



## Western Stock Growers' Association

NEWS RELEASE  
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### **Free symposium to focus on land use and the preservation of an endangered bird**

Western Stock Growers' Association, along with the Alberta Grazing Leaseholders Association, are hosting a symposium in Medicine Hat on June 26 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Flying under the banner Dangerous Dances: Governments, NGOs and Local Economies, the event will explore solutions to the land use struggle that conserve the landscape while keeping the local economy intact.

The current situation in Southeast Alberta with the Emergency Protection Order on the Greater Sage Grouse has triggered many questions on land use. These questions have always been there but the EPO has kicked the discussion into high gear. "This is not just about an endangered bird," says WSGA President Aaron Brower. "The conversation is rooted in property rights and land use issues."

The land use debate is not new. Who does what on the landscape has real implications for the health and sustainability of the landscape. All stakeholders involved, whether it's landowners, industry, recreational users, conservationists or politicians, realize there are consequences to all uses of the land. "In working together to find the solution, the landscape will be preserved which includes the species at risk that live there," says Brower.

"We have some great speakers lined up that we are hoping will spark some good discussion," says Brower. Slated to speak are writer Elizabeth Nickson, motivational speaker and logger Bruce Vincent and ranchers Ronda and Keith Reesor.

The symposium, to be held at the Medicine Hat Lodge, is a free event, open to all who wish to attend. For more information, go to the WSGA website [www.wsga.ca](http://www.wsga.ca) or call the office at 403-250-9121.

Established in 1896, WSGA is a producer organization driven by policy development, focusing on a strong free market approach to production and marketing of livestock. WSGA's main priority is protection of the livestock producer through advocacy.

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