United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services
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Grand Junction, Colorado 81501-5711

IN REPLY REFER TO:
ES/CO:NPS/BCNP-CNRA
ES/CO:BLM/GFO
ES/CO:FS/GMUG
TAILS 06E24100-2015-I-0170

July 31, 2015

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, National Park Service, Curecanti National Recreation Area, Gunnison Colorado; Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Gunnison Field Office, Gunnison, Colorado; Forest Supervisor, Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests, Delta, Colorado

From: Western Colorado Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, Grand Junction, Colorado

Subject: Programmatic Concurrence for the Upper Gunnison Basin Gunnison Sage-Grouse Brood Rearing Habitat Restoration and Weed Treatment Actions Occurring on the Respective Federal lands, or Actions Funded by the Respective Federal Agencies

☐ No Concerns

☒ Concur Not Likely To Adversely Affect (see comments for current and future projects below)

☐ Do Not Concur (see explanation below)

We recognize that the proposed actions will prove beneficial to Gunnison sage-grouse (*Centrocercus minimus)* (GUSG) and we appreciate your efforts towards conserving the species and its designated critical habitat. We concur with your not likely to adversely affect determination for both the species and its designated critical habitat. The original biological assessment (BA) did not include Federal funding of habitat restoration actions that may occur off of Federal lands. However, at the request of Ms. Theresa Childers of your staff, via email on July 28, 2015, we are including the funding of conservation work on non-federal lands as part of the proposed action. We would like to recommend the following modification to the conservation measures contained in the BA: Noxious and invasive plant species treatments and erosion control restoration activities work not occur from March 1st through July 15th. This timing is more consistent with timing recommendation suggested in our listing of the GUSG (79 FR 69191) and restrictions in place for Greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus)*.

This additional measure provides more protection for GUSG. If you can keep these dates in mind for future projects

Thank you, if you have any further questions please contact Kurt Broderdorp of my staff at (970) 628-7186.

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