

From: [Hollar, Kathy](#)
To: [Lief Wiechman](#)
Subject: Fwd: FW: Greater Sage-grouse and the Conservation Efforts Database
Date: Friday, February 27, 2015 7:55:11 AM
Attachments: [CED Attachment KBH.docx](#)

Howdy - so my conversations with John at FSA were great UNTIL I mentioned that we couldn't keep data in the CED confidential, and that we wouldn't be able to protect it from FOIA in any case. I explained that we were working with NRCS on other options re: their data and that we were doing buffer/wobble with PFW data but he pretty much shut down after that. I followed up with the email below, and then a couple more nudges. Never heard back. Then they published new national guidance on the subject, reiterating everything he had told me.

I didn't pursue this aggressively because CRP is basically a land rental contract, not an easement, and many of the CRP management requirements are less than ideal for SG.

I'm around if you want to discuss more.....

Kathy Hollar
503-231-6156 office
503-961-3993 cell



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From: **Hollar, Kathy** <kathy_hollar@fws.gov>
Date: Tue, Feb 17, 2015 at 6:31 AM
Subject: Fwd: FW: Greater Sage-grouse and the Conservation Efforts Database
To: Lief Wiechman <lief_wiechman@fws.gov>

FYI -

Kathy Hollar
503-231-6156 office
503-961-3993 cell



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From: **Hollar, Kathy** <kathy_hollar@fws.gov>
Date: Wed, Jan 7, 2015 at 8:52 AM
Subject: Fwd: FW: Greater Sage-grouse and the Conservation Efforts Database
To: john.underwood@kcc.usda.gov

Hi John, was wondering if you've been able to think more about this. I'm available most of this week if you'd like to discuss.

Kathy Hollar
503-231-6156 office
503-961-3993 cell



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From: **Hollar, Kathy** <kathy_hollar@fws.gov>

Date: Mon, Dec 8, 2014 at 4:52 PM

Subject: Fwd: FW: Greater Sage-grouse and the Conservation Efforts Database

To: john.underwood@kcc.usda.gov

Hi John,

Thanks for talking with me earlier today about how we can work together to best capture the conservation benefits FSA is providing for greater sage-grouse. I fully understand the need to protect landowner identities and believe we can find a solution that protects those landowner identities while also allowing for FSA to get "credit" for the conservation benefits provided by the CRP, CREP, and SAFE programs.

In order to accomplish these dual objectives, maybe we could obtain FSA information by county and clipped to greater sage-grouse populations. Here's a link to a map that shows the greater sage-grouse populations we're covering in the status review process [http://www.fws.gov/greatersagegrouse/maps/20140425_Map_SG_PACsPops%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.fws.gov/greatersagegrouse/maps/20140425_Map_SG_PACsPops%20(2).pdf). If you think this could be workable solution, we have GIS gurus with the FWS and the USGS that could help if you need GIS support, or we could send you the population layers if you would prefer doing it yourself.

Attribute information that we're also seeking includes:

- start and end date of the CRP, CREP, or SAFE agreement,
- if there's a penalty for terminating the agreement early (yes/no)
- if the agreement protects the land from
 - Agricultural conversion
 - Improper grazing
 - New infrastructure
 - Mining
 - Energy Development
 - Recreation
 - Sagebrush Elimination
 - Urbanization

We're also seeking information on the effectiveness of the agreements, but we'll need to brainstorm on how best to capture that type of information when rolling up the acreage totals.

I'm still trying to reach Tim Griffiths from NRCS to get more details on how we're going to obtain information on the Sage Grouse Initiative, and will let you know as soon as I do. During my last conversation with Tim, he was proposing to provide summary information by program by greater sage-grouse population, or as small a unit possible without jeopardizing landowner privacy information.

Kathy Hollar
503-231-6156 office
503-961-3993 cell



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From: **Hoge, David - FSA, Washington, DC** <david.hoge@wdc.usda.gov>
Date: Thu, Nov 20, 2014 at 12:56 PM
Subject: FW: Greater Sage-grouse and the Conservation Efforts Database
To: "Fuller, Nell - FSA, Washington DC" <Nell.Fuller@wdc.usda.gov>, "Hyberg, Skip - FSA, Washington, DC" <Skip.Hyberg@wdc.usda.gov>, "Iovanna, Rich - FSA, Washington, DC" <Rich.Iovanna@wdc.usda.gov>, "Barbarika, Alexander - FSA, Washington, DC" <Alexander.Barbarika@wdc.usda.gov>, "Taylor, David - FSA, Washington, DC" <David.Taylor@wdc.usda.gov>, "Underwood, John - FSA, Kansas City, MO" <john.underwood@kcc.usda.gov>, "Preston, Beverly - FSA, Washington, DC" <Beverly.Preston@wdc.usda.gov>, "Ponish, Matthew - FSA, Washington, DC" <Matthew.Ponish@wdc.usda.gov>, "Harwood, Joy - FSA, Washington, DC" <Joy.Harwood@wdc.usda.gov>
Cc: "kathy_hollar@fws.gov" <kathy_hollar@fws.gov>

