

CCAAs and CCAs

A Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAAs) is a conservation agreement entered into by the Service, a landowner, and potentially other parties. The purpose of a CCAA is to facilitate the conservation of proposed and candidate species, and species likely to become candidates, to contribute to precluding the need to list the species. Any non-Federal property owner who has control over the threats on the property to be addressed by a CCAA and who meets general permit conditions (50 CFR Part 13) can enroll in a CCAA. Enrollment in a CCAA is entirely voluntary. Although we encourage participants to remain enrolled for the duration of a CCAA, they may terminate enrollment for cause.

The CCAA program provides regulatory assurances to property owners as an incentive for participation. The Service provides assurances to CCAA enrollees that we will not require additional conservation measures nor impose additional land, water, or resource use restrictions beyond those voluntarily agreed to and described in the CCAA, even if the covered species becomes listed and as long as the CCAA's conservation measures are being properly implemented. Assurances apply only to those species adequately covered by conservation measures in the CCAA. These assurances are provided through the issuance of the section 10(a)(1)(A) enhancement of survival permit, which also authorizes a specified amount of take incidental to implementing the CCAA and covered land uses on the enrolled property. The permit would become effective if and when the species is listed.

Before the Service can enter into a CCAA and issue a permit, we must determine that the CCAA's conservation measures are designed to address all the threats on the enrolled properties over which the property owners would have control and that the CCAA standard would be met. The CCAA standard is that the benefits of the CCAA's conservation measures, when combined

with the benefits that would be achieved if it is assumed that similar conservation measures were also to be implemented to address the threats on other necessary properties, would preclude or remove any need to list the covered species. “Other necessary properties” are other properties on which conservation measures would have to be implemented in order to preclude or remove any need to list the covered species. To determine whether a CCAA meets the standard, the Service primarily examines the extent of the reduction of threats on the covered area, the degree to which the conservation benefits offset the impacts from any incidental take that might occur, the level of additional conservation benefits to the covered species, and the hypothetical collective effects to the covered species if activities under the CCAA were conducted on all other necessary properties. The level of conservation benefit that meets the CCAA standard is more than just a net conservation benefit to the species – the CCAA’s conservation actions must reduce all the threats on enrolled properties (over which the property owner has control) to the point, where, if comparable actions were undertaken on all properties in the species’ range, the declining trend would be reversed and there would be no need to list the species. If no threats exist on the enrolled property, to meet the CCAA standard the property owner would simply continue ongoing practices and commit to prevent future threats.

Candidate Conservation Agreements (CCAs) are similar to CCAAs but do not provide assurances. CCAs can be between the Service and other Federal, State, or local agencies, or with private sector parties, and may include both Federal and non-Federal lands and waters. Under a CCA, no Enhancement of Survival Permit is issued. This means there is no permit that authorizes incidental take of the covered species in the event listing occurs, and no assurances are provided by the Service. In situations where a candidate or at-risk species is found on both

non-Federal and Federal land, a CCA and a CCAA can be used in a complementary fashion to address threats and management needs on both.

Multiple CCAAs and CCAs have been completed for GRSG (Table 1 and 2). The majority of CCAAs and CCAs have focused on threats associated with range management, including grazing, ranch activities, and minor ranch development. A total of 1,572,191 acres are currently enrolled in GRSG CCAAs and 1,867,826 acres are enrolled in GRSG CCAs.

Table 1. Completed CCAAs for GRSG as of April 16, 2015.

