



GUNNISON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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November 26, 2013

Public Comments Processing
Attn: FWS-R6-ES-2012-0108 (species listing)
Attn: FWS-R6-ES-2011-0111(critical habitat)
Division of Policy and Directives Management
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS 2042-PDM
Arlington, VA 22203

Comments Submitted
November 26, 2013
Electronically & By
US Mail

RE: Third Set of Comments by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Gunnison, Colorado; Endangered Status for Gunnison Sage-grouse; Proposed Rule; Docket No: FWS-R6-ES-2012-0108; 4500030113, 78 Fed. Reg. 8, 2486, (January 11, 2013); and Designation of Critical Habitat for Gunnison Sage-grouse; Proposed Rule; Docket No: FWS-R6-ES-2011-0111; 4500030114, 78 Fed. Reg. 8, 2540, (January 11, 2013)

The Board of County Commissioners of the County of Gunnison, Colorado ("Gunnison County Commissioners") formally submits this third set of comments ("Gunnison County Comments, Third Set"). The Gunnison County Commissioners expressly state their intent and reserve their right to make further comments and to participate fully in each available component of the process of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service ("FWS") regarding: 1) the proposed rule for Endangered Status for Gunnison Sage-grouse; Docket No: FWS-R6-ES-2012-0108; 4500030113, 78 Fed. Reg. 8, 2486 (January 11, 2013) ("Listing Rule"); and 2) the proposed rule for Designation of Critical Habitat for Gunnison Sage-grouse ("Designation Rule"); Docket No: FWS-R6-ES-2011-0111; 4500030114, 78 Fed. Reg. 8, 2540 (January 11, 2013) (collectively "Proposed Rules").

I. SUMMARY OF GUNNISON COUNTY COMMENTS TO DATE.

For a decade and a half, Gunnison County and our federal, state, local government, local conservation groups, landowners and private citizen partners have applied science based and expanding conservation efforts for the GuSG; these efforts have been thoughtfully conceived, consistently funded, coordinated locally and rangewide, monitored, and adjusted when necessary. They have been supported by our citizens across the range of the Gunnison Sage-grouse. These conservation efforts have occurred and persisted despite sometimes internally inconsistent direction and efforts of the FWS.

Gunnison County respects and appreciates that the Endangered Species Act (“ESA”) has provided protection of our most endangered or threatened species for over forty years and is a cornerstone for our country’s most basic environmental protections.

Gunnison County also understands that the ESA, public support for the ESA, and effective conservation of endangered or threatened species require that FWS provide scrupulous respect for the foundational principals of the ESA:

- FWS must use the best scientific and commercial data available;
- FWS must subject that data to accurate, complete and neutral analysis;
- FWS must not substitute speculation for sound scientific process;
- FWS must limit listing determinations to those supported by scientifically designed and data-supported application of the phrases “endangered species” and “threatened species”;
- FWS must perform rigorous analysis of what is a “significant portion” of the species’ range, and what constitutes a species’ “critical habitat”;
- FWS must subject its decisions to demanding peer reviews, and make corrections to its own analysis based on those reviews;
- FWS must take into account conservation efforts of states, local governments and the public;
- FWS must fully comply with applicable law and policy.

FWS has not met these obligations with regard to the Listing Rule and the Designation Rule:

- A. Data and analysis establish that the Gunnison Sage-grouse population is stable and growing, healthy and likely to persist in the long term.
 1. The Gunnison Basin Population is the vast majority (88%) of the entire GuSG population. FWS acknowledges that the Gunnison Basin Population has been relatively stable through the last 12 years. Indeed from 2002 to 2013 the Gunnison Basin Population increased by over one third.
 2. Based on FWS approved Population Viability Assessments, the Gunnison Basin Population has an extinction rate of less than .5 percent within the next 50 years.
 3. The FWS did not make the required analysis of whether the satellite populations individually or collectively constitute a “significant portion” of the species’ range. However, application of FWS guidelines demonstrate that the satellite populations do not meet this criteria.
- B. FWS has not made an accurate accounting of the collegial conservation efforts made by local, community, state and federal entities.

1. ESA Requires FWS to take into account local and state conservation efforts.
 2. Peer Reviewer's comments state FWS has not met this obligation.
 3. FWS, only recently, has begun to acknowledge these conservation efforts. But FWS continues to down-play their effectiveness. These efforts include:
 - a. GuSG Rangewide Conservation Plan.
 - b. Rangewide local and collegial efforts.
 - c. County Coalition For The Gunnison Sage-grouse.
 - d. Conservation Easements.
 - e. Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA).
 - f. Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA).
 - g. Gunnison County Land Use Resolution.
 - h. GuSG Strategic Committee.
 - i. Creation and export of the "Habitat Prioritization Tool".
 - j. Executed Rangewide Conservation Agreement.
- C. The FWS has significantly overstated the magnitude, immediacy and causes of alleged threats to the GuSG population.
1. FWS has failed to analyze accurately the scope of local government legal authority, regulations, planning regimes and intergovernmental actions to address purported threats to the GuSG and its habitat.
 2. FWS has failed to analyze accurately the pace and location of human population growth and residential development locally and rangewide.
 3. FWS has not demonstrated that any "threat" (e.g. agricultural grazing, roads, fences, fires, drought, etc.) will cause the Gunnison Sage-grouse to become extinct, nor that any threat or combination of threats will threaten the Gunnison Sage-grouse with becoming extinct in the future.
 4. When it is demonstrated that the FWS's current "high priority" threat has been successfully addressed, FWS switches its emphasis to a different threat.
- D. FWS engaged Peer Reviews of the Rules that are significantly negative. FWS has made no indication it intends to heed these Peer Reviews or address the issues they brought up.
- E. The Draft Economic Analysis is not defensible from policy, data, analytic or legal perspectives.
- F. The Proposed Rules are inconsistent with previous FWS formal and informal actions regarding the GuSG.
- G. The GuSG is neither an "Endangered Species" nor a "Threatened Species". A suggestion of a "threatened" listing even with "4d"

accommodations is not appropriate. Gunnison County wants to avoid the consequences that inappropriate adoption of Final Rules may cause:

- Litigation;
- Fracturing of effective coalitions and conservation efforts;
- Reinvention of a “recovery plan” that is less robust, supported, and effective than current conservation efforts;
- Paper “action” without “ground truthed” conservation efforts that may actually prove to be in opposition to the best interests of the species.
- Loss of voluntary conservation efforts on private land.

II. AN UPDATE ON RANGEWIDE LOCAL AND COLLEGIAL EFFORTS.

The Gunnison County Comments, Second Set, at Section I.F., responded to the requests of FWS to identify Rangewide local and collegial efforts in the form of a spreadsheet grouping the efforts by use of “common language”. Gunnison County now updates that spreadsheet, (Attachment “A” to these Gunnison County Comments, Third Set), and provides documentation evidencing each newly identified conservation effort, (Attachment “B” to these Gunnison County Comments, Third Set). The newly identified efforts are:

- A. Board of County Commissioners of the County of Gunnison, Colorado Resolution No: 2013-23; “A Resolution Amending the *Gunnison County Land Use Resolution* Including Amendments to Section 11-106: Protection of Wildlife Habitat Areas and Adoption of the Habitat Prioritization Tool” recorded in the records of the Office of the Clerk and Recorder of Gunnison County, Colorado on November 5, 2013, bearing Reception No: 623683.
- B. Resolution No: 39-2013; “Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners for Montrose County, Colorado Concerning the Adoption of “1041” Regulations for the Protection of Gunnison Sage Grouse Occupied Habitat” recorded in the records of the Office of the Clerk and Recorder of Montrose County, Colorado on November 4, 2013, bearing Reception No: 851294.
- C. Guidelines and Regulations for Areas and Activities of State Interest of the County of Saguache, State of Colorado, Adopted September 28, 1990 and Updated December 4, 2012.
- D. Memorandum of Understanding Between The Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, San Luis Valley Field Office and Saguache County Government as a Cooperating Agency, November 18, 2013
- E. Wildlife Conservation Society Climate Adaptation Fund – Enhancing Ecosystem Resilience of Wetland/Riparian Habitats to Increase the Adaptive Capacity of Gunnison Sage-grouse in the Gunnison Basin – Final Report by The Nature Conservancy and the Gunnison Climate Working Group (Bureau of Land Management-Gunnison Field Office, Colorado Natural Heritage Program; Colorado Parks & Wildlife, Gunnison

County, Gunnison County Stockgrowers Association, Lake Fork Valley Conservancy, National Center for Atmospheric Research, National Park Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rocky Mountain Biological Lab, The Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Western State Colorado University and Western Water Assessment), September 27, 2013.

III. RANGEWIDE ANALYSIS OF PRIVATE LAND CONSERVATION EASEMENTS AND PROPERTIES ENROLLED IN CPW CCAA WITHIN MAPPED GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE OCCUPIED HABITAT AND USFWS PROPOSED CRITICAL HABITAT

USFWS requested that the County Coalition provide a Rangewide GIS layer of conservation easements. Gunnison County worked with all members of the Coalition to acquire the GIS data and to correlate it with the data submitted by Lohr and Gray (2014).

Table I summarizes the information from the Rangewide conservation easement GIS data. Table I also includes an analysis of properties enrolled in the CCAA program as of 11/21/13 (CPW, Seward email transmittal to Cochran and Pelletier). CPW will submit the most current information, which is likely to change somewhat as the Certificates of Inclusion (CI's) for several properties are in-process with the USFWS for final approval.

Table I depicts a very clear picture of a significant Rangewide effort to conserve Gunnison Sage-grouse habitats using conservation easements and the CCAA program.

Table I. Analysis of Private Land Conservation Easements (CE) and Properties Enrolled in CPW CCAA Within Mapped GuSG Occupied Habitat and USFWS Proposed Critical Habitat.

Population	Status	Total Acres in Population ²	Private Land Acres	CE Acres in Population	% of Total Acres in CEs	% of Private Acres in CEs	Completed CCAA Acres ³	Completed CCAA Acres not overlapping CE	% of Private Land in CE or CCAA ⁴
Cimarron/Cerro/Sims Mesa	Occupied ¹	37,161	28,180	3,468	9.3%	12.3%	0	0	12.3%
Crawford	Occupied ¹	35,015	8,478	1,998	5.7%	23.6%	0	0	23.6%
Gunnison	Occupied ¹	592,952	166,030	40,749	6.9%	24.5%	23302	17027	34.8%
Monticello-Dove Creek	Occupied ¹	111,945	102,850	5,482	4.9%	5.3%	0	0	5.3%
Pinon Mesa	Occupied ¹	38,905	27,267	14,829	38.1%	54.4%	8,515	543	56.4%
Poncha Pass	Occupied ¹	20,416	4,854	0	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0.0%
San Miguel Basin	Occupied ¹	101,371	48,693	6,962	6.9%	14.3%	934	514	15.4%
Rangewide Total - Occupied Habitat		937,765	386,352	73,488	7.8%	19.0%	32,751	18,084	23.7%
Cimarron/Cerro/Sims Mesa	Potential ⁵	25,547	19,847	879	3.4%	4.4%	0	0	4.4%
Crawford	Potential ⁵	62,108	44,851	8,462	13.6%	18.9%	2479	2479	24.4%
Gunnison	Potential ⁵	143,850	55,873	15,521	10.8%	27.8%	501	481	28.6%
Monticello-Dove Creek	Potential ⁵	236,408	199,509	469	0.2%	0.2%	0	0	0.2%
Pinon Mesa	Potential ⁵	206,274	63,785	22,360	10.8%	35.1%	4,619	401	35.7%
Poncha Pass	Potential ⁵	27,877	12,456	384	1.4%	3.1%	0	0	3.1%
San Miguel Basin	Vacant/Unknown ⁵	64,398	45,785	1,273	2.0%	2.8%	0	0	2.8%
Rangewide Total - Proposed Critical Habitat		766,462	442,106	49,348	6.4%	11.2%	7,599	3,361	11.9%
Rangewide Total - All Habitats		1,704,227	828,458	122,836	7.2%	14.8%	40,350	21,445	17.4%

¹ Mapped Occupied Habitat, RCP 2005

² Public and Private Lands

³ Data Provided by CPW (Nathan Seward) on November 21, 2013. CPW data provided by December 2, 2013 may include additional enrolled properties finalized after November 21.

⁴ No over-lapping acreage is included in this data

⁵USFWS Proposed GuSG Critical Habitat outside of mapped Occupied Habitat

GuSG Population Status - Acres by County

Population	Status	Name	Total Acres	Private Land Acres	
Cimarron/Cerro/Sims Mesa	Occupied	GUNNISON	2163	2,163	
Cimarron/Cerro/Sims Mesa	Occupied	MONTROSE	34,924	25,943	
Cimarron/Cerro/Sims Mesa	Occupied	OURAY	74	74	
Cimarron/Cerro/Sims Mesa	Potential	GUNNISON	5,214	5,106	
Cimarron/Cerro/Sims Mesa	Potential	MONTROSE	20,333	14,741	
Crawford	Occupied	DELTA	6,477	1,245	Data from CoMap ⁶
Crawford	Occupied	MONTROSE	28,538	7,233	
Crawford	Potential	DELTA	15,764	13,923	Data from CoMap
Crawford	Potential	GUNNISON	3,409	2,313	
Crawford	Potential	MONTROSE	42,936	28,615	
Gunnison	Occupied	GUNNISON	433,292	132,066	
Gunnison	Occupied	SAGUACHE	159,660	33,964	
Gunnison	Potential	GUNNISON	136,646	53,154	
Gunnison	Potential	HINSDALE	1,203	635	
Gunnison	Potential	MONTROSE	3,871	1,057	
Gunnison	Potential	SAGUACHE	2131	1,027	
Monticello-Dove Creek	Occupied	DOLORES	40036	35,382	Data from CoMap
Monticello-Dove Creek	Occupied	SAN JUAN	70663	66,308	
Monticello-Dove Creek	Occupied	SAN MIGUEL	1248	1,160	
Monticello-Dove Creek	Potential	DOLORES	108575	98,505	Data from CoMap
Monticello-Dove Creek	Potential	MONTROSE	584	0	
Monticello-Dove Creek	Potential	SAN JUAN	75878	73,942	
Monticello-Dove Creek	Potential	SAN MIGUEL	51397	27,062	
Pinon Mesa	Occupied	MESA	38894	27,267	
Pinon Mesa	Potential	GRAND	6029	95	Data from Comap
Pinon Mesa	Potential	MESA	200238	63,690	
Poncha Pass	Occupied	CHAFFEE	549	366	

Poncha Pass	Occupied	SAGUACHE	19867	4,488	Data from CoMap
Poncha Pass	Potential	SAGUACHE	27877	12,456	Data from CoMap
San Miguel Basin	Occupied	MONTROSE	7375	0	
San Miguel Basin	Occupied	SAN MIGUEL	93996	48,693	
San Miguel Basin	Vacant/Unknown	MONTROSE	32077	20,164	
San Miguel Basin	Vacant/Unknown	OURAY	10329	10,329	
San Miguel Basin	Vacant/Unknown	SAN MIGUEL	21992	15,292	
			<hr/>	<hr/>	
			1,704,239	828,458	

⁶ County data either unavailable or county uses CoMap

IV. FWS DIRECTOR ASHE'S COMMENTS.

On July 16, 2013, FWS Director Dan Ashe visited Gunnison County to observe local Gunnison Sage-grouse conservation efforts and to meet with federal, state and local government, local conservation groups, landowners and private citizen partners in conservation efforts.

Director Ashe commented at a public meeting at Western State Colorado University that the conservation efforts are "inspirational". He noted that regulatory measures are "highly certain... and highly likely to be implemented...", and that "incentive based measures are important..." He noted also that the "amount of land covered by ...conservation agreement... (is) highly relevant".

The Gunnison County Commissioners herein reaffirm their right to provide further information and data up to FWS's final determination on the proposed rules, March 31, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF GUNNISON, COLORADO

/s/ Paula Swenson

/s/ Phil Chamberland

/s/ Jonathan Houck

Paula Swenson
Chairperson

Phil Chamberland
Vice-Chairperson

Jonathan Houck
Commissioner

cc: U.S. Senator Michael Bennet
U.S. Senator Mark Udall
U.S. Senator Orrin Hatch
Governor John Hickenlooper
Governor Gary R. Herbert
John T. Salazar, Colorado Department of Agriculture
Representative Scott Tipton
Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior
Daniel M. Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Robert Broscheid, Director of Colorado Division of Fish and Wildlife
Noreen Walsh, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region 6 Director
Nicole Alt, FWS Deputy Assistant Regional Director
Susan Linner, FWS Colorado Field Supervisor
Patty Gelatt, FWS Assistant Field Supervisor

LOCAL EFFORTS

Current through November 19, 2013

A. Rangewide Local Efforts

	Delta	Dolores	Gunnison	Mesa	Montrose	Ouray	Saguache	San Juan	San Miguel
1. Participant in Memorandum of Understanding	X (1)								
2. Formal Signatory to the "Conservation Agreement for GuSG" *	X (2)								
3. Formally Committed to Update GuSG Rangewide Conservation Plan	X (2)								
4. Formally Committed to Adopting Amended GuSG Rangewide Conservation Plan	X (2)								
5. Formally Committed to Adopt the Habitat Prioritization Tool	X (2)								

* State of Colorado and State of Utah formal signatories

(Number references appendix of documentation)

B. Local Institutional Controls

	Delta	Dolores	Gunnison	Mesa	Montrose	Ouray	Saguache	San Juan	San Miguel
1. Regulatory Controls Applicable to +35 acre Projects	X (3)	X (8)	X (17)	X (28)(29)	X (35-38)	X (43)	X (47)	X (54)	X (63)
2. Land Use Regulations/Subdivision Regulations Concerning Wildlife	X (4)(5)	X (9)	X (18)(19)	X (30)		X (44)	X (48 & 48.a)		X (64)
3. Land Use Regulations/Subdivision Regulations Specific to GuSG			X (18)(19)		X (38.a)	X (43)			
4. Zoning -“Euclidean”, “Performance” or Combination – with wildlife and/or GuSG** specific conditions, Land Development Agreements	X (5)	X (10)	X (18**,19**)	X (31)	X (37)		X (48)		X (65**)
5. Policy/Mechanisms Specific to Wildlife and/or specific to GuSG***	X (3)(4)(5)	X (9)(11***)	X (18***) (19***)	X (30)	X (38.a***)(39)	X (43***-46)	X (48 & 48.a)	X (55)	X (66)
6. Has Authority and/or has Designated Road Closures Specific to GuSG		X (11)	X (20)	X (32)	X (40)	X (43)	X (49)	X (56)	X (67)
7. Animal Control (Ordinances/Regulations)			X (21)	X (33)	X (41)			X (57)	X (68)
8. GuSG Habitat Prioritization Tool	X Developing	X (12) Developing	X (19)	X Developing	X Developing				X Developing

(Number references appendix of documentation)

C. Additional Local Efforts

	Delta	Dolores	Gunnison	Mesa	Montrose	Ouray	Saguache	San Juan	San Miguel
1. County Representative on Local GUSG Work Group or Strategic Committee Supportive of Local Conservation Plan (also acts as County GuSG liaison w/agencies)	X (6)	X (13)	X (22)(23) (24)	X (34)	X (6)(67)		X (50)	X (58)	X (69)
2. Local Conservation Plan Specific to GuSG	X (6)	Developing	X (24)	X (34)	X (6)(67)		X (50)	X (59)	X (69)
3. Conservation Easements or Open Space in County Support of GuSG	X (7)	X (7&14)	X (7)	X (7)	X (7)	X (7)	X (7)	X (7)(59) (60)	X (7)(70) (71)(72)
4. Supports GuSG Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances Initiative	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
5. Supports Initiative and/or Participant in Local Candidate Conservation Agreement for the GuSG	X	X	X (25) In process	X	X	X	X (25) In process	X	X
6. Supports & Participates in GuSG Conservation Efforts w/Federal, State Agencies or Other Local Entities	X (6)	X (9)(13)(14) (15)	X (20)(24)(25) (26)(27)	X (30)(34) ()	X (6)(40)(42) () (68)	X (43)	X (24)(49)(50) (51)(52)(53)	X (58)(59) (60)(61) (62)	X (69)
7. Participant in GuSG Habitat Enhancement Projects	X (6)	X (15)	X (24)(26)	(34)	X (6)(42) (68)		X (50)(52)	X (58)(61)	X (69)
8. Involved in Research Projects Specific to the GuSG	X (6)	X (10)(16)	X (24)(27)	(34)	(6)(42) (68)		X (50)(53)	X (58)(62)	X (69)

(Number references appendix of documentation)

DOCUMENTS SUBSTANTIATING LOCAL EFFORTS

A. All Counties:

1. Memorandum of Understanding Among the Board of County Commissioners of Gunnison County, Colorado, the Board of County Commissioners of Saguache County, Colorado, the Board of County Commissioners of Dolores County, Colorado, the Board of County Commissioners of Montezuma County, Colorado, the Board of County Commissioners of Delta County, Colorado, the Board of County Commissioners of Montrose County, Colorado, the Board of County Commissioners of Mesa County, Colorado, the Board of County Commissioners of San Miguel County, Colorado and the Board of County Commissioners of San Juan County, Utah.
2. Conservation Agreement for the Gunnison Sage-grouse among the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the State of Colorado, the State of Utah, the Board of County Commissioners of Gunnison County, Colorado, the Board of County Commissioners of Saguache County, Colorado, the Board of County Commissioners of Dolores County, Colorado, the Board of County Commissioners of Montezuma County, Colorado, the Board of County Commissioners of Delta County, Colorado, the Board of County Commissioners of Montrose County, Colorado, the Board of County Commissioners of Hinsdale County, Colorado, the Board of County Commissioners of Mesa County, Colorado, the Board of County Commissioners of San Miguel County, Colorado, the Board of County Commissioners of Ouray County, Colorado, and the Board of County Commissioners of San Juan County, Utah.

B. Delta County:

3. Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Delta, State of Colorado; Resolution No. 2013-R-025, "A Resolution Confirming existing Review of Wildlife Habitat Including Gunnison Sage-Grouse in Subdivision and Specific Development Regulations and Access for Parcels Greater than 35 Acres"
4. Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Delta, State of Colorado; Resolution No. 2012-R-044,"A Resolution Adopting Procedural Revisions to the 2008 Subdivision Regulations"
5. Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Delta, State of Colorado; Resolution No. 2011-R-054,"Resolution Adopting Amended Delta County Regulation for Specific Developments"
- 6 Crawford Area Gunnison Sage-grouse Conservation Plan, March 28, 2011

7. Gunnison Sage-grouse: Permanent Conservation Easements on Private Lands, by Susan Lohr and Nomi Gray, August 28, 2013 (rev. 10-06-13)

C. Dolores County:

8. Dolores County Policy on Subdivision Exemptions
9. Dolores County Development and Land Use Regulations
10. Dolores County Land Development Agreement(s)
11. Resolution No. 95-34, "A Resolution Recognizing Planning and Regulating Means Available for Local Efforts in Preservation of Gunnison Sage Grouse"
12. Board of County Commissioners September 16, 2013 Meeting Minutes
13. Bi State/Tri County Sage Grouse Working Group Minutes
14. Conservation Easements. Maps titled "Conservation Practices and Government Owned Land" and "CP38E Western Slope Grouse Conservation SAGE Area Sage – State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement"
15. Letter to BLM Field Manager from Dolores County Board of County Commissioners, 4/2/2013
16. Lek Surveys by Ecosphere

D. Gunnison County:

17. Board of County Commissioners of Gunnison County Resolution No: 95-34, "Resolution Stating Policy Regarding Regulation of Parcels of Land"
18. Board of County Commissioners of the County of Gunnison, Colorado Resolution No: 07-17, "Section 11-106: Protection of Wildlife Habitat Areas, and Related Sections of the Gunnison County Land Use Resolution, and Replacing the Temporary Regulations for Gunnison County Land Use Change, Access, Reclamation, Individual Sewage Disposal System or Building Permits on Lands Located Wholly or Partially Within a 0.60 Mile Radius of a Gunnison Sage-Grouse Lek, or Located Wholly or Partially within Gunnison Sage-Grouse Occupied Habitat"
19. Board of County Commissioners of the County of Gunnison, Colorado Resolution 2013-23 "A Resolution Amending the *Gunnison County Land Use Resolution* Including Amendments to Section 11-106: Protection of Wildlife Habitat Areas and Adoption of the Habitat Prioritization Tool" recorded in the records of the Office of the Clerk and Recorder of Gunnison County, Colorado on November 5, 2013, bearing Reception No: 623683.

