

Greater Sage-Grouse 2015 Status Review

January 9, 2015

Goals for today:

- Understand the implications of omnibus rider
- Understand the process for completing the 2015 greater sage-grouse status review



Omnibus rider:

5

SAGE-GROUSE

6 SEC. 122. None of the funds made available by this
7 or any other Act may be used by the Secretary of the Inte-
8 rior to write or issue pursuant to section 4 of the Endan-
9 gered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533)—

10 (1) a proposed rule for greater sage-grouse
11 (*Centrocercus urophasianus*);

12 (2) a proposed rule for the Columbia basin dis-
13 tinct population segment of greater sage-grouse;

14 (3) a final rule for the bi-state distinct popu-
15 lation segment of greater sage-grouse; or

16 (4) a final rule for Gunnison sage-grouse
17 (*Centrocercus minimus*).

What the rider means:

The Service cannot use funds to write or issue:

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

The Service Will:

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



Status Review Process

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



Information Collection:

General Data Call and Candidate Notice

- We requested general data in 2014.

The Conservation Efforts Database

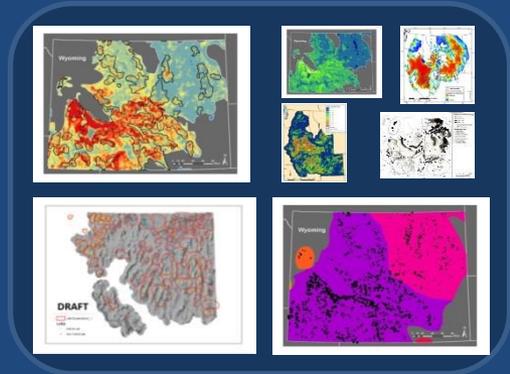
- We will consider all information received; we'd like your information as soon as possible.
- If you have questions, please contact either:

- **Kathy Hollar**
Kathy_Hollar@fws.gov
- **Lief Wiechman**
Lief_Wiechman@fws.gov



Modeling:

- 7 population models
 - abundance
 - distribution
 - trends
- 4 risk models
 - oil & gas
 - fire & invasives
 - cropland risk
 - conifer



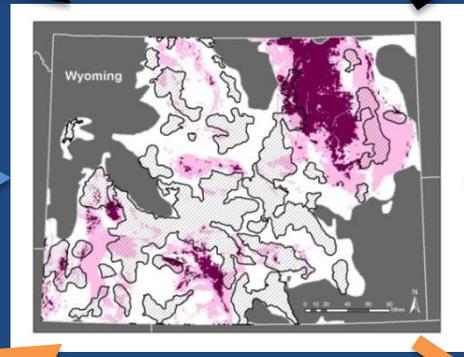
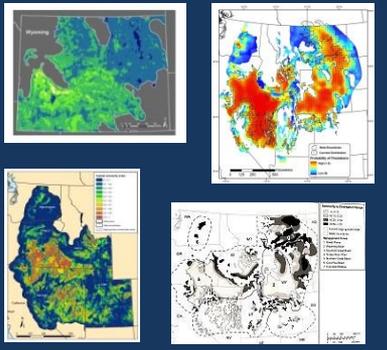
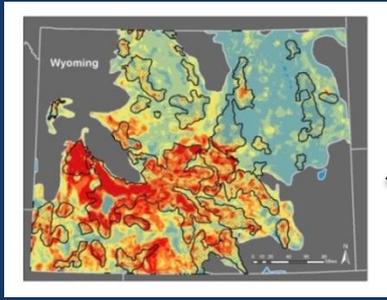
- Projects and analyses remain independent

**Please See Handout for full list of models*

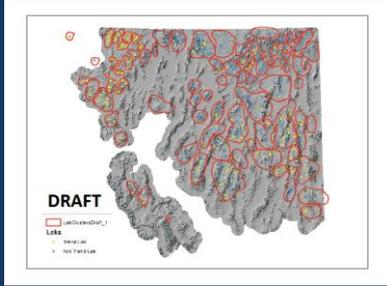


Integrate through
spatial overlap
with 4 Risk Models

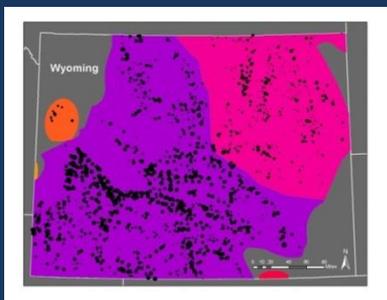
Projected Relative
Abundance



Projected Distribution



Projected Population
Trends



Current Population
Trend recent period

Species Report:

