

# Greater Sage-Grouse

## Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for Ranch Management

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### In the Final Month's Issue

State Lands Inclusion  
How are Common Allotments  
Addressed?  
Forest Service Allotments  
Final Five Conservation  
Measures

## Who is Responsible for What?

Several state, federal and local agencies have cooperatively developed the CCAA and are willing to provide landowners assistance throughout the development and implementation of the individual CCAA. Landowners are encouraged to understand their responsibilities for implementing the Conservation Measures (CMs), monitoring, and reporting according to their agreement. The following are examples of what each agency can provide enrolled landowners:

US Fish and Wildlife Service: provide technical assistance to implement CMs, provide assistance in developing and implementing the agreement, issue incidental take permits, coordinate completion of monitoring and reporting;

Natural Resources Conservation Service and Conservation Districts: provide assistance to develop and implement grazing and conservation plans, assist in range monitoring, work collaboratively to implement CMs;

Wyoming Department of Agriculture: assist landowners in application process, serve as a resource for rangeland monitoring, provide technical assistance, mediation, and funding sources;

Wyoming Game and Fish Department: provide technical assistance for sage-grouse management, provide training or assistance in monitoring protocols, provide assistance through Sage-grouse Local Working Groups;

Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service: work collaboratively with federal grazing permit holders to facilitate and implement appropriate rangeland monitoring, implement the companion CCA.



## Contacts:

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## Compliance and Biological Monitoring

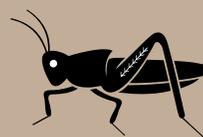
There are two types of monitoring in the CCAA: compliance and biological. Compliance monitoring is the enrolled property owners responsibility to report the implementation of the CCAA, including addressing the CMs to reduce or remove threats. An example in reference to threat number 12 above: use of insecticides: the landowner will describe any insecticide treatments applied to the lands enrolled in the CCAA and if the RAATs approach was utilized.

Biological monitoring is done cooperatively by the landowner and the participating agencies. This may include development of baseline data for leks with annual counts collected and monitored to look for improvements or declines in the number of male birds attending a lek.

## Ranchland CCAA Conservation Measures Listed and Explained

In this issue, an additional 6 of the 17 threats are listed with the corresponding Conservation Measure (CM). The first six are found in the April 2011 issue.

7. **Threat:** Encroachment of woodland species into sagebrush communities can lead to a reduction of sage-grouse habitat, use, or abandonment.  
**CM:** Treat/remove encroaching undesirable woodland species in sage-grouse habitats.
8. **Threat:** Livestock, humans and vehicles can physically disturb and cause birds to leave leks or abandon nests.  
**CM:** Avoid new surface disturbing activities (e.g., roads, pipelines, corrals for branding) within 0.6 mile of the perimeter of occupied leks; avoid disruptive activities between 6 pm and 8 am from March 1 through May 15 within 0.6 mile of the perimeter of occupied leks; avoid concentrating livestock in nesting habitat from March 15 through June 30; Avoid off-trail vehicular travel in nesting habitat from march 15 through June 30 unless essential for routine ranch management (fencing, doctoring livestock).
9. **Threat:** Livestock watering tanks and troughs can cause sage-grouse mortality by entrapment and drowning.  
**CM:** Fit existing and new water troughs with escape ramps.
10. **Threat:** Water diversions and spring developments can dry up meadow and riparian areas thus reducing sage-grouse habitat quality and quantity.  
**CM:** Allow for springs to be free-flowing (do not capture all the water) at the point of diversion or the source of the spring in order to maintain or enhance a wet riparian area.
11. **Threat:** Some farm and ranch operations can increase opportunities for predation of sage-grouse and sage-grouse nests.  
**CM:** Avoid locating new garbage or dead piles closer than 0.6 mile from occupied leks, or within nesting or brood rearing habitat to avoid attracting predators; Install raptor perch deterrents on existing structures (e.g., power poles).
12. **Threat:** Application of insecticides can remove insects important to sage-grouse thus reducing sage-grouse habitat quality and quantity.  
**CM:** Implement the Reduced Area & Application Treatments (RAATs) approach. Avoid carbaryl/malathion. Work with agency specialists to plan and design control efforts to avoid harming non-target species.



### Basic Steps in Development of Umbrella CCAA

Work with Partners to Develop

Seek Public Comment on Permit

Address Public Comments and Finalize