

**From:** [Brent Esmoil](mailto:Brent.Esmoil@fws.gov)  
**To:** [Terry Ireland@fws.gov](mailto:Terry.Ireland@fws.gov); [Jason Pyron@fws.gov](mailto:Jason.Pyron@fws.gov); [Jeffrey Dillon@fws.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.Dillon@fws.gov); [Jodie Delavan@fws.gov](mailto:Jodie.Delavan@fws.gov); [Jessica Gonzales@fws.gov](mailto:Jessica.Gonzales@fws.gov); [Timothy McCracken@fws.gov](mailto:Timothy.McCracken@fws.gov); [Jodi Bush@fws.gov](mailto:Jodi.Bush@fws.gov); [Steve Abele@fws.gov](mailto:Steve.Abele@fws.gov); [Erin Nordin@fws.gov](mailto:Erin.Nordin@fws.gov); [Larry Crist@fws.gov](mailto:Larry.Crist@fws.gov); [Jeff Berglund@fws.gov](mailto:Jeff.Berglund@fws.gov); [Brent Esmoil@fws.gov](mailto:Brent.Esmoil@fws.gov); [Shawn Sartorius@fws.gov](mailto:Shawn.Sartorius@fws.gov); [Terry Quesinberry@fws.gov](mailto:Terry.Quesinberry@fws.gov); [Jeffrey Towner@fws.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.Towner@fws.gov)  
**Cc:** [Kathleen Rapley@fws.gov](mailto:Kathleen.Rapley@fws.gov); [Patty Gelatt@fws.gov](mailto:Patty.Gelatt@fws.gov); [Kevin Shelley@fws.gov](mailto:Kevin.Shelley@fws.gov)  
**Subject:** \*\*DRAFT-for review, sage-grouse data request for CNOR  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 13, 2012 11:35:54 AM  
**Attachments:** [2012 DRAFT SG data request for CNOR 11\\_13\\_12.docx](#)

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Hi all, I have attached the DRAFT sage-grouse CNOR data request for your information and review, if you have time to take a look. I'm still planning on sending out by this Friday or by early next week to our partners. Again, if there are some of our partners that are newer and should be on my contact list, please let me know their contact information. Thanks, Lynn



2012 DRAFT SG data request for CNOR 11\_13\_12.docx

Lynn Gemlo

US Fish and Wildlife Service

Wyoming Ecological Services Field Office

5353 Yellowstone Rd., Suite 308A

Cheyenne, WY 82009

phone: 307-772-2374, fax: 307-772-2358

[lynn\\_gemlo@fws.gov](mailto:lynn_gemlo@fws.gov)

## **Data Request for the Annual Review of the Greater Sage-Grouse Candidate Status**

The following is an outline of items for which we are requesting information. As part of this annual review, the Service is soliciting new information regarding changes in the status of the greater sage-grouse, its habitats, or scientific understanding of the species and its habitats. In regard to conservation efforts, provide information on the known effectiveness of ongoing conservation efforts and known effectiveness of new conservation efforts. In addition, provide information on any conservation efforts previously reported that are discontinued and conservation efforts planned that have a high certainty of implementation. This will greatly assist us in our analysis of how conservation efforts have removed or reduced threats to the species. Send any geospatial information you can share.

Your information sent in for this annual review will assist us in evaluating the species' status to determine if any further listing action should be taken based on scientific data.

We understand that not every responder will need to address every issue or have knowledge of some issues in their locale. Provide the information that is applicable for your area of jurisdiction. We are requesting information you may have collected between **January 2012** and **December 2012**. Please submit all information by **February 1, 2013**, to the following address or by e-mail:

**U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Attention: Lynn Gemlo, Listing Coordinator  
5353 Yellowstone Road, Suite 308A  
Cheyenne, WY 82009  
Phone Number: (307) 772-2374, Extension 228  
E-Mail: [lynn\\_gemlo@fws.gov](mailto:lynn_gemlo@fws.gov)**

### **Data Request:**

**A. Population status, trends and numbers:** This section is primarily directed towards State and Provincial agencies for response.

1. What are the population trends for your State or Province? If describing by population, use the population descriptions identified in the 2006 WAFWA Conservation Strategy.
  - a. Is the trend expected given weather conditions and population cycling?
2. Has there been any significant change in the populations in your State or Province (more than normal annual fluctuations)?
  - a. If yes, do you know the cause of the population change? Describe.

