


Colorado Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Plan Agreement

The **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service)** hereby states its intent to assist with and participate in the implementation of the Colorado Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Plan (CCP) as prepared by the interagency Steering Committee (SC), of which the Service is a member. Authority for the Service to enter into this agreement and participate in implementation of the CCP comes from the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended; the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended. Signing of this agreement does not constitute a review under the Policy for Evaluating Conservation Efforts When Making Listing Decisions (PECE), nor an evaluation of the real or absolute extinction risk for the greater sage-grouse. The Service's endorsement of the CCP is not an indication that it will determine, under PECE, that the CP should be considered when the Services makes a listing determination for the greater sage-grouse, nor does the existence of the CCP necessarily result in the Service determining that listing is not warranted. Specific commitments made by the Service hereby are as follows:

- To use our authorities to review projects and recommend measures to avoid or minimize impacts to the greater sage-grouse and its habitat.
2. To provide technical assistance for proposed conservation actions as needed and requested, considering information and recommendations in the CCP for the actions.
3. To pursue funding opportunities through available grants or funding sources for implementation of the CCP.
4. To continue Service participation and support on the SC and local working groups as appropriate.
5. To provide recommendations to address any issues of concern during future CCP revisions.

Performance of all activities described above is contingent on adequate funds and staff being made available and allocated. All projects or management actions implemented in accordance with the CCP will be subject to all laws, regulations, policies and procedures in effect at the time the action is implemented. This agreement is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligating document. This agreement shall not prohibit the Service from engaging in management actions regarding greater sage-grouse conservation beyond those described in this agreement and in the CCP. However, such management actions should be coordinated with the SC.

This agreement shall become effective on the last date of signature by participating parties, and shall remain in effect until the agreement is terminated by consent of the SC. Exceptions or amendments to this agreement may be jointly agreed to by the signatories on a case-by-case basis, where such deviations would better provide for the conservation of the species or its habitat, conflicts must be resolved, or new scientific information becomes available.


Steve Guertin, Regional Director
Region 6, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

3-17-08
Date