20. Board of County Commissioners of the County of Gunnison, Colorado Resolution No: 2007-09, "A Resolution Authorizing Temporary Closure of Certain Roads within the County of Gunnison, Colorado for Protection of Gunnison Sage Grouse"
21. Gunnison County, Colorado Dog Ordinances:
 - a. Ordinance No. 5, 1988, An Ordinance Concerning Vicious Dogs.
 - b. Ordinance No. 13, 2000, An Ordinance Establishing Regulations for Control of Domestic Animals within the Unincorporated Areas of Gunnison County, Colorado.
 - c. Resolution No: 92-49, A Resolution Designating the Antelope Hills Division of the Gunnison County Water and Sewer District as a Designated Dog Control Area.
 - d. Resolution No: 02-23, A Resolution Concerning Control and Licensing of Dogs.
 - e. Resolution No: 02-30, A Resolution Amending Resolution No: 02-23.
22. Gunnison Basin Sage-Grouse Strategic Committee Gunnison County, Colorado Organization and Procedural Guidelines.
23. Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Plan, adopted by the Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners, February 17, 2009
24. Gunnison County Sage-Grouse Conservation Action Plan, October 20, 2009
25. Candidate Conservation Agreement for the Gunnison sage-grouse, *Centrocercus minimus*, Gunnison Basin Population, 2013
26. Gunnison County Habitat Enhancement Projects:
 - a. Habitat Enhancement Project to create island of ideal brood rearing habitat by introducing water and a different food base. Located in T49N, R1W, Section 12- West half
 - b. Doyleville Gunnison Sage-grouse Habitat Improvement Project
 - c. Gunnison Sage-grouse Hay Meadow Interface Inter-seeding Project
 - d. Habitat Improvement Project to conserve land along Tomichi Creek

- e. Gunnison Conservation District Projects.....
27. Gunnison County Research Projects:
- a. Gunnison Sage-grouse/Grazing Research – Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee
 - b. Raven Population Study
 - c. Gunnison Sage-grouse Summer Use Study at Proposed W Mountain Trail Site
 - d. Flat Top Mountain Gunnison Sage-grouse and Big Game Habitat Monitoring Study
 - e. Gunnison Conservation District Projects...
 - f. Wildlife Conservation Society Climate Adaptation Fund – Enhancing Ecosystem Resilience of Wetland/Riparian Habitats to Increase the Adaptive Capacity of Gunnison Sage-grouse in the Gunnison Basin – Final Report by The Nature Conservancy and the Gunnison Climate Working Group (Bureau of Land Management-Gunnison Field Office, Colorado Natural Heritage Program; Colorado Parks & Wildlife, Gunnison County, Gunnison County Stockgrowers Association, Lake Fork Valley Conservancy, National Center for Atmospheric Research, National Park Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rocky Mountain Biological Lab, The Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Western State Colorado University and Western Water Assessment), September 27, 2013

E. Mesa County:

- 28. Letter to Director Ashe, U.S. FWS from Mesa County Board of County Commissioners, dated 5/10/13
- 29. Mesa County Land Use and Development Policy #31; Glade Park
- 30. Mesa County Land Development Code, Section 7.6.4
- 31. Mesa County Land Development Code, Section 5.1
- 32. Mesa County E-mail Correspondence 10/2/13
- 33. MCM 2013-023; Resolution Adopting Animal Services Resolution,
- 34. Gunnison Sage Grouse Conservation Plan, Piñon Mesa, Colorado

F. Montrose County:

35. Resolution No: 45-2012 of the Montrose County Board of County Commissioners (Adopting 2009 Building Code on all Parcels)
36. Resolution No: 02-2013 of the Montrose County Board of County Commissioners (Standards for ISDS on all Parcels)
37. Resolution No: 24-2013 of the Montrose County Board of County Commissioners, Zoning - Section IV.1.2.b (Regulation on all Parcels)
38. Resolution No: 14-2006 of the Montrose County Board of County Commissioners (Regulation of Roads on All Parcels)
- 38(a) Resolution No: 39-2013; "Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners for Montrose County, Colorado Concerning the Adoption of "1041" Regulations for the Protection of Gunnison Sage Grouse Occupied Habitat" recorded in the records of the Office of the Clerk and Recorder of Montrose County, Colorado on November 4, 2013, bearing Reception No: 851294.
39. Montrose County Planned Development District
40. Resolution No: 20-2013, "Resolution of Board of County Commissioners of Montrose County, Colorado, Concerning Seasonal Closure of C77 Road (aka Green Mountain Road) Sec 4, T1N, R7W, NMPM"
41. Ordinance No: 2004-02, "An Ordinance for the Control of Dogs in the Unincorporated Area of Montrose County, Colorado"
42. The Denham Ranch/Kinikin Area Gunnison Sage-grouse Habitat Restoration Project

G. Ouray County:

43. Resolution No: 2013-022, "A Resolution of the Ouray County Board of County Commissioners Adopting a Policy Regarding Protection of Gunnison Sage Grouse Habitat"
44. Ouray Land Use Code, Section 6
45. Ouray Land Use Code, Section 25
46. Ouray County Master Plan

H. Saguache County:

47. Board of County Commissioners of the County of Saguache, Colorado, Resolution 2013-LU-11, "Resolution Stating Policy Regarding Regulation of Parcels of Land"
48. Saguache County Land Development Code, Article XX Wildlife
- 48(a) Guidelines and Regulations for Areas and Activities of State Interest of the County of Saguache, State of Colorado, Adopted September 28, 1990 and Updated December 4, 2012.
49. Saguache County Conservation Activities, 5/27/13; Road Closures BLM Roads 980, 948, 982 for lek seasons; County Roads WW13 and others. In process of additional road closures: UU13, PP14, Nn14, 17GG, 23YY, 24UU, 24VV, KK14, 6YY, 6UU, 5YY, YY10, 1TT
50. The Poncha Pass Gunnison Sage Grouse Conservation Plan
51. The Xcel Saguache/Poncha Pass Power Line Rebuild Project; Memorandum of Understanding Between The Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, San Luis Valley Field Office and Saguache County Government as a Cooperating Agency, November 18, 2013
52. Habitat Enhancement:
 - a. NRCS Sage-grouse Initiative Project
 - b. Lone Tree Creek Riparian Evaluation Agreement
 - c. BLM Dixie Harrow Project
53. Research Projects:
 - a. Weather Station (Drought Monitoring) March, 2012 – November 2012; March, 2013 – present
 - b. Vehicle Monitoring System (Recreation Impact) April 2012-July 2013
 - c. Lek Monitoring:
 1. Acoustic Monitoring, March to May 2012, Feb 27, 2013 – May 2013
 2. Remote Camera, April through May 2012, April, 2013
 3. Visual Lek Counts, March – April 2013

4. Helicopter Flight - CPW, April 26, 2013
5. Genetic Analysis

I. San Juan County:

54. Utah Statute Summary
55. San Juan County Master Plan
56. 72-5-105, Utah Code Annotated; Highways, Streets, or Roads Once Established Continue Until Abandoned – Temporary Road Closure
57. San Juan, Utah Dog Control Ordinance No. 2008-01
58. Gunnison Sage Grouse *Centrocercus minimus* Conservation Plan, San Juan County, Utah
59. U.S.D.A. Farm Service Agency Conservation Reserve Program
60. Seep Creek Acquisition of 1,080 acres; The Nature Conservancy
61. Habitat Enhancement Projects: Seeding of 1360 acres to vegetation beneficial to GSG; Over 1000 acres of private land mechanically manipulated to improve forage and shrub growth important to GSG; Approximately 200 acres planted to sagebrush to provide food and cover for GSG; Construction of 60 micro water catchments for GSG use; Installation of a solar powered pump on a water well to provide wet meadow habitat for GSG; Implementation of GSG-friendly grazing practices on 2564 acres within GSG habitat.
 - a. Seep Creek CRP Seed Project
 - b. Seep Creek Gunnison Sage Grouse Seeding
 - c. Bare-root Sagebrush Seedlings, San Juan County, FY09
 - d. Boulder Creek Dixie Harrow
 - e. Gunnison Sage-grouse Sagebrush Treatments, Phase 1
 - f. Seep Creek Sagebrush and Wet Meadow Enhancement – San Juan County
 - g. Gunnison Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement on Private Lands

- h. Gunnison Sage Grouse Sagebrush Enhancement Project, 2004, 2005 and 2006
- 62. Research Projects; Utah State University; Completion of 3 research projects by Utah State University graduate students in the GSG habitat area to determine the effects of livestock grazing, water developments and winged predation on GSG:
 - a. Summer Ecology of Gunnison Sage-grouse (*Centrocercus minimus*) in San Juan County, Utah by Sarah Lupis, 2005
 - b. Gunnison Sage-grouse Winter and Summer Ecology in San Juan County, Utah by Sharon Ward, 2007
 - c. Factors Affecting Gunnison Sage-grouse (*Centrocercus minimus*) Conservation in San Juan County, Utah by Phoebe Prather, 2010

J. San Miguel County:

- 63. San Miguel County Land Use Code; Article 1
- 64. San Miguel County Land Use Code; Section 2-16 Wildlife Protection Policy Statement, Section 5-407, 1041 Regulations, and Section 5-26 Oil and Gas Exploration & Development.
- 65. Wright's Mesa Zone Districts, San Miguel Land Use Code.
- 66. San Miguel County Land Use Code; Section 2-16 Wildlife Protection Policy Statement
- 67. Road Closures
 - a. Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of San Miguel County, Colorado, Approving the Vacation of a Section of County Road 39N, Accepting Grants of Surface Easements for the Relocated Section of County Road 39N, and Authorizing an Amendment to the Official County Road Map and Inventory Consistent with Such Road Vacation and Relocation of a Section of County Road 39N, Resolution No: 2001-66
 - b. Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of San Miguel County, Colorado, Approving a Road Standard Exemption for County Road 39N and Internal Ranch Roads for New Beginnings Ranch (Evelyn Carlson Living Trust & ALC, Inc.), Resolution No: 2009-20
- 68. Resolution 1982-27 San Miguel County Dog Resolution – First Amended
- 69. San Miguel Basin Gunnison Sage-grouse Conservation Plan, December 10, 2009

70. San Miguel County Land Heritage Program a/k/a the Purchase of Development Rights Program:
 - a. Resolution No: 2001-55; A Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of San Miguel County, Colorado, Concerning the implementation of the Proposed Increase to the County's General Fund Ad Valorem Property Tax Revenues to be Committed to Funding of County Acquisition, Development, Maintenance and Operation of Open Space, Parks, Trails, Historic Preservation, Fairgrounds, and Other Related Purposes for the Year 2002, Should the Voters Approve County Ballot Questions 1A
 - b. Resolution No: 2008-49; Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of San Miguel County, Colorado Concerned with Creating a Dedicated Parks and Open Space Fund, Transferring into such Fund all Remaining fund Balance Revenues Currently Held in the County General Fund, as Well as All Future Revenues That May be Received For Parks and Open Space Related Purposes Pursuant to Resolution 2001-51 and Authorizing the County Treasurer to Establish Such a Fund Forthwith
71. Memorandum of Understanding - Protection of Sage Grouse Habitat and Big Dame Migration Corridor (Wheeler Springs Draw)
72. Open Space Program:
 - a. Resolution No: 1995-21; Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of San Miguel County, Colorado, Establishing an Open Space Commission, Providing for the Appointment of Members and Establishing Commission Goals, b. Certified Record of Proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners of San Miguel County, Colorado Relating to the Adoption of a Resolution Concerned with Submitting to the Voters of San Miguel County, A Proposal to Increase the County's ad Valorem Property Tax Revenues to the County General Fund for County Acquisition, Development, Maintenance and Operations of Open Space, Parks, Trails, Historic Preservation, Fairgrounds, and Other Related Purposes for the Year 2002 and Thereafter and to Increase the County's Revenue and Spending Limits to the Extent of Such Additional Property Tax Revenues and Associated Grants Received for the Year 2002 and Thereafter and Authorizing the Expenditure of Such Tax Revenues and Associated Grants for the Purposes Specified.



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF GUNNISON, COLORADO**

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-23

**A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE *GUNNISON COUNTY LAND USE RESOLUTION*
INCLUDING AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 11-106: PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE HABITAT
AREAS AND ADOPTION OF THE HABITAT PRIORITIZATION TOOL**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the *Gunnison County Land Use Resolution* ("the *Resolution*"), Section 1-113, details a process for initiation, review and Board of County Commissioner action on proposed amendments to the *Resolution*, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 1-113, the Community Development Department and Planning Commission have initiated and completed review of proposed amendments as required by the *Resolution*; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission on September 6, 2013, forwarded its written recommendations to the Board regarding the proposed amendments; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has conducted a duly noticed public hearing on these proposed amendments November 5, 2013; and pursuant to Section 1-113 of the *Resolution* evaluated the proposed amendments using the following criteria:

- Consistency of the proposed amendments with any comprehensive plan that may be adopted by Gunnison County;
- Changed conditions, including the economy of Gunnison County;
- Effect of the proposed amendments on the natural environment;
- Community needs;
- Development pattern;
- Changes in applicable law;
- Public health, safety and welfare; and
- Compliance with any applicable intergovernmental agreements adopted by Gunnison County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Gunnison County, Colorado that the Board hereby adopts the following amendments of the *Gunnison County Land Use Resolution* as included on the attached "Exhibit A."

INTRODUCED by Commissioner Chamberland seconded by Commissioner Howck and adopted on this 5th day of November, 2013.

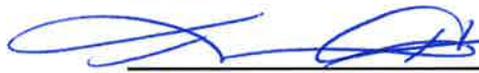
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF GUNNISON, COLORADO**

By: 
Paula Swenson, Chairperson

By: 
Phil Chamberland, Commissioner

By: 
Jonathan Howck, Commissioner

ATTEST:



Deputy County Clerk



EXHIBIT A

SECTION 1-112: USE OF MAPS

Gunnison County uses the following maps as general sources of information to provide initial guidelines for siting development, and for alerting the County, the applicant and the public about the physical characteristics of a parcel and the area in which it is located. Site-specific studies may be required of individual parcels to determine individual characteristics more definitively, and how they may affect a development proposal.

A. MAPS ADOPTED. Gunnison County hereby adopts the following maps in this *Resolution*, as if they were actually included as illustrations in the *Resolution*. These maps may be updated from time to time, pursuant to Section 1-112: B: *Adoption of New or Updated Maps*.

3. **GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE LEK AND OCCUPIED HABITAT MAPS.** Gunnison County maps that depicts private lands located within 0.6 miles of known Gunnison Sage-grouse leks; and the Gunnison County ~~Gunnison Sage-grouse Occupied Habitat Map~~ that generally depicts Gunnison Sage-grouse occupied areas defined as Gunnison Sage-grouse habitat, as currently adopted by the Board.

SECTION 2-102: DEFINITIONS

~~**GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE OCCUPIED HABITAT** means areas of suitable habitat as delineated within the *Gunnison Sage-grouse Rangewide Conservation Plan* and known to be used by Gunnison Sage-grouse within the last 10 years from the date of mapping as delineated on the Gunnison County *Gunnison Sage-grouse Occupied Habitat Map*. Areas of suitable habitat contiguous with areas of known use, which do not have effective barriers to Sage-grouse movement from known use areas, are mapped as occupied habitat unless specific information exists that documents the lack of Sage-grouse use. This category can be delineated from any combination of telemetry locations, sightings of the Gunnison Sage-grouse or sign, local biological expertise, GIS analysis, or other data sources.~~

GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE HABITAT means areas that are mapped as habitat for Sage-grouse as defined by the Gunnison Basin Gunnison Sage-grouse Habitat Prioritization Tool (Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee 2012), as may be amended by the Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee, with final approval by the Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners.

GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE RANGEWIDE CONSERVATION PLAN means the document titled the *Gunnison Sage-grouse Rangewide Conservation Plan*, *Gunnison Sage-grouse Rangewide Steering Committee*, *Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, Denver, Colorado, 2005*, as may be amended and accepted by resolution of the Board. If not listed specifically within this *Resolution*, definitions related to the Gunnison Sage-Grouse shall be as specified in the *Gunnison Sage-grouse Rangewide Conservation Plan*.

LEK means an arena where male Sage-grouse display for the purpose of gaining breeding territories and attracting females. These arenas are usually open areas with short vegetation within sagebrush habitats, usually on broad ridges, benches, or valley floors where visibility and hearing acuity are excellent. ~~Leks are delineated on the Gunnison County *Gunnison Sage-grouse Lek Map*.~~

TIER 1 HABITAT means seasonally important Sage-grouse habitat defined in the Rangewide Conservation Plan 2005, by the Gunnison Basin Gunnison Sage-grouse Habitat Prioritization Tool as having a score of +15 or higher.

TIER 2 HABITAT means Sage-grouse habitat defined by the Gunnison Basin Gunnison Sage-grouse Habitat Prioritization Tool as having a score of +14 or lower.

HABITAT PRIORITIZATION TOOL means the modeling methodology adopted by the Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee (2012) to map Gunnison Sage-grouse habitat types and provide comparative numerical scoring of those habitats. The Habitat Prioritization Tool is maintained by the Gunnison County Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Department.



SECTION 4-102: PROJECTS CLASSIFIED AS ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW PROJECTS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE LAND USE CHANGE PERMITS

The following Administrative Review Projects require a Building Permit, an Individual Sewage Disposal System Permit, an Access Permit, Reclamation Permit, or other County permit, but shall not require an additional Land Use Change Permit; such Projects shall comply with all the other requirements of this *Resolution*:

- ~~L. PARCELS WITHIN GUNNISON SAGE GROUSE OCCUPIED HABITAT. A land use change proposed on a parcel located wholly or partially within Gunnison Sage-grouse occupied habitat.~~

SECTION 5-102: PROJECTS CLASSIFIED AS ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW PROJECTS THAT REQUIRE LAND USE CHANGE PERMITS

The following types of Projects are classified as Administrative Review Projects that require Land Use Change Permits:

- ~~P. PARCELS WITHIN A 0.60 MILE RADIUS OF A GUNNISON SAGE GROUSE LEK. A land use change proposed on a parcel located wholly or partially within a 0.60-mile radius of a Gunnison Sage-grouse lek.~~

SECTION 7-201: SKETCH PLAN APPLICATION FOR MAJOR IMPACT PROJECTS

2. **NATURAL FEATURES.** A map or maps identifying the general locations of the following elements, and any other significant visual or other resource areas on the property:
- f. **WILDLIFE HABITAT MAPS.** Wildlife Habitat Maps, prepared by the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife including the Wildlife Resource Information System (WRIS) and/or the National Natural Diversity Information Source (NDIS) maps available from the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife; and the Gunnison County *Gunnison Sage-grouse Lek Map* that depicts private lands located within 0.6 miles of known Gunnison Sage-grouse leks; and the Gunnison County *Gunnison Sage-grouse Occupied Habitat Map* that generally depicts Gunnison Sage-grouse occupied habitat. Maps may also be submitted that are prepared by the applicant's wildlife consultant to provide site-specific detail using the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife and Gunnison County habitat maps as baseline data.

SECTION 11-106: PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE HABITAT AREAS

- A. **PURPOSE.** The natural and scenic resources in Gunnison County, including wildlife, are essential components of the County's economic base and help to establish the rural character of the County. Tourists



visit and recreate in Gunnison County because of the quality of these natural resources, including the abundance of wildlife species found in the area. These resources are also a basic element of the quality of life for residents of Gunnison County. The standards in this Section are intended to protect sensitive wildlife habitat areas, to protect biological field research, and to ensure that wildlife remains a part of Gunnison County's natural environment for generations to come. In addition, this Section is designed to:

1. **SUSTAIN AND ENHANCE EXISTING POPULATIONS OF GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE.** Sustain and enhance survival of the Gunnison Sage-grouse.
 2. **PRECLUDE THE NEED TO LIST, OR MINIMIZE THE IMPACT OF LISTING OF GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE AS CANDIDATE SPECIES.** Help implement an effective strategy and programs that will preclude the need to list, or minimize the impact of listing of the Gunnison Sage-grouse as a candidate for threatened or endangered status pursuant to the *Endangered Species Act of 1973*, or at a minimum, demonstrate the intent of Gunnison County to preserve and protect habitat that will lessen the impact if listing does occur.
- B. APPLICABILITY.** All applications for Land Use Change Permits, including Building Permits, Individual Sewage Disposal System Permits, Gunnison County Access Permits, Gunnison County Reclamation Permits, and Land Use Change Permits shall be processed subject to the individual requirements of this Section, and assessed to determine if the location of the proposed activity is within the sensitive wildlife habitat areas designated on the maps referenced in *Section 11-106: C.: Maps Used to Identify Sensitive Wildlife Habitats*.
1. **DEVELOPMENT ON INDIVIDUAL LOTS, WITH A BUILDING ENVELOPE, IN SUBDIVISIONS APPROVED BY GUNNISON COUNTY BEFORE APRIL 3, 2007.** ~~If a building envelope Activity on individual lots in subdivisions approved by Gunnison County before April 3, 2007, for which building envelopes were that was designated on an approved plat, recorded in the Office of the Gunnison County Clerk and Recorder, and is located in Tier 1 Sage-grouse habitat, the building envelope shall be relocated to avoid or minimize impacts to Gunnison Sage-grouse or their habitat, to the maximum extent feasible. This requirement is general in nature and applicable to property subject to land use regulation by Gunnison County. If it is determined that relocation of the building envelope is necessary to avoid or minimize impacts to Gunnison Sage-grouse or their habitat, the process to relocate the building envelope shall be handled as an administrative review by the Community Development Department. Inside a building envelope, shall be located to minimize adverse impacts to wildlife, to the maximum extent feasible, except as prohibited by a vested right pursuant to Section 1-109: Vested Property Rights.~~
 - a. ~~**ALTERATION OF BUILDING ENVELOPES TO BENEFIT GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE.** If the decision-making body, in consultation with the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, determines that relocation of a designated building envelope in a subdivision approved by the County before April 3, 2007 will benefit the Gunnison Sage-grouse, such alteration may be permitted, pursuant to the requirements of Article 5: Administrative Review Projects That Require Land Use Change Permits.~~
- C. MAPS USED TO IDENTIFY SENSITIVE AND CRITICAL WILDLIFE HABITATS.** The general reference maps used to identify locations of sensitive wildlife habitats. Because maps depicting wildlife habitat are general in nature, and because animal distribution is fluid and animal populations are dynamic, the maps shall be used as "guides" or "red-flags."
1. **COLORADO DIVISION OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE MAPS.** The Wildlife Resource Information System (WRIS) and Natural Diversity Information Source (NDIS) maps available from the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife.
 2. **GUNNISON COUNTY MAPS.** The Gunnison County ~~*Gunnison Sage-grouse Lek Map*~~ and the ~~*Gunnison County Gunnison Sage-grouse Occupied Habitat Map*~~. The purpose of ~~these~~ this maps is to place a landowner on notice that a parcel may contain ~~sensitive wildlife~~ important Sage-grouse habitat areas.
 3. ~~**SITE-SPECIFIC INFORMATION PREVAILS.** If the applicable decision-making body determines that a site-specific analysis demonstrates that a proposed activity is not located on a parcel that is wholly or~~



partially within or near sensitive wildlife habitat or critical wildlife habitat, including Gunnison Sage-grouse occupied habitat, or within 0.6 miles of a known Gunnison sage-grouse lek, or that legally-created or natural physical characteristics are consistent with sensitive wildlife habitat, are permanent and create barriers to Gunnison Sage-grouse activity within occupied habitat or within 0.6 miles of a lek, then the requirements of this Section shall not apply to the proposed activity.

