

From: [Stephen Torbit](#)
To: ["McFadzen, Mary"](#)
Subject: RE: Conservation Efforts Database info sheet
Date: Monday, January 12, 2015 11:21:00 AM
Attachments: [CEDInfoSheet-v1Torbit edits.docx](#)

My feedback. This is really good.

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From: McFadzen, Mary [mailto:mmcfadzen@montana.edu]
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 10:52 AM
To: Stephen Torbit; Greg Watson
Cc: Finn, Sean; Yvette Converse; Heller, Matthew; Olliff, S
Subject: Conservation Efforts Database info sheet

Steve and Greg,

Attached is the draft Conservation Efforts Database info sheet developed by Sean, Matt, and me. After we receive your edits, we'll develop the layout and provide another opportunity for review.

Thanks, Mary

Mary McFadzen

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Science Applications LCC Project Template

- **Audience:** FWS natural resource staff
- **Writing style/tone:** Engaging narrative, active verbs, scientifically savvy, clear, concise, brief, use examples
- **Length:** 1-2 pages

Images/graphics with captions: 2-3 that supports text/help explains complex info

For this fact sheet, images should show input/output processes emphasizing the CED's geospatial capabilities; one image should show an example output that a decision makers might generate (i.e., a map with a table superimposed); suggest we not use a sage-grouse image ... emphasize CED's versatility.

Comment [ST1]: Agreed, important point

Title: active, informative, brief

The Conservation Efforts Database: Sharing Science to Expand Conservation Impact

Section 1: Describe need (the problem/why it is important)

Anthropogenic impacts that are detrimental to fish, wildlife, plants, and ecosystems are most often the focus of conservation attention well-understood and reasonable easy to document spatially. However, conservation actions (management activities) that address these impacts are rarely not always documented. Even when conservation actions are documented, it can be difficult to determine the effects on focal species or systems because records are poorly organized and followup monitoring is not always performed. In ways never before achievable, the CED forms the base data that enables partners to evaluate diverse conservation actions occurring across the landscape and implement landscape-scale adaptive management.

The CED was co-designed and co-developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative (GNLCC), and the U.S. Geological Survey. The GNLCC provided ecological, database, and GIS expertise that greatly enhances CED capabilities. Many state and federal partners provided design recommendations and policy sideboards to ensure the CED has broad applicability and interoperability.

Comment [ST2]: Maybe politically incorrect, but what about listing GNLCC first. Or say the Service through the GNLCC?

Section 2: Describe science products (the solution/collaborators)

The CED is a highly secure, cloud-based, spatially enabled tool that can be used to document and track conservation actions across large, multi-jurisdictional landscapes. Originally developed to help determine if a species should be listed under the Endangered Species Act, the CED is being used to support the 2015 greater sage-grouse status review decision. Currently, the CED accepts policy level (e.g., Land Use Plan) and program level (e.g., Candidate Conservation Agreement) data and enables a variety of custom spatial representations.

The CED allows:

- Multiple-users to enter data (single entry or batch upload) from any location
- Document upload and storage (reports, plans, monitoring protocols, etc.)
- Linking conservation actions to one or more threats (one-to-many relationships)
- Generation of reports that summarize conservation actions at multiple scales (e.g., management zones, populations, priority conservation areas)
- Interactive mapping of queried data
- Accounting of actions at multiple scales from small easements to state wildlife action plans to regional planning efforts

By design, the CED architecture is fluid and adaptable to many other landscape management challenges.

Section 3: Describe application of science products (how it can or is being used; examples)

The CED provides basic outputs that summarize inputs (threats, conservation metrics, implementation result measures, etc.) over multiple jurisdictions.

Here are two examples on how the CED can be used:

- A wildlife manager interested in a specific population could summarize the extent of all habitat restorations or land acquisitions within a defined geographic area.
- A resource planner could quickly generate maps showing important gaps in the collective response to acute conservation threats, and focus actions to address those threats.

The CED also organizes ~~the~~ data for ~~highly much~~-richer analyses. For example, when coupled with population, land cover change (e.g., wildfire), and climate data, CED data contributes to analyses ~~that~~ providing an understanding of population-level responses to multiple dynamic ecosystem processes. A researcher could easily conduct a balanced sensitivity analysis, revealing cost efficient (or ineffective) conservation actions. Further, multi-jurisdictional stewardship data sets the stage for landscape-scale effectiveness monitoring. Together, these planning, design, implementation, and monitoring applications provide a foundation for a landscape-scale adaptive management framework.

Though the CED is being used in many different ways, its potential will expand as traditional and emerging management needs and research questions are addressed.

Section 4: More information/Resources

If available, provide links to “products”

More information on collaborators; primary collaborator contact?

Visit the Conservation Efforts Database at: <http://conservationefforts.org/>

For website comments and questions contact: [Justin Welty \(jwelty@usgs.gov\)](mailto:jwelty@usgs.gov)

For CED data comments and questions contact: [Lara Drizd \(lara_drizd@fws.gov\)](mailto:lara_drizd@fws.gov)

For general information please email us at: fw1sagegrouseced@fws.gov