

STATE OF COLORADO

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COLORADO



DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL
RESOURCES

Colorado Package: Introduction

Background:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is poised to propose a listing decision for the Greater Sage Grouse under the Endangered Species Act by 2015. Eleven states are host to habitat for the species, and the FWS has indicated its intent to make a single range-wide listing decision, rather than a state-specific determination. Federal, state, local, and private entities have become actively involved in activities to conserve GSG habitat in an effort to avert a listing. In 2008, the (then) Colorado Division of Wildlife (now Colorado Parks and Wildlife) developed a comprehensive *Colorado Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan*. Among the components of that plan is a section entitled "Conservation Strategy," which identifies key issues facing GSG conservation. For each issue, objectives are listed that would contribute to mitigation of the issue; for each of these objectives, a number of specific strategies are described. Each strategy, in turn, includes a list of responsible parties with a lead agency identified where possible, an estimated timeline and an approximate cost associated with implementation. This Colorado Conservation Plan is available at:

<http://wildlife.state.co.us/WildlifeSpecies/SpeciesOfConcern/Birds/Pages/GreaterSageGrouseConsPlan2.aspx>

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

Mike King
Executive Director

Process:

The Colorado Package was assembled by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in conjunction with relevant county, state, federal, and private entities. For each strategy enumerated in the Conservation Plan, described above, DNR compiled information from those stakeholders.

The completed Colorado Package will be sent to the BLM for inclusion in its Northwest Colorado RMP revision, currently underway, as an Appendix, common to all alternatives being considered. Perhaps more importantly, the Package will be submitted to the FWS for its review in developing a listing decision. DNR expects to get preliminary feedback from FWS as to the adequacy of the work being done in Colorado. The state will then have the opportunity to tighten up the Package by providing any information that may be deemed incomplete.

This will be an iterative process. As stakeholders review the compiled material in the Package, they may notice gaps or inaccuracies. Those edits should be sent to Lisa Dale (lisa.dale@state.co.us) for inclusion, and revised versions of the document will be shared with FWS.