FSA Colleagues:

I took a call yesterday from Kathy Hollar of the US Fish and Wildlife Service pertaining to FSA interest in providing data to the Conservation Effort Database. I assume what we would have of interest to them is CRP enrollment. I told M. Hollar of our privacy concerns but figure some of you folks are the more appropriate FSA representatives to respond to her as to our interest and what we can share..

David A. Hoge

Agricultural Program Specialist

USDA Farm Service Agency

Deputy Administrator Farm Programs

Conservation and Environmental Programs Division

USDA/FSA/DAFP/CEPD STOP 0513

South Building, Room 4768

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20250

Phone: (202) 720-7674

From: Hollar, Kathy [mailto:kathy_hollar@fws.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 7:00 PM

To: Hoge, David - FSA, Washington, DC

Subject: Greater Sage-grouse and the Conservation Efforts Database

Hi David, great chatting with you earlier today.

I'm part of the FWS team that's working with partners to capture information on greater sage-grouse conservation plans and projects in the Conservation Effort Database (CED). The CED was developed by a FWS and USGS team to collect information from partners in a standardized way so that we can assess the distribution of various conservation activities and evaluate their effectiveness in ameliorating threats to greater sage-grouse across the range. Conservation partners can enter information in the CED by working with the FWS and USGS CED Team to batch upload data, or by entering information on individual projects through the website <https://conservationefforts.org>.

We would like to work with FSA to enter data from the CRP, CREP, and SAFE programs in the range of Greater sage-grouse.

I've attached is a one-page summary of the CED to this message. Please share this with your colleagues and let's plan a conference call in the near future to discuss how we can best work together on this important effort. We're under a tight timeline and I'd like to get this rolling soon.

Thanks,

Kathy Hollar
503-231-6156 office
503-961-3993 cell



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Conservation Efforts Database

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is reviewing the status of the greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*; hereafter, sage-grouse), to determine by September 2015, if this species warrants listing as a threatened or endangered species. The combination of voluntary incentive-based efforts, habitat restoration projects, and management through regulatory mechanisms could have a significant influence on the Service's upcoming listing determinations.

To efficiently and effectively capture the unprecedented level of sage-grouse conservation efforts throughout its 11-state range, the Service and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) have developed the Conservation Efforts Database (CED). The CED will be the repository of information about the beneficial plans and projects designed to prevent and ameliorate habitat fragmentation and loss, the primary threat factor identified in the Service's 2010 "warranted but precluded" finding (75 FR 13910).

The CED is easy to use. It is a web-based, geospatial database that is used to collect information on the plans and projects in place, or with a high likelihood of being in place, to conserve sage-grouse. Developed to provide a secure and transparent way to gather information on sage-grouse conservation efforts, the CED allows multiple users to enter data at different scales, upload documents and spatial information, and link conservation actions to one or more threats to the species. Conservation plans, individual projects, tabular data from large data sets, spatial data, and documentation of the data sources can all be entered in the CED, which is housed on the data sharing platform, LC Map. The CED is user-friendly for all technical levels and was designed with efficiency in mind. No GIS skills are required for entering data on individual plans or projects, and USGS programmers are available to help with batch uploads of large data sets, or to upload existing geo-spatial analyses.

The CED is secure. Agencies and organizations will work with the Service/USGS CED Team to establish "authorizing officials" to determine who can enter data in the CED for their organization. Designated "approving officials" will allow for important quality control of data for agency partners.