- D. INITIAL SITE-SPECIFIC ANALYSIS REQUIRED FOR ACTIVITY PROPOSED ON A PARCEL THAT IS WHOLLY OR PARTIALLY WITHIN 0.60 MILES OF GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE LEK OR OCCUPIED HABITAT.** As part of the applicable required permit application review process, Gunnison County, the Gunnison County Wildlife Conservation Coordinator, in consultation with the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, shall conduct an initial site-specific analysis of development that is proposed on a parcel that is wholly or partially within 0.60 miles of a Gunnison Sage-grouse lek habitat. If the applicable decision-making body determines it necessary, the County also shall conduct a site-specific analysis of a development that is proposed on a parcel that is wholly or partially within Gunnison Sage-grouse occupied habitat.
- E. APPLICATIONS FOR BUILDING PERMITS, ACCESS PERMITS, INDIVIDUAL SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM PERMITS AND GUNNISON COUNTY RECLAMATION PERMITS ON A PARCEL THAT IS WHOLLY OR PARTIALLY WITHIN 0.60 MILES OF GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE LEK OR OCCUPIED HABITAT.** Development located on a parcel that is wholly or partially within 0.60 miles of a Gunnison Sage-grouse lek habitat that requires a Building Permit, Access Permit, an Individual Sewage Disposal System Permit, or a Gunnison County Reclamation Permit, and any development classified as an Administrative Review Project pursuant to *Article 4: Administrative Review Projects That Do Not Require Land Use Change Permits* and *Article 5: Administrative Review Projects That Require Land Use Change Permits* shall be reviewed as follows: If the Community Development Department determines during review of an application that the proposed use exceeds the classification criteria of an Administrative Review project, the criteria detailed in Section 3-111: B. 1: *Additional Criteria* shall be considered and the appropriate review process and submittals and an application for the applicable Land Use Change Permit shall be required to be submitted.
- 1. LOCATION WITHIN GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE TIER 1 HABITAT A 0.60 MILE RADIUS OF A GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE LEK.** All applications for Land Use Change Building Permits, Access Permits and Individual Sewage Disposal System Permits and Gunnison County Reclamation Permits shall be reviewed by the Gunnison County Wildlife Conservation Coordinator and shall require consultation with the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, ~~classified and initially reviewed as Administrative Review projects pursuant to *Article 5: Administrative Review Projects That Require Land Use Change Permits* when the property on which the activity or use is to occur is on a parcel that is located partially or wholly within a 0.60 mile radius of a Gunnison Sage-grouse lek.~~
 - 2. LOCATION WITHIN GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE TIER 2 OCCUPIED HABITAT.** All applications for Land Use Change Permits, Building Permits, Access Permits, Individual Sewage Disposal System Permits and Gunnison County Reclamation Permits shall be reviewed by the Gunnison County Wildlife Conservation Coordinator and may require consultation with the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife ~~classified and initially reviewed as Administrative Review projects pursuant to *Article 4: Administrative Review Projects That Do Not Require Land Use Change Permits* when the property on which the activity or use is to occur is located partially or wholly within Gunnison Sage-grouse occupied habitat.~~
 - 3. PRE-APPLICATION CONFERENCE.** Owner(s) of land may request a pre-application conference with Gunnison County staff to review Gunnison Sage-grouse issues that reasonably may arise from an application pursuant to this Section. Upon receipt of such request, Gunnison County staff, and as available a representative of the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, will meet with the owner(s) to review such issues and to identify potential solutions. The Community Development Department will coordinate the conference. Gunnison County shall consider the advice of applicant's wildlife biologist/ecologist or a similar qualified expert.
 - 4. REFERRAL TO COLORADO DIVISION OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE GUNNISON COUNTY WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COORDINATOR AND ON-SITE CONSULTATION.** The Community Development Department and the Public Works Department shall forward a copy of the application(s) to the Gunnison County Wildlife Conservation Coordinator. The Gunnison County Wildlife Conservation

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Coordinator shall determine the habitat type and whether an on-site consultation is required. If an on-site consultation is required the Gunnison County Wildlife Conservation Coordinator shall coordinate and local office of the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife and schedule an on-site consultation with the applicant and/or applicant's representative, the Community Development Department, Public Works Department and the Gunnison County Sage-grouse Conservation Coordinator and a representative from the Division of Parks and Wildlife, as available. The purpose of the on-site consultation shall include location of any lek or occupied habitat, identification of site-specific data to inform the review process, and identification of potential mitigation of Sage-grouse related issues. The on-site consultation shall be coordinated by the Community Development Department.

- a. **TIMELINE FOR REVIEW.** The County shall request that the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife submit comments about the application within 21 days after the on-site consultation; when comments are not provided within that time by the Division, the County shall proceed to complete the permit process without those comments.

F. REVIEW, REFERRAL TO COLORADO DIVISION OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE OF MINOR AND MAJOR IMPACT PROJECT APPLICATIONS. The Community Development Department shall refer Land Use Change Permit applications for Minor or Major Impact projects to the local office of the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife for that agency's review and comments to make use of the expertise and judgment of that agency in the protection of sensitive wildlife habitat, and its recommendations, if any, to reduce or eliminate adverse impacts to sensitive wildlife habitat and species that may result from proposed development. It is intended that the Division of Parks and Wildlife will review the application and participate in on-site consultations and provide timely comments to the Community Development Department that identify actions and/or recommendations to reduce or eliminate adverse impacts to wildlife.

1. **MINOR IMPACT PROJECTS.** The Department shall submit a copy of the Minor Impact project application to the Division pursuant to *Section 6-106: E: Request for Review by Other Agencies or Departments*, with a written request that the Division review the application and identify in a written response whether or not the parcel on which the land use change is proposed is located within sensitive wildlife habitat, and issues that it believes appropriate to be addressed during the permitting process. Based upon the Division's knowledge of a specific site, the Division may also recommend that a wildlife habitat analysis be conducted, pursuant to *Section 11-106: F.4.: Wildlife Habitat Analysis of Minor Impact or Major Impact Projects*, which shall be required to be submitted by the applicant before a public hearing is scheduled on the Minor Impact project application.
2. **MAJOR IMPACT PROJECTS.** The Department shall submit a copy of the Preliminary Plan for a Major Impact project application to the Division pursuant to *Section 7-302: C: Review and Comment by Review Agencies*, with a written request that the Division review the application and identify in a written response whether or not the parcel on which the land use change is proposed is located within sensitive wildlife habitat and issues that it believes appropriate to be addressed during the permitting process. If the parcel is located within sensitive wildlife habitat, a wildlife habitat analysis conducted pursuant to *Section 11-106: F.4.: Wildlife Habitat Analysis* shall be submitted by the applicant before the public hearing on the Preliminary Plan is scheduled.
3. **PRE-APPLICATION CONFERENCE FOR MINOR OR MAJOR IMPACT PROJECTS LOCATED ON A PARCEL WHOLLY OR PARTIALLY WITHIN GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE OCCUPIED HABITAT OR WITHIN 0.6 MILES OF A GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE LEK.** A Pre-Application Conference is required for any Minor or Major Impact project located wholly or partially on a parcel within Gunnison Sage-grouse occupied habitat or within 0.60 miles of a Gunnison Sage-grouse lek.
4. **WILDLIFE HABITAT ANALYSIS OF MINOR IMPACT OR MAJOR IMPACT PROJECTS.** If Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife comments indicate that the proposed land use change for a Minor Impact or Major Impact project is within sensitive wildlife habitat, the applicant shall be required to submit a site-specific wildlife habitat analysis. The analysis shall evaluate the relevant physical features of the property, shall make a site-specific determination of the locations of wildlife habitat on the property, and shall describe how the proposed development will comply with *Section 11-106: G.: General Standards for Development in Sensitive Wildlife Habitat Areas*. The analysis shall be prepared by a wildlife biologist/ecologist or similar qualified expert in consultation with the Colorado Division of Parks and

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Wildlife. It shall be submitted with the Preliminary Plan application for a Major Impact project, or before the public hearing is scheduled on a Minor Impact project, and shall contain the following:

- a. **MAP.** A map of the property shall be submitted, depicting the activity patterns of the wildlife using the sensitive wildlife habitat, identifying, where relevant, migration routes, travel corridors or patterns, nesting, feeding, watering and production areas, and any critical connections or relationships with habitat adjoining, but outside of, the project site. The map shall also identify whether the land immediately surrounding the proposed land use change is privately owned or is public land owned by the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, or other similar agency.
 - b. **REPORT.** A report shall be submitted that describes the activity patterns of the wildlife using the habitat, using a scientifically valid time period. It will also identify any species that use the property that are listed by the U.S. Department of the Interior or the State of Colorado as endangered, threatened, or are species of special concern.
 1. **EVALUATE IMPACTS.** The report shall evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed land use change on the sensitive wildlife habitat and the species using that habitat, including whether it could be a threat to the viability of the species, cause a reduction in the diversity of wildlife species in the county, or change the status of its federal or state listing. The report shall identify the types of potential impacts that are anticipated (including stress due to human presence, interference with reproduction, change of migration routes, etc.) and the time periods (spring, summer, fall, winter, year-round, etc.) during which wildlife are expected to be affected by the proposed land use change.
 2. **CUMULATIVE IMPACTS.** The report addressing any Major Impact project (and any proposed land use change classified as a Minor Impact project that the Planning Commission determines requires such evaluation) shall also evaluate the cumulative impacts on wildlife habitat beyond the project site. The report shall also address whether the cumulative impacts of the proposed land use change when added to the past and present impacts of other land use changes, will eliminate, reduce, or fragment wildlife habitat in the county to the extent that the viability of an individual species is threatened or the diversity of species found in the county is reduced, or the population of a species in the impact area will be significantly reduced.
 3. **MITIGATION PLAN.** The report shall include a wildlife habitat mitigation plan that describes how the proposed development will comply with *Section 11-106: G.: General Standards for Development in Wildlife Habitat Areas*, providing detail regarding the avoidance, mitigation, and enhancement techniques, monitoring and performance criteria that will be employed.
- G. GENERAL STANDARDS FOR DEVELOPMENT IN SENSITIVE WILDLIFE HABITAT AREAS.** All development shall comply with the following standards when it is located on lands designated as sensitive wildlife habitat, including but not limited to parcels located partially or wholly in habitat areas delineated on the Gunnison County *Gunnison Sage-grouse Habitat Lek Map*; and the ~~Gunnison County *Gunnison Sage-grouse Occupied Habitat Map*~~, and all lands determined to be sensitive wildlife habitat pursuant to Section 11-106: B: *Applicability*.
1. **MITIGATION OF ADVERSE IMPACTS TO SENSITIVE HABITAT.** A proposed land use change must mitigate adverse impacts it causes to lands determined to be sensitive wildlife habitat including but not limited to a Gunnison Sage-grouse ~~lek or occupied~~ habitat. Proposed land use changes that are found to have a significant net adverse impact that cannot be mitigated upon sensitive wildlife habitat, shall be denied.
 - a. **CONSIDERATION OF BENEFICIAL EFFORTS.** Gunnison County shall consider, and affirmatively recognize as mitigation in the permitting process, conservation easements/covenants (and similar mechanisms), and documented management agreements/programs accomplished, or to be accomplished, in coordination with the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife or other agencies (such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) that are



beneficial to the Gunnison Sage-grouse. Each case will be reviewed on an individual basis to determine if the easement, covenant or deed restriction satisfies all of these standards.

1. **TERMS OF EASEMENT ARE PERPETUAL AND SATISFACTORY TO COUNTY.** The terms of the existing easement, covenant or deed restriction are perpetual and acceptable to the County.
 2. **PRESERVED LANDS PROVIDE GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE HABITAT.** That both the preserved land provides Gunnison Sage-grouse habitat, and the restrictions imposed by the pertinent easement, covenant or deed restriction are sufficient to justify the determination that adverse impacts have been substantially or wholly mitigated by such preservation.
 3. **ADDITIONAL BENEFITS SUBSTANTIALLY OR WHOLLY MITIGATE ADVERSE IMPACTS.** Additional preservation efforts substantially or wholly mitigate adverse impacts to sensitive wildlife habitat.
2. **IRRIGATION DITCHES.** Pursuant to Colorado law, owners of irrigation ditches have the right to maintain irrigation ditches, headgates and other diversion structures. Gunnison County shall not require mitigation that will interfere with the right of ditch owners to maintain ditches, headgates or other diversion structures.
 3. **MITIGATION TECHNIQUES.** Mitigation techniques to protect wildlife species that the County determines may be impacted by a proposed land use change on lands identified in Section 11-106: B: *Applicability*, including, but not limited to:
 - a. **LIMITATIONS.** Requirements to avoid sensitive wildlife habitat during seasons the wildlife species use the habitat. When appropriate, the proposal shall include techniques to minimize human intrusion, including, but not limited to:
 1. **BUFFERS.** Visual and sound buffers to screen structures and activity areas from habitat areas through effective use of topography, vegetation, and similar measures.
 2. **LIMITATIONS OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES DURING SENSITIVE TIME PERIODS.** Seasonal avoidance limitations on, or stoppages of intrusive human activities during sensitive time periods, including limiting construction activities and recreational uses during sensitive time periods such as elk migration, elk calving or when sage grouse mating, nesting or brood rearing is occurring on parcels located partially or wholly in habitat areas delineated on the Gunnison County *Gunnison Sage-grouse Lek Habitat Map* or the ~~Gunnison County Gunnison Sage-grouse Occupied Habitat Map~~.
 3. **LOCATIONAL CONTROLS.** Controls on the location of development, so it does not force wildlife to use new migration corridors, or expose wildlife to significantly increased predation, interaction with vehicles, intense human activity, or more severe topography or climate, or encircle wildlife habitat with development.
 - b. **WATERING AREAS.** Measures to avoid disturbance of waterholes, springs, seepages, marshes, stream beds, stream banks, wetlands, streamside vegetation, ponds, and watering areas to the maximum extent feasible. Catchment basins may be required to prevent stream siltation.
 - c. **HABITAT COMPENSATION.** Requirements to develop additional habitat, or to acquire and permanently protect existing habitat to compensate for habitat that is lost to development, in the form of ongoing on-site or off-site wildlife habitat enhancement. Enhancement is the process of increasing wildlife carrying capacity on undeveloped habitat and may include prescribed burns, seeding, brush cutting, and fertilization, as determined to be appropriate by the County, based on the advice of the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife or other technical experts.
 - d. **DOMESTIC ANIMAL CONTROLS.** Controls on domestic animals within or near areas of sensitive wildlife habitat. Dogs may be prohibited within one-half mile of elk, deer, and bighorn sheep critical winter ranges and winter concentration areas. The number of cats and dogs allowed in a development may also be limited.



- 1. DOGS AND CATS PROHIBITED OR CONTROLLED NEAR GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE HABITAT.** Requirements in the form of conditions of a permit, and/or inclusion within declarations of a subdivision's protective covenants enforceable by Gunnison County, may be required prohibiting, or requiring control by kenneling or other physically-secure methods within ~~or near a 0.60 mile radius of a Gunnison Sage-grouse lek or within or near sensitive Gunnison Sage-grouse habitat.~~
- e. PROTECTION FROM ANIMAL-BORNE DISEASES.** Gunnison County may impose limitations on the introduction or possession of non-native species to lessen the possibility of the introduction of disease to native wildlife populations.
- f. CONTROL OF NUISANCES.** Controls on lighting, noise, excess use of fertilizers or pesticides, and similar nuisances that could have a significant net adverse effect on Gunnison Sage-grouse occupied habitat and the continued use of the area by other wildlife.
- g. DENSITY RELOCATION.** Residential development may be clustered to avoid sensitive wildlife habitat.
- h. ROAD CONSTRUCTION.** Requirements to avoid new road construction through sensitive wildlife habitat.
- i. STREAM ALTERATIONS OR DIVERSIONS.** Controls on alterations or diversions of streams to retain the character and productivity of the streams. Such alterations will be subject to all applicable local, state and federal codes and regulations.
- j. ALTERATIONS OF EXISTING WET MEADOW/SAGE HABITAT INTERFACE AREAS.** Controls on alterations of existing wet meadow/sage habitat interface areas.
- k. STRUCTURES TO MINIMIZE HAZARDS.** Requirements to design, locate, construct and maintain game-proof fencing, one-way gates, game underpasses, or other structures to minimize hazards to wildlife, such as requiring a minimum distance between high-power electric wires to avoid electrocution of eagles.
- l. AGENCY ACCESS.** Where applicable, the provision of access to Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife or other applicable agencies to facilitate maintenance of wildlife and wildlife habitat.
- H. STANDARDS SPECIFIC FOR DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED ON PARCELS THAT ARE WHOLLY OR PARTIALLY WITHIN 0.60 MILES OF A LEK, OR WITHIN OCCUPIED HABITAT OF GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE HABITAT.** In addition to the standards and mitigation techniques included within this Section, the following standards shall apply specifically to development proposed on a parcel that is wholly or partially within ~~a 0.60 mile radius of a lek, or within occupied habitat of the Gunnison Sage-grouse Habitat:~~
- 1. DISTURBANCE GUIDELINES.** Development activity shall comply with the GUSG *Disturbance Guidelines in the Gunnison Sage-grouse Rangewide Conservation Plan, Appendix 1*, as may be adopted and amended from time to time by the Board.
- 2. LIMITATION ON HUMAN ACTIVITIES INCLUDING RECREATIONAL USES DURING GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE SENSITIVE TIME PERIODS.** Seasonal avoidance or limitations of intrusive human behavior during sensitive time periods, including but not limited to winter and when Gunnison Sage-grouse are mating or raising chicks.
- 3. UNDERGROUND UTILITIES REQUIRED NEAR GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE LEKS.** Utility lines shall be placed underground within ~~0.60 miles of a Gunnison Sage-grouse habitat,~~ to discourage avian predators.
- I. FENCES.** Design of fences other than those associated with agricultural operations ~~to~~ shall ensure they do not adversely impact wildlife. Design standards for fences are as follows:
- 1. MAXIMUM HEIGHT.** Fences shall not be higher than 42 inches.
- 2. MATERIALS.** Fences should be limited to a maximum of three strands or rails. Rail fences should only use rounded rails. Wire fences should not be made of woven wire, unless they are used to enclose sheep



or goats. Wire and rail fences shall have a kick-space (distance between the top two wires or rails) of not less than 18 inches that uses wire or rail that has a smooth surface. The top rail should be made of a solid material in heavy use areas, to make it more visible to wildlife.

3. **REMOVABLE SECTIONS.** Fences in migration corridors should have removable sections or openings to allow for seasonal passage of wildlife. The applicant shall be responsible for removing fence sections when migration is occurring and replacing those sections when the season of migration has ceased.
4. **UPGRADING EXISTING FENCES.** As a condition of development approval, applicants proposing land use changes within sensitive wildlife habitat areas should agree to remove or to alter any existing fences on the property to comply with the above requirements.
5. **FENCES AROUND RESIDENCES EXEMPT.** Fences located in the immediate vicinity of a residence shall be exempt from these limitations.
6. **DESIGN AND LOCATION.** Fence location and design should minimize adverse impacts to sensitive wildlife habitat.

J. VEGETATION. Proposed land use changes shall be designed to comply with the recommendations of the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife regarding vegetation, and to preserve large areas of vegetation utilized by wildlife for food and cover. Roads shall be located on the edge of wildlife habitat areas, to prevent fragmentation of wildlife habitat. When native vegetation must be removed within habitat areas, it shall be replaced with native and/or desirable non-native vegetation capable of supporting post-disturbance land use. Individuals planting vegetation away from the homesite should consider using vegetation suitable for wildlife cover and food. Vegetation removed to control noxious weeds shall not be required to be replaced, unless the site requires revegetation to prevent erosion or noxious weeds from becoming established.

1. **TIME ALLOTTED FOR REVEGETATION.** Vegetation required pursuant to *Section 13-115: Reclamation and Noxious Weed Control* shall be established and growing within two growing seasons (730 days) of the issue date of the applicable Gunnison County Reclamation Permit.

K. CDOW ACCESS. Where applicable, the applicant shall continue to provide historical access or agreed-upon new access other than the historical access, for the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife to manage wildlife and to monitor wildlife activities.

