From: Burgess, Angela
To: Hollar, Kathy
Subject: Re: Friday morning sounds great
Date: Friday, March 27, 2015 11:11:47 AM
Attachments: 2015_3_27_CCAA_SGI(v6) Theo edits.docx

Just left you a voicemail - but here's the latest version with Theo's edits. May not want to spend a lot of time on it, as I'm trying to figure out what the next step is...

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On Thu, Mar 26, 2015 at 4:34 PM, Burgess, Angela <angela_burgess@fws.gov> wrote:

> Great! Attached.
>
> **Angela Burgess**
> **Fish and Wildlife Biologist**
> **Mountain Prairie Region - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**
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>
> On Thu, Mar 26, 2015 at 4:33 PM, Hollar, Kathy <kathy_hollar@fws.gov> wrote:
>
> > Hi Angela, shoot me the latest SGI doc and let's plan on talking Fri morning. I have a conf call at 9 Pacific, but otherwise available.
> >
> > Thanks!
> >
> > *Kathy Hollar*
> > 503-231-6156 office
> > 503-961-3993 cell

CCAAs and SGI

	Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA)	NRCS Sage-grouse Initiative (SGI)
Purpose of the Tool	Conserve proposed and candidate species and species likely to become candidates. Potentially remove the need to list species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).	Conserve species by removing enough threats to species to preclude the need to list.
Participants	Any non-federal landowners (public and/or private).	Any non-federal landowners (public and/or private).
Benefits for Landowners	ESA assurances*. Technical assistance. Improved grazing conditions often result from conservation measures that benefit sage-grouse.	ESA predictability*. Technical and financial assistance. Improved grazing conditions often result from NRCS conservation practices that benefit sage-grouse.
Regulatory Certainty for Enrolled Landowners	Assurances that additional measures and restrictions, beyond those agreed to in the CCAA, would not be required, even if the species becomes listed. A permit issued under section 10 of the ESA authorizes the incidental take should the covered species be listed.	Predictability that additional measures and restrictions would not be required, as long as they are properly implementing their conservation practices. In the unlikely event that changes to practices become necessary, they would be required only of future enrollees. Should the species be listed, incidental take that may result from the conservation practices would be authorized through section 7 of the ESA.
Species Covered	Proposed, candidate, or species likely to become candidates.	Sage-grouse only.
Activities Covered	Potentially any and all management activities occurring on a property, if permit issuance criteria are met.	Routine agricultural, ranching, and silvicultural operations and actions that provide benefits for both working landscapes and wildlife.
Regulatory Standard	The benefits of the conservation measures, combined with the benefits if similar conservation measures were to be implemented on other necessary properties, would remove the need to list the species covered by the CCAA.	No regulatory standard. However, an ESA section 7 conference report on the SGI conditioned the conservation practices to avoid and minimize expected incidental take to the extent feasible.
Financial Assistance	None. However, funding for implementation may be available from other FWS programs or Federal and State agencies.	Financial assistance for plan implementation may be available to qualifying landowners but is not required for incidental take coverage. ESA Predictability is tied to the conservation practices implemented rather than to the financial assistance provided.
Enrolled Landowner Personal Information	Physical address, phone number, or other personal identifying information is protected by the Privacy Act. The landowner's name and general property location (town or county) may or may not be required to be published during the public review process, depending on the CCAA permit structure.	Any gathered personal information is fully protected by the privacy provision in the Farm Bill. Aggregated data may be shared with the USFWS, but only in a manner that maintains individual privacy.

***See discussion of ESA assurances and predictability on back**

Note: Implementation of CCAAs and SGI may vary depending on location.
For specific information, please contact your local NRCS and/or FWS office.

Regulatory Certainty with NRCS's SGI and FWS's CCAAs

3/23/2015

There is essentially no difference in the level of regulatory certainty for enrolled landowners under the Sage-Grouse Initiative (SGI) and greater sage-grouse Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAAs) for grazing. Under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducted in-depth analysis of the effects of SGI's conservation practices on the greater sage-grouse, agreed on conditions to avoid and minimize impacts, and concluded that the program would be beneficial to the sage-grouse without additional measures. This approach provides landowners enrolled in SGI with predictability that the practices they agree to implement would not be modified and additional measures would not be added without their consent. Should new circumstances require changes to conservation practices, those modified practices would apply only to those landowners who enroll in SGI after the changes are made. For CCAAs, the Service provides assurances to enrolled landowners that they will not require any additional measures or restrictions, as long as the CCAA is being properly implemented. Therefore, should the greater sage-grouse become listed, landowners enrolled in SGI, a CCAA, or both, will be able to continue their land management practices as described in their respective plan with no additional measures or restrictions.

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For specific information, please contact your local NRCS and/or FWS office.