

Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Public lands and private waters: decision support for sage-grouse conservation through range wide mapping of scarce wetland resources

Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Discipline: Natural Resources
Funding Agency: US Fish and Wildlife Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Montana
Effective Dates: 7/1/2015 - 6/30/2019
Funding Amount: \$40,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: Plan of work outlines implementation of spatially explicit inventory and monitoring project to map summer habitats for greater (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) and Gunnison sage-grouse (*C.u. minimus*; herein *sage-grouse*) across occupied habitat (Schroeder et al. 2004), to include Priority Areas for Conservation (PAC) identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Conservation Objectives Team (2013 COT Report). Mapping results will provide decision support for NRCS and partners to evaluate outcomes of the Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI) by assessing benefits of conservation actions (protection, enhancement, or restoration) to summer habitats on working lands. Products will inform and refine future easement placement and habitats prescriptions to those keystone summer habitats that structure sage-grouse distribution and abundance.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: June 30, 2019

Keywords: sage-grouse conservation, ecological modeling and monitoring, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Intermountain West Joint Venture, University of Montana, The Avian Science Center