Name	Location	Covered Area Size	Acres Enrolled	Number of landowners enrolled/Type of CCAA	Land Uses	Date of Completion
WY Statewide GRSG Umbrella CCAA	WY	Entire State of WY	302,472 acres of private land	25 - Umbrella CCAA	Ranch management (ranch operations and development, rangeland treatments, recreation)	11/8/2013
CCAA for Greater Sage-grouse for rangelands owned and leased by Mr. & Mrs. Moore.	OR: Baker and Malheur Counties	7,290 acres	7,290 acres	1 - Individual CCAA with Mr. and Mrs. Moore	Ranch management (ranch operations and development, rangeland treatments, recreation)	11/13/2014
Greater sage-grouse Programmatic CCAA for Private Rangelands in Harney Co., OR	OR: Harney County	1,170,000 acres	320,000 acres	54 - Programmatic CCAA	Ranch management (ranch operations and development, rangeland treatments, recreation)	5/21/2014

Name	Location	Covered Area Size	Acres Enrolled	Number of landowners enrolled/Type of CCAA	Land Uses	Date of Completion
Greater sage-grouse Programmatic CCAA for Private Rangelands in Baker and Union Counties, OR	OR: Baker and Union Counties	485,000 acres	In Progress	None to date - Programmatic CCAA	Ranch management (ranch operations and development, rangeland treatments, recreation)	3/18/2015
Greater sage-grouse Programmatic CCAA for Private Rangelands in Crook and Deschutes Counties, OR	OR: Crook & Deschutes Counties	486,000 acres	84,000 acres	6 - Programmatic CCAA	Ranch management (ranch operations and development, rangeland treatments, recreation)	3/18/2015
Greater sage-grouse Programmatic CCAA for Private Rangelands in Lake Co., OR	OR: Lake County	400,000 acres	36,500 acres	6 - Programmatic CCAA	Rangeland treatments, livestock management, recreation, farm operations, ranch developments	3/18/2015
Greater sage-grouse Programmatic CCAA for Private Rangelands in Malheur Co., OR	OR: Malheur County	887,000 acres	210,929 acres	22 - Programmatic	Rangeland treatments, livestock management, recreation, farm operations, ranch developments	3/18/2015
Greater sage-grouse Programmatic CCAA for Private Rangelands in Grant Co., OR	OR: Grant County	57,000 acres	In Progress	None to date - Programmatic CCAA	Ranch management (ranch operations and development, rangeland treatments, recreation)	3/18/2015

Name	Location	Covered Area Size	Acres Enrolled	Number of landowners enrolled/Type of CCAA	Land Uses	Date of Completion
Programmatic CCAA for Greater Sage-grouse in the West Central Planning Area.	ID: West Central Planning Area	645,000 acres	None anticipated	None to date - Programmatic CCAA	Ranch management (ranch operations and development, rangeland treatments, recreation)	2/1/2010
Greater sage-grouse CCAA Between OR Dept. of State Lands and USFWS	OR: DSL lands with sage-grouse habitat	611,000 acres	Still in public comment, anticipated to be finalized soon for all 611,000 acres	1 - Individual CCAA with OR Department of State Lands	Rangeland management	TBD
Total			1,572,191 acres	115 landowners		

Table 2. Completed CCAs for GRS as of April 16, 2015.

Name	Location	Covered Area Size	Acres Enrolled	Landowners enrolled	Land Uses	Date of Completion
WY Statewide GSG CCA with BLM	WY - Entire state	Entire State of WY	48,826 acres BLM Land	1 - CCA with BLM	Range management on BLM land	11/8/2013
Greater Sage-Grouse CCA for Rangeland Management Practices on BLM lands in Oregon	OR: BLM lands in the range of sage-grouse	10,210,000 acres	Nearly 1.25 million acres	1 - CCA with BLM - 68 allotments to date	BLM grazing allotment management	5/30/2013

Name	Location	Covered Area Size	Acres Enrolled	Landowners enrolled	Land Uses	Date of Completion
CCA for Greater Sage-Grouse on the Idaho National Laboratory site	ID: INL site in SE Idaho	569,000 acres	569,000 acres	1 - CCA with Idaho National Lab	Maintenance and operations related to DOE activities on the site; Does not include grazing that is managed by BLM	10/2/2014
Total			1,867,826 acres	3 CCAs		