

CCAA/CCA Time Frame

- ◇ FWS is taking applications now for individual CCAAs. The application can be found at www.wysga.org then click on News & Issues.
- ◇ Permittees should contact their BLM Field Office now if interested in CCA participation.
- ◇ Greater Sage-Grouse listing decision scheduled September 2015 so applications need to be submitted in a timely manner to realize the maximum CCAA/CCA benefits for landowners, sage-grouse, credit toward the listing decision, and the ranching industry.

For More Information Contact:

- ◇ WSGA for a CCAA/CCA Information Packet including legal analysis, FAQs, and forms/templates associated with the program. www.wysga.org has all the documents available for downloading and updates will be posted as additional questions are answered.
- ◇ Wyoming Field Office, Fish and Wildlife Service (307) 772-2374
www.fws.gov/wyominges
- ◇ Wyoming Natural Resources Conservation Service State Office (307) 233-6750
OR
Contact your local NRCS Office
www.wy.nrcs.usda.gov
www.sagegrouseinitiative.com



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These materials and any associated presentations made on behalf of Wyoming Stock Growers Association are for informational purposes only. They do not constitute an endorsement of any individual Landowner CCAA or CCA. The information contained in these materials is not legal advice. For questions regarding the applicability of this Landowner CCAA to your specific situation, you should seek appropriate legal or other professional assistance.

2014

WSGA Sage-Grouse CCAA Educational Program

Funding provided by

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
and Wyoming NRCS

Partners for the project

WDA, WACD, Wyoming TNC

*Brochure Developed
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Landowner Information



**Greater Sage-Grouse
Umbrella CCAA For
Wyoming Ranch Management
and
Complementary Public Land CCA**

Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) Basics

- ◇ A CCAA is a voluntary agreement between the FWS and a private landowner whereby private landowners agree to manage their lands to remove or reduce threats to species at risk of being listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- ◇ The primary threats to the sage-grouse, as defined in the 2010 finding, are habitat loss, fragmentation, and degradation.
- ◇ With significant participation, the umbrella CCAA will improve the status of sage-grouse in Wyoming.
- ◇ The Wyoming Umbrella CCAA allows participants to identify issues and opportunities unique to their operation that may be addressed by specific Conservation Measures (CMs).
- ◇ A CCAA agreement is voluntary and the enrolled landowner may terminate it with 30 days prior written notice to the Participating Agencies (PAs).
- ◇ A site-specific conservation plan must be completed within 12 months from the signing of the CCAA with assistance from PAs or other qualified service providers.



Landowner Considerations & Benefits

- ◇ If greater sage-grouse are listed, an enrolled landowner's individual CCAA ensures that ongoing private land operations and any additional covered activities described in the umbrella CCAA may continue.
- ◇ Enrolled landowners receive incidental take coverage under the ESA for covered activities.
- ◇ The decision whether or not to enter into a CCAA with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) will vary by landowner. Each landowner should carefully consider legal / confidentiality issues and financial / conservation plan obligations.
- ◇ If public lands are included in your operation, you may also want to consider a Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA) on the public land.
- ◇ There are requirements for reporting and monitoring for lands enrolled in a CCAA and/or CCA which will take time.

Participating Agencies

Bureau of Land Management
Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USDA Forest Service
Wyoming Assoc. of Conservation Districts
Wyoming Department of Agriculture
Wyoming Game & Fish Department
Wyoming Governor's Office

Steps to Developing an Individual CCAA

- 1. Landowner completes Information Screen (Umbrella CCAA Appendix B)**
 - 2. Landowner with technical advice from PAs will select appropriate CMs and complete application. (Umbrella CCAA Appendix C)**
- ◇ Landowner finalizes individual CCAA and Enhancement of Survival (EOS) permit application. Submit to FWS for review.
 - ◇ FWS reviews CCAA and EOS permit application. If approved, the landowner receives:
 - *Assurances that current ranch management practices covered by the CCAA will continue in the event the sage-grouse is listed under the ESA, and*
 - *An individual EOS permit. The EOS permit will become active if the species is listed.*
 - ◇ Landowner has 12 months to develop a site-specific sage-grouse conservation management plan.
 - ◇ Landowner establishes and implements compliance and rangeland monitoring with assistance from PAs or other service providers.

See WSGA info packet for CCA steps.

“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