

Montana Sage-Grouse Conservation Program



2016 ACHIEVEMENTS

The greater sage-grouse in 2015 was a candidate for federal listing as an endangered species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined listing was not warranted at that time, but will review the progress of state conservation programs in 2020.

The future status of the sage-grouse will depend on Montana's efforts. Montanans can avoid the far-reaching impacts of an endangered species listing and maintain control of their lands, wildlife and economy by continuing to implement the state's conservation strategy.



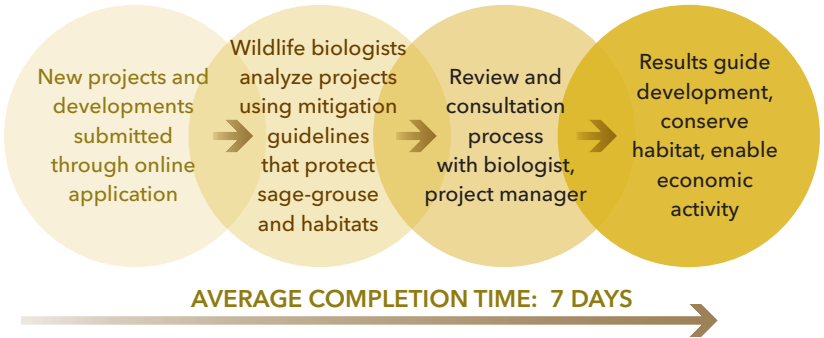
Greater sage-grouse

Centrocercus urophasianus



Montana has built a highly efficient and effective conservation program in 10 months

Montana's approach conserves sage-grouse and their habitat while maintaining the state's economic life.



A personal, timely, responsive process managed by expert staff using sound science and analytics. **And it's getting results:**

January 1, 2016 to December 6, 2016

838

PROJECTS SUBMITTED

738

COMPLETED REVIEWS /
PROJECTS MOVING FORWARD

757

PROJECTS FOR
PROGRAM REVIEW

97.5%

RESPONSE RATE





Montana has implemented a Sage-grouse Stewardship Fund

The 2015 Legislature provided \$10 million as a source of funding for competitive grants to support voluntary conservation actions on private lands, which support 64% of all sage-grouse habitat. Nine grant proposals were submitted during the first application cycle, which ran February through May 2016.

- ▶ Five projects approved for \$3.4 million in state investment
- ▶ State investments leveraged \$7.8 million in matching funds
- ▶ 45,961 acres of prime sage grouse habitat on private land permanently protected
- ▶ 1,223 acres of prime sage grouse habitat restored

Montana is building a Habitat Quantification Tool to support a Mitigation Marketplace for sage-grouse conservation

The most ambitious and far-reaching component of Montana's sage-grouse conservation effort will apply cutting-edge science and technology to fairly and effectively "score" the impacts of conservation or development activities on sage-grouse habitat. Conservation efforts, such as easements, will generate "credits," while new development will generate "debits." Developers of new projects can purchase credits to offset the loss of habitat, with the proceeds going into the Stewardship Fund to support new conservation projects that compensate for the impacts.



Habitat Quantification Tool

Impacted habitat generates debits, conservation projects generate credits



Mitigation Marketplace

Developers buy credits to offset impacts in sage-grouse habitats



Stewardship Fund

Revenue from purchased credits supports new conservation work



The Montana Sage-Grouse Conservation Program seeks **Reauthorization** from the 2017 Legislature

The Montana Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Program works to sustain viable sage grouse populations and conserve habitat, enabling Montanans to maintain control of their lands, wildlife, and economy by avoiding a listing of the greater sage-grouse under the federal Endangered Species Act.



TRANSPARENT * BIPARTISAN * STRATEGIC * SCIENTIFIC * COLLABORATIVE



“Denbury is confident in what the State has been able to accomplish in a relatively short time and its ability to further build out the program. They value the stakeholders and have listened to those groups and their opinions about the framework of the program. We believe the foundation is strong and capable of supporting the sage-grouse conservation effort.”

—**Rusty Shaw**, *Denbury Resources Inc., Sage Grouse Working Group member*



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