


Conservation Agreement

The **National Park Service, Intermountain Region**, hereby states its intent and commitment to assist and participate in the implementation of the *Gunnison Sage-grouse Rangewide Conservation Plan* (RCP). All projects or management actions implemented in accordance with the RCP will be subject to all laws, regulations, policies and procedures in effect at the time the action is implemented. Authorities for the National Park Service to manage Gunnison Sage-grouse and their habitat, and to enter into this voluntary Conservation Agreement derive from the 1916 NPS Organic Act; the General Authorities Act of 1970; the Redwood Act of 1978; the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended; the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended; and NPS Management Policies and Directors Orders. Specific commitments made hereby are as follows:

1. To undertake active management programs to inventory, monitor, restore, and maintain Gunnison Sage-grouse habitats, control detrimental non-native species, control detrimental visitor access, and re-establish populations as necessary to maintain the species and the habitats upon which they depend.
2. To cooperate with other agencies to ensure that Gunnison Sage-grouse habitat on NPS managed lands provides needed conservation benefits to the total conservation efforts being conducted by all the participating agencies.
3. To continue to participate in and support planning and implementation of conservation efforts by rangewide and local working groups, including the provision of members where appropriate.

Performance of all activities described above is contingent on adequate funds being made available and allocated to the National Park Service. This agreement is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligating document. All other parties and their respective agencies or organizations will handle their own activities and utilize their own resources in pursuing these objectives. This agreement shall not prohibit the National Park Service or the other cooperators in the plan from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, or private citizens. This agreement shall not prohibit the National Park Service from engaging in management actions regarding Gunnison Sage-grouse conservation beyond those described in this conservation plan. Such management actions should be coordinated with the state wildlife management agency (e.g. Colorado Division of Wildlife).

This agreement shall become effective on the date of signature by the participating parties and shall remain in effect until signatory chooses to terminate the agreement. 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.



Regional Director
Intermountain Region, National Park Service

4/14/05

Date