



**Gunnison County, CO**  
**Community Development Office**  
221 N. Wisconsin St. Ste. D, Gunnison, CO 81230  
Phone: (970) 641-0360  
Website: [www.gunnisoncounty.org](http://www.gunnisoncounty.org)  
Email: [rricord@gunnisoncounty.org](mailto:rricord@gunnisoncounty.org)

**To:** Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee Members

**From:** Misty Castillo

**Date:** January 24, 2025

**Included in your packet for the Wildlife Conservation Strategic Committee Meeting:**

February 19<sup>th</sup> Agenda

December 18<sup>th</sup> Draft Minutes

Matt Williams Lek Access Application

Conservation Benefit Agreements for Private Property Owners

**GUNNISON BASIN SAGE-GROUSE STRATEGIC COMMITTEE**  
**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

**DATE: Wednesday, February 19, 2025**

**PLACE: Planning Commission Meeting Room, Blackstock Government Center OR via Zoom meeting, Meeting ID: 859 9849 7601 (see Teleconference Information below)**

1. 10:00am
  - Call Regular Meeting to Order; Determination of Quorum; Verify Public Notice of Meeting
  - Approval of December 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes
  - Agenda Approval for February 19, 2025 agenda
  - Chairperson Election
2. 10:30am
  - Committee Member Reports/Updates
  - Update on CCAA/CBA CPW USFWS Meeting
3. 11:30am
  - Lek Photo Application Review
4. 12:00pm
  - Public Comments
5. 12:05
  - Future Meeting
6. 12:10
  - Adjourn

NOTE: This agenda is subject to change, including the addition of items up to 24 hours in advance or the deletion of items at any time. All times are approximate. Regular Meetings, Public Hearings, and Special Meetings are recorded and **ACTION MAY BE TAKEN ON ANY ITEM**. Work Sessions are not recorded and formal action cannot be taken. Two or more Gunnison County Commissioners may attend this meeting. For further information, contact the County Administration at 641-0248. If special accommodations are necessary per ADA, contact 641-0248 or TTY 641-3061 prior to the meeting.

**Gunnison Com Dev is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.**

**Topic: Sage-Grouse Strategic Committee Meeting**

**Time: 10:00 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)**

**Every month on the Third Wed, until Dec 18, 2024, 2 occurrence(s)**

**Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.**

**Monthly: <https://gunnisoncounty->**

**[org.zoom.us/meeting/tZEkfuGspzwsGtVg7l5atEHosry4yUBJ\\_HPY/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGtpzliHt2SthmGRpwMHYr4WejxmGZdjbdrm0jpViFHRyv5JfBbZqtKMvLv](https://gunnisoncounty-)**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://gunnisoncounty->**

**[org.zoom.us/j/85998497601?pwd=ZUxSVE1zY1lPV2wwYXFXaGZvaFo3Zz09](https://gunnisoncounty-)**

**Meeting ID: 859 9849 7601**

**Passcode: 754099**

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**One tap mobile**

**+17193594580,,85998497601#,,,,\*754099# US**

**+14086380968,,85998497601#,,,,\*754099# US (San Jose)**

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**Dial by your location**

- **+1 719 359 4580 US**
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- **+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)**
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- **+1 507 473 4847 US**
- **+1 564 217 2000 US**
- **+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)**
- **+1 646 931 3860 US**
- **+1 689 278 1000 US**
- **+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)**
- **+1 305 224 1968 US**
- **+1 309 205 3325 US**
- **+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)**
- **+1 360 209 5623 US**
- **+1 386 347 5053 US**

**Meeting ID: 859 9849 7601**

**Passcode: 754099**

**Find your local number: <https://gunnisoncounty-org.zoom.us/j/k6ak7n8ZE>**

**GUNNISON BASIN SAGE-GROUSE STRATEGIC COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
December 18, 2024**

The December 18, 2024 Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee meeting was conducted in the Gunnison County Blackstock Government Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room, located at 221 N. Wisconsin #D, Gunnison, CO, 81230. The meeting was also available on Zoom.

