

- **Best Available Science.** We must use the best available science in making our decision. Although we request information by the end of the calendar year, we may continue to receive information into 2015.
- **Uncertainty.** We need to focus on the pillars of the decision making process while adequately addressing all issues of uncertainty.
- **COT Report.** This has been used extensively to guide sage-grouse conservation; will need to explain its role and utility to the status review.

Objectives – Sarah Converse and Dave Smith

Discussion of COT Report

The COT report was mentioned as a possible starting point for understanding the objectives for the greater sage-grouse. Specifically the goal to “stop the decline” was discussed.

As the goal of the COT report was determined to be different from the status review, the “stop the decline” may relate to the goal of persistence of a the species, but is not identical. Moreover, the COT report was written with certain goals in mind. The COT report includes science, but also includes policy or management goals.

For the integrity of our listing process, we need to look at this report and determine its relevance to our process.

Discussion of Conserve and Persist

Conservation and Recovery are related. Recovery is the point at which the species does not need regulation to sustain itself on the landscape. And we use foreseeable future in that assessment.

When a species meets the definition of Threatened or Endangered (T or E), then it needs the protections of the Act.

Impacts to Species

Dave Smith presented the graphic below. This graphic is an interpretation of the COT report. It may help evaluate which categories of impacts are of greatest importance to the greater sage-grouse.