**B. Habitat status and trends:** To the extent possible, for each item listed below, identify occurrence in occupied (at least during one season) or unoccupied habitats, sagebrush habitats that are essential for long-term species persistence (e.g. connectivity corridors), provide locations, populations affected, acreage affected and geospatial data if available.

1. Areas of sagebrush lost due to permanent conversion (e.g. agricultural lands, subdivisions). In addition to the information requested above, identify the stage of loss (e.g. proposed, in NEPA review, completed).
  - a. Identify proposed areas of conversions that have a high certainty of occurrence.
2. Identify areas that will be converted in association with Farm Bill Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP).
3. For areas where CRP has/is providing habitat for sage-grouse, have there been areas where the lands have been put back into production, resulting in a loss of habitat? If so, estimate the number of acres potentially lost.
4. Provide acres of occupied sagebrush habitats that were lost to fire (either wild or prescribed fires). *For 2012, it was a particularly bad wildfire year. Provide specifics as to the loss of suitable sagebrush habitats, where fires occurred and impacts to sage-grouse.*
5. Provide expansion information of conifers or cheatgrass into sagebrush.
6. Identify incursion of other invasive species that affects habitat quality and utility for sage-grouse. Identify the invasive species.
7. Provide information on proposed energy developments within occupied sagebrush habitats. In addition, identify the type (oil, gas, wind, solar, hydropower, geothermal, uranium, etc.) and stage of development, well/turbine/development density, and life of project.
8. Provide information regarding new, proposed, or expanded mining activities in sagebrush habitats.
9. Identify transmission corridors for energy transmission in sagebrush habitats. Include status (e.g. NEPA completed, under construction, proposed), and any efforts to minimize impacts to sage-grouse and sagebrush.
10. Grazing impacts – Any significant changes that affect habitat abundance and quality? We are particularly interested in sagebrush treatments that either remove sagebrush habitats or alter their ability to provide current seasonal habitats (e.g. converting winter habitat to more open canopies that may support brood-rearing).
  - a. Include treatments conducted for the benefit of wild ungulates.
  - b. Identify any changes in wild equid status.
11. Identify any known losses of habitat connectivity, both within and between populations.

**C. Changes in Regulatory Mechanisms:** Regulatory mechanisms are those that are enforceable by state or provincial statute, federal land management documents, etc. They do not include voluntary efforts; however, provide information on any voluntary efforts that may be affecting sage-grouse and sagebrush habitats. If these efforts have not yet been implemented, or not yet shown to be effective, identify those projects within the conservation efforts database.

1. Identify the status of BLM RMP revisions that will affect sage-grouse or sagebrush (either positive or negative), if any.
2. Identify any changes in the status of regulatory mechanisms that will affect sage-grouse or sagebrush (positive or negative) on other Federal lands (e.g. FS, NPS, military lands).
3. Identify any new regulatory mechanisms that minimize impacts from fire, invasives, energy development, etc. If new regulatory mechanisms are being considered, you should also identify those, along with the certainty of application.
4. Any new State, Provincial, or other local (e.g. county) efforts to address threats?

**D. Hunting and other uses:** (Identify state or province)

1. Have there been any changes to hunting regulations for sage-grouse? If so, identify the reason behind the change, and if applicable, any results.
2. Have there been any changes in recreational impacts (positive or negative) or in religious use of sage-grouse?
3. Identify current research projects on sage-grouse in your State or Province, and whether or not the project includes bird capture or collaring.

**E. Disease and Predation:** (Provide locations where appropriate)

1. Report any West Nile virus outbreaks in 2012, where outbreaks occurred, and impacts to sage-grouse.
2. Are you aware of any new diseases/parasites that have population-level effects?
3. Do you have any data that suggests that predators may be limiting sage-grouse in any part of the range, independent of habitat conditions?
4. Do you have data that supports increases in predator populations that are affecting sage-grouse as the result of habitat alterations?

**F. Other Factors:**

1. Do you have any new information regarding negative effects of pesticides, contaminants, recreational activities or other human disturbance, drought and other climatic conditions on the greater sage-grouse?

2. Report any new information on the impacts of climate change on sage-grouse or their habitats.

**G. Literature:**

1. Identify any pertinent literature you feel is important for our review. In addition to citations, if you have cited any literature above, provide the page numbers of the actual citation.

**H. Contact person(s):**

*Provide contact(s) information concerning data collection in case questions arise after the data has been reviewed.*