMP/EIS. He hope these comments will be given due consideration when preparing the final EIS for this project.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Slater, Ph.D.
Conservation Scientist
HawkWatch International, Inc.