The CED is transparent. The information on the CED will become part of the public record and may be publicly disclosed as part of the Service's administrative record or in response to a request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

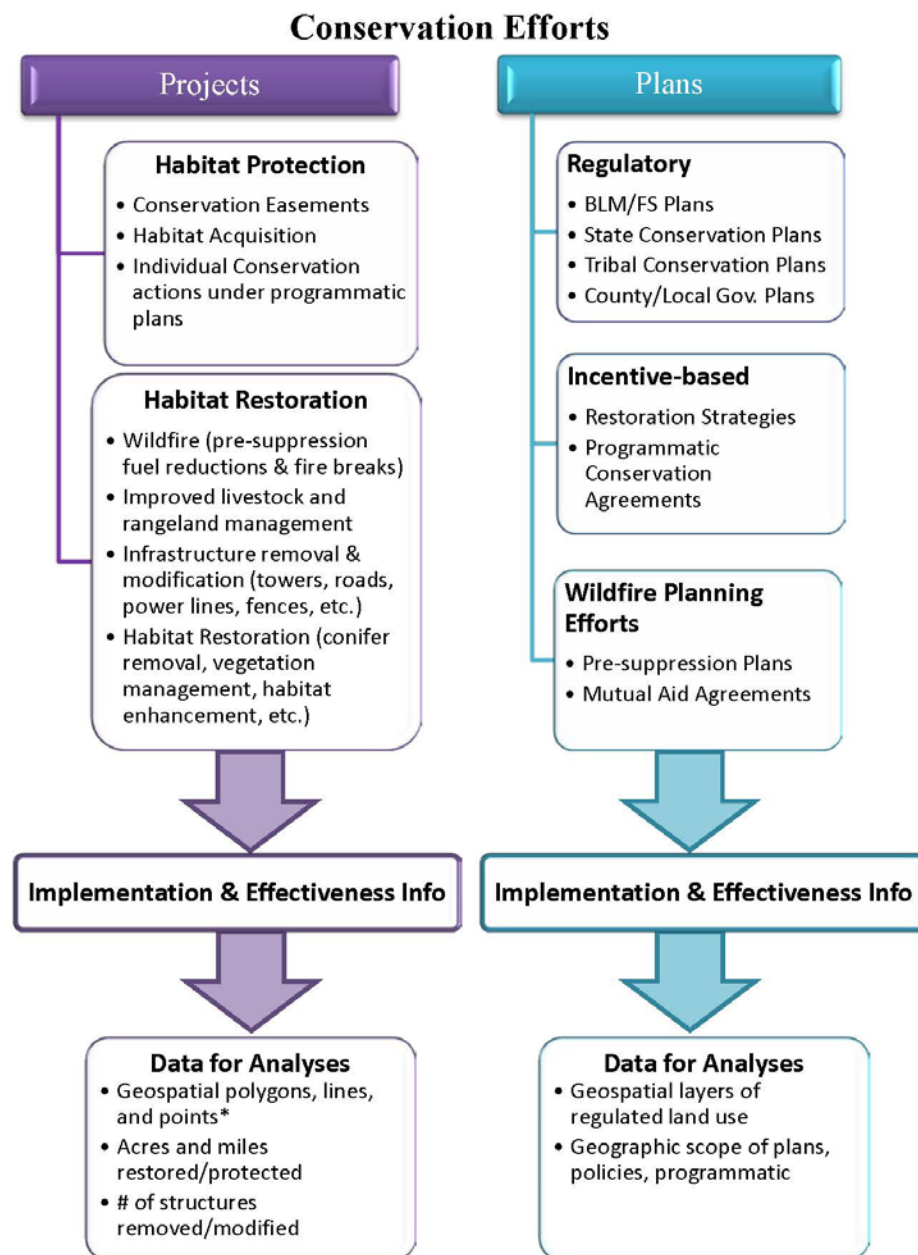
The CED is simple. Each project or plan entry consists of six main components:

1. Basic project information
2. Location information (easy-to-use onscreen digitizer, or upload shape files)
3. Activity and metrics
4. Threats addressed
5. Upload supporting documents (optional)
6. Implementation and effectiveness information

What will the information be used for? The Service will use the information in the CED to assess the degree to which the specific threats to each population and its' associated Priority Areas for Conservation, as identified in the Conservation Objectives Team Report (aka the COT report) are being ameliorated. The CED will not collect information about the distribution or severity of threats as that information will be collected by the Service through other venues. Each plan or project entered in the CED will be linked to one or more of the following threats (in alphabetical order):

Agricultural Conversion, Conifer Encroachment, Energy Development, Fire, Free roaming Equids, Improper Grazing/Range Management, Infrastructure, Isolated/Small Populations, Mining, Noxious Weeds/Annual Grasses, Recreation, Sagebrush Elimination, and Urbanization.

An overview of some of the basic components of the CED are illustrated below in Fig. 1. It is not all-inclusive, but provides general information on the structure of the database. For more information, please visit <https://conservationefforts.org>.



* geospatial data will be buffered to protect personally identifiable information

Figure 1. Simplified portrayal of the CED structure and information flow.