

# Greater Sage-Grouse

## Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for Ranch Management

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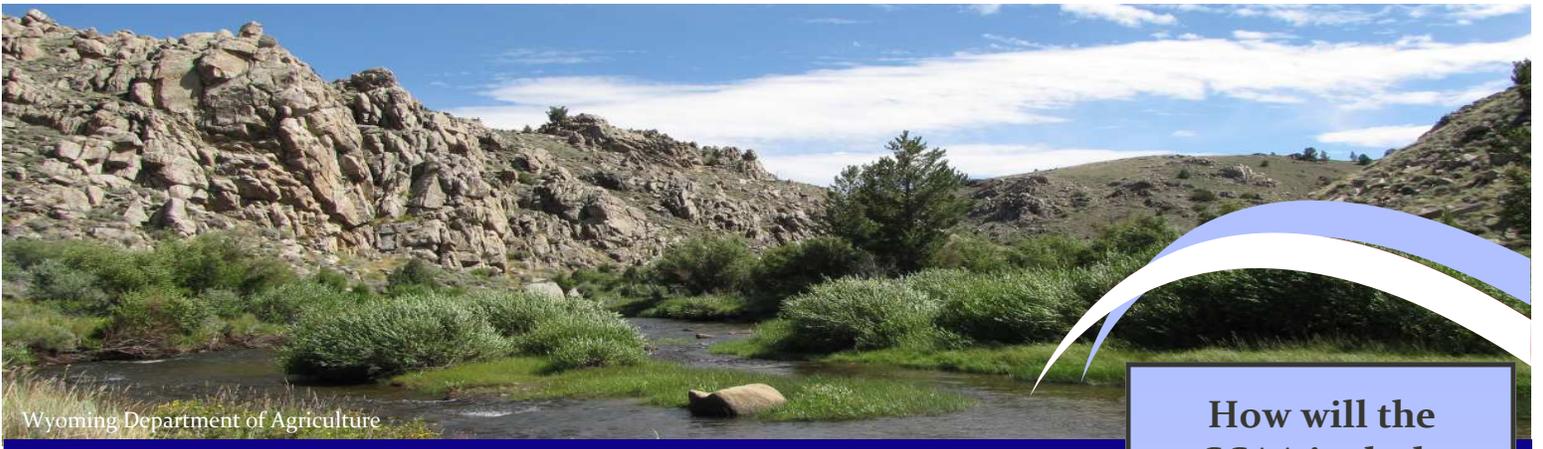
## Forest Service Allotments under a Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA)

Interested Forest Service permittees should contact their local office to discuss future inclusion of permits under the umbrella Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurance (CCAA)/CCA. Below is current information for two forests.

Individual allotments, across the Thunder Basin National Grassland will be evaluated for suitable habitat and for issues which may negatively impact sage-grouse. All allotments with suitable habitat will have applicable Conservation Measures (CMs) identified in coordination with the applicable grazing association. Individual grazing association members and will incorporate adaptive management options into the Allotment Management Plan (AMP) for the allotment. The AMP then becomes part of the terms and conditions of the Grazing Agreement.

The Shoshone National Forest (SNF) is in the process of revising their 1986 Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) with a proposed signature date in 2013. During this revision effort, SNF will develop a CCA for sage-grouse and incorporate it into the Forest Plan. Until this CCA is developed and the Forest Plan is finalized, the SNF will implement appropriate conservation measures developed in occupied sage-grouse habitat through project analysis.





Wyoming Department of Agriculture

## Ranchland CCAA Conservation Measures Listed and Explained

In this final issue, the final 5 of the 17 threats are listed with the corresponding CM.

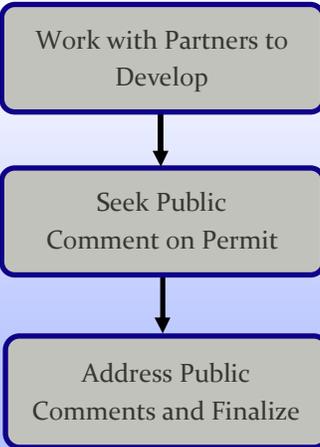
- 13. **Threat:** Prolonged drought can harm plants important to sage-grouse.  
**CM:** Work with agency specialists to incorporate a drought management component in grazing plan; and adjust livestock use to reduce the impact on perennial herbaceous cover, plant species diversity, and plant vigor.
- 14. **Threat:** Surface water developments, such as ponds may increase mosquito habitat resulting in increased sage-grouse mortality from disease.  
**CM:** Chemically treat mosquito larvae; use innovative design for ponds to prevent aquatic vegetation.
- 15. **Threat:** Sagebrush management such as fire, chemical or mechanical can result in reduction of sage-grouse habitat.  
**CM:** Avoid eradicating sagebrush. No new conversion of rangeland to cropland; work with agency specialist to plan sagebrush treatments.
- 16. **Threat:** Concentrated wildlife populations can harm plant communities.  
**CM:** Utilize public hunting access to manage wildlife numbers; consider habitat treatments to distribute wildlife.
- 17. **Threat:** Sage-grouse can collide with fences resulting in serious injury or death.  
**CM:** Avoid construction of new fences within 0.6 mile of occupied leks or riparian areas where broods concentrate; relocate, redesign or mark fences where collisions are observed or are within 0.6 mile of lek.

### How will the CCAA include State Land Leases?

Landowners interested in a CCAA may wish to also include their state land lease(s).

The Office of State Lands and Investments (OSLI) encourages interested landowners to notify the OSLI of their interest to include their leases under the CCAA as early in the process as possible. The inclusion of state land leases is voluntary. Landowners and OSLI will utilize the CCAA threats and CMs list accordingly.

### Basic Steps in Development of Umbrella CCAA



### How Will the CCA Address Common Allotments on BLM Permits?

Many ranches graze livestock on common or mixed allotments in which multiple grazing permittees use the same allotment(s). The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will invite the participation of all permittees to develop and join a CCA on a voluntary basis. If all permittees are willing to voluntarily implement the agreed upon CMs within the common allotment, the BLM will issue Certificates of Participation. However, BLM will not require participation of common allotment permittees in the CCA. If all permittees within a common allotment are not willing to participate, no CCA will be implemented.