



VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE NO. 686

DECEMBER 18, 2014

Re: Transmit the Gunnison Sage-grouse Biological Opinion and associated documents.

This Technical Guide Notice transmits the following materials to the Colorado electronic Field Office Technical Guide ([eFOTG](#)).

Section II, Special Environmental Concerns, T&E, ESA Programmatic Consultation

[GuSG Biological Opinion, 12-22-14](#). This document transmits the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Biological Opinion (Opinion) for the NRCS USDA Farm Bill programs, including the Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI), and associated procedures, conservation practices, and conservation measures for the Gunnison sage-grouse (*Centrocercus minimus*).

- This Opinion takes effect concurrent with the effective date of the grouse's listing as a threatened species on December 22nd, 2014.
- This Opinion replaces the 2010 SGI Conference Report for the Gunnison sage-grouse. Continue to use the 2010 SGI Conference Report for the Greater sage-grouse. Section 1.2 describes the Conversion of the Conference Report to a Biological Opinion.
- A train-the-trainer course is tentatively planned for January 22nd, 2015 in Grand Junction, Colorado. Upon training approval, a notice will be sent out to the selected participants.
- A consolidated table of Conservation Measures (CMs) will be provided in early January.

[GuSG Action Area](#). Statewide map of the Biological Opinion's "Action Area". A GIS shapefiles layer and county based maps are provided in the field office's data server under F:drive geodata/wildlife.

[GuSG Flow Chart](#). A fillable form of the Biological Opinion's Appendix 6. Use of this flow chart is recommended for all NRCS assistance (CTA and FA) within the Action Area as defined by the Gunnison Sage Grouse Biological Opinion. The completed flow chart can be used to help determine if the proposed assistance will need to follow the Opinion's conservation measures.

Printing and Filing Instructions

District Conservationists are not required to maintain a hard copy of the eFOTG in their respective field offices. One copy of the Colorado eFOTG is maintained at the National Information Technology Center (NITC) Web Farm at http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/efotg_locator.aspx.

Contact Information

Contact Chanda Pettie, State Biologist, at 720-544-2804 or chanda.pettie@co.usda.gov.

Contact Eugene Backhaus, State Resource Conservationist, at 720-544-2868 or eugene.backhaus@co.usda.gov for other information regarding the content of this notice.

This notice is filed in the Section I, Transmittals folder of the Colorado eFOTG. A [Section I Transmittals Index](#) is available in PDF format to comply with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1998.

This is the only copy of this notice you will receive from the State office.

/s/

ELISE BOEKE
Acting State Conservationist

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