

## Conservation Actions

### *Brainstorm of Relative Value of Various Conservation Actions*

This list of conservation actions was created through a brainstorm session by management and with the aid of the list of metrics being reported in the Conservation Efforts Database. Actions were assigned one of three values based on the group discussion; this list is not the best science, but merely a tool for discussion. This list will be revised based on input from Service sage-grouse biologists.

### High Value

#### **RANGEWIDE**

- Adequate regulatory mechanisms on Federal and Non-Federal Lands
  - Keep all development out of PACs on non-Federal lands
  - Adequate mitigation for disturbance of loss that occurs
- Reducing likelihood of catastrophic wildfires
- Develop an effective method to control the spread of cheatgrass
- Fuel Reduction Treatments (Fuels Management)
- Habitat Protected by Easement for Long-Term Conservation
  - Conservation Agreements (including but not limited to: CCAs, CCAAs, Farm Bill and other Incentive-based programs).
- Habitat Protected by Acquisition for Long-Term Conservation
  - Purchases and Swaps
- Wildfire Restoration: Seeding (Native Only)
- Non-wildfire restoration: seeding (native only)

#### **Comment [LW 1]:**

While this is a HIGH VALUE item, it is a sum of its parts... and some of those parts have a degree of uncertainty...  
- fire breaks  
- native seeding's/planting

#### **LOCALLY / POPULATION LEVEL**

- Conifer Removal(MAY BE AREAS OF HIGH VALUE; UNCERTAINTY – WILL BIRDS USE IT; UNCERTAINTY – COULD BE HIGH VALUE IF TARGETTED TO AREAS WITH MANY BIRDS)
  - Phase 1, 2, and mixed phase 1 & 2.
  - Phase 3
- Conservation of meadow on private lands
- Mine reclamation
  - Surface mining reclamation with the goal of sagebrush restoration
  - Fluid mineral development reclamation with the goal of sagebrush restoration
- Area and/or Seasonal Closure(s) (related to recreation)
- Wild Equid Population Control
- Wild Equid Gather

#### **Comment [LW 2]:**

Not sure if this is 'HIGH VALUE' (just phase 3)

**Comment [DP3]:** This may have very high value in some areas of the range but not others. Can we designate this as a local item? I don't want to imply that we would rank this above reducing catastrophic wildfires on a range-wide scale.

**Comment [DP4]:** Comment not on gathers, but rather suggest adding one more – conversion of sagebrush for any purpose. In addition to agriculture we often seen sagebrush removal to increase grasses for forage (both wild and domestic ungulates).

#### **Comment [LW 5]:**

That could be categorized as 'sagebrush protection' and possibly captured in the Conservation Agreements listed above...? Thoughts?

#### **Comment [LW 6]:**

I'd couch this (eguid gather) as uncertain and local.

### Uncertain Value

#### **RANGEWIDE**

- Structure Removed: Communication Tower
- Structure Removed: Wind Turbines
- Structure Removed: Road

Draft and Pre-Decisional