

Greater Sage-Grouse Structured Decision Making, USGS Meeting Summary

April 9-11, 2014 Meeting in Lakewood, Colorado

Structured Decision Making Team:

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Introduction

What follows is a summary of the decision structure that was discussed at the Greater Sage Grouse SDM meeting held April 2014. Structured decision making (SDM) is being applied to the Greater Sage Grouse status review because of the decision process's relevance to decisions that include high uncertainty, differences in opinion regarding areas of concern, and both fact-based and value-based reasoning¹. The status review will inform a decision that has those characteristics. During the first part of the meeting, the participants worked through the framing of the decision to clarify the specifics of the status review decisions, decision makers, decision timing, constraints, objectives, and alternatives. During the second part of the meeting, the participants conceptualized a framework to provide the information needed for the status review.

Decision Framing

Decision Makers

The decision maker for the status of the species is the Director of the Service. The Regional Directors will make decision recommendations with the assistance of the Assistant Regional Directors and the Core Team.

Decision Points

- Identify potential geographic areas of concern by spring 2014 and
- Complete the status review with recommendation for list determination by April 2015
- Submit federal register document(s) by September 2015.

Constraints and Impediments

- the limited time available relative to schedule of products,
- capacity to complete products,
- scientific uncertainties,
- uncertainties about conservation effectiveness and implementation
- standard of "best available scientific and commercial data"
- late arriving information or data.

¹ Gregory, R., J. Arvai, and L. R. Gerber. 2013. Structuring decisions for managing threatened and endangered species in a changing climate. *Conservation Biology* 27(6): 1212-1221