Summary of the Scientific Data

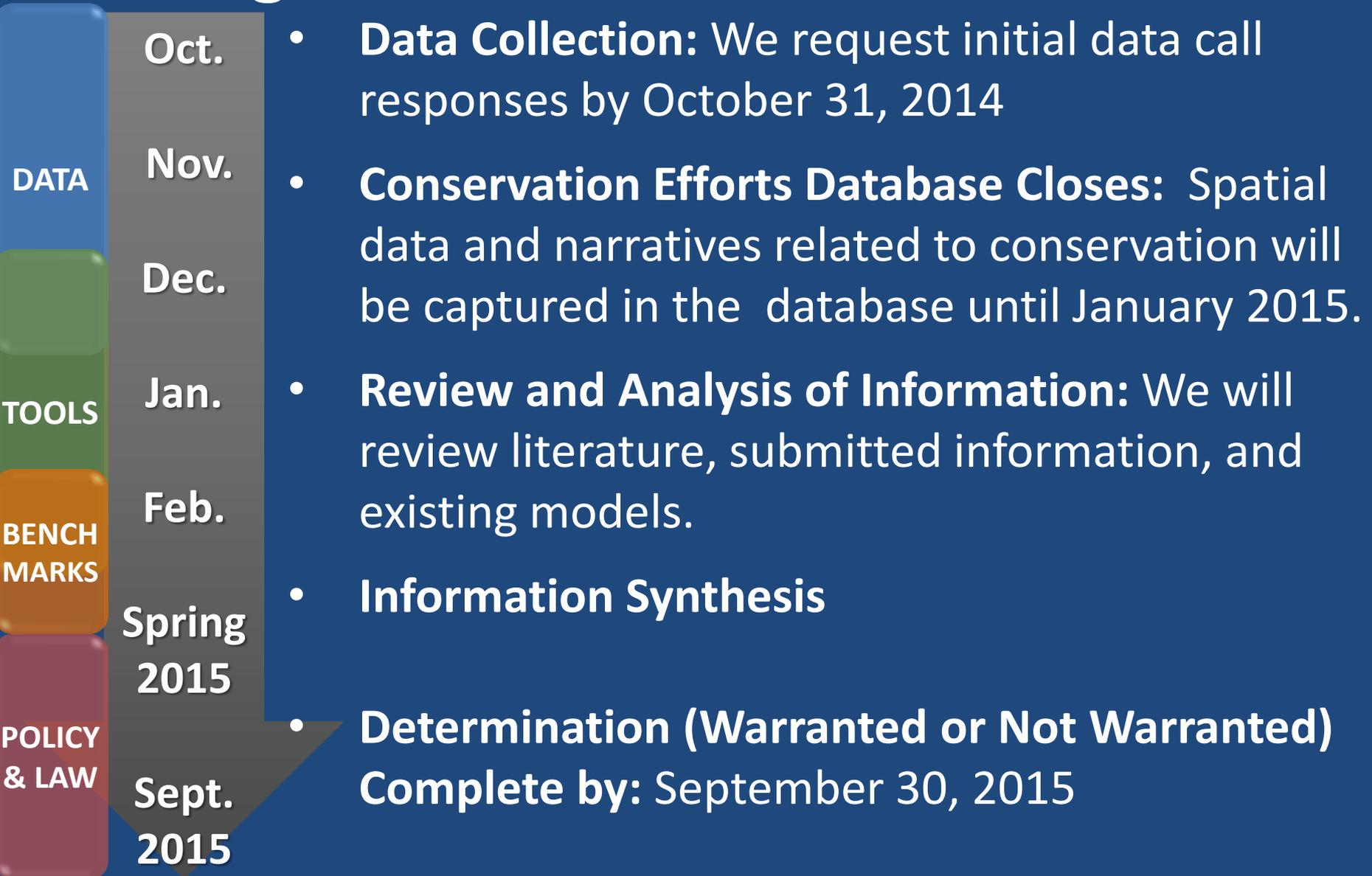
- Does not contain policy
- Does not determine species status

Timing

- Qualitative (currently underway)
- GIS Analysis (started, but will require CED data)
- Modeled Chapters (background started)



Timing



Summary:

- We will continue to work with our partners on conservation and evaluation of the species.
- The rider prohibits rulemaking, but we still want to understand the species status and benefits of conservation efforts.
- We must make a determination by September 30, 2015.
- Please provide information to us to contribute to our understanding.



Questions



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

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

