

To the point...

Greater Sage-Grouse CCAA/CCA Information



January 2015

◆ VOLUNTARY Agreements

- ◇ Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) = private landowner (may include state leased land) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
- ◇ Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA) = Federal land permittee/lessee, Federal Land Management Agency, and FWS
- ◇ May be terminated at any time with 30 days prior written notice from the landowner to FWS

- ◆ **Not one size fits all** — may include both private and state lands, checkerboard lands, common allotments or privately owned leased lands with landowner consent.

◆ CCAA/CCA Landowner Benefits

- ◇ FWS provides regulatory assurance that a landowner enrolled in the CCAA program will not be asked to do more if greater sage-grouse is listed
- ◇ Ongoing private land operations may continue
- ◇ Greater sage-grouse “incidental take” permit issued to enrollee
- ◇ CCA developed to CCAA standard to be seamless across land ownership
- ◇ FWS will consider participation in CCAA/CCAs as one of many conservation actions that could help prevent the listing of the bird

“The benefit of participating with a CCAA is that I get regulatory assurances and I am helping prevent the listing of the bird.”

—Rancher Brad Bousman

◆ CCAA/CCA Landowner Commitments

- ◇ Implement agreed upon tailored Conservation Measures (CMs)
- ◇ Develop an Individual CCAA Conservation Plan (CCAA Plan) within 12 to 18 months after signing agreement
- ◇ Conduct compliance/rangeland monitoring as tailored to the individual operation
- ◇ Provide an annual report to the FWS
- ◇ CCA CMs are voluntary and completely separate and apart from grazing permit “Terms and Conditions”
- ◇ Applicant is responsible for cost of compliance and monitoring but may be able to obtain some technical assistance
- ◇ CCAA/CCA is much different from the Natural Resource Conservation Services’ (NRCS) Sage-Grouse Initiative (SGI), but the two programs complement each other very well and a landowner may be enrolled in both.

- ◆ Participating in a CCAA now is not equivalent to participating in either a Safe Harbor Agreement (SHA) or Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) once a species is listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA):

- ◇ Landowners have considerably more input in CCAA CMs than SHA or HCP CMs
- ◇ Currently FWS has no plans to develop a SHA or HCP; they would not be developed unless the species is listed; typically takes 2 to 3 years to develop; and participation will involve a long waiting time

- ◆ The federal appropriations rider regarding sage-grouse (this includes greater sage-grouse and other grouse species) does not affect the FWS’s court-ordered September 30, 2015, deadline to make a scientific determination whether the greater sage-grouse does or does not warrant protection under the ESA.

◆ For more information or to get questions answered

- ◇ Call the Wyoming Stock Growers Association (WSGA) Office 307-638-3942 or Visit www.wysga.org
- ◇ Call FWS 307-772-2374 or 307-684-1069
- ◇ If you would like to speak with a current CCAA or CCA participant, rancher in Wyoming, contact information is available

CCAAs signed to date: 25 Acres enrolled: 302,472
CCAs signed to date: 4 Acres enrolled: 48,826

2014-15 WSGA Sage-Grouse CCAA Educational Program

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TNC



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