**Committee Members Present:**

**Voting Members:**

Nathan Seward, Chairperson, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)  
Liz Smith, Vice-Chairperson, Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)  
Sue Navy, High Country Conservation Advocates (HCCA)  
Paul Mowery, Gunnison County Stockgrowers  
Matthew Vasquez, U.S. Forest Service (USFS)  
Pat Magee, Research and Education At-Large (Western Colorado University, WCU)  
Thersa Childers, National Park Service (NPS)  
Andy Stokes, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)  
Tim Kugler, Recreation At-Large (Gunnison Trails)  
Peter Caloger, Public At-Large  
Angela Trnka, USFWS  
Dale Funka, USFS

**Non-Voting Members**

Brandon Diamond, CPW  
Aleshia Rummel, NPS  
Amanda Aulenbach, Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

**Others in the Audience:**

John Scott, Private Consultant  
Kathy Griffin, CPW  
Nathan Darnell, USFWS  
Jon Hare, High Country Conservation Advocates  
Jared Dunn, Colorado Forest Restoration Institute  
Steffanie Chain, Public at Large Alternate

**Staff Members Present:**

Misty Castillo, Gunnison County Community and Economic Development Department  
Ben Prior, Gunnison Conservation District  
Others present as listed in text.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Seward called the December 18, 2024 meeting of the Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee to order at 10:07 AM.

**DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:** Seward confirmed that a quorum was present.

**AGENDA APPROVAL:** Moved: by Smith and seconded by Navy to approve the December 18, 2024 agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF September 18, 2024 MEETING MINUTES:** Corrections for minutes: Angela Trnka listed twice, pg.2 change “mitigate” to “helping reduce impacts to GUSG habitat” and add “validate in person on the ground”, “December 1st through July 15<sup>th</sup>”, Pg3 second full paragraph, disturbed areas, “0.6 mile buffer using lek count data”, “quantify” **Moved:** by Smith and seconded by Peter to approve the November meeting minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

## **COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS / REPORTS**

Trnka, Recovery Implementation Strategy (RIS) workshop for Gunnison sage grouse (GUSG) to occur on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Five-year status review for GUSG is now completed, threatened listing was continued. As of 2024 GUSG is left in threatened status for the next five years.

Griffin, 2<sup>nd</sup> wolf release will occur in early January 2025. Wolves will be from Canada and 15 total will be released. Release location not disclosed yet. Having interviews for Seward’s replacement, hope to have decision by early January 2025. Number of new FTEs for range riding with CPW. This includes 12 total, fulltime seasonal riders and five fulltime conflict specialists.

Darnell, USFWS has proposed listing the monarch butterfly as a threatened species with 4D rule. The USFWS has also proposed listing the cuckoo bumble bee as an endangered species. These listings likely won’t affect Gunnison Basin.

Funka, Forest Plan signed in June. A guideline included in the Forest Plan for implanting a forest order for closing Flattop area. Big change, closed to all human entry from December 1<sup>st</sup> to July 15<sup>th</sup>. Not officially launched yet. Permit holders allowed; all rec traffic not allowed. This are houses 40 percent of GUSG in the area.

Pat, Seth Owens photographed leks this year. Put together stickers, proceeds go to conservation efforts. Sent Pat \$750 from the sticker sales. Money could be used to organize outreach event, possibly one with the Ute Mountain Ute tribes.

Smith, Sarah Elzay (new Cheatgrass Coordinator) starting in January 2025.

### **BLM GUSG Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA)**

Stokes, BLM has made an offer for a detail for Kathy Brodhead’s position. RMPA was signed in October, guides GUSG management on BLM land. Splits habit into occupied and unoccupied areas. Differing management for these areas. Split up by Gunnison basin and satellite populations. New mitigation ratio is 5 to 1 ratio for surface disturbance. Example, one mile of new trail must restore 5 miles to mitigate. Annual monitoring report will still occur. No disturbances in occupied GUSG habitat from March 15 to July 15<sup>th</sup>. No above ground development or infrastructure within one mile of leks. Four new areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC) established. Two in Gunnison, Chance Gulch (13000 acres) Sapinero Mesa (17000 acres). These areas are closed to all human use from March 15<sup>th</sup> to May 15<sup>th</sup> for leking season. Chance Gulch is a forage reserve area; unlikely this area will ever be grazed again.