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Resolution No. 39-2013

RESOLUTION
OF
THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR
MONTROSE COUNTY, COLORADO
CONCERNING
THE ADOPTION OF "1041" REGULATIONS
FOR THE PROTECTION OF GUNNISON SAGE GROUSE
OCCUPIED HABITAT

WHEREAS, the Gunnison Sage Grouse is a candidate species for listing as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act, 15 USC 1531, *et seq.* ("the ESA"), and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service ("FSW") is presently considering whether to list the Gunnison Sage Grouse as endangered or threatened under the ESA; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Parks and Wildlife of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources ("CPW") has identified areas of occupied habitat within Montrose County, Colorado that are believed to be necessary to the continued viability of the species; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners for Montrose County, Colorado ("the Board") has entered into an MOU with eleven counties in the region consisting of western Colorado and Eastern Utah, whereby the counties have agreed that:

The Parties, individually and collectively, intend to ensure that reasonable and adequate work is being conducted, and shall continue to be conducted, to reach the goal of increasing the current abundance, viability and vitality of Gunnison Sage-grouse and their habitat. The purpose of this MOU is to identify measures and strategies to achieve this goal. This will be accomplished by sharing data, strategies, plans and tools, engaging in dialogue, providing among the Parties and to others recommendations and critique and fostering a rangewide perspective on Gunnison Sage-grouse and their habitat.; and

WHEREAS, in considering whether to list a species as endangered or threatened, in accordance with section 4(a)(1) of the ESA, 15 USC 1533, FSW will consider the following: A). Present or threatened destruction of habitat, B). Over utilization for commercial, recreational or other purposes, C). Disease or predation, D). Inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms, E). Other natural or manmade factors affecting continued existence; and

WHEREAS, CPW has identified the Gunnison Sage Grouse as a species of special concern in Colorado and has designated territory within Montrose County as important to the survival and

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viability of Gunnison Sage Grouse, this habitat is shown on the "Gunnison Sage Grouse Occupied Habitat Map" contained in Attachment B to this Resolution and these 1041 Regulations and is hereby incorporated into this Resolution by this reference; and

WHEREAS, FWS has proposed to list the species as endangered or threatened under the ESA [*see*, Federal Register, Vol. 78, No. 8, at page 2486 - 2538 (January 11, 2013)]; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Local Government Land Use Control Enabling Act, CRS 29-20-101, *et seq.*, authorizes a county to, within its jurisdiction, plan for and regulate the use of land by, among other things, protecting lands from activities which would cause immediate or foreseeable danger to significant wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, CRS 24-65.1-101, *et seq.* authorizes a local county government to designate areas of state interest and to develop guidelines to regulate development within such designated areas, such regulations are commonly referred to as "1041 Regulations"; and

WHEREAS, CRS 24-65.1-201 authorizes a local government, including a county, to designate certain areas of state interest, including from among other areas of state interest, areas having a significant impact upon natural resources of statewide importance; and

WHEREAS, CRS 24-65.1-104(12) defines "natural resources of statewide importance" to include areas of significant wildlife habitats in which wildlife species, as identified by the Division of Parks and Wildlife of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, could be endangered; and

WHEREAS, the Board published notice in the Montrose Daily Press and the San Miguel Basin Forum of a public hearing to consider the adoption of 1041 regulations as set forth in this Resolution, with said notice being published for a period of at least thirty (30) days in accordance with law, and on the date of this Resolution's enactment conducted such public hearing, and in this Resolution and the associated Montrose County 1041 Regulations, the Board considered and finds:

a. that it is a matter of state interest, as well as local and federal concern, to insure the existence of areas of suitable habitat for the Gunnison Sage Grouse in order to protect the survival and vitality of the Gunnison Sage Grouse; and

b. that the listing of the Gunnison Sage Grouse as an endangered or threatened species will have negative consequences for economic development in Montrose County and for the full and beneficial use of publicly and privately owned real property within Montrose County,

c. that it is in the interest of the citizens and residents of Montrose County that the Board use best efforts to obviate any need to list the Gunnison Sage Grouse as an endangered or threatened species; and

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d. that these Montrose County 1041 Regulations are prudent because of the intensity of current and foreseeable development within the boundaries of the unincorporated territory of Montrose County, Colorado; and

e. that the adoption of local regulations designed to provide controls on development within occupied Gunnison Sage Grouse habitat is necessary to mitigate impacts on the Gunnison Sage Grouse from development wholly or partially within occupied habitat areas and will provide an adequate regulatory mechanism upon which FWS can rely in determining that an ESA listing is not warranted for the Gunnison Sage Grouse; and

f. that the areas of occupied habitat designated on the map contained in Attachment B are areas of significant wildlife habitat that are important to the continued survival and vitality of the Gunnison Sage Grouse as determined by the CPW; and

g. that reasonable development and use of these areas of occupied habitat can proceed in a manner that will allow man to function in harmony with, rather than destructive to Gunnison Sage Grouse, provided that appropriate mitigation measures are required to protect the habitat and to provide for co-existence with Gunnison Sage Grouse; and

h. that the areas identified in the map contained in Attachment B constitute a natural resource of statewide importance and are areas in which it is necessary to take measures to preserve and protect wildlife habitat for the Gunnison Sage Grouse and that adverse impacts to the continued survival and vitality of the Gunnison Sage Grouse could result from uncontrolled development in these areas; and

i. that regulations for wildlife habitat impact mitigation as provided in Attachment A for the areas identified in Attachment B are necessary for the protection of natural resources and environment of Montrose County and the State of Colorado.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners for Montrose County, Colorado hereby resolves as follows:

A. That, pursuant to the authority provided under CRS 24-65.1-101, *et seq.* and CRS 29-20-101, *et seq.*, the Board hereby adopts the Montrose County 1041 Regulations, Chapter 1 - Guidelines and Regulations for Development in Areas Containing or Having a Significant Impact on Natural Resources of Statewide Importance, Article 1-Wildlife Impact Mitigation Regulations -- Gunnison Sage Grouse, contained in the Attachment A hereto and which are incorporated herein by this reference.

B. That, pursuant to the authority provided under CRS 24-65.1-101, *et seq.*, the areas identified as occupied habitat for the Gunnison Sage Grouse on the map prepared by CPW and contained in Attachment B hereto are hereby declared to be and designated as areas of natural resources of statewide importance essential to Gunnison Sage Grouse habitat in which uncontrolled development could result in adverse impacts to habitat and could result in harm to the Gunnison Sage Grouse and contribute to a decline of the

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species. Such map contained in Attachment B is hereby incorporated into this Resolution and the Montrose County 1041 Regulations, Article 1 of Chapter 1 by this reference.

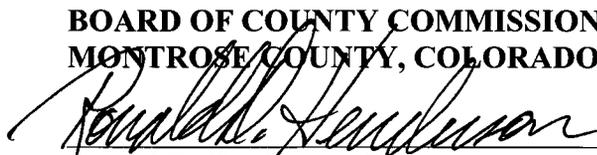
C. That such development or land uses as identified in Attachment A and that are located wholly within or partially within the areas designated on Attachment B shall not be permitted or authorized under applicable County land use code unless a Development Permit or Statement of No Significant Impact is first approved as provided in the Wildlife Impact Mitigation Regulations -- Gunnison Sage Grouse, Attachment A.

D. That the Montrose County 1041 Regulations adopted by this Resolution shall apply to any application or planned application for a development or land use activity covered under the Regulations that is submitted on or after the date of adoption of these 1041 Regulations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board hereby finds, determines, and declares that this Resolution is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Montrose County, Colorado.

Adopted this 4th day of November, 2013.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MONTROSE COUNTY, COLORADO**



Ronald D. Henderson, Chair

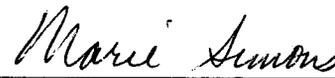
absent

David S. White



Gary Ellis, Commissioner

Attest:



Montrose County Deputy Clerk and Recorder



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ATTACHMENT A

MONTROSE COUNTY
1041 REGULATIONS

CHAPTER 1

**GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT IN AREAS CONTAINING
OR HAVING A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON NATURAL RESOURCES OF
STATEWIDE IMPORTANCE**

**ARTICLE I. WILDLIFE IMPACT MITIGATION REGULATIONS -- GUNNISON SAGE
GROUSE**

1. Purpose:

The Purpose of these Regulations is to provide local protection to Gunnison Sage Grouse and occupied Gunnison Sage Grouse habitat to sustain and enhance the survival of Gunnison Sage Grouse. It is also the intent of these Regulations to implement a locally based program that is more effective than the protections which would be provided by listing of the species as an endangered or threatened species under the Endangered Species Act ("ESA").

2. Title

These Regulations are authorized pursuant to Sections 24-65.1-101, *et seq.* of the Colorado Revised Statutes and shall be titled Article 1 - Wildlife Impact Regulations -- Gunnison Sage Grouse of Chapter 1 - Guidelines and Regulations for Development in Areas Containing or Having a Significant Impact on Natural Resources of Statewide Importance. Throughout this Article, these Montrose County Wildlife Impact Regulations -- Gunnison Sage Grouse are sometimes referred to as "these Regulations."

3. Designation of Authority

The Montrose County Board of County Commissioners is designated as the authority responsible for implementing and enforcing these Regulations and that these Regulations shall be administered by the Montrose County Planning and Development Director as specified herein.

4. Findings:

The Board of Montrose County Commissioners, in adopting these Wildlife Impact Mitigation Regulations -- Gunnison Sage Grouse, has considered and finds:

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a. that it is a matter of state interest, as well as local and federal concern, to insure the existence of areas of suitable habitat for the Gunnison Sage Grouse in order to protect the survival and vitality of the Gunnison Sage Grouse; and

b. that the listing of the Gunnison Sage Grouse as an endangered or threatened species will have negative consequences for economic development in Montrose County and for the full and beneficial use of publicly and privately owned real property within Montrose County,

c. that it is in the interest of the citizens and residents of Montrose County that the Board use best efforts to obviate any need to list the Gunnison Sage Grouse as an endangered or threatened species pursuant to the Endangered Species Act; and

d. that these Montrose County 1041 Regulations are prudent because of the intensity of current and foreseeable development within the boundaries of the unincorporated territory of Montrose County, Colorado.

e. that the adoption of local regulations designed to provide controls on development within occupied Gunnison Sage Grouse habitat is necessary to mitigate impacts on the Gunnison Sage Grouse from development wholly or partially within occupied habitat areas and will provide an adequate regulatory mechanism upon which FWS can rely in determining that an ESA listing is not warranted for the Gunnison Sage Grouse; and

f. that the areas of occupied habitat designated on the map contained in Attachment B are areas of significant wildlife habitat that are important to the continued survival and viability of the Gunnison Sage Grouse as determined by the Division of Parks and Wildlife of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources ("the CPW"); and

g. that reasonable development and use of these areas of occupied habitat can proceed in a manner that will allow man to function in harmony with, rather than destructive to, Gunnison Sage Grouse provided that mitigation measures are required to protect the habitat and to provide for co-existence with Gunnison Sage Grouse; and

h. that the areas identified in the map contained in Attachment B constitute a natural resource of statewide importance and are areas in which it is necessary to take measures to preserve wildlife habitat for the Gunnison Sage Grouse and that adverse impacts to the continued survival and vitality of the Gunnison Sage Grouse could result from uncontrolled development in these areas; and

i. that these Regulations for Wildlife Habitat Impact Mitigation -- Gunnison Sage Grouse are necessary for the protection of natural resources and environment of Montrose County and the State of Colorado.

5. Gunnison Sage Grouse Occupied Habitat Map:

a. The Board of County Commissioners for Montrose County hereby adopts the Gunnison Sage Grouse Occupied Habitat Map, which is based on geospatial data mapped

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and prepared by CPW and contained in Attachment B to these Regulations, as establishing areas of state interest in Montrose County, Colorado and containing or having a significant impact upon natural resources of statewide importance.

b. If CPW alters the range of occupied habitat for the Gunnison Sage Grouse as shown on Attachment B, the Board shall conduct a public hearing to consider whether any amendments to the Map contained in Attachment B or to these Regulations are appropriate or necessary.

6. Applicability:

- a. These Wildlife Impact Mitigation Regulations shall apply exclusively to property located wholly within or partially within the territory designated on the "Gunnison Sage Grouse Occupied Habitat Map," which map is contained in Attachment B and is incorporated herein by this reference. Copies of this map shall be kept and made available to the public at the Montrose County Planning and Development Department.
- b. Unless exempt under these Regulations, no land use action, permit, or approval, identified in this Section 6, Paragraph c, below, shall be approved or authorized for any property located within or partially within the areas identified in Attachment B, unless the person has first obtained a Development Permit or a Statement of No Significant Impact as provided in these Regulations.
- c. The requirements of these Regulations shall apply to the following actions within any properties located wholly within or partially within the territory designated on the Gunnison Sage Grouse Occupied Habitat Map, Attachment B:
 1. Special Use Permits under the Montrose County Zoning Resolution
 2. Amendments to the Montrose County Zoning Resolution.
 3. Planned Unit Developments including Final Development Plans under the Montrose County Zoning Resolution.
 4. Building Permits for any new structures issued under the Montrose County Building Code.
 5. Subdivision of property under the Montrose County Subdivision Regulations.
- e. The Planning and Development Director, or his or her designee, shall notify any applicant for any of the development or land use activity approvals designated in this Section 6, paragraph c, above, of the need to obtain a Development Permit under these Regulations if the applicant's property is located wholly within or partially within the territory designated on the Gunnison Sage Grouse Occupied habitat Map, Attachment B.

7. Exemptions

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These Regulations shall not apply to any development or land use activity wholly within or partially within the occupied territory designated on Attachment B, if:

a. The specific development or activity existed prior to the adoption of these Regulations and no new building permit, zoning, or subdivision approval is required under the Montrose County Building Code, Zoning Resolution, or Subdivision Regulations.

8. Relationship to Other County and State Requirements

a. Whenever these Regulations are found to be inconsistent with any other resolution, code, regulation, or other enactment of the County of Montrose, the enactment imposing the more restrictive standards or requirements shall control.

b. In the event that these Regulations are found to be less stringent than the statutory criteria for administration of matters of state interest set forth in Section 24-65.1-202, CRS, then the statutory criteria shall control.

c. In the event these Regulations are found to be more stringent than the statutory criteria for administration of matters of state interest set forth in Section 24-65.1-202, CRS, then these Regulations shall control pursuant to the authority of Section 24-65.1-402(3), CRS.

d. These Regulations are intended to be applied in addition to, and not in lieu of, all other regulations of the County of Montrose, including but not limited to the Montrose County Building Code, the Montrose County Zoning Resolution, and the Montrose County Subdivision Regulations.

9. Application Requirements

a. Unless exempt under these Regulations, any person seeking to obtain County permit approval for any of the development or land use activities identified in Section 6, Paragraph c, above, for any property located wholly within or partially within Occupied Gunnison Sage Grouse Habitat as identified in the map contained in Attachment B shall first submit an application for a Development Permit under these Regulations.

b. The application shall be completed on a form provided by the Montrose County Planning and Development Department and shall be submitted to the Planning and Development Department. The applicant shall submit 3 copies each of the application and application materials required to be submitted therewith.

c. Information to be included with such application shall include:

(1). The applicant's name, address and telephone number; and

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- (2). A description of the proposed development or land use activity, including, but not limited to, proposed building, improvement, and infrastructure locations; and
- (3). A complete and accurate legal description of the applicant's property; and
- (4). Sufficiently detailed maps or a scaled plat/drawing showing the location of applicant's property in relation to the Occupied Sage Grouse Habitat shown on Attachment B, the location of the proposed development or land use activity on the applicant's property, the location of surrounding topographic features such as water courses, bodies of water, significant geological features, roads, or existing structures on or near the proposed development or land use activity on the applicant's property; and
- (5). An executed permission form authorizing appropriate staff to access the applicant's property for purposes of the review required under these Regulations.
- (6) Any other information reasonably required by the Planning and Development Department, the CPW or the County's Wildlife Consultant in order to determine the nature and extent of the potential impact(s) to Gunnison Sage Grouse.

A. The Wildlife Consultant contracted by the county as stipulated by these regulations shall have training and experience in the field of wildlife biology to an extent deemed suitable by the County.

10. Procedure/Review of Application for a Development Permit:

- a. When an application is received for one of the actions listed in Section 6, Paragraph (c), above, the County shall schedule an on-site pre-referral meeting with the applicant, CPW and the Wildlife Consultant. Subsequent to this meeting, the County Planning Director shall provide written recommendations on Development Permit conditions based on the meeting. These recommendations shall be submitted to the applicant, CPW and the Wildlife Consultant for review. If the County, CPW, Wildlife Consultant and the applicant agree to the written Development Permit conditions, the Planning Director or their designee may issue the Development Permit without formal referral to CPW and the Wildlife Consultant.
- b. In the event that no agreement on Development Permit conditions is reached pursuant to section 10.a, the application shall be formally referred to CPW and the Wildlife Consultant. This referral shall request CPW to provide recommendations for site specific mitigation measures designed to protect the Gunnison Sage Grouse. It will be requested that CPW provide a response within 30 days of

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receiving the referral from the County. In the event that CPW does not provide a written recommendation or a request for extension of the time period to submit a comment within 30 days of the referral, the County is not obligated to consider any subsequent CPW response.

- c. In the event that no agreement on Development Permit conditions is reached pursuant to section 10.a, the application shall also be formally referred to the Wildlife Consultant. This referral shall request the Wildlife Consultant to provide recommendations for site specific mitigation measures designed to protect the Gunnison Sage Grouse. The Wildlife Consultant shall provide written mitigation recommendations within 30 days of receiving the referral from the County.
- d. The Planning and Development Director, or his or her designee, shall review all application materials as well as the written recommendations of CPW and the Wildlife Consultant. If the recommendations of CPW and the Wildlife Consultant are in conflict in some manner, in consultation with CPW and the County's Wildlife Consultant, the Planning and Development Department will consider how to harmonize the two differing recommendations and prepare a written statement of harmonized recommendations. The written recommendations of the County's Wildlife Consultant and the CPW, as well as any harmonized statement of recommendations, prepared by the Planning and Development Department, will be provided to the applicant when completed.
- e. Subsequent to this review and based on the recommendations of CPW and the County's Wildlife Consultant, the County Planning and Development Director, or his or her designee, shall make a final written determination and provide same to the applicant. Such final determination shall advise the applicant, as appropriate based on the recommendations of the CPW and the Wildlife Consultant: (1) that the proposed development or land use activity will have no significant impact on Gunnison Sage Grouse if such determination is appropriate as defined under these Regulations, or (2) that, if there is some potential adverse impact, a written statement of mitigation measures recommended by CPW and the County's Wildlife Consultant and determined to be necessary to mitigate such potential impacts, or (3) that, if it is the conclusion of both the CPW and the Wildlife Consultant that there is no mitigation measure that can reasonably protect the Gunnison Sage Grouse from the proposed development or land use activity, such determination may recommend final denial of a Development Permit. If necessary, such final determination shall harmonize any conflicting recommendations of CPW and the County's Wildlife Consultant as provided in this Section 10, Paragraph (d). The Planning and Development Director, or his or her designee, shall issue such final written determination within a reasonable period of time from the date of receipt of the recommendations from CPW and the Wildlife Consultant, taking into consideration any need to harmonize the recommendations from CPW and the County's Wildlife consultant.

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- f. In preparing his final written determination, the Planning and Development Director, or his or her designee, shall adhere to the recommendations of the CPW and the County's Wildlife Consultant, as harmonized as necessary under Section 10, Paragraph (d), above.
- g. If the Planning and Development Director or his or her designee, reasonably determines, based on the recommendations of the County's Wildlife Consultant and CPW, that the proposed development or land use activity will not have a significant adverse net effect on Gunnison Sage Grouse within the area of the proposed development or land use action or on Gunnison Sage Grouse located at or near the proposed development area the Planning and Development Director, or his or her designee, may issue a Development Permit for the proposed development or land use activity with a finding that the proposed development or land use activity will have no significant impact on Gunnison Sage Grouse. Assessment of the net effect on Gunnison Sage Grouse shall take into consideration:
 - (1). Whether the proposed development or land use activity will disturb or harass individual Gunnison Sage Grouse or groups of Gunnison Sage Grouse; and
 - (2). Whether the proposed development or land use activity will disrupt necessary life-cycle function resulting in stress to the extent that physiological damage is done to an individual Gunnison Sage Grouse or group of Gunnison Sage Grouse. In determining stress and physiological damage examples matters to be considered include, but are not limited to, the placement of structures in close proximity to CPW-mapped or otherwise documented lek habitat or non-lek breeding habitat and summer-fall habitat, impact of domestic animals, and excessive or intrusive exterior lighting.
- h. The applicant shall provide the Planning and Development Department with a written response to the recommended mitigation measures. This response shall include the following:
 - (1). An itemized response to each of the recommended mitigation actions which includes a statement of whether the applicant will comply with the recommendation.
 - (2). Revised application materials (site plans, drawings, forms, narratives, etc.) as necessary to show any changes made to the original application by reason of required mitigation measures.
- i. If a Development Permit with a finding of no significant impact is issued or if the applicant accepts and agrees to implement the recommendations of CPW and the Wildlife Consultant, as harmonized by the Planning and Development

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Department as necessary, the Planning and Development Director, or his or her designee, may issue a Development Permit under these Regulations for the particular requested action with any mitigation measures being incorporated as conditions of approval of such permit and the applicant may proceed with the action subject to such other permits, approvals and conditions as may be required under applicable County regulation.

- j. If the applicant objects to and desires to contest the Planning and Development Director's, or his or her designee's, final written determination referenced in this Section 10, Paragraph (e), above, including any recommended denial, finding of significant impact, or any of the mitigation measures required for the Development Permit, the applicant may request a hearing before the Montrose County Board of County Commissioners, which hearing will be conducted as a quasi-judicial proceeding, and at which the applicant may present evidence relevant to the finding of significant impact or to the need and effectiveness of the required mitigation measures or as to the effectiveness of alternative mitigation measures offered by the applicant. An applicant must make a written request for hearing within ten (10) days of the date of the Planning and Development Department's issuance of the statement of recommended mitigation measures referenced above in this Section 10, Paragraph (e). Such hearing shall be conducted within a reasonable time of applicant's request for the hearing, such time not to exceed forty-five (45) days, unless that time is extended for good cause.

- (1). It is the intent of these Regulations that only the applicant shall have standing to appeal any decision of the Planning and Development Director or the Board of County Commissioners under these Regulations.

- k. In such hearing, in order to contest that a proposed development or land use activity will have any significant impact on Gunnison Sage Grouse, the applicant shall have the burden of proving that the proposed development or land use activity will not have a significant adverse net effect on Gunnison Sage Grouse within the area of the proposed development or land use action or on Gunnison Sage Grouse located at or near the proposed development area. Assessment of the net effect on Gunnison Sage Grouse shall take into consideration:

- (1). Whether the proposed development or land use activity will disturb or harass individual Gunnison Sage Grouse or groups of Gunnison Sage Grouse; and

- (2). Whether the proposed development or land use activity will disrupt necessary life-cycle function resulting in stress to the extent that physiological damage is done to an individual Gunnison Sage Grouse or group of Gunnison Sage Grouse. In determining stress and physiological damage example matters to be considered include, but are not limited to, the placement of structures in close proximity to CPW-mapped or otherwise

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documented lek habitat or non-lek breeding habitat and summer-fall habitat, impact of domestic animals, and excessive or intrusive exterior lighting.

1. In such hearing, in order to contest any or all of the proposed mitigation measures recommended by the CPW and/or the County's Wildlife Consultant, as harmonized by the Planning and Development Department as necessary, or to contest a determination that no mitigation measure can reasonably protect the Gunnison Sage Grouse from the proposed development or land use activity, the applicant shall have the burden of proving that mitigation measures can be effectively achieved by alternate or some means without creating or increasing the risk that the development or land use activity will have a significant adverse net effect on Gunnison Sage Grouse within the area of the proposed development or land use activity or on Gunnison Sage Grouse located at or near the proposed development area. Assessment of the effectiveness of the mitigation measure(s) on mitigating the net effect on Gunnison Sage Grouse shall take into consideration:

- (1). Whether the proposed development or land use activity as mitigated by the proposed mitigation measures will disturb or harass individual Gunnison Sage Grouse or groups of Gunnison Sage Grouse; and

- (2). Whether the proposed development or land use activity as mitigated by the proposed mitigation measures will disrupt necessary life-cycle function resulting in stress to the extent that physiological damage is done to an individual Gunnison Sage Grouse or group of Gunnison Sage Grouse. In determining stress and physiological damage examples matters to be considered include, but are not limited to, the placement of structures in close proximity to CPW-mapped or otherwise documented lek habitat or non-lek breeding habitat and summer-fall habitat, impact of domestic animals, and excessive or intrusive exterior lighting.

- m. Following such hearing as authorized under this Section 10, the Board may deny applicant's request, approve applicant's request, or approve applicant's request conditionally or partially. In conditionally approving applicant's request, the Board may impose additional or different mitigation measures reasonably determined by the Board to be appropriate to protect Gunnison Sage Grouse survival or vitality.

