



Greater Sage-Grouse 2015 Status Review

*Presentation to
Council of State Governments*

July 28, 2015

Goals for today:

- Understand the regulatory history for sage-grouse
- Review the process for 2015
 - Principles and Foundation
 - Engaging Partners and Best available information
 - Timing



History



Status Review

Guiding Principles:

- Transparent process
- Best Available Science
- Provide a clear rationale for decision making
- Maximize Legal Defensibility
- Effectively communicate with Federal, State and Tribal partners



Status Review

Foundational Elements:

- Previous Work
 - 2010 Finding
 - Conservation Objective Team (COT) Report
- Evaluate Information
 - Current Status/Trends
 - Understanding of potential effects (positive and negative) and species response



Status Review Process

- **Evaluate Current Status**
 - Trends, Abundance, Distribution
 - Threats
 - Conservation Efforts and Regulatory Mechanisms
- **Evaluate Future Status**
 - Projected Trends, Abundance, Distribution
 - Projected Threats
 - Projected Conservation Efforts and Regulatory Mechanisms
- **Legal and Policy Evaluation of Data**
- **Publication of Determination in the Federal Register**



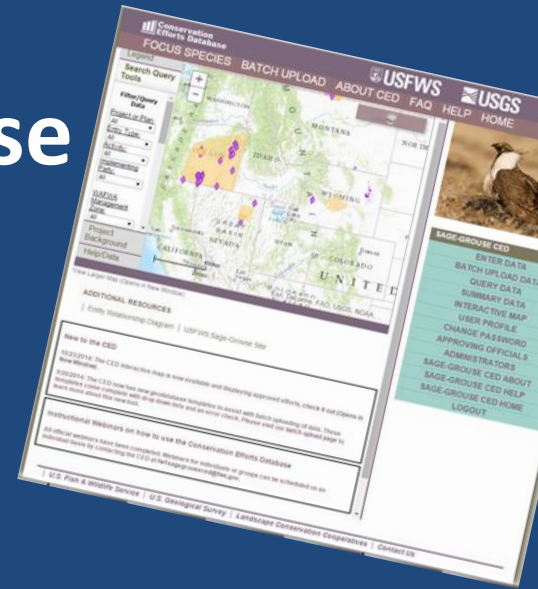
Information Collection:

General Data Call and Candidate Notice

- We requested general data in 2014.

The Conservation Efforts Database

- We received over 6,000 entries from Federal, State, and other partners.



Other Available Information

- We will also review existing literature



Congressional Direction:

The Service cannot use funds to write or issue:

- Proposed rule for greater sage-grouse; Proposed rule for Columbia Basin; Final Rule for bi-state

The Service Will:

- Determine by Sept. 30, 2015, if the species warrants protection under the ESA
- Continue to develop, implement, and analyze conservation efforts to support the species.



Questions



For more information on the greater sage-grouse, please visit our national sage-grouse website.

<https://www.fws.gov/greatersagegrouse/>