Record of decision signing for RMPA falls within timeframe for reversal by incoming administration under the Congressional Review Act. Not likely to occur due to support from Colorado governor, no governor protest was recorded for this plan. Greater sage grouse plan has not been signed but will be signed on January 12<sup>th</sup>. This plan has high chance of being reversed. Many states don’t like the plan and has been reversed in the past.

Seward was awarded the GUSG Stewardship Award for his dedication to GUSG conservation in the Gunnison Basin.

### **CCAA Conversion to Conservation Benefits Agreements (CBAs)**

Griffin, the CCAAs was a Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW) program that worked with private landowners on conserving candidate species not already listed species. In 2006, the DOW signed a CCAA with USFWS that provided the opportunity for private landowners to sign on to this agreement through a certificate of inclusion (CI) for the benefit of conserving this species. Formal, voluntary agreement between private landowner, CPW, and USFWS. The purpose behind this agreement was to provide conservation for GUSG on private property. These conservation efforts on private lands under this CCAA would hopefully help prevent GUSG from being listed as federally endangered.

Over the years Griffin and Seward entered landowners into these agreements. Over 40 landowners, 32 within the Gunnison Basin. Roughly 93,000 acres are under this agreement, with 54,000 acres in the Gunnison Basin. The CCAA provides a permit to a private landowner containing assurances that if GUSG becomes federally endangered, that the landowner doesn't have to implement any other conservation measures then what's already planned. Provides safety net for landowners if species becomes endangered.

This agreement was signed in 2006 and is a 20-year agreement, will end in 2026. The USFWS no longer offers CCAAs so there is no rollover to extend CCAAs. Trnka, there is allotted time for these CCAAs to be extended for short amount of time so that enrollment into Conservation Benefit Agreements (CBAs) can occur. These CBAs are the replacement for CCAA program. All properties will need to be resurveyed to enroll in a CBA. At the end of January, CPW and USFWS will meet to discuss how to proceed with these new CBAs. For the CCAAs, CPW would survey the properties every three to five years to make sure habitat within these agreements was still suitable for GUSG. Anyone at anytime can sign up for a CBA. Final guidance from USFWS on CBAs should be signed in next couple months. Good opportunity to enroll new properties in these new agreements. Seward, CPW has good budget to continue helping these agreements. CCAAs technically expire at end of 2026, but there is flexibility to extend while landowners are enrolling in CBAs.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**FUTURE MEETINGS: Future meetings will occur in the Gunnison County Blackstock Government Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room and by Zoom online meetings, unless changed for a specific reason.**

06-12-24	10-12	Regular Meeting	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room
07-17-24	10-12	Regular Meeting	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room
08-21-24	10-12	Canceled	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room
09-18-24	10-12	Regular Meeting	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room
10-16-24	10-12	Canceled	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room
11-20-24	10-12	Regular Meeting	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room
12-18-24	10-12	Regular Meeting	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room

**ADJOURN:** The December 18, 2024 meeting of the Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee adjourned at 12:00 PM.

Minutes Prepared By: Ben Prior, Gunnison Conservation District

# Gunnison Sage-grouse Lek Access Application

Gunnison Basin

Spring 2024

**Application deadline: February 1, 2024**

Name:

Street Address:

City:

State:

Zip code:

Phone:

E-mail Address:

Request Type:    Photography    Video    Audio recording    Other (specify)

Applicant Type:    Commercial User    Non-commercial User

Project Name:

1. Project Goals.

2. How will your project contribute to Gunnison sage-grouse conservation efforts?

3. Justify why you need original photographs, audio recordings, or other products? (Many of these resources are available for public use, contact Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) at 970-641-7060)

4. Explain your qualifications and experience related to this project (please attach examples of your work).

5. Explain your approach for reducing impacts on Gunnison sage-grouse when you are on or near the lek.

6. A protocol was developed for lek activities including the number of days you will be allowed to access the lek. Please indicate dates you are available between April 1 and May 15.

