

Topics requiring expert elicitation for the greater sage-grouse status determination

Expert elicitation will be used when information needed to make the status determination doesn't exist or doesn't exist in a useful form. Formal methods for expert elicitation will be followed¹. The process begins by determining the topics requiring use of expert elicitation, and then continues with identifying and selecting experts. Given an expert panel, a three part process will be used:

1. Prepare: discuss/define terms and concepts; clarify questions
2. Elicit: ask specific questions and record responses
3. Synthesize: aggregate, summarize, and document responses

The general topics that most likely will require expert elicitation for the status determination include:

- Information needed for DPS definition
 - Genetics – determine the importance of genetic divergence to DPS definition
- Information needed for understanding likely species' response. **The detailed information within each of the following topics requiring expert elicitation will depend on the development of the modeling framework. First, it must be determined if empirical information exists, and then if expert elicitation can provide that information. As such, specific plans for expert elicitation on the following topics should wait until the modeling framework is fully developed.**
 - Threats – project future scenarios and their likelihood for major threats, as identified in 2010, and effects on sagebrush ecosystem and species' response
 - Climate change – project future scenarios and their likelihood for temperature and precipitation within the range of the greater sage-grouse and effects on sagebrush ecosystem and species' response
 - Conservation actions – project uncertainty in effectiveness of conservation action on sagebrush ecosystem and species' response

¹ Drescher, M., A. H. Perera, C. J. Johnson, L. J. Buse, C. A. Drew, and M. A. Burgman. 2013. Toward rigorous use of expert knowledge in ecological research. *Ecosphere* 4:Article 83. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1890/ES12-00415.1>