11. Final Decision:

- a. Approvals of a Development Permit for any of the actions identified in Section 6, Paragraph (c), above, shall require a finding that impacts to the Gunnison Sage Grouse and occupied habitat will be satisfactorily mitigated by the recommended or applicant offered mitigation measures or that there are no significant adverse net effects to Gunnison Sage Grouse as defined herein by reason of the proposed development or land use activity.

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- b. Any decision issued under these Regulations on an application for a Development Permit shall be issued in writing, stating the reasons for such decision, and the findings and conclusions on such permit application. A record of such proceedings shall be kept by the County.
- c. The denial of a Development Permit may be considered as a finding of fact for denial of an application, permit, or approval for the proposed development or land use activity.
- d. Further appeal from a determination of the Board of County Commissioners under these Regulations shall only be made in accordance with Rule 106(a)(4) of the Colorado Rules of Civil Procedure.

12. Concurrent Review of Permit Applications

- a. An application for a Development Permit under these regulations may be processed prior to or concurrently with the application for the land use permit or authority otherwise required under the applicable County land use code, except that approval of the Development Permit, if required under these regulations, is a pre-requisite to final action by the approval or recommending authority under the applicable County Code. As such, an application for County approval for any proposed development or land use activity to which these Regulations apply and described in Section 6, Paragraph (c), above, may be processed prior to or concurrently with the application for a Development Permit for such proposed development or land use activity under these Regulations. Final action on such permit or approval, however, cannot occur until the Development Permit, if required under these Regulations, is approved. As used in this Paragraph, "Final action," in the case of approvals required to be taken before the Montrose County Planning Commission is intended to include final action by the said Planning Commission in making its recommendation on a proposed development or land use activity.

13. Enforcement

- a. The Board of County Commissioners for Montrose County may petition any court of appropriate jurisdiction for an injunction or other appropriate remedy to prohibit any violation of these Wildlife Habitat Impact Mitigation Regulations -- Gunnison Sage Grouse and to compel compliance therewith in any development or land use activity to which these Regulations apply.

14. Fees

- a. The Board of County Commissioners for Montrose County may set fees in an amount determined by the Board, from time to time, to be necessary to pay for the reasonable costs of administering these Regulations.

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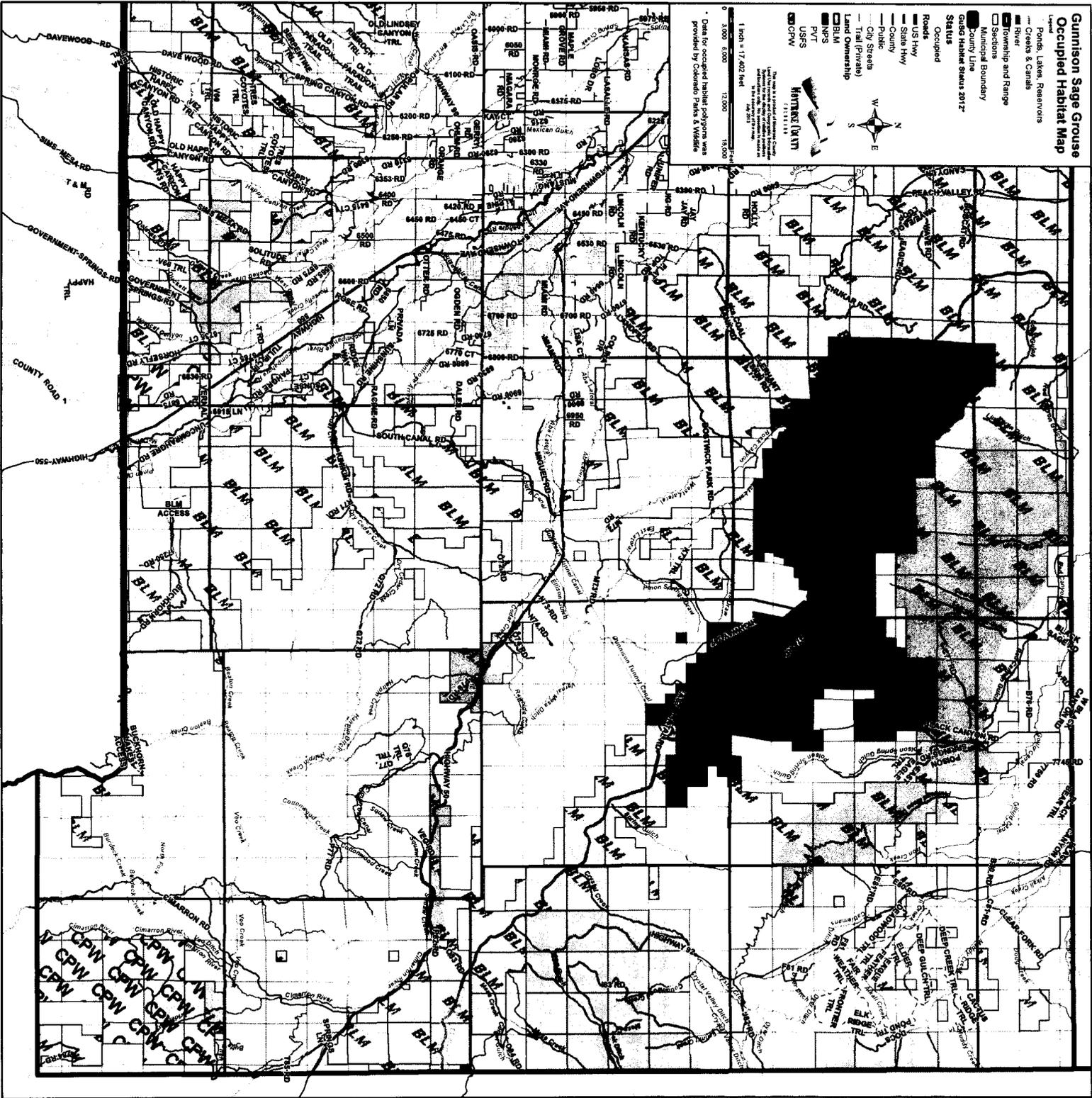
15. Interpretation

- a. The Planning and Development Director is hereby given authority to interpret these Regulations as to any procedural matter or procedural question raised in the processing of an application for a Development Permit hereunder.

16. Severability

- a. If any section, clause, provision, or portion of these Regulations should be found to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction by a final order or judgment, the remainder shall not be affected thereby and shall remain in full force and effect; the intent of these Regulations being that such unconstitutional or invalid section, clause, provision, or portion be severable from these Regulations.

ATTACHMENT B -- Gunnison Sage Grouse Occupied Habitat Map



GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS FOR AREAS
AND ACTIVITIES OF STATE INTEREST OF
THE COUNTY OF SAGUACHE, STATE OF COLORADO

Public Hearing

Original hearing date September 28, 1990

Updated

December 4, 2012

Chapter 8

Significant Wildlife Habitat Area Regulations

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Article 1 General and Introductory Provisions

8-101 Title and Citation

These various sections constituting Chapter 8 of the “Guidelines and Regulations for Areas and Activities of State Interest of Saguache County” may be cited as the “Significant Wildlife Habitat Area Regulations.”

8-102 Purpose and Intent

The purpose and intent of the regulations contained this Chapter 8 are:

- (1) To protect those areas essential for wildlife habitat.
- (2) To establish procedures and requirements for development or activity within significant wildlife habitats which will allow man to function in harmony with, rather than be destructive to, significant wildlife habitat; and
- (3) To regulate development and activities within areas of significant wildlife habitat in a manner that will minimize damage to this resource for future use.

8-103 Definitions

- (1) “Applicant” means any individual, partnership, corporation, association, company, or other public or corporate body, including the federal government or federal entity, and includes any political subdivision, agency, instrumentality, or corporation of the state.
- (2) “Development” means any construction or activity which changes the basic character or the use of land on which the construction or activity occurs.
- (3) “Nonconforming use” means a use in existence at the time of the adoption of these Regulations, which use, were it a new use, would be one for which a permit is required under these Regulations.
- (4) “Significant wildlife habitat” means those areas containing, or having significant impact upon, those wildlife habitats in which the wildlife species, as identified by the Division of Wildlife of the Department of Natural Resources, could be endangered by development, and includes those essential elements of a wildlife habitat which, if altered or eliminated, would impair or destroy the area’s capability to sustain a wildlife species.
- (5) “Wildlife” means wild vertebrates, mollusks, crustacean and fish; animals or their progeny, which were once domesticated but have escaped human control, temporarily or permanently, e.g., horses, burros, goats; dogs, and cats are not considered wildlife.
- (6) “Wildlife habitat” means a geographical area containing those elements of food, water, cover, space and general welfare in a combination and in quantities adequate to support a species for at least a portion of the year. A particular area need not be occupied by a particular wildlife species in order to be considered habitat for those species. Wildlife habitat may include those areas which were historically occupied and are still suitable for occupancy, are presently occupied, or are potentially suitable for occupancy but not historical range, i.e., mountain goat habitat in Colorado.

8-104 Authority

These Regulations are adopted pursuant to inter alia, Sections 24-65.1-101, et seq., and Sections 29-20-101, et seq., C.R.S. 1973.

8-105 Applicability

- (1) These Regulations apply to applications for permits to engage in development in all designated or regulated significant wildlife habitat areas within this County.
- (2) Any person seeking to engage in development in any designated or regulated significant wildlife habitat area in this County shall obtain a permit pursuant to these Regulations before seeking any other permit, rezoning, or other action by this County.

8-106 Nonconforming Uses

- (1) The provisions of this Chapter shall not apply to any nonconforming use existing on the date the area is designated or subjected to these Regulations, provided that, when such a nonconforming use shall be discontinued for six months or more or a nonconforming structure is damaged or destroyed to the extent of at least fifty (50) percent of the appraised value, any reuse, reconstruction, or replacement of such structure shall be deemed a new use and shall be subject to the provisions of these Regulations.

8-107 Relationship of Regulations to Other County, State and Federal Requirements

- (1) Nothing in these Regulations shall be construed as exempting an applicant for a permit from any other requirements of this County or other state or federal laws and regulations.
- (2) To the extent that the requirements of these Regulations differ from any other applicable requirements, the more restrictive requirements shall apply.

Article 2 Specific Significant Wildlife Habitats in This County Subject to Regulation

8-201 All Areas Designated or Regulated Must be Listed

All areas within this County that are subject to regulation or designation under this Chapter are listed and described in Section 8-204. Any and all property not so listed has not been designated or required under this Chapter.

8-202 Designation or Regulation of Significant Wildlife Habitats

This body having considered the intensity of current and foreseeable development pressures, applicable Guidelines for Identification and Designation adopted and issued by the Colorado Land Use Commission, and Guidelines for Identification, Designation and Administration of Significant Wildlife Habitats, published by the Colorado Division of Wildlife, it is the order of this body that the significant wildlife habitats described in Section 8-204 below are designated as areas of state interest and that the significant wildlife habitats described in Section 8-204 below are subject to these Regulations hereby adopted by this County.

8-203 Reasons for Designation

The significant wildlife habitats described in Section 8-204 are hereby designated as matters of state interest for the reasons stated in Section 8-102 of this Chapter.

8-204 Descriptions of Designated or Regulated Significant Wildlife Habitats

This County hereby declares that the following areas shall be designated as significant wildlife habitats in order to meet the purposes and intent of these Regulations.

- (1) The significant wildlife habitat(s) shown on the following described map(s) provided by the Colorado Division of Wildlife was designated or subjected to these Regulations on September 28, 1990_ Map filed in Office of Clerk and Recorder.
Book 464, Page 875.
An official copy of the map(s) shall be filled in the office of the Land Use Department and available for public inspection.
- (2) One copy of all maps of designated significant wildlife habitats in this County shall be sent to the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

Article 3 Permit Program for Significant Wildlife Habitat

8-301 Prohibition on Development in Designated Significant Wildlife Habitat Without Permit

- (1) No person may engage in development in a designated significant wildlife habitat in this County without first obtaining a permit pursuant to these Regulations.
- (2) No person shall apply for a rezoning, a building permit or any other requirement of this County for development in a designated significant wildlife habitat without first obtaining a permit pursuant to these Regulations.

8-302 Procedural Requirements

- (1) The procedures concerning permit applications, notice and conduct of permit hearings, review of Permit Authority decisions and issuance and content of permits to engage in development in any designated significant wildlife habitat shall comply with the provisions set forth in Chapter 2, the Permit Regulations adopted by this County.
- (2) Any person seeking to engage in development in any designated significant wildlife habitat shall apply for a permit from the Permit Authority on the appropriate form prescribed by these Regulations, at Exhibit B, and maintained in the office of the County Department of Community Development.

8-303 Application Fee

- (1) Not later than ten (10) days following receipt of a completed application for a permit to engage in development in any designated significant wildlife habitat, the Permit Authority shall determine and set a fee in an amount necessary to cover the costs incurred in the review and approval or disapproval of the permit application, including all hearings conducted therefore, and shall notify the applicant in writing of said fee and its amount. Not later than ten (10) days following his receipt of such notice, the applicant shall present to the Permit Authority nonrefundable certified funds in the amount set. Until the fee is paid to the Permit Authority, the application for permit shall not be further processed, and each day said fee is late will extend all other deadlines the same.

8-304 Applicant's Submission Requirements

Applicants seeking to engage in development in a designated significant wildlife habitat shall submit to the Permit Authority, as a minimum, five (5) copies of the following documents and information:

- (1) Completed application form.
- (2) Legal description of the proposed development site.

- (3) Index map showing the general location of the proposed development site and its relationship to surrounding topographic and cultural features (a standard U.S.G.S. quadrangle map would usually be adequate for an index map).
- (4) Topographic map or maps showing the location, nature and density of the proposed development or land use change.
- (5) Description of the nature, density and intensity of the proposed development, activity, or land use change in sufficient detail to allow analysis of the effects of the proposed development, activity, or land use change upon significant wildlife habitat and to evaluate the effectiveness of any proposed mitigating measures or programs.
- (6) A plan of operations, which shall contain the applicant's analysis of the effects of the proposed development, activity or land use change upon wildlife species (identified by the Division of Wildlife of the Department of Natural Resources) within the designated significant wildlife habitat. The plan shall demonstrate how the applicant will meet the applicable will avoid conflict with these needs. Where conflicts are unavoidable, the applicant shall present proposals to minimize the extent and degree of the conflict, including compensation through replacement or enhancement of habitat on an alternative site.
 - (a) Production Areas. These include areas necessary for pre-nuptial activities, breeding, young-bearing and rearing, i.e., spawning beds, nursery streams, and protected shoal areas for fish; permanent shallow water for amphibians; strutting, booming and dancing grounds and calling perches, nesting places, and protective young-rearing cover for birds; breeding grounds, calving and fawning areas, den trees, burrows, and young-rearing cover for mammals.
 - (b) Principal Feeding Areas. These include areas containing the natural foods of a wildlife species of sufficient quantity and quality and readily available to sustain a normal population.
 - (c) Summer Range. Summer ranges relatively free of human disturbance are highly important to the survival of some species, especially those requiring extended periods of time for young-rearing.
 - (d) Winter Ranges. Winter ranges of sufficient quality and quantity are critical for two reasons: (1) they are frequently so restricted in area that they limit the size of an animal population over its entire range; and (2) these ranges are often in proximity to human populations and human activities so that the species involved are adversely affected, or the species may adversely affect real and personal property.
 - (e) Concentration Areas. Areas where high density of wildlife species at certain times of the year makes them highly susceptible to development and activities of man. Examples of concentration areas include staging areas for waterfowl, sandhill cranes and deer; roosting areas for a number of birds; colonies of such colonial species as swallows, herons and beaver; and mass dens of snakes.
 - (f) Shelter Areas. Those physical or natural features in their habitats which provide escapement from their enemies and adverse weather conditions. Included here are such things as rough terrain for many species of wildlife; rocky bottoms and shorelines and aquatic vegetation in and adjacent to water for protection of fish, amphibians, and aquatic oriented species of terrestrial wildlife.
 - (g) Water and Minerals. A permanent water supply in sufficient quantity and quality is necessary to support most wildlife species. In addition, some species have special mineral needs. Continuous stream flows and conservation pools in reservoirs are essential to the survival of fish. Stable water levels in lakes and reservoirs are highly desirable for fish, amphibians and many forms of terrestrial wildlife. High quality water, free of pollutants, is essential to the survival of fish, amphibians and many birds, as well as to the food organisms upon which they depend.

- (h) Movement Corridors. Many species of wildlife have daily and seasonal movement patterns along more or less established corridors. These may be between seasonal ranges; to reach spawning areas; or between nesting, resting, roosting, feeding and watering areas. Concentrating of animals along such corridors increase the likelihood of conflict between wildlife and humans. Many of these corridors offer the only means for wildlife movements, or their uses become so traditional that disruption or interferences could be disastrous for the species involved.
- (i) Buffer Zones. Some species of wildlife are intolerant to disturbance from human activities during portions of the year. In order to protect these species, buffer zones with no, or limited, human related disturbances are necessary during those seasons when these species occupy specific areas.
- (j) Special Habitat Needs. Some wildlife species have very specific habitat needs, without which they cannot survive. Therefore, reduction of such needs beyond certain limits, or a complete destruction of these habitat features could cause a species to be reduced in number or perish. For example, sagebrush is essential to the survival of sage grouse; wild turkeys need roost trees meeting certain requirements; catfish will only spawn when water temperatures are within certain limits; and black footed ferrets are limited to ranges occupied by prairie dogs.
- (k) Shoreline Vegetation. Vegetation along stream banks and the shorelines of lakes is extremely important to aquatic wildlife and aquatic related forms of terrestrial wildlife. Such vegetation controls water temperatures, provides food and shelter and protects banks from excessive erosion which damages or destroys wildlife habitats.

8-305 Waiver of Submission Requirements

- (1) The Permit Authority may waive any part but not all of the submission requirements imposed by these Regulations upon petition of the applicant that full compliance with the submission requirements would be unreasonably burdensome for the applicant and that the proposed development will have an insubstantial impact on the surrounding area. Such a waiver may be granted, after due consideration by the Permit Authority, upon a written determination that the information to be submitted is sufficient for the Permit Authority to arrive at a permit decision in full compliance with the law and these Regulations, that the proposed development will have an insubstantial impact on the surrounding area, and upon written concurrences by the Director of the Colorado Division of Wildlife. The Division of Wildlife shall provide a written response to the Permit Authority within 30 days after receiving a copy of such petition for waiver of submission requirements from the Permit Authority.
- (2) The petition shall be considered and the decision rendered by the Permit Authority as a public hearing held in compliance with the provision of Section 2-301 of the Permit Regulations adopted by this County.
- (3) In the event the waiver request is denied, the applicant shall provide the required additional information on or before five (5) days prior to the date set for hearing of the application itself. If the applicant fails to provide such information, the Permit Authority may in its discretion vacate the public hearing on the application itself and require complete reapplication, or may continue the hearing in accordance with Section 2-303 of the Permit Regulations adopted by this County.

8-306 Approval of Permit Application

- (1) The Permit Authority shall approve an application for a permit to develop within a designated significant wildlife habitat only if the proposed development complies with these Regulations (except

to the extent waived pursuant to Section 8-305) and all other relevant guidelines and regulations and meets all of the following criteria:

- (a) The development is compatible with the significant wildlife habitat as designated;
 - (b) The development is designed and will be administered, controlled and regulated to allow man to function in harmony with, rather than be destructive to, the significant wildlife habitat as designated;
 - (c) The applicant has presented and is capable of administering a program to meet the specific habitat needs of species identified by the Division of Wildlife of the Department of Natural Resources within the significant wildlife habitat as designated.
 - (d) The development has been approved by the Division of Wildlife of the Department of Natural Resources.
- (2) The Permit Authority shall deny the permit if the proposed development does not meet all of the criteria in Section 8-306 (1).

Article 4 Administration, Enforcement, and Penalties

8-401 Administration, Enforcement, and Penalties

The provisions of these Regulations and any permit issued hereunder shall be administered and enforced according to the provisions of the Administrative and Permit Regulations adopted by this County.

8-402 Severability

If any section, clause, provision, or portion of these Regulations should be found to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of these Regulations shall not be affected thereby and is hereby declared to be necessary for the public health, safety, and welfare.

Memorandum of Understanding
Between
The Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management,
San Luis Valley Field Office and
Saguache County Government
as a Cooperating Agency



I. Introduction

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a cooperating agency relationship between the Bureau of Land Management's San Luis Valley Field Office ("BLM") and Saguache County Government ("Cooperator") for the purpose of preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Xcel Saguache/Poncha Pass Power Line Rebuild Project. The BLM is the lead federal agency for development of the Environmental Assessment for the Xcel Saguache/Poncha Pass Power Line Rebuild Project. The BLM acknowledges that the Cooperator has special expertise applicable to the project as defined at 40 CFR 1508.26. This MOU describes responsibilities and procedures agreed to by the Saguache County Government as a Cooperating Agency and the BLM ("the Parties").

The cooperating agency relationship established through this MOU shall be governed by all applicable statutes, regulations, and policies, including the Council on Environmental Quality's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations (in particular, 40 CFR 1501.6 and 1508.5), the BLM's planning regulations (in particular, 43 CFR 1601.0-5, 1610.3-1, and 1610.4), and the Department of the Interior Manual (516 DM 2.5) and Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) .

II. Purpose

The purposes of this MOU are:

- A. To designate Saguache County Government as a Cooperating Agency in the preparation of the Environmental Assessment for the Xcel Saguache/Poncha Pass Power Line Rebuild Project.
- B. To provide a framework for cooperation and coordination between the BLM and the Cooperator that will ensure successful completion of the EA in a timely, efficient, and thorough manner.
- C. To recognize that the BLM is the lead agency with responsibility for the completion of the EA.
- D. To describe the respective responsibilities, jurisdictional authority, and expertise of each of the Parties in the planning process.

III. Authorities for the MOU

- A. The authorities of the BLM to enter into and engage in the activities described within this MOU include, but are not limited to:
1. National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).
 2. Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).
- B. Regulations implementing the above authorities:
1. Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1501 et seq.)
 2. Bureau of Land Management planning regulations (43 CFR 1601 et seq.)
- C. The authorities of Saguache County Government to enter into this MOU include, but are not limited to:
1. SAGUACHE County Authority.

IV. Roles and Responsibilities

A. BLM Responsibilities:

1. As lead agency, the BLM retains final responsibility for the content of all Administrative records, and NEPA studies, which includes the Draft Environmental Assessment. The BLM's responsibilities include determining the purpose of and need for the project, selecting alternatives for analysis, identifying effects of the proposed alternatives, selecting the preferred alternative, and determining appropriate mitigation measures. In meeting these responsibilities, the BLM will follow all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.
2. To the fullest extent consistent with its responsibilities as lead agency, the BLM will consider the comments, recommendations, data, and/or analyses provided by the Cooperator in processing the EA, giving particular consideration to those topics on which the Cooperator is acknowledged to possess jurisdiction by law or special expertise.
3. To the fullest extent practicable, after consideration of the effect such releases may have on the BLM's ability to withhold this information from other parties, the BLM will provide the Cooperator with copies of documents underlying the EA relevant to the Cooperator's responsibilities, including technical reports, data, analyses, comments received, working drafts related to environmental reviews, and the draft EA.

