

CONSERVATION EFFORTS DATABASE
February 20, 2017
CED v2.0.0 – DATABASE TESTING and REVIEW

BACKGROUND

In recognition of the need to conserve a healthy sagebrush ecosystem to provide for the long-term conservation of its inhabitants, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has made updates to the Conservation Efforts Database (CED), to serve as a tool designed to capture the unprecedented conservation efforts occurring within this ecosystem, not only for its most famous resident, the greater sage-grouse but for the other species that rely on sagebrush for all or part of its life. This database has been revised from the greater sage-grouse Conservation Efforts Database (CED v1.0) which was used to collect the combination of voluntary, incentive-based efforts, habitat restoration projects, and management through regulatory mechanisms for evaluation in previous status reviews for the greater sage-grouses. The Service has made a commitment to make these adjustments to reflect our shift, and the shift of many of our conservation partners, to an ecosystem based approach to conservation, as well as to be adaptable and make changes in the future based on release of new science and information that informs effective conservation. The Service will work collaboratively with its partners to identify new information to collect and how to utilize it as we gain new insight on links between conservation efforts and biological responses to sagebrush habitats as well as resources values for particular species.

CHANGES FROM CED v1.0

- The scope of version 2.0.0 has been broadened to capture actions that conserve, restore, and improve sagebrush habitat range-wide for all sagebrush-dependent species, not just the greater sage-grouse as per version 1.0.
- Several improvements have been made to the interactive map and associated query/filter functions.
- We've added more layers to the background to provide some additional context to the efforts, as well as a new reporting feature to summarize metrics based on your query.

The Service will work collaboratively with our partners to identify new information for collection and how to use it as we gain new insight on links between conservation efforts and biological responses to sagebrush habitats and resources values for particular species.

HOW TO TEST THE CED

Below are some 'quick start' steps to get registered and begin looking at the fields for each project type collected.

USE GOOGLE CHROME

For the best performance during the review period, please use the Google Chrome browser.

Normally, the CED will run optimally on Chrome and Internet Explorer (10.0+) as well as Mozilla Firefox and Safari, but for the review period, using Chrome will ensure visuals are behaving correctly while we continue to make adjustments.

REGISTER or LOG-IN

To register for an account, go to <https://conservationefforts.org> and select 'Register' (upper right hand corner), enter your information, and select 'Submit Registration'. You will receive an email within several minutes (1-15 dependent on internet speed, etc.), containing a link to activate your account. Once your account has been activated, proceed to the next step to enter your profile information. You will be asked to select an 'Approving Official'. Typically, this will be a pre-determined person (or persons) from your agency; however, for the review period, you will only have the option of Lief Wiechman (FWS). This is done to ensure the process is functioning correctly and timely, and allows us to correct issues in a more timely fashion. After you've updated your profile, select 'Save Profile', followed by 'Email Approving Official'. The CED will generate an email to the CED Team, and will grant you access to begin entering projects. If you skip this step, your access to the CED will be limited.

CREATE TEST EFFORTS

We would like you to create any or all of 3 types of entries (plans, spatial projects, and non-spatial projects). You can create 'dummy' or 'test' efforts, or use information from plan or project-related data that already exists in your state/agency. The ultimate goal is to test the functionality of the database, including its user registration, data entry, record approval, and reporting. If you choose to create 'test' efforts, we ask that you use the words 'TEST', 'REVIEW', or 'DEMO' in the effort name (regardless of the type; plan or project). **If you choose to existing data, please let us know by contacting us at fw1sagegrouseced@fws.gov or Lief Wiechman at lief_wiechman@fws.gov.**

The data requested for this testing will need to be in the same format as the data entered after the release. Geospatial information (shapefiles) can be uploaded in any standard projection (no local coordinate systems) and metadata should include basic information (FGDC fields). In addition to the spatial data, supplemental and narrative information in the form of reports, etc., can be uploaded to provide context to the effort itself.

EXPLORE

Those of you who have used the CED before will notice we have re-organized and streamlined the information being collected. We took some initial feedback from version 1.0, and are working to incorporate it into version 2.0.0, and you will see some improvements to the interactive map, and reporting features.

