

# Greater Sage-Grouse

## Conservation Campaign



Greater sage-grouse hen in sagebrush / Tom Koerner, USFWS

### Greater Sage-grouse ESA Finding

In September 2015, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) determined that protection for the greater sage-grouse under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is not warranted and is withdrawing the species from the Candidate Species list. Multiple conservation efforts across the range, particularly the regulatory protections in federal and state management plans, have sufficiently addressed the primary threats which originally caused the bird to be designated as warranted for ESA protection in 2010.

### Future Goals

The Service is an active partner in a historic campaign to conserve the greater sage-grouse across its range, which includes nearly one-third of the continental U.S. We are committed to the long-term conservation of sagebrush habitat that supports the bird and more than 350 other species of wildlife, including big game, as well as key economic sectors. Our investment in science and partnerships with federal, state and private entities, and landowners have already produced significant conservation benefits for the species. We will continue to work through collaborative conservation efforts, with the goal

of conserving greater sage-grouse and the sagebrush ecosystem.

### Shared Success

Unprecedented in scope and in scale, the greater sage-grouse conservation campaign is the largest and most complex landscape-scale land management planning effort in U.S. history – and the most ambitious conservation effort under the ESA. A constellation of partners, including the Service, the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Geological Survey, 11 state wildlife agencies, ranchers, conservation groups, corporations and others have dramatically changed the sagebrush conservation landscape in the five years leading up to the Service's 2015 ESA decision.

### Conservation Actions

The Service is actively working to conserve the greater sage-grouse across its range by:

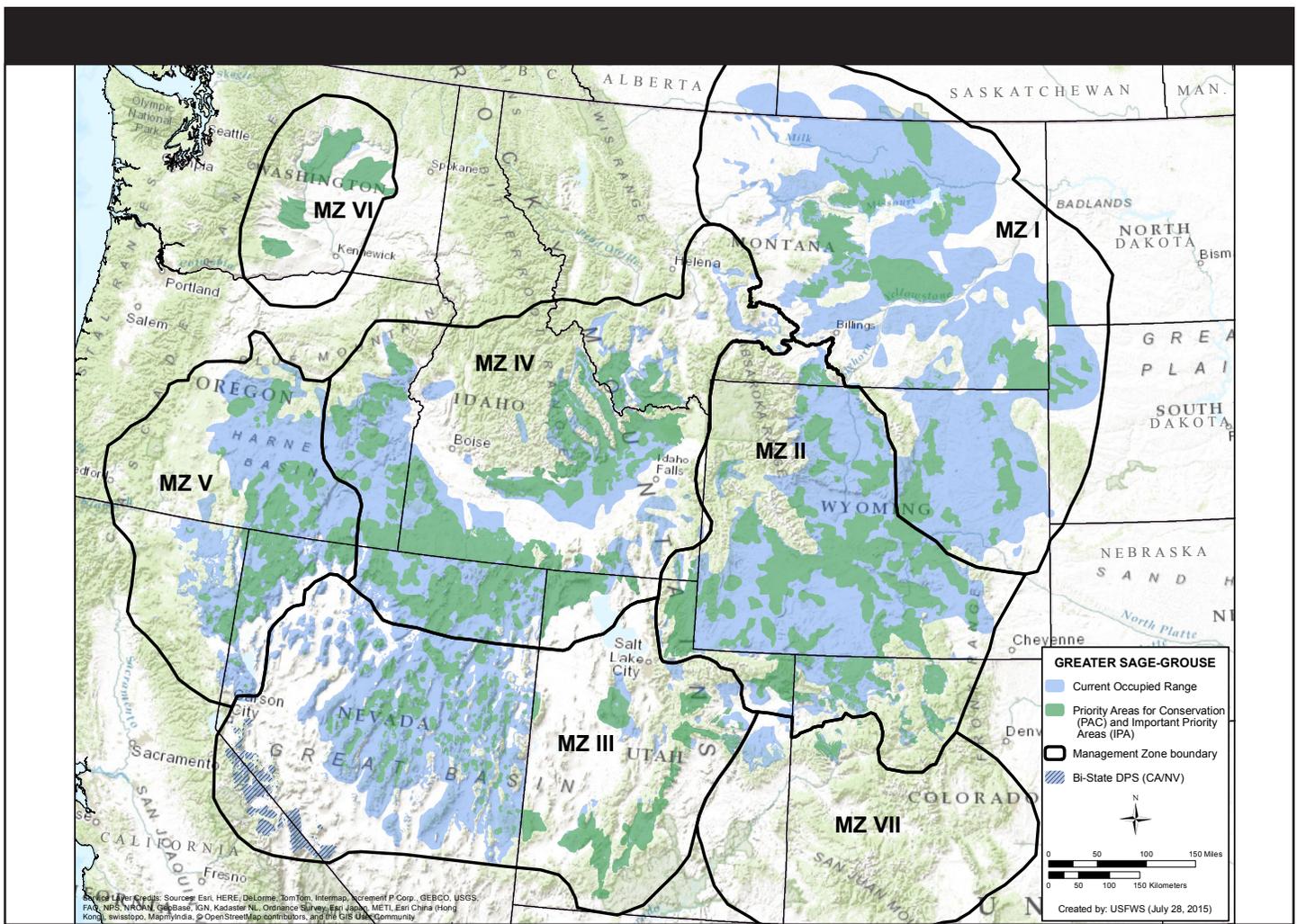
- Supporting our state and federal conservation partners; and
  - Providing dedicated technical assistance to federal and state partners on greater sage-grouse conservation plans and related issues.

- Developing and deploying new tools and new science to support greater sage-grouse conservation:

- Contracting with WAFWA to better understand population trends over time;
- Supporting development of a sagebrush science network to deliver new tools in applied conservation management;
- Working with federal and state partners to address the impacts of wildland fire;
- Supporting research into the control of invasive species such as cheatgrass; and
- Supporting the development of habitat exchanges, conservation banks and other mitigation tools.



Greater sage-grouse / © James Yule



- Working with private landowners to conserve greater sage-grouse:
  - Completing conservation agreements with Oregon and Wyoming ranchers;
  - Developing additional partnerships with private landowners across the range; and
  - Continuing to target restoration of greater sage-grouse habitat through our Partners for Fish and Wildlife program.

**Looking Ahead**

The greater sage-grouse conservation effort sets the bar for how complex, landscape-scale conservation challenges can be resolved through cooperative efforts by people and organizations with common goals. It also demonstrates that the ESA is an effective tool for wildlife conservation. It will be essential for all the partners who contributed to this historic

achievement to maintain momentum and keep advancing conservation in this uniquely American landscape.

Meaningful conservation measures must continue into the future if we are to safeguard this habitat for all wildlife that depend on it. We will continue to play an active role in this collaborative effort and believes the not-warranted finding will accelerate new investments in all aspects of sagebrush conservation.



*Chipping sparrow* / Katie Theule, USFWS

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