B. Cooperating Agency Responsibilities:

1. Saguache County Government is a Cooperating Agency in this EA process and is recognized to have special expertise in the following areas:
 - a. County planning, zoning, roads & bridge, and permitting.
 - b. County interests, demographics, and historical values.
2. The Cooperator will provide information, comments, and technical expertise to the BLM regarding those elements for the EA, and the data and analyses supporting them, in which they have jurisdiction or special expertise or for which the BLM requests their assistance. In particular, the Cooperator will provide information on the following topics:
 - a. County planning, zoning, roads & bridge, and permitting
 - b. County interests, demographics, and historical values
 - c. Other such information that is relevant to the project or data needs.
3. Within the areas of the special expertise, the Cooperator may participate in any of the activities that includes, but are not limited to: providing guidance on public involvement strategies, identifying data needs, identifying effects of alternatives, suggesting mitigation measures, and providing written comments on working drafts of the EA.

C. Responsibilities of the Parties:

1. The Parties agree to participate in the NEPA process in good faith and make all reasonable efforts to resolve disagreements.
2. Each Party agrees to fund its own expenses associated with the NEPA process.
4. The Parties agree to carefully consider whether proposed meetings or other activities would waive the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act exception to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (2 U.S.C. 1534(b) and 5 U.S.C App.).

V. Other Provisions

- A. Authorities not altered. Nothing in this MOU alters, limits, or supersedes the authorities and responsibilities of any Party on any matter within their respective jurisdictions. Nothing in this MOU shall require any of the Parties to perform beyond its respective authority.
- B. Financial obligations. Nothing in this MOU shall require any of the Parties to assume any obligation or expend any sum in excess of authorization and appropriations available.
- C. Immunity and Defenses Retained. Each Party retains all immunities and defenses provided by law with respect to any action based on or occurring as a result of this MOU.

D. Conflict of interest. The Parties agree not to utilize any individual or organization for purposes of, environmental analysis, or Cooperator representation, including officials, employees, or third party contractors, having a financial interest in the outcome of the this project. Questions regarding potential conflicts of interest should be referred to BLM HQ or Field Ethics Counselors for resolution.

E. Documenting disagreement or inconsistency. Where the BLM and the cooperator disagree on substantive elements of the project (such as designation of the alternatives to be analyzed or analysis of effects), and these disagreements cannot be resolved, the BLM will include a summary of the Cooperator's views in the Draft EA and the Proposed Final EA. The BLM will also describe substantial inconsistencies between its proposed action(s) and the objectives of local government land use plans and policies.

F. Management of information. [Select version 1 or 2]

The Cooperator acknowledges that all supporting materials and draft documents may become part of the administrative record and may be subject to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and other federal statutes. The BLM acknowledges that the Cooperator's handling of these materials may be impacted by state statute or local ordinance. The Parties agree that the BLM at its discretion may withhold from the cooperator those documents that would otherwise be available for public release under state statute or local ordinance.

H: Coordination with a third party NEPA contractor, HDR Engineering, which serves as the BLM's contractor for: public involvement, data collection, environmental analysis, and EA preparation. Cooperators may communicate with the contractor only through the BLM's representative. The Cooperator acknowledges that the BLM retains the exclusive responsibility to authorize modifications to the contract with HDR Engineering and that the Cooperator is not authorized to provide technical or policy direction regarding the performance of this contract.

VI. Agency Representatives

Each Party will designate a representative to coordinate between the Cooperator and the BLM during the NEPA process. Each Party may change its representative at will by providing written notice to the other Party.

VII. Administration of the MOU

A. Approval. This MOU becomes effective upon signature by the authorized officials of the BLM and at least one Cooperator.

B. Amendment. This MOU may be amended through written agreement of all Signatories.

C. Termination. If not terminated earlier, this MOU will end when the Decision Record for the Xcel Poncha Pass Power Line Rebuild Project is approved by the BLM. Any party may end its participation in this MOU by providing written notice to the other Party.

VIII. Signatures

The Parties hereto have executed this MOU on the dates shown below.

Saguache County Government
501 Fourth Street
PO Box 655
Saguache, CO 81149

Date: 11/18/2013

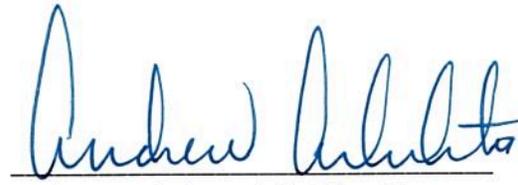


<Insert Name> <Insert Title>

LINDA JOSEPH, Commissioner, CHAIR

Bureau of Land Management
San Luis Valley Field Office
46525 Hwy 114
Saguache, CO 81149

Date: 11/18/2013



Andrew Archuleta, Field Office Manager

Andrew Archuleta, Field Office Manager

Agency Representatives

Bureau of Land Management

Primary Representative: Leon Montoya, Project Manager

Backup Representative: Paul Tigan, Assistant Field Office Manager

Cooperator

Primary Representative: Linda Joseph

Backup Representative: Weardi Maez



Wildlife Conservation Society Climate Adaptation Fund

Enhancing Ecosystem Resilience of Wetland/Riparian Habitats to Increase the Adaptive Capacity of Gunnison Sage-grouse in the Gunnison Basin

Final Report

By

The Nature Conservancy and the Gunnison Climate Working Group

September 27, 2013

Section I – Outcomes

1. Brief Description of Project:

The climate of the Southwestern United States is warming and is projected to get warmer in the coming decades. Colorado is experiencing larger and more severe wildfires, prolonged drought, earlier snowmelt, high tree mortality, increases in dust events, and changes in phenology (timing of plant and animal life cycle events, e.g., flowering). Climate scientists predict more summer heat waves, decreasing late-season snowpack, declines in river flow and soil moisture, and longer and more frequent droughts (Rangwala, personal communication; Overpeck et al. 2013). These changes put people, plants, animals and their habitats at risk.

The Gunnison Sage-grouse, one of the rarest bird species in North America and proposed for Federal listing as endangered, is losing important wet meadow and streamside habitat necessary for brood rearing. These same habitats are also important for other wildlife species such as neo-tropical migratory birds, elk, deer, and domestic livestock. Already compromised by erosion and low water tables, these areas will likely be further altered due to drought, erosion from rainstorms, and/or shifting of habitat to higher elevations associated with a changing climate, resulting in the decrease of food production and chick survival. Through strategic restoration, we can reduce adverse effects of climate change on the grouse, other wildlife species, and ranchers' livelihoods.

This report summarizes the results of a two-year climate adaptation project of the Gunnison Climate Working Group (GCWG)¹, a public-private partnership working to reduce the impacts of climate change on nature and people in the Upper Gunnison Basin. The group's goals are to: 1) increase understanding and awareness of threats posed by climate change to species, ecosystems and the benefits that nature provides to the people of Gunnison Basin; 2) identify and prioritize strategies and techniques for helping people and nature cope with climate change; and 3) promote coordination, collaboration and effective implementation of climate change adaptation strategies.

The overall objectives of this collaborative project were to: 1) restore and enhance the resilience of at least 500-800 acres of priority Gunnison Sage-grouse brood-rearing habitat (wet meadow and riparian habitats) to enhance the adaptive capacity of the Gunnison Sage-grouse and other wildlife species; 2) establish a repeatable project that can be exported throughout the basin; 3) establish a cost-effective monitoring program to measure vegetation and species and/or water table response; and 4) share tools and methods with others working to restore impaired watersheds and/or conserve vulnerable riparian areas within sagebrush shrublands to help bolster climate adaptation efforts.

Over the course of this project, the Project Team², a subset of the Working Group, prioritized sites for treatment, and designed and constructed 240 restoration structures to increase stream functionality and therefore enhance resilience on three private ranches and two public lands sites: Bureau of Land

¹ Gunnison Climate Working Group Members: Bureau of Land Management-Gunnison Field Office, Colorado Natural Heritage Program; Colorado Parks & Wildlife, Gunnison County, Gunnison County Stockgrowers Association, Lake Fork Valley Conservancy, National Center for Atmospheric Research, National Park Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rocky Mountain Biological Lab, The Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District, US Fish & Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, Western State Colorado University, and Western Water Assessment.

² The Project Team members include: Gay Austin and Andrew Breitbart-Bureau of Land Management-Gunnison Field Office, Renee Rondeau-Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Nathan Seward-Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Jim Cochran-Gunnison County, Ken Stahlnecker- National Park Service, Liz With and Christina Santana-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Betsy Neely-The Nature Conservancy, Matt Vasquez-US Forest Service, Jonathan Coop and Pat Magee-Western State Colorado University, and Bill Zeedyk-Zeedyk Ecological Consulting.

Management (BLM) and US Forest Service (USFS) in the Upper Gunnison Basin. Restoration methods primarily included rock structures, but also included several other types for demonstration purposes, e.g., log and fabric structures and livestock drift fences. The team established 67 transects and 80 permanent photo-points to track vegetation response, established baseline geomorphological monitoring to track changes in sediment deposition, and shared methods and results with others working to conserve the Gunnison Sage-grouse, other wildlife species, and similar ecosystems range-wide.

By definition, resilience is the capacity of a system to absorb impacts without changing states or the ability of the system to recover from primary stresses or disturbances (Glick et al. 2011; Zavaleta and Chapin 2010; Seavy et al 2009). For the purposes of this project, we focused on increasing resilience of wet meadow/riparian systems to help them cope with projected impacts of increased intensity and frequency of droughts and flooding associated with climate change. Key attributes of resilient wet meadow/riparian systems are: 1) a properly functioning hydrology; 2) a stream channel that is connected to its floodplain; 3) stream banks that retain moisture and reduce erosion during flood events; and 4) a native and diverse wetland species composition. By reducing existing stressors to the areas such as channel incision (process of down-cutting in a stream channel leading to a decrease in channel bed elevation and can lead to further head-cutting that migrates upstream), accelerated erosion and livestock trailing, we aimed to increase the water storage from surface water flows and raise water tables. Improving the overall function of the system and health of the riparian vegetation will help the system adapt to projected impacts of climate change.

To enhance ecosystem resilience of wet meadow/riparian systems in the Upper Gunnison Basin, our specific objectives were to: 1) increase stream bank water storage; 2) reduce head-cutting and erosion; 3) raise and maintain water tables; 4) improve base flows; 5) increase health, vigor, and cover of wetland/riparian vegetation (e.g., sedges, rushes, forbs); and 6) expand extent of riparian and wetland vegetation to help increase resilience during periods of drought.

2. What is the overall status of your project? Please list the goals and outcomes that were outlined in your proposal and briefly describe your progress on each.

Over the past two years, the Project Team selected and field-evaluated priority restoration sites, designed restoration treatments, established vegetation monitoring transects and permanent photo-points, conducted baseline geomorphological monitoring, and completed construction of a total of 240 restoration structures at three private and two public land sites³ in the Upper Gunnison Basin. Sites and number of installed structures are listed below (See Maps in Attachment A):

1. Redden Ranch (55 rock structures)
2. West Flat Top at Henkel Road USFS (85 rock structures, including 2 livestock drift fences and 2 log and fabric structure in Section 36 and a fenced enclosure)
3. Wolf Creek Ranch/Kaichen State Habitat Area (54 rock structures along Middle Fork and East Fork of Wolf Creek)
4. Wolf Creek BLM (43 rock structures along the West Fork, Upper Fork and Lower Fork of Wolf Creek)
5. Kezar Basin: Moncrief Ranch (3 livestock drift fences)

³ Note: The Wolf Creek restoration site consists of both private (Wolf Creek Ranch) and BLM lands. Although adjacent and within the same restoration site, they were treated separately due the differences in landownership.

Goals and Outcomes

- 1. Complete design of an on-the-ground climate adaptation project including finalizing a basin-wide vulnerability assessment, developing a conceptual model, and mapping and prioritizing areas for habitat restoration and reconnection.**

Site Selection and Prioritization: The Gunnison Basin Climate Vulnerability Assessment (Neely et al. 2011) identified the Gunnison Sage-grouse and its brood rearing habitat as highly vulnerable to climate change. The GCWG determined the need to focus on enhancing the resilience of brood-rearing habitat as a key climate adaptation strategy. The Project Team conducted a site selection analysis to identify priority sites for treatment by: 1) developing spatial units of priority brood-rearing habitat sites based on the Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee's Prioritization Tool (2012); 2) filtering sites by climate-related and habitat factors including elevation above 8,000 ft., baseline sagebrush ecosystem performance, predicted high sagebrush productivity by 2050 (Wylie and Rigge 2012; Rigge et al. 2012), proximity to Gunnison Sage-grouse lek, and habitat size; 3) filtering sites by feasibility factors, e.g., NEPA status, landownership, willing landowner, accessibility, and restoration need; 4) reviewing local knowledge; 5) conducting field evaluation; and 6) selecting final sites for treatment (Robertson et al. 2012). After narrowing the list of 30 potential sites to 13 priority sites, the team conducted site evaluations and focused on two private lands during the first year and two public lands and one private ranch during the second year.

Conceptual Ecological Model: Renée Rondeau, Colorado Natural Heritage Program, incorporated projected climate change drivers, such as increased intensity and frequency of drought and reduced snowpack, into the existing conceptual ecological model for Gunnison Sage-grouse developed at the Gunnison Basin Climate Adaptation Workshop for Natural Resource Managers in 2009 (Neely et al. 2010) and the Gunnison Sage-grouse Range-wide Conservation Plan (Gunnison Sage-grouse Steering Committee 2005). This model provides context for how projected climate change will likely impact Gunnison Sage-grouse populations and their brood-rearing habitat.

Site Design: Bill Zeedyk, Zeedyk Ecological Consulting LLC, and co-author of *Let the Water do the Work: Induced Meandering, an Evolving Method for Restoring Incised Channels* (2012) designed restoration treatments for the priority restoration sites, including mapping and staking locations for rock structures, setting stream reach objectives, and estimating rock supplies needed. Structures included one rock dams, Zuni bowls, rock rundowns, media lunas, lay-backs and low-water crossings. Other structures included log and fabric structures and livestock drift fences. See Attachment B for figures of restoration structures used in this project.

Private Landowner Agreements: Team members met with ranchers, landowners and ranch managers of the three private ranches to explore opportunities to work together, obtain permission to construct restoration treatments, and develop landowner agreements. Where land was under conservation easement, landowners contacted conservation easement holders and cooperators to ensure their permission to implement the project.

Wetlands Delineation and Permits: Bio-Environs LLC, an ecological consulting firm, completed the wetland delineations and permit applications to the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) for two private ranch sites. The Redden Ranch activities qualified for a Nationwide General Permit #18 because wetlands were not identified in the project area. The Wolf Creek activities required an application for a Nationwide General Permit #27 which was authorized and required post-construction documentation in 2013. The drift fences at Moncrief Ranch did not require permit applications. BLM completed the wetland delineation and permit application for the BLM lands at Wolf Creek; BLM activities qualified for

a Nationwide General Permit #27. The USFS determined that a 404 permit was not needed for the West Flat Top activities since the proposed restoration sites are not perennial waters of the United States or wetlands. All treatment areas are currently intermittent and ephemeral drainages and their impaired, eroded, and dewatered riparian zones are not applicable under 404 permitting provisions of the Clean Water Act.

Materials and Supplies: Gunnison Gravel and Earthmoving, LLC, provided and transported local rock materials for most of the restoration structures, created two low-water crossings, and completed minor road repair. Field crews assisted in staging rock near rock structure locations. Where local collection of rock was needed due to difficult access, the team developed best practices to ensure minimal impact on the landscape and the Sage-grouse, e.g., collect only 10% of local rock in any one area, collect rock along existing roadsides, and no collection in areas with existing signs of grouse use. The USFS cut and hauled local aspen logs for the log and fabric structures at the West Flat Top enclosure. Grizzly Fence and Stone Inc. provided all fencing materials for the demonstration drift fences.

NEPA: Both BLM and USFS completed necessary NEPA requirements during the design and planning phase for this project. This work involved archaeological and wildlife clearances, documentation of proposed work, and public scoping.

2. Restore and enhance resilience of at least 500-800 acres of priority brood-rearing habitat – wetland and riparian areas within sagebrush shrublands -- in at least three locations to enhance the adaptive capacity of the imperiled Gunnison Sage-grouse and other wildlife species.

2012: The Project Team constructed 101 rock structures over 4.2 stream miles at two private ranches: Redden Ranch and Wolf Creek Ranch over nine days from September to November. One-hundred forty people, including representatives from Bureau of Land Management-Gunnison Field Office (BLM), Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), Project Team partners, landowners, local volunteers, and students and staff from Western State Colorado University (WSCU) and Gunnison High School, participated in the work days with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Southern Rockies Wildland Fire Use Module (TNC field crew). The team identified Moncrief Ranch, a third ranch for potential treatment, and began planning demonstration drift fences, a tool to reduce livestock and wildlife trailing to help build resilience of degraded wet meadows. See Attachment C for Project Photographs.

2013: The Project Team completed 116 structures over 6 stream miles at Wolf Creek, West Flat Top at Henkel Road, and Moncrief Ranch over 22 days from July to September, with three field crews: Western Colorado Conservation Corps (WCCC-4 weeks), TNC's field crew (one week), and the USFS Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) to stage rock and build rock structures. Volunteers participating in work days included representatives from Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, BLM, CPW, Colorado State University, University of Colorado, Crested Butte Land Trust, Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee, High Country Citizen's Alliance, National Park Service (NPS), TNC, WSCU professors and students, and the local community. A total of 328 people participated in work days during the 2013 field season. Grizzly Fence and Stone completed the demonstration livestock drift fences at West Flat Top and Moncrief Ranch. See Attachment C for Project Photographs.

Technical Oversight: Bill Zeedyk provided technical oversight during the work days, with assistance by Nate Seward of CPW on private lands, Andrew Breibart on BLM lands, and Matt Vasquez on USFS lands. Breibart and Vasquez supervised Western Colorado Conservation Corps (WCCC) and USFS Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) in staging rock and building rock structures.

Acres Benefited: Accurately measuring restored acres from this project was challenging. Our preliminary estimate of restored habitat included wet meadows, riparian areas, and surrounding sagebrush shrubland on side slopes, critical for Sage-grouse conservation success and likely to benefit from the restored wet meadows. Wet meadows vary in topography and size, and the area restored is likely to increase as the structures store more water over time. To address these complexities, the team developed a simple model of buffering streams to varying distances to estimate the restored/enhanced acres based on guidelines in the Gunnison Sage-grouse Conservation Plan (1997), Connelly et al. (2000), Gunnison Sage-grouse Range-wide Conservation Plan (2005), and Gunnison Sage-grouse Habitat Prioritization Tool (2012). See Table 1. The wet meadow/riparian habitat approximated by a 75 ft. stream buffer, provided a lower estimate of wetland area restored, and a 150 ft. stream buffer provided an upper estimate of wetland area restored (consistent with outer boundary of the Sage-grouse brood-rearing habitat defined in the above articles). The summer/fall habitat of Sage-grouse, defined as a buffered distance surrounding brood-rearing wet meadows habitat, and is approximated by the area between 150 ft. and 810 ft. from streams.

The team estimates that the treatments enhanced a total of 56 wetland acres using the lower estimate and 115 wetland acres using the higher estimate. The team estimates that the project also enhanced approximately 788 acres of upland Gunnison sage-grouse habitat, resulting in a total of 900 acres of both wetland and nearby sagebrush habitat. Originally, the team set out to restore over 500 wetland acres within this two-year project. We elected to treat higher elevation sites with smaller streams and narrower floodplains based on the premise that the Sage-grouse is expected to shift to higher elevations in response to climate change. Additionally, the team focused on the demonstration aspect of this project, resulting in lower wetland acreage restored than initially planned.

Table 1. Summary of restored stream length, lower and upper estimates of restored/enhanced wetland area, estimates of surrounding Gunnison Sage-grouse habitat restored, and estimates of total restored area over this two-year project at five restoration sites in the Upper Gunnison Basin.

Site	Restored Stream Length Miles (kms)	Wetland Habitat Lower Estimate (75ft) Acres (ha)	Wetland Habitat Upper Estimate (150ft) Acres (ha)	Gunnison Sage-grouse Habitat Acres (150-810ft) Acres (ha)	Total Restored Estimate (810ft) Acres (ha)
Redden Ranch	1.2 (2.0)	5.9 (2.4)	12 (4.9)	87.7 (35.4)	99.7 (40.3)
Wolf Creek Ranch	3.0 (4.9)	16.7 (6.7)	34 (13.8)	182 (73.6)	216.0 (87.4)
Wolf Creek BLM	3.1 (5.0)	17.4 (7.0)	36.8 (14.9)	269.5 (109.1)	306.3 (124.0)
West Flat Top at Henkel Rd	2.6 (4.1)	13.62 (5.5)	27.6 (11.2)	188.8 (76.4)	216.4 (87.6)
Moncrief Ranch at Kezar Basin	0.3 (0.5)	2.1 (0.8)	5 (2.0)	57.5 (24.4)	62.5 (26.4)
Total	10.2 (16.5)	56 (22.4)	115 (46.5)	788.6 (319.2)	903.6 (365.7)

3. Establish a repeatable and economical monitoring program to measure vegetation/species response.

Vegetation Monitoring: Renée Rondeau, CNHP, in collaboration with BLM, TNC, USFS and WSCU, designed the vegetation monitoring program to evaluate progress towards objectives. The management

objectives were to: 1) increase the average cover and density of native sedges, rushes, willows and wetland forbs in the restored portion of the sites between 2012 and 2014; and 2) decrease the average cover of rabbitbrush, sagebrush and other upland species in the restored portion of the sites between 2012 and 2014. Rondeau's team established a total of 67 transects and 80 photo-points using a stratified random sample design to measure cover, density and height of wetland plant species at four of the five restoration sites. In 2012, the team established transects and photo-points at Redden Ranch and Wolf Creek Ranch. In 2013, the team reread the 2012 transects and photo-points, and established new monitoring transects and photo-points on Wolf Creek BLM lands and West Flat Top USFS lands.

Geomorphological Monitoring: Bill Zeedyk (with BLM, USFS and TNC) and Steve Vrooman, Keystone Restoration Ecology, conducted baseline geomorphological monitoring (i.e., longitudinal profiles and cross-sections) of stream channels to track sediment deposition in response to the structures over time at Wolf Creek Ranch, Wolf Creek BLM, Redden Ranch and West Flat Top on USFS lands.

Groundwater Monitoring: Andrew Breibart, BLM, plans to install groundwater wells to monitor changes in water table over time on BLM lands and Wolf Creek Ranch at Wolf Creek. Groundwater monitoring will be conducted across a horizontal transect within meadows away from the stream channel to determine the extent of change in water tables within the re-watered riparian/wetland ecosystems.

Time-lapse Photography Monitoring: Jonathan Coop, WSCU Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies and Biology, installed two time-lapse cameras in September 2013 to capture the long-term ecological changes from the rock structures at the Lower Wolf Creek site on BLM lands.

4. Share tools, methods and findings with other groups working to conserve vulnerable wetlands/sagebrush and populations of the Gunnison Sage-grouse they support, in similar ecosystems across the West to help bolster their climate adaptation efforts.

Trainings: In September 2012, Bill Zeedyk led a half-day hands-on training on building rock structures to kick off the first field season at Redden Ranch for 22 participants, including ranchers and representatives from ten organizations, agencies and colleges.