7. Are you willing to share the products you secure with the Gunnison community?

8. If you are working on a conservation related book, please provide information about the book (for example what is the timeline for completion, what is the conservation message you are trying to communicate to readers, etc).

9. If working on a conservation related book, are you open to providing sample text to the Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee for review and recommendations?

10. If working on a conservation related book, have you secured a publisher or formal contract?

11. Are you willing to share a blind with a Strategic Committee representative to ensure no violations of the lek viewing protocol occur?

12. Please explain how you will prepare yourself for potentially negative degree weather while sitting motionlessly in a cold blind.

13. Explain any special needs you might require.

Additional Comments

List two professional references

# Excerpt from Matt William's Book, *Endangered and Disappearing Birds of Appalachia and the Southeast*

## Bachman's Sparrow (*Peucaea aestivalis*)

**Conservation Concern Score:** 16 (High)

**Other Designations:** American Bird Conservancy US Watchlist (Red), 2021 USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern, 2016 Partners in Flight (Red), State Protected (AL), State Special Concern (NC, GA), State Threatened (VA), State Endangered (TN)

**Estimated Population Trend 1966-2019:** -73%

**Size:** Length 6" Wingspan 7"

### Species Account

The Bachman's Sparrow was first described to science by John James Audubon in 1834 from a specimen he collected in South Carolina. Audubon named the species in honor of John Bachman, a clergyman from Charleston who hosted Audubon during one of his expeditions in America. A rather nondescript sparrow characteristic of the pine woods of the southeastern United States, the birds' Latin name makes reference to its preferred habitat. Loosely translated, it means "pine woods finch of the summer". That name is especially appropriate because even in areas where the birds are resident year-round, they are extremely difficult to find in the non-breeding season because they often stay hidden on the ground or in clumps of grass. It is only during the breeding season when males are singing to defend and establish their territories that the bird can more readily be located.

Preferring to stay on the ground to forage, Bachman's Sparrows search for insects and seeds. According to a study done in Alabama, the Bachman's Sparrow's diet consists of 58% insects and 42% plant material. Favorite prey items included weevils, caterpillars and beetles, while seeds from a variety of sedges and grass species made up the remainder of the diet with grasses in the genus *Panicum* being especially important.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, the Bachman's Sparrow experienced a significant range expansion to the north, likely in response to extensive timber harvesting at that time that left numerous areas in grassy, early successional habitat. By 1920, the bird was considered a breeding bird in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. Beginning in the 1930s however, a contraction began as these newly cleared habitats were converted to agriculture, residential areas, or allowed to grow back into dense forest. This declining population trend continues to the present day. The Bachman's Sparrow is now nearly or completely extirpated from the five states mentioned above, as well as Maryland and Missouri. Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee have only small, isolated populations remaining at best.

The core of the birds' present range from the Carolinas through Georgia and the Gulf Coast states has also seen significant population declines in recent decades. These are likely due in large part to the suppression of naturally occurring fires in the region, and to the logging practices that influence the age and structure of the remaining pine woods. Combined, this has resulted in a great reduction in the availability of habitat preferred by Bachman's Sparrows that consists of open, mature pine forest with a grassy understory, largely devoid of a heavy shrub layer. Fire, or some other form of disturbance is needed on a regular basis (typically every three to five years) to keep the habitat in prime condition for

the Bachman's Sparrow, except in areas where especially poor soil helps to slow growth of brushy species. Even where suitable habitat remains however, the sparrows are often not present. This would seem to indicate the reasons behind the birds' decline may be more nuanced than previously thought.

