To the point…

Greater Sage-Grouse CCAA/CCA Information

January 2015

- VOLUNTARY Agreements
  - Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) = private landowner and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
  - Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA) = Federal land permittee/lessee, Federal Land Management Agency, and FWS
  - May be terminated at any time with 30 days prior written notice from the landowner to FWS
- Not one size fits all — may include both private and state lands, checkerboard lands, common allotments or privately owned leased lands with landowner consent.
- CCAA/CCA Landowner Benefits
  - FWS provides regulatory assurance that a landowner enrolled in the CCAA program will not be asked to do more if greater sage-grouse is listed
  - Ongoing private land operations may continue
  - Greater sage-grouse "incidental take" permit issued to enrollee
  - CCA developed to CCAA standard to be seamless across land ownership

> *"The benefit of participating with a CCAA is that I get regulatory assurances and I am helping prevent the listing of the bird." —Rancher Brad Bousman*

- CCAA/CCA Landowner Commitments
  - Implement agreed upon tailored Conservation Measures (CMs)
  - Develop an Individual CCAA Conservation Plan (CCAA Plan) within 12 to 18 months after signing agreement
  - Conduct compliance/rangeland monitoring as tailored to the individual operation
  - Provide an annual report to the FWS
- CCA CMs are voluntary and completely separate and apart from grazing permit "Terms and Conditions"
- Applicant is responsible for cost of compliance and monitoring but may be able to obtain some technical assistance
- CCAA/CCA is much different from the Natural Resource Conservation Services' (NRCS) Sage-Grouse Initiative (SGI), but the two programs complement each other very well and a landowner may be enrolled in both.
- Participating in a CCAA now is <u>not</u> equivalent to participating in either a Safe Harbor Agreement (SHA) or Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) once a species is listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA):
  - Landowners have considerably more input in CCAA CMs than SHA or HCP CMs
  - Currently FWS has no plans to develop a SHA or HCP; they would not be developed unless the species is listed; typically takes 2 to 3 years to develop; and participation will involve a long waiting time
  - FWS will consider level of participation in CCAA/CCAs in its September 2015 listing decision
- The federal appropriations rider regarding sage-grouse does not affect the FWS's court-ordered September 30, 2015, deadline to make a scientific determination whether the greater sage-grouse does or does not warrant protection under the ESA.
- For more information or to get questions answered
  - Call the Wyoming Stock Growers Association (WSGA) Office 307-638-3942
  - Call FWS 307-772-2374 or 307-684-1069

CCAAs signed to date: 25	**Acres enrolled: 302,472**
CCAs signed to date: 4	**Acres enrolled: 48,826**

2014-15 WSGA
Sage-Grouse CCAA Educational Program

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SGA

Flyer Developed by Leanne Correll SunAgri, LLC for WSGA CCAA/CCA Education Program in collaboration with Wyoming Office of the FWS