In July 2013, Bill Zeedyk, with help from team members, led a one-day training, consisting of one-half day lecture and half-day hands-on training at Wolf Creek, to kick-off the second field season for 40 participants, including representatives from 18 different local, regional and federal agencies, organizations, and colleges.

Field Trips: The Project Team led a field trip for the Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee to Wolf Creek Ranch and Redden Ranch in September 2012. Representatives participated from the CPW, Gunnison County, Poncha Pass Gunnison Sage-grouse Working Group, US Fish and Wildlife Service, NPS, WSCU and the local community.

The Project Team, in collaboration with rancher Brett Redden, presented the project and led a field trip to the Redden Ranch at the Colorado Headwaters Conference at WSCU in September 2012.

The Project Team led a field tour to Wolf Creek Ranch for the Gunnison Dolores Rivers Annual Watershed Meeting in August 2013 organized by NRCS with the Gunnison Conservation District, for private landowners, ranchers and other representatives from Delta, Gunnison, San Miguel and Shavano Districts.

Video: Claudia Strijek, WSCU student, produced a short video about the project for TNC and the GCWG (December 2012).

Presentations: CPW organized a panel with TNC, BLM, landowner Brett Redden, USFS and WSCU, at the Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society annual meeting in February 2013.

Project Team members Nathan Seward, CPW, and Andrew Breibart, BLM, presented the project at WSCU in April 2013.

TNC presented the project to the USFS Mountain Climate Meeting (October 2012), Southern Rockies LCC Steering Committee (November 2012), GCWG (December 2012), Gunnison Sage-grouse Festival (April 2013), National Adaptation Forum (April 2013), and the Southern Rockies LCC (Webinar-August 2013).

3. We understand that variance from original plans often occurs. Has your project varied from the initial goals and objectives that were outlined in your proposal? If so, please briefly describe any changes in your plans.

The project goals and objectives did not change significantly from the original proposal. A few exceptions are noted below.

In the original proposal, we discussed using various restoration treatments including willow and other wetland/riparian species plantings, native plant seeding, and/or solar wells. We did not need to plant or seed with native plant species, as there was ample native vegetation on-site that would colonize the rock structures and/or nearby stream banks.

A few key staff from TNC and partner agencies were originally listed in the proposal and heavily engaged in the early planning of this project but have since taken other jobs or retired so were not engaged in project implementation. Patrick McCarthy, TNC-New Mexico, took another job with the Colorado River Program, and John Scott retired from the NRCS.

As detailed above, the total acres restored or enhanced by this project—estimated at approximately 900 acres—represent both wetland and surrounding Gunnison Sage-grouse habitat acres rather than wetland acres alone.

Finally, the original proposal states that we would use Marxan, a spatial analysis tool, to prioritize locations needing treatment. Once the team learned about the Gunnison Sage-grouse habitat prioritization tool developed by the Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee, we decided to build on this tool rather than switch to Marxan for site selection.

4. What have been the key factors to your success thus far?

The most important factor contributing to the success of the project has been the active support and participation of the Project Team, which included key stakeholders and partners from the Gunnison community, as well as contractors. The team members provided a number of in-kind services and contributed long hours in project planning, providing local knowledge and expertise, completing NEPA requirements, working with landowners/ranchers, delineating wetlands and writing permit applications to the US Army Corps of Engineers, sourcing and staging rock, overseeing field crews, building rock structures, cutting and hauling aspen logs, monitoring vegetation, recruiting volunteers for work days, organizing/leading field trips, providing housing for field crews, presenting the project at meetings, and sponsoring grant proposals. The high level of collective commitment made this project a success.

The partners have exceeded all expectations by collaborating across agency and property lines, e.g., BLM staff have worked on nearby private lands, donated their time by working with volunteers on weekends, and helped with monitoring efforts on USFS lands. This is the type of collaboration needed in order to effectively address climate change that has potential to impact ecosystems, species and people across all political boundaries.

Working with willing landowners and ranchers has been essential to the success of this project. We particularly thank Brett Redden, Rufus Wilderson, and Ted Harter (Moncrief Ranch Manager) for their collaboration on this project; they have been very patient, supportive and cooperative with planning, permitting, staging materials, building rock structures with crews and volunteers, monitoring visits, as well as assisting with field trips. They have also played an active and important role in outreach and communication related to the project.

Utilizing field crews such as the Western Colorado Conservation Corps (WCCC), TNC's Fire Use Module, USFS Youth Conservation Corps, and students from Western State Colorado University (WSCU), has been key to staging rock and building the large number of structures over the two-year period. WSCU professors also actively engaged their students in work days, monitoring, and installing time lapse cameras.

Regular communication and meetings with the team, ranchers and landowners has been essential for moving the project forward. The team identified many lessons learned in 2012 which increased project efficiency and effectiveness in 2013.

This project could not have been completed without the assistance and expertise of the contractors: 1) Renée Rondeau, CNHP, provided ecological expertise throughout the project, field evaluations of the sites, conceptual ecological model, GPS mapping of structures, and vegetation monitoring; 2) Bill Zeedyk, Zeedyk Ecological Consulting, provided the restoration expertise, treatment design and technical oversight of field crews, and initial geomorphological monitoring; 3) Tim Lapello and Lynn Cudlip, BioEnvirons, conducted the wetland delineations and permit applications to the US Army Corps of Engineers; 4) Warren Wilcox, Gunnison Gravel and Earthmoving, provided rock supplies, hauling, road repair and construction of low-water crossings; 5) Spencer Gordon, Grizzly Fence and Stone, constructed the demonstration drift fences; and 6) Steve Vrooman, Keystone Restoration Ecology, completed the geomorphological monitoring.

5. Please describe any unanticipated benefits you have encountered during your work on this project.

While we knew the Project Team was committed to the project, we did not anticipate that this commitment would translate into significant additional funding from CPW (Wetlands for Wildlife Program), Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (UGRWCD), US Fish and Wildlife Service (Southern Rockies LCC), and Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory.

Also, other partners, ranchers, landowners and managers have expressed interest in applying the restoration and ecosystem resilience techniques from this project to other drainages across the Basin to raise the water table and enhance wet meadows and riparian areas. In response to this interest, the Conservancy submitted a proposal (approved for funding) to the USGS North Central Climate Science Center that includes an analysis of how many and what type of drainages are needed to scale up the project across the basin. In addition, the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District board recently approved adding a new goal to their mission: *To become an active and collaborative leader in developing local efforts to address current and future impacts of climate change.* While we can't claim

that this goal is a direct result from this project, the District has been quite supportive and is currently interested in building capacity to lead public outreach and organization to help build resilience of watersheds in the Upper Gunnison Basin.

6. What conservation impacts do you believe that the project has achieved? What good climate adaptation and conservation stories does your project have to tell?

The GCWG developed this demonstration project to help the imperiled Gunnison Sage-grouse and other wildlife species adapt to a changing climate by restoring and increasing resilience of wet meadow habitats within sagebrush shrublands. Many of these wet meadows, important brood-rearing habitat for the Sage-grouse, are already degraded, and thus considered to be an annual cycle bottleneck for the grouse. These wet meadows also provide important habitat for a number of other species, e.g., ungulates such as deer and elk, neo-tropical migratory birds, and domestic livestock. The team chose to monitor native plant growth as a measure of conservation impacts to the treatments, as monitoring grouse and other wildlife species is labor intensive and time-consuming.

While it will take a number of years to fully understand the conservation impacts of this two-year project, preliminary conservation impacts based on the vegetation transects and repeat photography are encouraging. At Redden Ranch, the rock structures built in the fall of 2012 are already capturing sediments allowing plants to colonize. At Wolf Creek Ranch, the rock structures built in the fall of 2012 have already spread water across the wet meadow. Wetland plant species composition significantly increased between 2012 and 2013 at two of the three stream reaches treated in 2012; there is a high probability that this is a largely a result of the structures rather than the precipitation. The Wolf Creek Ranch (East Fork), where there are two active springs, demonstrated the largest changes of any of the sites. There were no significant differences between the treated and control areas when we analyzed the height and density plant data except for the forbs at East Fork of Wolf Creek. We expect this is due to the spring-fed nature of the creek and that given enough time, we may see the same response at the other sites. Given that the structures have been in place just under one year, we find the preliminary positive conservation impacts promising and we expect this trend to continue and the changes to become more distinct over the next few years (Rondeau 2013).

2012 had less monthly and annual precipitation than 2013. The higher rainfall in 2013 undoubtedly assisted with the rate of restoration observed at many of the structures. At the same time, there has been ample evidence that the structures aided the restoration process more than the additional precipitation. This evidence is seen by comparing the control sites to the treated areas as well as reviewing the repeat photographs; the repeat photography backs up the data analysis. For example, many of the repeat photographs of the treated sites displayed increases in sediments behind the structures, especially at Redden Ranch and on the East Fork of Wolf Creek; whereas the control photo-points did not detect any additional sediment loading or significant changes in the vegetation cover (Rondeau 2013).

While this project has been relatively small in scope, it has served as an important demonstration of simple and effective tools for restoring and increasing resilience of wet meadow/riparian systems. Local partners are already discussing the possibility of expanding the project to an ecologically relevant scale across landownerships at the whole watershed scale. This whole watershed approach will likely have greater habitat benefits at a larger landscape scale. In summary, this demonstration project is simple in concept and small in scale, but delivers potentially significant results that improve habitat quality and functionality.

7. What methods (e.g. speaking at conferences, community events, and direct communication to individuals, local media, etc.) are you using to communicate about this project and who are your most important audiences?

We have used several communication methods, including video, fact sheets, website, presentations at conferences and meetings, field trips, media and press releases, trainings and reports. Our most important audiences include land and water management agencies (BLM, UGRWCD, USFS, and NRCS), county governments, and ranchers and landowners. Interestingly, while we have done a large amount of outreach and communication about this project, the cost of these activities has been minimal due to in-kind donations and the electronic nature (vs. printed) of our presentations and reports.

a. Video:

Claudia Strijek. 2012. Sticks and Stones. Produced for TNC and the GCWG. WSCU. It is available for viewing at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-EJBMlKfV8&feature=youtu.be>.

b. Fact Sheets:

Gunnison Basin Climate Adaptation Project fact sheet is available on the Conservation Registry website at:

[http://www.conservationregistry.org/assets/0000/8607/Gunnison Basin Climate Adapation Factsheet 07.12.pdf](http://www.conservationregistry.org/assets/0000/8607/Gunnison_Basin_Climate_Adapation_Factsheet_07.12.pdf)

Gunnison Climate Working Group Fact Sheet: Managing for Change in the Gunnison Basin: Building Resilience. <http://www.conservationgateway.org/ExternalLinks/Pages/managing-change-gunnison-.aspx>

c. Website:

The Nature Conservancy's Colorado Center for Conservation Science and Strategy website has a brief overview of the project at:

<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/colorado/scienceandstrategy/index.htm>.

The Nature Conservancy's Nature.org/Colorado website: Simple Structures Help Wildlife:

<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/colorado/colorado-simple-structures-help-wildlife.xml>

d. Presentations:

National Adaptation Forum meeting, Symposium entitled *On-the-Ground Action for Wildlife Adaptation: Funding Opportunities and Examples from the Field*, in Denver, Colorado: Betsy Neely, TNC: "Implementing Adaptation Strategies in the Gunnison Basin, Colorado"

Southern Rockies LCC in August 2013: see Gunnison Climate Webinar or Recorded Webinar at: Climate Change Resilience in Gunnison Basin Climate Webinar (WMV 16.3 MB)

Other presentations: The Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society, WSCU, Gunnison Sage-grouse Festival (on file, available upon request).

e. Field Trips:

TNC, WSCU, and CPW led a field trip for the Headwaters Conference to the Redden Ranch in September 2012 following a panel discussion at the University. CPW, Gunnison County, and Bill Zeedyk led a field trip for the Gunnison-Sage-grouse Strategic Committee members in September 2012. The Project Team led a field trip for the Gunnison Conservation District board members in August 2013.

f. Media:

High Country News: Keller, S. August 2013. Colorado Agencies Move Water to Help a Rare Bird Adapt to Climate Change <http://www.hcn.org/blogs/goat/agencies-move-water-to-help-a-rare-bird-adapt-to-climate-change>

Colorado Central Magazine: Parenti, M. June 2013. Quenching the Parched West: <http://cozine.com/2013-june/quenching-the-parched-west/>

g. Reports:

Gunnison Basin Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Executive Summary: <http://www.conservationgateway.org/ExternalLinks/Pages/gunnison-basin-climate-ch.aspx>

Gunnison Basin: Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment for the Gunnison Climate Working Group by TNC, CNHP, Western Water Assessment, University of Colorado, Boulder, and University of Alaska, Fairbanks. <http://www.conservationgateway.org/ExternalLinks/Pages/gunnison-basin-climate-ch.aspx>

8. What have you learned about implementing a climate adaptation project that other conservation organizations might benefit from?

We have learned that building strong relationships and engaging landowners, ranchers, partners, stakeholders, researchers and experts from the local community and the region are critical to implementing a climate adaptation project. It is also important to recruit strong expertise, develop a solid work plan and team charter with established clear roles and responsibilities, so that all team members understand the big picture and their contribution to the goals and outcomes. It is critical to have open and frequent communication among all team members, and to build trust with landowners and ranchers. Additionally, it is through the active participation in on-the-ground projects like this that conservation practitioners and community members truly begin to understand what it means to address the impacts of climate change.

We have also learned that simple restoration techniques can help to build ecosystem resilience to climate change. At the same time, in order to effectively build resilience over the long-term, it is important to create a long-term plan and build capacity in order to maintain and repair restoration structures over time.

Related specifically to the type of climate adaptation project that we did, it is critical to conduct long-term monitoring to determine if the restoration structures are working and to adapt techniques over time. Monitoring will help determine whether the projects are cost effective and producing desired outcomes; the heart of adaptive management. Taking time upfront to develop repeatable methods and data sets is critical to tracking the response of the ecosystem and species to the restoration structures.

It is also important to install permanent markers using rebar (and GPS specific locations) to ensure accurate and successful monitoring over time.

Rather than using a model to estimate acres impacted by the treatments, it may be easier to use GPS in the field to walk the perimeter of the area affected by the treatments. Further work is needed to determine the best methods for tracking restored/enhanced acreage.

Finally, to ensure effective and efficient resilience building projects in the basin, it is critical to train local field crew leaders who can supervise field crews and volunteers on work days.

Section II – Funding & Budget Report

9. How is fundraising for your project progressing and how have existing funds been used?

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) funds have primarily been used to support key Nature Conservancy staff to manage the project, to hire qualified consultants essential to moving the project forward and to a lesser extent, to purchase restoration supplies and cover travel expenses related to the project. The Nature Conservancy Project Manager initiated and managed contracts with consultants: 1) Zeedyk Ecological Consulting to design and oversee technical restoration work, monitor vegetation response; 2) CNHP, to provide ecological expertise and lead the vegetation monitoring program; 3) Keystone Restoration Ecology to establish baseline geomorphological monitoring; 4) BioEnvirons to complete wetland delineations and permit applications; 5) Gunnison Gravel and Earthmoving to purchase/transport rock supplies; and 6) Grizzly Fence and Stone to build demonstration drift fences. The Core Team summarized and implemented methods for selecting sites and estimated acres benefited from the treatments. The GIS Manager completed maps of the sites and specific locations of proposed and completed structures for all sites based on GPS coordinates, and mapped the photographs of the structures for compliance requirements for US Army Corps of Engineers. Finally, WCS funds also covered costs associated with hiring the TNC Fire Use Module field crew to install restoration structures.

Fundraising for the project has been a success. In fact, we raised approximately \$50,000 more than we originally anticipated via in-kind and direct contributions toward the project. These funds are being used to off-set some additional expenses that were not originally accounted for in the project budget.

a. Provide a list of additional funding sources for the project. Indicate the status of these sources – received, committed or pending.

Cash Contributions

Fundraising for this project has been quite successful. We obtained additional funding for this project from the following sources:

1. US Fish and Wildlife Service (Southern Rockies Landscape Conservation Cooperative), \$50,000 – received.
2. Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, \$20,000 – received.
3. Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District, \$64,600- received.
4. Colorado Parks and Wildlife (Wetlands for Wildlife Program), \$53,500 – received.
5. The Nature Conservancy, Colorado (private donations), \$78,869 – committed.

NOTE: The list above includes some funds that were raised for the project but have yet to be spent due to heavy rains in the project area during August, 2013. The Nature Conservancy will expend these funds

during the remainder of 2013 to complete work that is above and beyond what was committed to WCS but is still integral to the success of the overall project. The list above also includes some funds designated to indirect costs, but please note that these funds are not included as match to this project in the Project Budget Table that follows. Therefore, the total amounts listed above will not always match the total amounts listed in the Project Budget Table.

Indirect Contributions from Project Team

The following partners made significant contributions to the project. Highlights include the following:

1. Colorado Parks and Wildlife provided \$12,000 to cover costs of two weeks of the Western Colorado Conservation Corps to build rock structures. The Wildlife Conservation Biologist contributed staff time to project planning, staging rock, providing technical expertise, developing specifications for drift fences, supervising volunteers, serving as a liaison with local ranchers and landowners, leading field trips, and conducting outreach activities.
2. The Bureau of Land Management contributed \$12,941 for supplies and staff time. This includes \$1,677 for groundwater monitoring supplies, \$11,264 in staff time (281 work hours of hydrologist, biologist, natural resource specialist and seasonal technicians) for project planning, completing NEPA requirements, wetland delineation and US Army Corps of Engineers permit application, supervision of field crews, leading field trips, monitoring, and 44 hours of UTV for staging rock.
3. The National Park Service contributed dorm room housing for two weeks for TNC Fire Use Module (approximately \$300.00 value).
4. The US Forest Service contributed in-kind services (approximately \$19,000 value) of staff time for project planning, completing NEPA requirements, obtaining rock and log materials for restoration structures, supervision of field crews including a USFS Youth Conservation Corp, leading field trips, monitoring; and at least one week's time of a UTV for staging rock.
5. Grizzly Fence and Stone contributed \$646.00 in fencing supplies.
6. The Gunnison County Wildlife Conservation Coordinator contributed staff time towards working with landowners and ranchers, providing local knowledge, leading field trips and work days with the Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee.
7. Zeedyk Ecological Consulting, LLC, provided consulting services at a discounted fee totaling \$10,750 (\$250/day x 43 days of contracted services).

b. Has this grant assisted your organization in obtaining funds from other sources? If so, how?

This WCS grant enabled us to launch this project and bring together a diverse group of project team members who have since become inspired to actively help fundraise for the project. One Project Team member from Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Nathan Seward, served as the sponsor of the Wetlands for Wildlife Program proposal we were awarded during the summer of 2012. He also contributed \$12,000 of CPW funds to cover the costs of the WCCC to build rock structures for two weeks. Christina Santana, NRCS, helped to secure \$20,000 in funding from the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory for rock supplies. The WCS grant has also been integral to generating interest in this project by other partners and funders, such as the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District, an active leader in water resource management in the Upper Gunnison River Basin and an important partner on this project.

c. Provide a list of project expenditures to date on this grant. Please match line items to the budget in your grant agreement (i.e. budgeted to actual expenditures).

Budget Item	WCS Funds		Matching Funds		Project Total	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Personnel	\$58,806.34	\$59,036.79	\$58,982.00	\$68,648.53	\$117,788.34	\$127,685.32
Fringe	\$24,698.66	\$24,468.21	\$25,201.48	\$28,715.14	\$49,900.14	\$53,183.35
Contractual	\$62,833.00	\$62,833.00	\$30,375.00	\$44,580.81	\$93,208.00	\$107,413.81
Travel	\$6,950.00	\$6,950.00	\$700.00	\$717.20	\$7,650.00	\$7,667.20
Communications	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$551.19	\$2,000.00	\$551.19
Meetings and other expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,900.00	\$4,536.55	\$4,900.00	\$4,536.55
Supplies	\$6,195.00	\$6,195.00	\$86,241.00	\$62,334.90	\$92,436.00	\$68,529.90
In-kind contributions			\$4,000.00	\$55,637.00	\$4,000.00	\$55,637.00
Indirect expenses	\$5,417.00	\$5,417.00			\$5,417.00	\$5,417.00
Total	\$164,900.00	\$164,900.00	\$212,399.48	\$265,721.31	\$377,299.48	\$430,621.31

The Nature Conservancy originally anticipated providing \$212,399.48 in matching contributions to this project. However, due to some slight changes in project funding needs that are being supported by the generous contributions of partners, The Nature Conservancy actually committed \$265,721.31 in matching contributions; an increase of **\$53,321.83**. As a result the total project budget increased from the anticipated amount of \$377,299.48 to \$430,621.31.

The line by line detail within the total project budget varied slightly from our original proposed project budget. Staff contributions to the project were greater than originally anticipated. We underestimated the amount of funding needed for contractual services to assist with federal permitting; construct drift fences; and to fund field crew services via the Western Colorado Conservation Corps. Conversely we overestimated the funding needed for communications, meetings, and supplies.

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- Seavy, N., T. Gardali, G. Golet, F. Griggs, C. Howell, R. Kelsey, S. Small, J. Viers and J. Weigand. 2009. *Why Climate Change Makes Riparian Restoration More Important than Ever: Recommendations for Practice and Research*. *Ecological Restoration* Vol. 27 (3) 330-338.
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Zeedyk, W. and V. Clothier. 2013 (second edition). *Let The Water Do The Work: Induced Meandering, an Evolving Method for Restoring Incised Channels*. Illustrations and design by Tamara Gadzia. The Quivira Coalition, Santa Fe, NM, USA.

Please include any attachments: We appreciate having photos, maps, publications, and media pieces applicable to your project. Thank you!

Attachments include the following:

A. Project Maps

1. Priority Restoration Sites, Upper Gunnison Basin
2. Wolf Creek Ranch Restoration Structures (East and Middle Forks)
3. Wolf Creek BLM Restoration Structures (West Fork)
4. Wolf Creek BLM Restoration Structures (Lower and Upper Wolf Creek)
5. Redden Ranch Restoration Structures
6. West Flat Top at Henkel Road USFS Restoration Structures (Section 36)
7. West Flat Top at Henkel Road USFS Restoration Structures (Exclosure)
8. Moncrief Ranch in Kezar Basin Livestock Drift Fences

B. Restoration Structures (Materials developed by Bill Zeedyk, Tamara Gadzia, Quivira Coalition, and Craig Sponholtz, Dryland Solutions)

1. One Rock Dam
2. Filter Weir
3. Media Luna
4. Zuni Bowl
5. Plug and Pond
6. Rock Rundown
7. Log and Fabric Step Falls

C. Project Photographs

D. Media Piece: Keller, S. August 2013. Colorado Agencies Move Water to Help a Rare Bird Adapt to Climate Change. High Country News.

