

## *Objectives*

Consideration of objectives was informed by previous findings and conservation strategies, including the COT report and WAFWA (2006). In particular, participants recognize that the conservation objective to “Stop the Decline” in the context of the status review is a necessary first step to long-term persistence. Objectives were classified as fundamental, means, or process and strategic.

### *Fundamental objective*

The fundamental objective is long-term persistence of greater sage grouse consistent with the ESA. “Long-term” has been and will be defined within the context of “foreseeable future” by taking into account biology of the species and projection uncertainty and integration of policy and practice in ESA status reviews generally.

### *Means objectives:*

Ensure long-term persistence of greater sage grouse by 1) conserving and restoring healthy sagebrush shrub and native perennial grass and forb communities, and 2) ameliorating threats to long-term persistence.

### *Process objectives:*

Maximize legal defensibility, have a streamlined and efficient process, have an internally- and externally-transparent process, have a clear rationale for decision making, and maximize scientific soundness.

### *Strategic objective:*

Maintain relationships with federal, state, and Tribal partners through consistent communication and a transparent process.

## *Performance Measures*

How best to measure performance and project status was considered in the context of previous strategic planning (e.g., COT report) and consistent with the fundamental objective identified above. Following the COT report, the performance measures were organized by the conservation biology concepts of resilience, redundancy, and representation, which can be thought of as proxies for long-term persistence.

### *Resiliency*

- 1) At the population level, the measures for resilience should include abundance or proxy for abundance, e.g., lek count or patch occupancy, and derived measures, e.g., population growth or trend.
- 2) At the Priority Area for Conservation (PAC) or other suitable geographic area, the measures for resilience should include amount, extent, and quality of sagebrush shrub and native perennial grass and forb communities.

### *Redundancy –*

At the levels of Management Zone and/or potential listable entity, the measures for redundancy can be derived from population level measures, such as,

- 1) the number or percent of populations that persist and