



LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION
COOPERATIVES

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Southern Rockies

2012 Update



Jeremy Roberts, Conservation Media

Addressing Climate Change in the West

The Gunnison Climate Working Group is a chartered partnership of 14 public and private organizations in Colorado's Upper Gunnison Basin. The Southern Rockies LCC funded The Nature Conservancy to complete a comprehensive vulnerability assessment identifying species and ecosystems most at risk from climate change. The assessment included a set of habitat adaptation strategies for priority species, such as the Gunnison sage-grouse. As a final product, local demonstration projects were designed and installed.

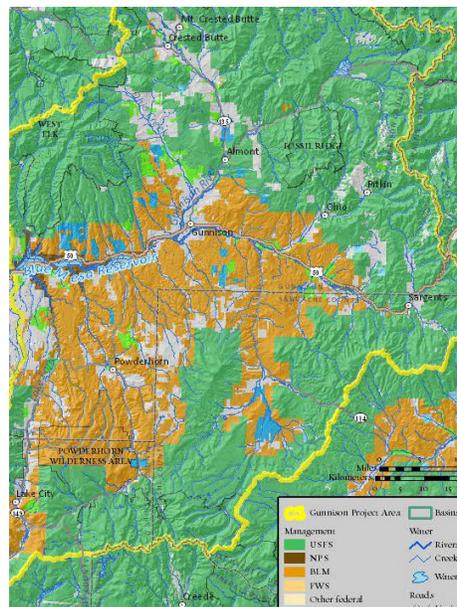
The financial support and partnership provided by the Southern Rockies LCC was critical to the Gunnison Climate Working Group's success and progress towards addressing climate change. As a direct result of the Southern Rockies LCC involvement, partners designed and completed construction of over 100 rock structures on private lands to improve or restore wet meadows—which function as brooding habitat for the Gunnison sage-grouse.

The problems climate change is creating for western species, habitat and ecosystems are bigger than any one agency, landowner or organization can resolve.

The tools, methods, and findings of

the Gunnison Basin vulnerability assessment go beyond habitat adaptation strategies applied to support populations of Gunnison sage-grouse.

These newly developed tools build ecosystem resilience and support within the Gunnison Basin agricultural and recreational economies. The vulnerability assessment funded by the Southern Rockies LCC provides a scientific foundation for a robust decision making process which can be carried out over a larger landscape to inform and direct conservation delivery mechanisms for use by multiple partners.



Map of the Gunnison Climate Working Group Project Area



Gunnison Sage-Grouse; Audubon

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