Other Materials (to be available in October 2013) at www.Conservationgateway.org:

1. Site Selection Methods (Jamie Robertson, TNC)
2. Conceptual Ecological Model (Renée Rondeau, CNHP)
3. Restoration Design and Objectives for Priority Restoration Sites (Bill Zeedyk, Zeedyk Ecological Consulting)
4. Vegetation Monitoring Methods and Results (Renée Rondeau, CNHP)
5. Geomorphological Monitoring Methods and Results (Steve Vrooman, Keystone Restoration Ecology)
6. Acres Benefited Methods and Results (Jamie Robertson and Chris Pague, TNC, and Nathan Seward, CPW)
7. Demonstration Drift Fence Specifications (Jim Cochran, Gunnison County, Nathan Seward, CPW, and Matt Vasquez, USFS)

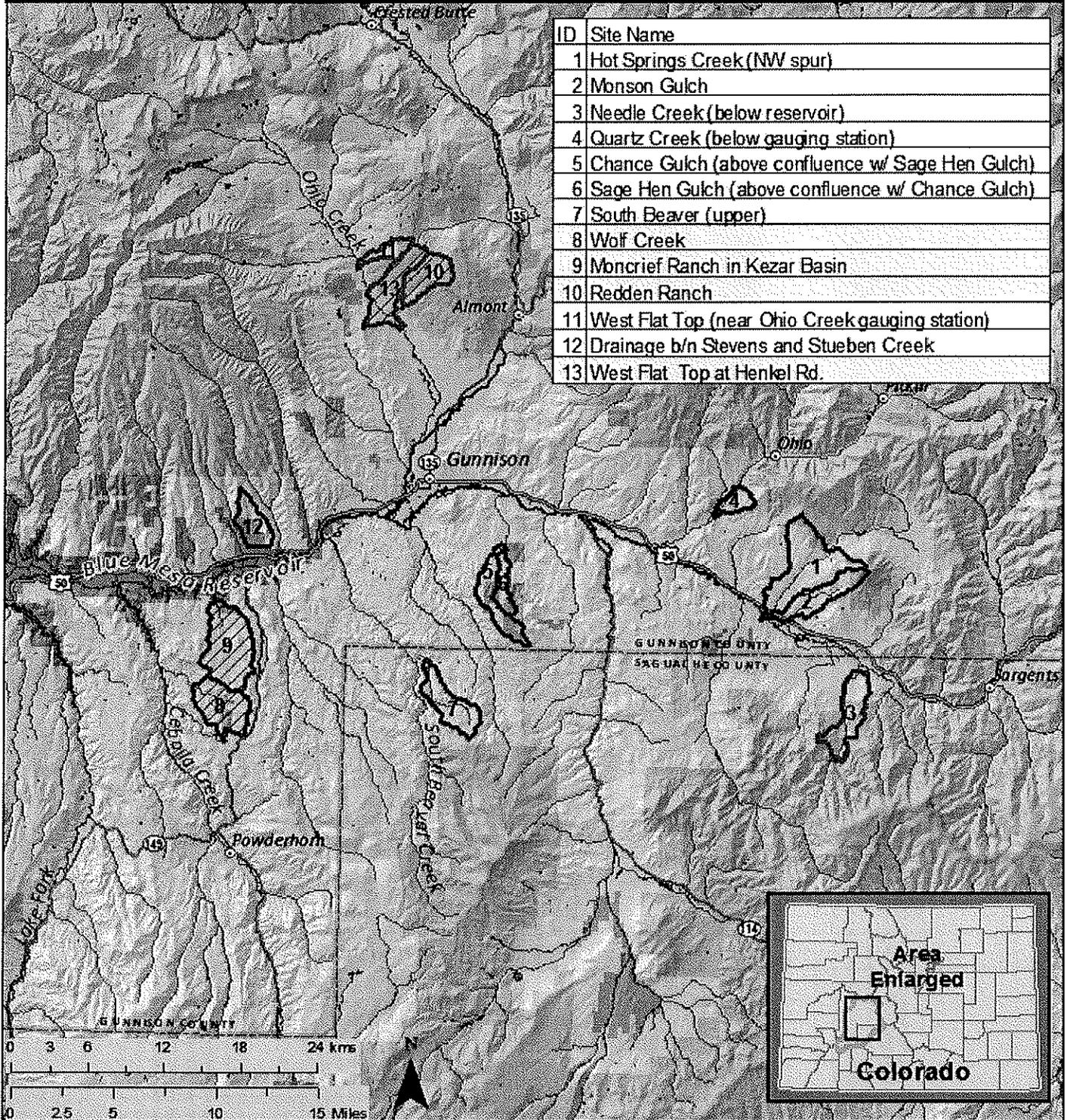
ATTACHMENT A:

PROJECT MAPS



Priority Restoration Sites Upper Gunnison Basin

Gunnison Climate Working Group



ID	Site Name
1	Hot Springs Creek (NW spur)
2	Monson Gulch
3	Needle Creek (below reservoir)
4	Quartz Creek (below gauging station)
5	Chance Gulch (above confluence w/ Sage Hen Gulch)
6	Sage Hen Gulch (above confluence w/ Chance Gulch)
7	South Beaver (upper)
8	Wolf Creek
9	Moncrief Ranch in Kezar Basin
10	Redden Ranch
11	West Flat Top (near Ohio Creek gauging station)
12	Drainage b/n Stevens and Stueben Creek
13	West Flat Top at Henkel Rd.

Date: September 24, 2013
 Map by J. Robertson & T. Chapman.
 The Nature Conservancy.
 Scale: 1:450,000
 Sources: Land Ownership: COMaP v6 (CNHP 2010);
 Transportation and Counties (ESRI 2010);
 Rivers and Streams (NHD 2009).
 Map document:
 F_CO_Gunnison:CC_PriorityCatchmentsMap8x11_20130910.mxd

- 2012-2013 Priority Restoration Sites
- Priority Restoration Sites
- Upper Gunnison Basin

- Land Ownership**
- USFS
 - BLM
 - NPS
 - CPW
 - State
 - Private



Wolf Creek Ranch (Private) - East Fork and Middle Fork Upper Gunnison Basin Restoration Structures and Monitoring

Gunnison Climate Working Group



ID	Type	ID	Type
1	ORD	27	ORD
2	ORD	28	SD
3	ORD	29	ORD
4	SD	30	ORD
5	SD	31	ORD
5A	ORD	32	RR
6	ORD	33	ORD
7	ORD	34	ML
8	RR	35	ML
9	RR	36	ORD
10	RR	37	ORD
11	ORD	38	RR
12	ORD	38A	ORD
13	RR	39	ORD
14	ORD	40	ORD
15	ORD	41	RR
16	ZB	42	ORD
17	ORD	42A	ORD
18	RR	43	ML
19	ORD	44	FS
20	ORD	44A	ORD
21	ORD	44B	ORD
22	ORD	45	ML
23	ORD	45A	ORD
24	ORD	46	Sod
25	ORD	47	ORD
26	ORD	48	LWC

Priority Restoration Sites	Monitoring	Structures	Land Management
Gunnison Sage-Grouse Brood Rearing Habitat	Photo Point	One Rock Dam (ORD)	USFS
Streams	Vegetation Transect	Rock Rundown (RR)	BLM
		Media Luna (ML)	NPS
		Zuni Bowl (ZB)	CPW
		Flow Splitter (FS)	State
		Low Water Crossing (LWC)	Private
		Sod Dams (Sod)	
		Steel Dam (SD)	

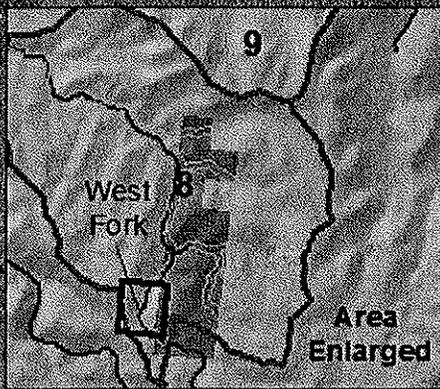
Date: 9/24/2013. Map by T. Chapman, The Nature Conservancy.
 Scale: 1:5,000
 Sources: Bing Maps Aerial Imagery (ESRI online);
 Gunnison Basin Gunnison Sage-grouse Habitat Prioritization Tool (2012).
 Map document
 F_Gunnison_PrioritySites8_Wolf_Creek_Ranch_Structures_2013_8x11_201309.mxd

Image courtesy of USGS State of Michigan



Wolf Creek (BLM) West Fork Upper Gunnison Basin Restoration Structures and Monitoring

Gunnison Climate Working Group



ID	Type
1	ORD
2	ORD
3	ORD
4	ORD
5	ORD
6	ORD
7	ORD
8	ORD
9	LWC
10	ORD
11	ORD
12	ORD
13	RR
14	ORD
15	ORD
16	ORD
17	ORD



Priority Restoration Sites



Gunnison Sage-Grouse
Brood Rearing Habitat



Streams

Monitoring

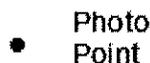


Photo
Point



Vegetation
Transect

Structures



One Rock Dam (ORD)



Rock Rundown (RR)



Low Water Crossing (LWC)

Land Management



USFS



BLM



NPS



CPW



State



Private

Date: 9/24/2013. Map by T. Chapman, The Nature Conservancy.
 Scale: 1:3,300
 Sources: Bing Maps Aerial Imagery (ESRI online);
 Gunnison Basin Gunnison Sage-grouse Habitat Prioritization Tool (2012).
 Map document:
 F_Gunnison_PrioritySites8_Wolf_Creek_Ranch_WestFork_Structures_2013_8x11_201309.mxd



Wolf Creek (BLM) - Lower and Upper Wolf Creek Upper Gunnison Basin Restoration Structures and Monitoring Gunnison Climate Working Group



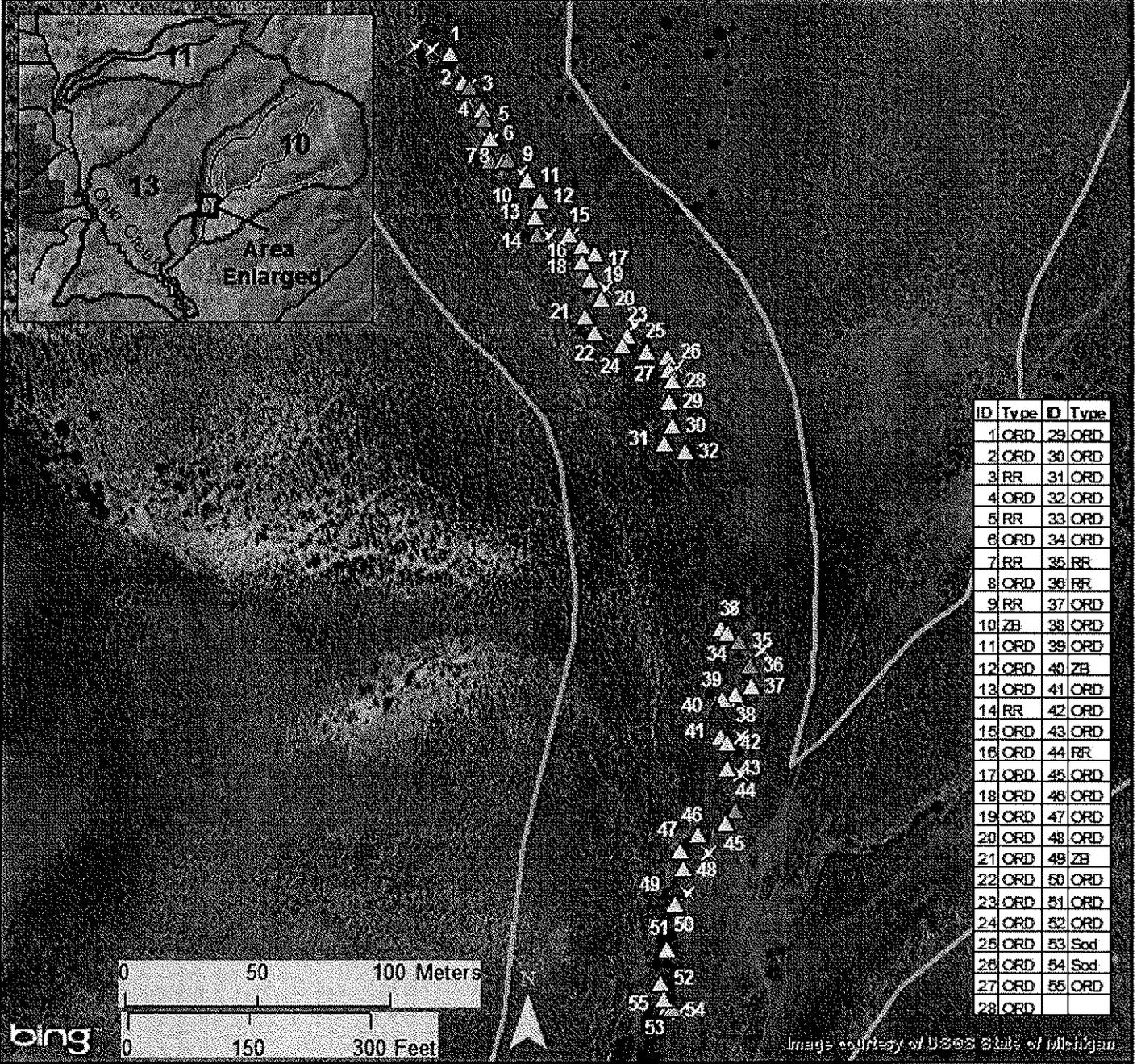
Priority Restoration Sites Gunnison Sage-Grouse Brood Rearing Habitat Streams	Monitoring Photo Point Vegetation Transect Time Lapse Camera	Structures One Rock Dam (ORD) Rock Rundown (RR) Media Luna (ML) Zuni Bowl (ZB) Sod Layback (LB)	Land Management USFS BLM NPS CPW State Private
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Date: 9/24/2013. Map by T. Chapman.
 The Nature Conservancy.
 Scale: 1:3,500 and 1:4,500
 Sources: Bing Maps Aerial Imagery (ESRI online);
 Gunnison Basin Gunnison Sage-grouse Habitat Prioritization Tool (2012).
 Map document:
 Gunnison_PrioritySites8_Wolf_Creek_BLM_Structures_2013_8x11_201309F.mxd



Redden Ranch (Private) Upper Gunnison Basin Restoration Structures and Monitoring

Gunnison Climate Working Group



Priority Restoration Sites

Gunnison Sage-Grouse Brood Rearing Habitat

Streams

Monitoring

Photo Point

Vegetation Transect

Structure

One Rock Dam (ORD)

Rock Rundown (RR)

Zuni Bowl (ZB)

Sod

Land Management

USFS

BLM

NPS

CPW

State

Private

Date: 9/24/2013. Map by T. Chapman, The Nature Conservancy. Scale: 1:2,300
 Sources: Bing Maps Aerial Imagery (ESRI online);
 Gunnison Basin Gunnison Sage-grouse Habitat Prioritization Tool (2012).
 Map document
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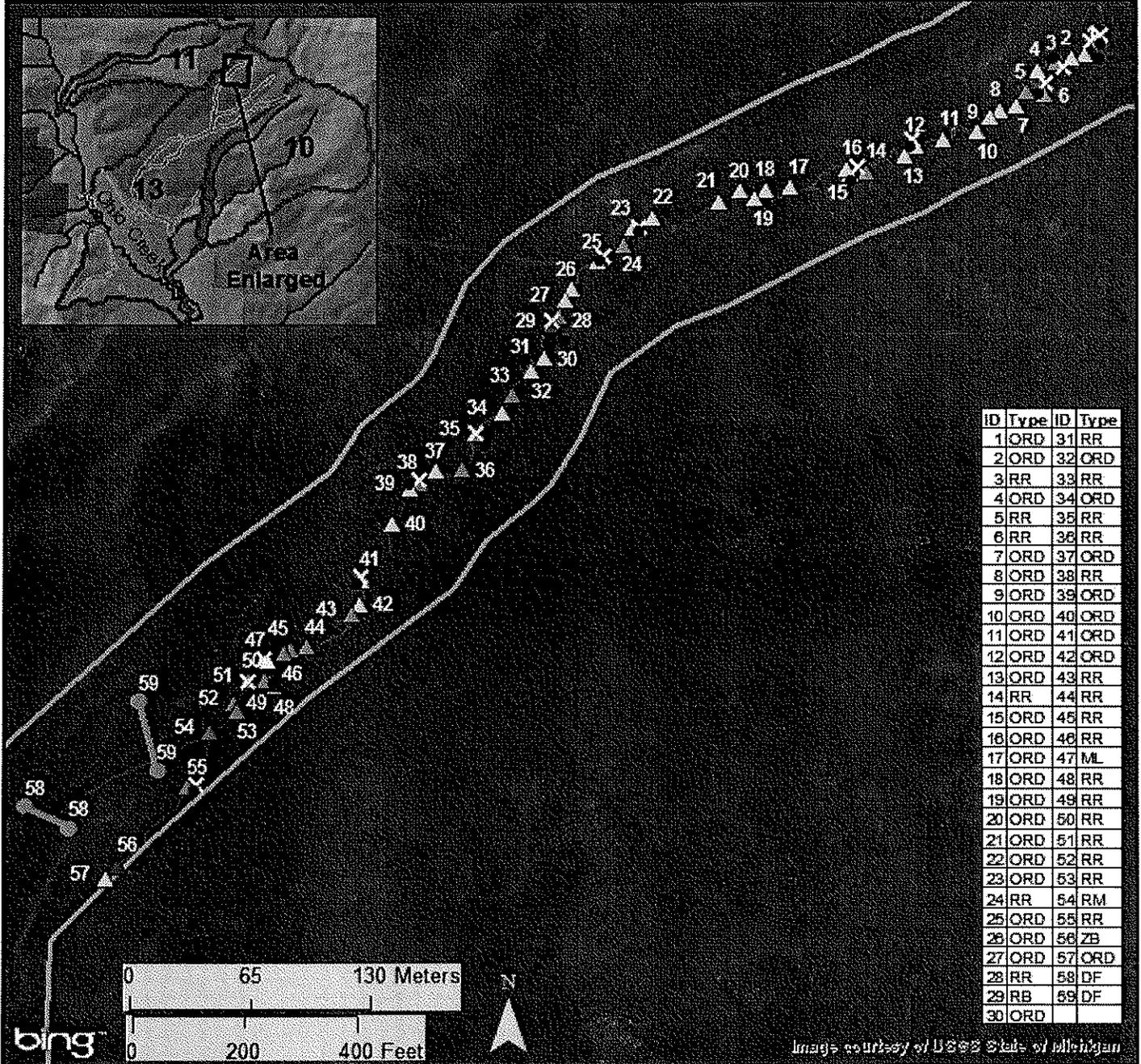
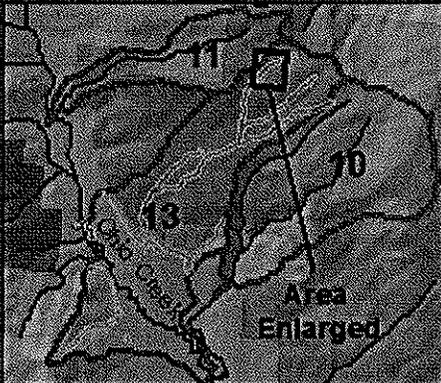


West Flat Top at Henkel Road - Section 36 (USFS)

Upper Gunnison Basin

Restoration Structures and Monitoring

Gunnison Climate Working Group



ID	Type	ID	Type
1	ORD	31	RR
2	ORD	32	ORD
3	RR	33	RR
4	ORD	34	ORD
5	RR	35	RR
6	RR	36	RR
7	ORD	37	ORD
8	ORD	38	RR
9	ORD	39	ORD
10	ORD	40	ORD
11	ORD	41	ORD
12	ORD	42	ORD
13	ORD	43	RR
14	RR	44	RR
15	ORD	45	RR
16	ORD	46	RR
17	ORD	47	ML
18	ORD	48	RR
19	ORD	49	RR
20	ORD	50	RR
21	ORD	51	RR
22	ORD	52	RR
23	ORD	53	RR
24	RR	54	RM
25	ORD	55	RR
26	ORD	56	ZB
27	ORD	57	ORD
28	RR	58	DF
29	RR	59	DF
30	ORD		

Image courtesy of USFS State of Michigan

Priority Restoration Sites

Gunnison Sage-Grouse Brood Rearing Habitat

Streams

Monitoring

Photo Point

Vegetation Transect

Structures

One Rock Dam (ORD)

Rock Rundown (RR)

Media Luna (ML)

Zuni Bowl (ZB)

Rock Mulch (RM)

Rock Baffle (RB)

Drift Fence (DF)

Land Management

USFS

BLM

NPS

CPW

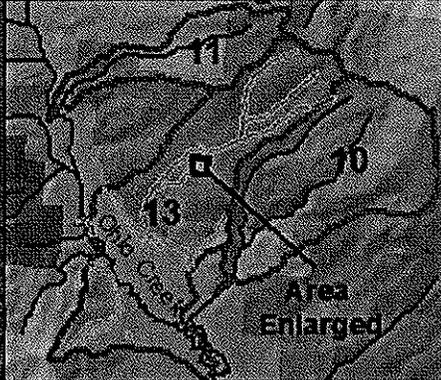
State

Private

Date: 9/24/2013. Map by T. Chapman, The Nature Conservancy.
 Scale: 1:3,300
 Sources: Bing Maps Aerial Imagery (ESRI online);
 Gunnison Basin Gunnison Sage-grouse Habitat Prioritization Tool (2012).
 Map document: Gunnison_PrioritySites13_Section36_WestFlatTopHenkelRoad_Structures_2013_8x11_201309F.mxd



West Flat Top at Henkel Road - Exclosure (USFS), Upper Gunnison Basin Restoration Structures and Monitoring Gunnison Climate Working Group



ID	Type
1	ZB
2	ORD
3	ORD
4	ORD
5	ORD
6	ORD
7	ORD
8	RR
9	ORD
10	ORD
11	ZB
12	ZB
13	ORD
14	ORD
15	L&F
15A	L&F
16	ORD
17	FD
18	RR
19A	RB
19B	RB
19C	ORD
20	RR
21	ZB
22	ORD
23	ORD



Priority Restoration Sites	Monitoring	Structures	Land Management
Gunnison Sage-Grouse Brood Rearing Habitat	Photo Point	One Rock Dam (ORD)	USFS
Streams	Vegetation Transect	Rock Rundown (RR)	BLM
Exclosure		Media Luna (ML)	NPS
		Zuni Bowl (ZB)	CPW
		Log and Fabric (L&F)	State
		Rock Baffle (RB)	Private
		Filter Dam (FD)	

Date: 9/24/2013. Map by T. Chapman, The Nature Conservancy, Scale: 1:1,500
 Sources: Bing Maps Aerial Imagery (ESRI online);
 Gunnison Basin Gunnison Sage-grouse Habitat Prioritization Tool (2012).
 Map document: Gunnison_PrioritySites13_Exclosure_WestFlatTopatHenkel
 Road_Structures_2013_8x11_201309F.mxd

State of Michigan



Moncrief Ranch in Kezar Basin Upper Gunnison Basin Restoration Structures and Monitoring Gunnison Climate Working Group



	Priority Restoration Sites	Monitoring	Structures	Land Management
	Gunnison Sage-Grouse Brood Rearing Habitat			
	Streams			

Date: 9/24/2013. Map by T. Chapman, The Nature Conservancy. Scale: 1:1,500
 Sources: Bing Maps Aerial Imagery (ESRI online);
 Gunnison Basin Gunnison Sage-grouse Habitat Prioritization Tool (2012).
 Map document: Gunnison_PrioritySites13_Exclosure_WestFlatTopatHenkel
 Road_Structures_2013_5x11_201309F.mxd