### Identification

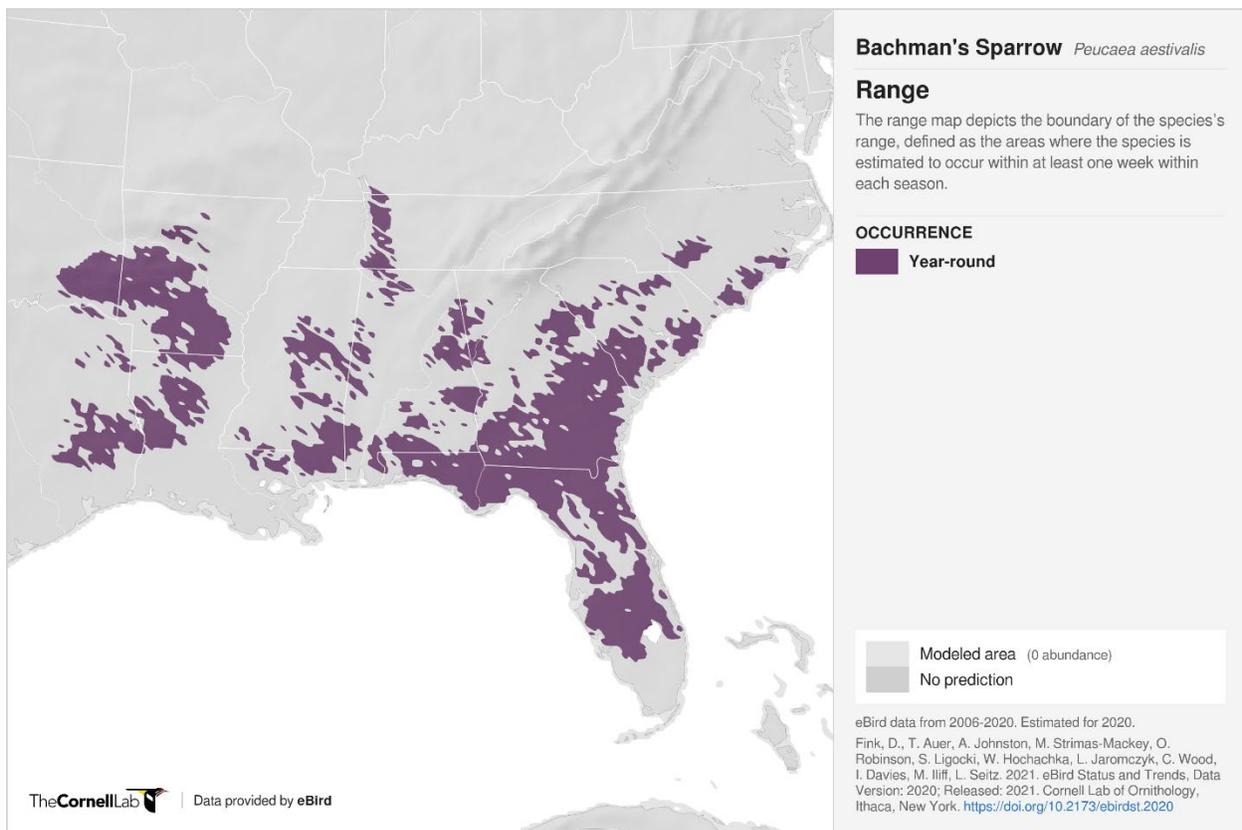
The Bachman's Sparrow is a fairly long tailed sparrow, with a large head and beak and somewhat similar to a Field Sparrow in overall coloration and appearance. The birds are quite plain overall with an off-white belly with no markings and a rufous cap. The back is grayish with rusty-brown markings. There is a reddish line that extends behind the eye and a faint, malar stripe at the side of the throat. Males and females are not distinguishable in the field.

### Vocalizations

Hearing a singing male is the best way to locate this secretive species. The song starts with an introductory note followed by a trill on a different pitch. This can be confused with the song of the Rufous-sided Towhee which also inhabits similar habitats in some areas.

### Nesting

Nests are built on the ground, often beside or under a pine seedling, a clump of grass, or a palmetto leaf. Nests often have overhanging vegetation that helps conceal the nest. A typical clutch consists of four, white, unmarked eggs. Across their current range, most females will attempt two clutches.



