

Montana Sage-Grouse Conservation Program



2017-18 ACHIEVEMENTS

The Greater Sage-Grouse in 2015 was a candidate for federal listing as an endangered species. The US Fish and Wildlife Service determined that listing was not warranted at that time. Population trends and the progress of state conservation programs will be assessed in 2020.

Now in its third year, the Montana Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Program is fully implemented and provides an effective, efficient process for balancing conservation of sage-grouse habitat while maintaining Montana's economic vitality in sage-grouse country.



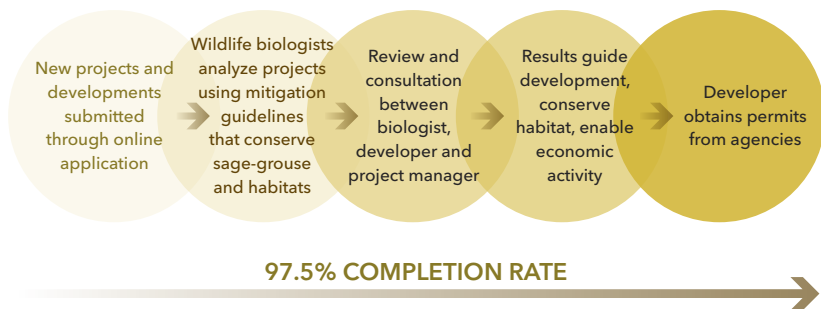
Greater sage-grouse

Centrocercus urophasianus



A personalized, timely review process

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



Balancing conservation and development

Montana's Sage-Grouse Conservation program is an objective, transparent and scientifically-defensible program developed by a coalition of Montanans. Landowners, developers, and businesses control many of the impacts associated with a project through proactive planning. And the program offers flexibility when needed to address the unique circumstances of a project. Between January 1, 2017, and October 31, 2018, the Program completed reviews on 919 of 925 submitted projects, forwarding them to agencies for permitting.

925 Projects Submitted | **919** Project Reviews Completed



103 miles of water pipelines



30 new cell towers



56 new oil/gas wells



486 MW wind/ solar projects



995 miles of road projects



605 miles new fiber optic cable



The Mitigation Marketplace is working

Montana's Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Program is based on the tent of no net loss of existing sage grouse habitat. Mitigation is the scale that balances habitat lost or impacted with habitat gained or conserved.

The mitigation analysis is performed by a Habitat Quantification Tool—a GIS application built specifically for Montana's Program. After receiving their score, developers have a range of options to mitigate the impacts of their activities. They may opt to purchase the state's credits, or buy credits from third parties. Revenue from state credits goes into the Stewardship Fund, which supports new habitat projects.



Habitat Quantification Tool

Impacted habitat generates debits, conservation projects generate credits



Mitigation Market

Developers buy credits to offset impacts in sage-grouse habitats



Stewardship Fund

Revenue from purchased credits supports new conservation work

The **Stewardship Fund** has conserved **43,148 acres** of Sage-grouse habitat to date. These conservation projects used **\$2.8 million** from the Fund and leveraged an additional **\$6.6 million** in matching funds from federal and private sources.

In all, Stewardship Fund projects have created **958,353 mitigation credits** to offset future development.

43,148 acres

Sage-grouse
habitat conserved



958,353 credits

to offset
development impacts



A range-wide assessment is coming in 2020

Montana is well-positioned for an assessment of conservation efforts across 11 western states, set to take place in 2020. No immediate changes to Montana's program are necessary. Funding for the program was settled during the 2017 Legislative session and remains sufficient. By continuing to implement its own conservation program, Montanans can best maintain control of their lands, wildlife, and economy.



TRANSPARENT ★ BIPARTISAN ★ STRATEGIC ★ SCIENTIFIC ★ COLLABORATIVE

The future of Sage-grouse in Montana will depend on our collective efforts. We can avoid the far-reaching impacts of an Endangered Species listing and maintain control of our lands, wildlife, and economy by continuing to implement the state's conservation strategy.



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