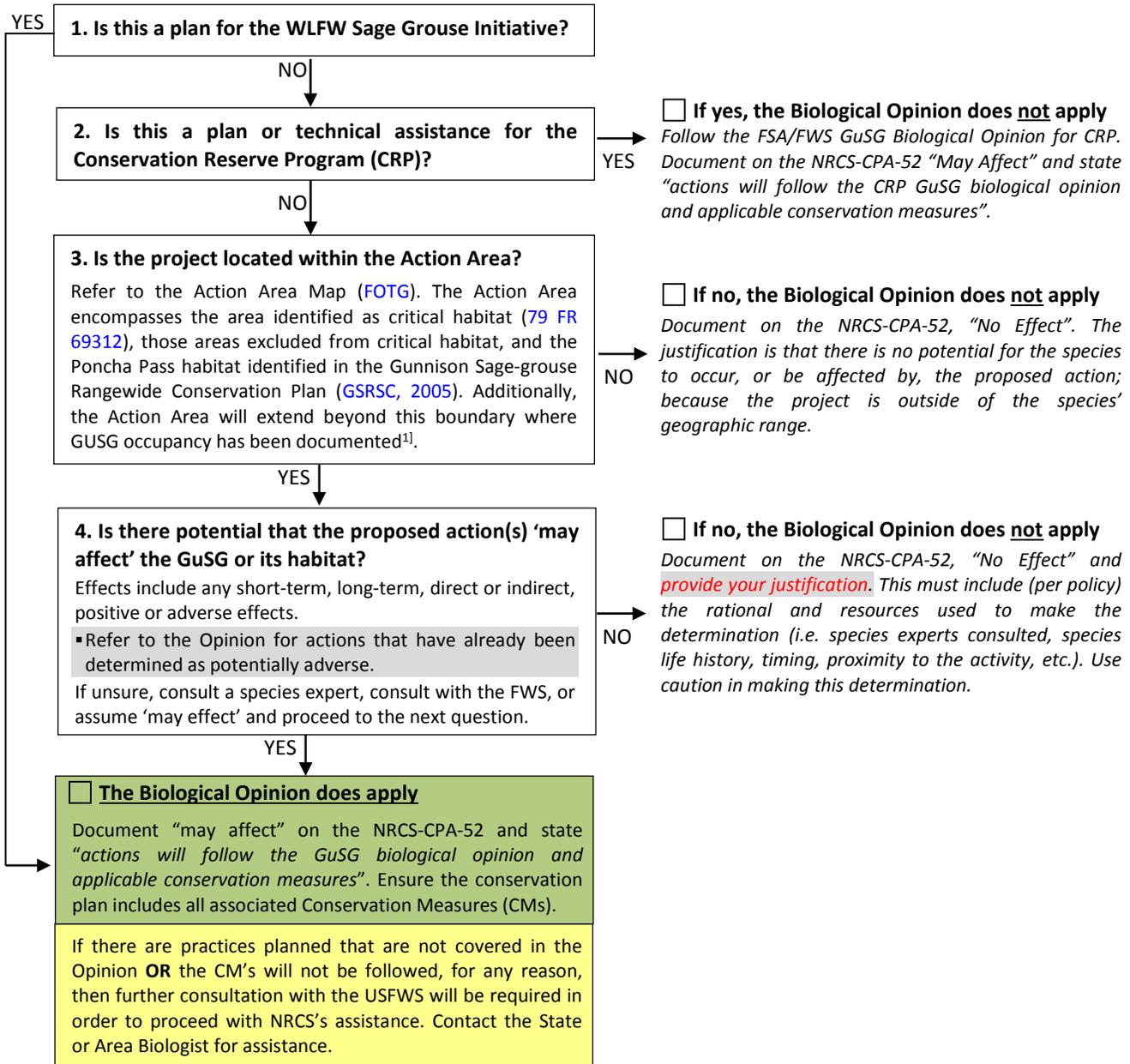


GUNNISON SAGE GROUSE BIOLOGICAL OPINION, APPENDIX 6.
Flowchart demonstrating when the Biological Opinion would apply

Client: _____ Completed by: _____ Date: _____



GUNNISON SAGE GROUSE BIOLOGICAL OPINION, APPENDIX 6.

Flowchart demonstrating when the GuSG Biological Opinion would apply

Instructions. Use of this flow chart is recommended for all NRCS assistance (CTA & FA) within the Biological Opinion's Action Area; to help determine if NRCS's proposed assistance will need to follow the Opinion's conservation measures (CM's). Answer the flow chart yes/no questions based on the site-specific, current field conditions and proposed assistance.

Scope of the Opinion:

1. The Opinion only applies to private lands or public lands where a private entity has a leased interest.

2. The Opinion does NOT apply to:

- Commercial-scale energy development or associated infrastructure.
- Conversions of rangeland and other suitable Gunnison Sage Grouse habitat types to land use unsuitable to the species' life history needs.
- Construction of new public roads or highways.
- Actions and programs managed by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) as the agency with responsibility for administration of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Action Area:

The "Action Area" is defined as "all areas to be affected directly or indirectly by the Federal action and not merely the immediate area involved in the action." (50 CFR 402.02).

Refer to the Action Area Map (FOTG). The Action Area encompasses the area identified as critical habitat (79 FR 69312), those areas excluded from critical habitat, and the Poncha Pass habitat identified in the Gunnison Sage-grouse Rangewide Conservation Plan (GSRSC, 2005). Additionally, the Action Area will extend beyond this boundary where GUSG occupancy has been documented¹].

¹ May include (but not limited to) documentation from a state wildlife agency, sighting by a reputable source, or physical evidence of GuSG use within the last three years.

Related NRCS Policy:

(GM 190 Part 410.22(e)(5)(iii)) Informal consultation with the Services may be initiated when NRCS cannot determine whether a proposed action will have "no effect" or when a "may affect" determination is made.

(H 190, NECH, Part 610.92(C))

(3) On a site-specific basis, NRCS field personnel must consider the effects of actions and alternatives on listed and proposed species and designated critical habitat as part of the environmental evaluation process. These effects, as well as other relevant informal communications, will be documented on the NRCS-CPA-52.

(4) When considering site-specific actions, NRCS first determines whether there will any effect on a protected species or habitat. If NRCS determines there will be no effect on any protected species or habitat, consultation is not required.

(i) A "no-effect" determination is based on the best available scientific and commercial data and is proper only when the proposed actions will not have any direct or indirect impact, positive or negative, on an ESA-protected species or habitat.

(ii) Document this determination on the NRCS-CPA-52 or as designated in each State. Include in the notes the reasons for reaching this conclusion and reference any relevant information, such as species life history, proximity of the species to the action, timing of the proposed action and species presence, etc.