PLEASE, DON'T WAIT TO TELL US

We want this to be a productive process, so if you discover an issue that is preventing you from testing, or exploring, please contact us immediately so we can work to get it correct as soon as possible. We

have created a [Google Form](#) to help collate input. You can also paste the following link into your browser: <https://goo.gl/forms/v0366DmWJ4aWik5D2>.

FEATURES UNDER DEVELOPMENT

We will continue to work on the CED during the review period. If any significant updates are provided or bugs are fixed during the review, we will provide an update via email. However, there are a few features that are still ‘under construction’ described below.

BATCH UPLOADS

- Batch Upload Improvements: We are updated the way in which we will conduct batch uploads. This process is described in the ‘Technical Help Document’; however we won’t be testing the functionality of this feature during the review.

MAP QUERY CALCULATIONS

- We will be making a change to calculate/summarize the values contained within a project area with several new background layers we have added, including layers from the [Science Framework \(Part 1\)](#).
- Of note, we are in the process of reclassifying some of the previously entered records to remove specific activities from the map. This is done for activities that the CED will no longer collect spatially-explicit data, moving forward. Also for that reason, we stress that until this reclassification is complete, **none of the reported acreages should be used in any official or reporting capacity** as they could be missing some of the records previously associated with that activity or subactivity. The CED Team will work to have this completed as soon as possible.

ACTIVITIES and SUBACTIVITIES

- You will notice we have reduced the number of activities that we are collecting spatially-explicit data for. These changes are not set in stone; however we have narrowed the focus to collect spatially-explicit data addressing threats driving habitat loss and degradation in the sagebrush ecosystem.
 - o We realize that there is a large amount of effort and resources being expended across the west, however, the relationships between the actions and the response of wildlife and sagebrush may not be well understood for each action. Where the relationship is understood, we can collect the data necessary to evaluate the conservation benefit in a spatially-explicit way. This in turn, will have help to inform actions in the future, adaptive management actions, and target future actions in a way that results in a ‘bigger bang for your conservation buck’.
 - o The CED can be utilized to provide insight for coarse-scale project siting for conservation actions, which in turn has the ability to foster collaborative; and strategic siting of conservation efforts by viewing the locations and information of other planned, on-going, or completed efforts (uploaded into the CED). Because of this utility we will continue to discuss ways to collect and utilize spatial information related to those

actions such as fire breaks, and improved grazing/rangeland practices, and potentially others.

CED and the 2020 STATUS REVIEW

Several coordinated multi-agency efforts are currently underway to evaluate the questions, data collection, analyses, and reporting needs that would be most useful for a review of the greater sage-grouse in 2020. The CED will again play a role in data collection and analysis for the 2020 status review.

While additional details and specifics will be informed by the aforementioned efforts, we have included what we are currently proposing in the draft CED v2.0.0 (and User Guide) which described some of the analysis conducted as part of the 2015 status review. However, this will be updated as the aforementioned efforts are completed, and more importantly, the CED will adapt as new information becomes available to incorporate into the CED as appropriate.

More detail is provided in both the 'User Manual 2.0' and the 'Technical Help Document v2.0'

NEXT STEPS

The CED review period will **end on March 10th, 2017**. This review is not intended to be exclusionary, so feel free to engage others within your agency that should be reviewing these products. We would appreciate comments to be condensed by office, so if you do share we ask that you assist in collating comments from those individuals to help reduce redundant comments. We will then use that feedback to make adjustments prior to the public release or incorporate in future iterations/updates.

Aside from the items focused on above, we welcome any additional input ([Google Form](#)). If you have input related to monitoring long-term conservation and the associated effectiveness, we welcome further discussion/suggestions. Those questions will determine what data/information is needed and how best to capture, organize and analyze said data to answer questions and provide support for future conservation efforts as well as support status reviews.

If you have any questions about the review process, feel free to contact Lief Wiechman at 307.214.8426 (lief_wiechman@fws.gov). If you have technical questions, please send them to fw1sagegrouseced@fws.gov (members of the CED team have access to this account and will be able to respond to your technical inquiries quicker).