# Matt William's Photograph Examples

## Greater Prairie Chicken



Northern Bob White



©Matt Williams

Sharp-tailed Grouse





# Conservation Benefit Agreements for Private Property Owners

## What is a Conservation Benefit Agreement?

A Conservation Benefit Agreement (CBA) is a voluntary agreement involving private or other non-federal property owners where the actions in the agreement contribute to the conservation or recovery of the agreement's covered species. Covered species can include species listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and/or non-listed at-risk species. The agreement is between cooperating non-federal property owners and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). In exchange for actions that contribute to the conservation of species covered by an agreement on non-federal lands, participating property owners receive formal assurances from the FWS that if they fulfill the conditions of the CBA, the FWS will not require any additional or different management activities by the participants without their consent. In addition, at the end of the agreement period, participants may choose to return the enrolled property to the baseline conditions that existed at the beginning of the CBA, if the agreement included that provision prior to permit issuance.

## How does a CBA contribute to recovery or precluding listing?

Because many species occur exclusively, or to a large extent, on privately owned property, the involvement of the private sector in the conservation and recovery of species is crucial. Property owners are often willing partners in efforts to recover listed species or help to prevent listing of other non-listed at-risk species. However, some people may be reluctant to undertake activities that support or attract these species on their properties, due to concern about future use limitations related to the ESA. To address this concern, a CBA provides that future property-use limitations will not occur without the landowner's consent.



Isaac Chellman/NPS

*The mountain yellow-legged frog has benefited from voluntary conservation agreements aimed at maintaining and enhancing habitat to allow for the safe release of captive-bred individuals in the future.*

Central to this approach is that the actions taken under the CBA will provide a net conservation benefit that contributes to the conservation or recovery of the species included in the agreement. This contribution will vary from case to case, and the CBA does not have to provide permanent conservation for the enrolled property. The benefit to the species depends on the nature of the activities to be undertaken, where they are undertaken, and their duration. The CBA and associated documents include a description of the expected net conservation benefit(s) and how the FWS reached that conclusion. Examples of conservation benefits include:

- maintenance, restoration, or enhancement of existing habitats
- reduced habitat fragmentation; increases in habitat connectivity
- stabilized or increased numbers or distribution
- the creation of buffers for protected areas
- establishment of new populations of the species

## How does a property owner benefit?

By entering into a CBA, property owners receive assurances that they will not have to change their conservation measures or ongoing management activities agreed to in the CBA, if the voluntary actions increase the number of individuals already present on their property or attract the species onto their property. The assurances are provided by the FWS through an Enhancement of Survival Permit issued to the property owner; this permit authorizes take of species that may result from implementing conservation measures or from ongoing land management undertaken by the property owner under the CBA. The permit also specifies that the FWS will not require any additional or different conservation measures or management activities by participants without their consent. This kind of permit is issued under the authority of section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA. A CBA provides an option for a property owner to include a return to baseline authorization. If the CBA includes this authorization, the property owner can return their property back to the species and habitat conditions that

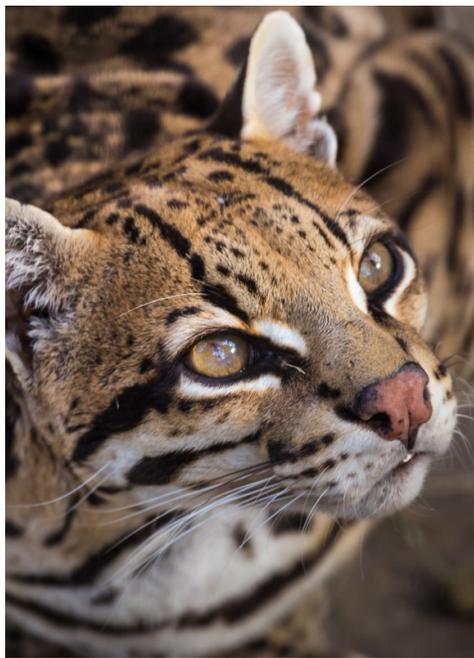
were present when they entered into the CBA.

