

## **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

**Project Discipline:** Natural

**Funding Agency:** NRCS

**Other Partners/Cooperators:** University of Montana

**Effective Dates:** 5/19/2014 - 3/30/2017

**Funding Amount:** \$250,000

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:** This agreement 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:** March 30, 2017

**Keywords:** Sage-Grouse, conservation, NRCS, University of Montana