

Talking Points, Greater Sage-Grouse

Ongoing Conservation

- The Service, together with a constellation of public and private partners, is engaged in an unprecedented effort to conserve the greater sage-grouse and the sage-steppe ecosystem on which the species depends.
- We commend our partners, public and private, for the job they have done to date.

Land Management Plans

- The Service continues to invest heavily in the federal and state conservation planning process, and deliver technical assistance to our public partners and to private landowners and the agencies and organizations working to conserve important habitat on private land.
- The Service continues to work diligently with BLM and FS to finalize land management plans that address the threats to the greater sage-grouse. We recently participated in leadership meetings with BLM and FS and are providing our best advice to conserve the species. We continue to advocate for enough consistency to weave the story of conservation – one story with 98 subplots will be hard to understand and piece together.
- We are committed to working with our partners and are looking forward to working with BLM, FS, and the states to discuss and understand all the efforts and how they fit together to conserve the species and its habitat.

Status Determination

- As we work toward our 2015 Endangered Species Act listing determination, we are investing heavily in our status review process to inform that determination.
- We appreciate all of our land management partners, including our state and federal partners, ongoing conservation of this species. We appreciate their assistance with collecting the best available information through their input into our conservation efforts database and submissions to the general data call that went out this summer.
- As part of our analysis, we will be utilizing existing models for abundance, distribution, trends, and threats to greater sage-grouse. We are coordinating with the scientists who are leading these efforts including individuals from UGSG, TNC, and WAFWA.
- We intend to make this status determination the most transparent, comprehensive, and scientifically defensible outcome in the history of our agency's administration of the Act.
- Thank you for your interest in the greater sage-grouse and in the 2015 status determination.