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**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
between the  
UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES,  
UTAH PUBLIC LANDS POLICY COORDINATING OFFICE  
and  
UTAH DIVISION OF FORESTRY, FIRE AND STATE LANDS  
for Implementation of the *Conservation Plan for Greater Sage-grouse in Utah*

This memorandum of understanding, hereinafter the MOU, is made and entered into by and between the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, hereinafter referred to as UDWR, the Utah Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office, hereinafter referred to as PLPCO, and the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, hereinafter referred to as FFSL, and individually and collectively known as the PARTY or PARTIES.

**I. PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this AGREEMENT is to formalize coordination between UDWR, PLPCO, and FFSL for compliance with Executive Order EO/2015/002 and implementation of the *Conservation Plan for Greater Sage-grouse in Utah*, dated February 14, 2013, as amended.

**II. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL INTERESTS AND BENEFITS:**

Executive Order EO/2015/002 for *Implementing the Utah Conservation Plan for Greater Sage-grouse* was issued by Governor Gary Herbert on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015 instructing any state agency whose operations affect greater sage-grouse to coordinate implementation of the *Conservation Plan for Greater Sage-grouse in Utah* through PLPCO, with the assistance of UDWR.

Pursuant to the terms of the Executive Order, state agencies will maintain, improve and enhance greater sage-grouse habitats, opportunity areas, and the species' populations within the specific Sage-Grouse Management Areas (SGMA) established in the *Conservation Plan*. Agencies will follow the Management Protocol and Mitigation Provisions established by Section 6 of the *Conservation Plan*. The Protocol requires agencies to avoid disturbance to greater sage-grouse habitats or their populations to the greatest extent possible. If avoidance of the disturbance is not possible, the Protocol requires minimization and mitigation, at the ratios prescribed, for the unavoidable effects of the disturbance.

**III. PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT**

UDWR is a division of the Utah Department of Natural Resources and is responsible for the management of wildlife in the State of Utah. UDWR has staff with expertise in evaluating greater sage-grouse habitat and potential impacts to those habitats which may affect sage-grouse populations.

FFSL is a division of the Department of Natural Resources, and provides technical assistance to non-industrial forest landowners and communities, and is responsible for wildland fire management on all state lands and unincorporated private lands.

PLPCO, within the Office of the Governor, serves to develop and coordinate the State of Utah's public lands policy initiatives, coordinate efforts between agencies and track agency actions to comply with planning efforts.

#### **IV. FFSL WILL:**

1. Prioritize fuels-mitigation and fire suppression activities to focus on areas within or near SGMAs, with a goal to reduce risks to greater sage-grouse, which can be devastated by wildfire. In consultation with federal land-management agencies, include SGMA's as a priority during pre-attack planning and suppression, second only to the protection of human life and structures. In cooperation with all other federal and local fire-suppression partners throughout the state, the Division will effectuate the pre-attack plans and suppression activities, subject to the need to adjust based on local tactical conditions at the time of a fire or series of fires.
2. Early in the planning process for new projects or prescribed fire in the SGMA's, FFSL will consult with UDWR about recommendations for actions necessary to eliminate or reduce impacts to sage-grouse habitat or populations from the proposed project.
3. Keep office and field notes, as appropriate, about the consultations sufficient to demonstrate the issues discussed, the specific areas within the SGMA involved, resolution of the issues discussed, and outcomes achieved. These notes will be retained in the project file for as long as such files are normally retained.
4. Report annually to PLPCO detailing actions to comply with Executive Order EO/2015/002 for as long as the Executive Order is active. The reporting should include a summary of the consultations for the year.

#### **V. UDWR WILL:**

1. Consult with FFSL to evaluate areas in which newly proposed facilities, or fire suppression or management activities that are sponsored or supported by FFSL are proposed. UDWR will provide technical assistance and recommendations for compliance with the *Conservation Plan for Greater Sage-grouse in Utah*.
2. UDWR will keep sufficient office or field notes about the consultations to demonstrate the issues discussed, the specific geographic and habitat types

within the SGMA involved, resolution of the issues discussed, and outcomes achieved. These notes will be available in a database of all such consultations related to the *Conservation Plan*, and will be retained for as long as the Executive Order is active.

3. Compile an annual summary report of all such consultations, and submit to PLPCO at the appropriate time.

**VI. PLPCO WILL:**

1. Receive annual reports from state agencies and track compliance with executive order EO/2015/002.

**VII. THE PRINCIPAL CONTACTS FOR THIS AGREEMENT ARE:**

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801-538-5389

70 2021

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the PARTIES hereto have executed this AGREEMENT as of the last date written below

UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

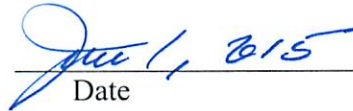
  
Greg Sheehan, Director

ACTING DIRECTOR

  
Financial Mgr. Date  
Division of Wildlife Resources  
6/30/15  
Date

UTAH PUBLIC LANDS POLICY COORDINATING OFFICE

  
Kathleen Clarke, Director

  
Date

UTAH DIVISION OF FORESTRY, FIRE AND STATE LANDS

  
Brian Cottam, Director

4-21-15  
Date