

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
between the  
UTAH DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
and  
UTAH PUBLIC LANDS POLICY COORDINATING OFFICE  
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 Department of Natural Resources, hereinafter referred to as DNR, and the Utah Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office, hereinafter referred to as PLPCO, and individually and collectively known as the PARTY or PARTIES.

**I. PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this AGREEMENT is to formalize coordination between DNR and PLPCO 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 the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

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**

DNR provides administrative oversight of seven Divisions, including the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Utah State Parks and Recreation, Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, Utah Division of Water Resources, Utah Division of Water Rights and Utah Geological Survey.

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. DNR WILL:**

1. To the extent deemed appropriate, and as the administering agency of the Utah Watershed Restoration Initiative, help coordinate on-the-ground enhancements, monitoring, research and ongoing planning activities related to greater sage-grouse populations and habitats, and strive to ensure those actions are consistent with the goals and objectives outlined in the *Conservation Plan*.
2. Coordinate with the Utah Conservation Commission, in an effort to ensure that their actions are consistent with the provisions outlined in the *Conservation Plan* and complimentary to on-going conservation efforts.
3. Continue to work toward the development of a mitigation bank program for greater sage-grouse in Utah.
4. Keep sufficient office or field notes about agency consultations to demonstrate the issues discussed, the specific geographic and habitat types within the SGMA involved, resolution of the issues discussed, and the outcomes achieved. These notes will be available in a database of all such consultations related to the *Conservation Plan*, and will be retained as long as the Executive Order is active.
5. Compile an annual summary report of all such consultations, and submit to PLPCO at the appropriate time.

**V. PLPCO WILL:**

1. Coordinate implementation of the *Conservation Plan* with state agencies whose operations affect greater sage-grouse.
2. Receive annual reports from UDNR and other state agencies, and track compliance with executive order EO/2015/002.

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

Alan Clark  
Watershed Program Director  
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Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office  
5110 State Office Building  
350 North State Street  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114  
801-537-9802

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

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Styler, Director

April 27, 2015  
Date

UTAH PUBLIC LANDS POLICY COORDINATING OFFICE

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen Clarke, Director

June 1, 2015  
Date