A CBA may be initiated by a property owner, or the FWS may approach a property owner with a proposal to voluntarily enter into an agreement and work on a CBA can be done in concert with state agencies or other federal agencies. The FWS works with interested property owners in applying for an Enhancement of Survival Permit and a CBA. The FWS also assists property owners in identifying actions that they can voluntarily undertake or forgo to benefit species covered by the CBA and permit. FWS strongly encourages the development of “programmatically” CBAs and permits with state, local, or tribal governments that, over time, will include multiple property owners but many CBAs and permits only involve a single property owner.

### What is the CBA process?

The steps below describe what the property owner and FWS generally do to initiate and complete a CBA:

1. The property owner willing to conduct beneficial actions on their property for listed, non-listed at-risk species, or their habitat contacts the nearest FWS Ecological Services field office.
2. The property owner(s), with the aid of the FWS, gathers general information. Including, but is not limited to, a map of the property, proposed conservation measures, information on the listed or other non-listed at-risk species on the property, ongoing land management, and other pertinent information. In the case of a programmatic CBA, a map shows the specific area within which individual property owners can enroll. These participating owners then provide applicable information for their property.
3. The FWS (or approved cooperators) will describe the baseline conditions for the property to be enrolled in the CBA in terms appropriate for the covered species. Baseline conditions can refer to current population estimates and distribution, or to the existing habitat characteristics that sustain seasonal or permanent use by the species. Using the baseline determination, the property owner and FWS discuss land use objectives, assess habitat quality, and identify other information needed to develop an agreement that meets the CBA net conservation benefit standard. In addition, the property owner decides



*A voluntary conservation agreement supports efforts to expand the range of the endangered ocelot in Texas by providing additional habitat for the species to be reintroduced. Photo by Martinus Scriblerus, CC BY 2.0.*

- whether to include in the CBA the option to “return to baseline” which would allow them to return their property to the species and habitat conditions that existed at the beginning of the agreement.
4. Based on the information provided by the property owner, information gathered during site visits, and FWS technical assistance, the property owner (and any other pertinent entity, such as a state fish and game agency) develops a draft CBA.
5. The property owner applies to the FWS for an Enhancement of Survival Permit, with the draft CBA attached. This can be done through ePermits (preferred), or the application could be emailed to the FWS field office.
6. FWS completes internal review and public comment period on the permit application, in line with applicable ESA provisions and ensures that the permit criteria have been satisfied.
7. The property owner is issued an Enhancement of Survival permit and the CBA is finalized.

In the unexpected event that continuation of permitted activities will appreciably reduce the likelihood of survival and recovery of any listed species, the FWS may, as a last resort, revoke the permit. Prior to revocation,

however, the FWS will, with the consent of the permittee, pursue all appropriate options to avoid revoking the permit.

### How long does it take to develop an CBA?

Many agreements can be developed within six to nine months, although more complex agreements may take longer. A variety of factors influence the timeline, such as the number and characteristics of the species involved, the size of the area involved, management or other activities to be conducted, the number of parties to the agreement, and other relevant factors.

### Can a property owner sell or transfer property enrolled with a CBA?

If a property owner sells or gives away lands enrolled in CBA, the FWS will honor the agreement and associated permit, providing the new owner agrees to become a party to the original CBA and permit.

### What happens when the CBA expires?

The CBA can be renewed for as long as the property landowner and the FWS mutually agree. If the landowner does not renew the agreement, the assurances tied to the Enhancement of Survival Permit expire. The owner then is no longer protected from the “take” prohibitions of the ESA that are allowed under the permit for any listed species included in the agreement.

### What is a programmatic CBA?

A programmatic CBA and associated permits authorize state, local, tribal governments and other entities to enter into an agreement for a single or multiple species and hold the associated permit. This entity can then enroll individual property owners within a specific region and convey the permit authorization and assurances to them through a “certificate of inclusion.” This programmatic approach is an efficient mechanism encouraging multiple non-federal property owners to collectively engage in conservation measures that benefit the conservation or recovery of species.

### Who should I contact?

If you would like more information about CBAs, please contact the nearest Ecological Services field office in your state. [Find an office](#) near you.

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Ecological Services  
5275 Leesburg Pike  
Falls Church, VA 22041  
703/358-2171**

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/>

May 2024