

Conservation Agreement

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (Colorado) hereby states its intent and commitment to assist with and participate in the implementation of the *Gunnison Sage-grouse Rangewide Conservation Plan*. This plan was prepared by an interagency steering committee and is designed to conserve and enhance populations and habitats of Gunnison Sage-Grouse (GUSG), a BLM sensitive species and FWS priority 2 candidate species. This plan is in no way meant to be construed as a Resource Management Plan Decision. All projects or management actions implemented through these guidelines will be subject to site specific environmental analysis required under the National Environmental Policy Act. Specific commitments made hereby are as follows:

1. All proposed projects or actions funded, implemented or authorized by the BLM will be analyzed with respect to impacts on Gunnison Sage-Grouse and their habitats in accordance with the guidelines set forth in this plan.
2. To implement the guidelines, conservation actions, and intent set forth in this plan within the constraints of existing laws, policies, regulations and management plans, and while considering the needs or implications to other species and multiple uses.
3. To work with private landowners, companies, organizations and other state or federal agencies to implement necessary conservation actions to enhance Gunnison Sage-Grouse habitat as outlined in this plan.
4. To protect or mitigate any Gunnison Sage-Grouse populations and suitable habitat which may be located on BLM lands from negative impacts which may be caused by other land use activities. Authority for the protection of the Gunnison Sage-Grouse and its habitat is pursuant to provisions in the BLM Policy Manual and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

Performance of all activities described above is contingent on adequate staff and funding being allocated to the signatory agency. This agreement shall not prohibit the signatory agency from engaging in management actions regarding Gunnison Sage-Grouse conservation beyond those described in the agreement and in the Conservation Plan. Such management action should be coordinated with the Rangewide Steering Committee (RSC) and local GUSG workgroups.

This agreement shall become effective on the date of signature by the participating agency and shall remain in effect until the signatory party chooses to terminate the agreement, or the agreement is terminated by consent of the Gunnison Sage-grouse Rangewide Steering Committee. The agreement may be terminated by providing 90 days written notice to the GUSG Rangewide Steering Committee.



Ron Wenker, Colorado State Director
Bureau of Land Management, USDI

4/29/05

Date