

# NVCCS Credit Projects Overview

Credit Projects: Sarah Hale & Skyler Monaghan

# Roles

- Credit Projects
- Adaptive Management & Report
- Seed Grants/Solicitation
- Collaboration (ROGER/Shoesole)
- Update User's Guide/HQT/Data Package (credit)
- Project management actions implementation on Private Lands

# Overview

- Overview of the Credit Generation Process
- Management Plan
- Transactions
- Annual Monitoring
- Continued Commitments

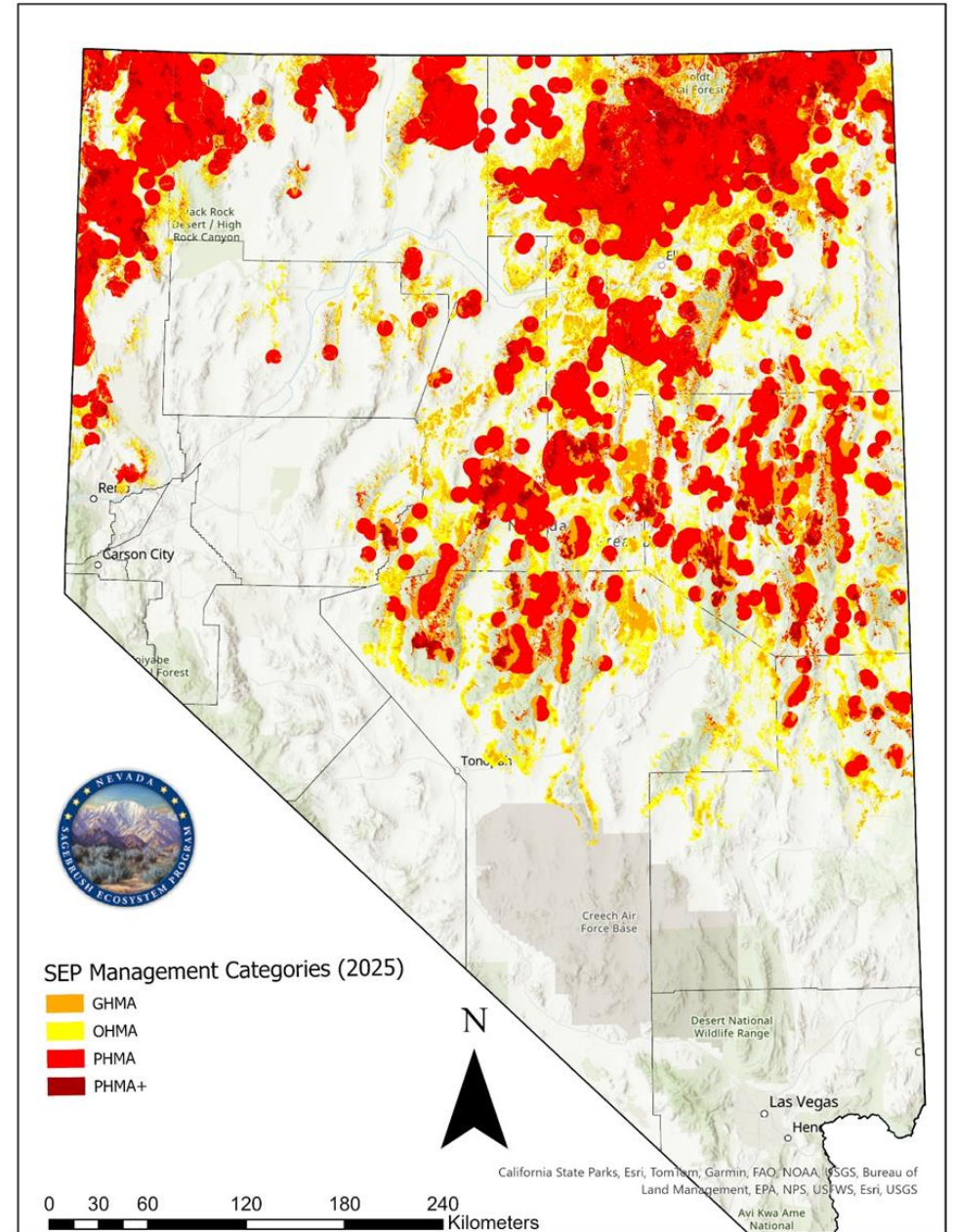
# Nevada Conservation Credit System: Credit Projects

- Eligibility
- Generating Credits
- HQT Process
- Management Plans
- Transactions

# **Eligibility**

# Credit Service Area

- Where the landowner's parcels are located will determine the credit project area. For the credit area to be eligible it must fall within GRSG habitat.



# Ownership and Stewardship

- Credit Project Proponents must attest to the current ownership, or use rights, control of water rights, and past land management and land uses associated with the entire credit site over the previous years to be eligible to generate credits from the project site.

# Minimum Performance and Standards

- To be eligible for enrollment in the CCS as a Credit Project, the potential project site must be located within GRSG habitat, and be able to provide seasonal (e.g., winter, brood-rearing, and/or breeding) and daily (e.g. forage) resources for GRSG.
- The following minimum qualifications are based on post-project GRSG habitat function and must be met at all three scales to ensure credit sites are fulfilling the needs of GRSG at each scale:
  - **Landscape-scale**
  - **Local-scale**
  - **Site-scale**

# Additionality

- A project cannot enroll in the CCS if already enrolled in an easement that seeks to accomplish the same goals as the CCS; however, if enrolled in the CCS first, landowners can subsequently use other grants or easements on their property.

# No Imminent Threat

- There cannot be evidence supporting imminent threat of direct or indirect disturbance by land uses that will cause the GRSG habitat function of the credit site to be below the minimum performance standardss referenced above. Imminent threat can include, but is not limited to:
  - Development Plans (Building permits, or NEPA documents currently under development)
  - Development designations (e.g., energy transmission corridors)

# Site Protection

- The participating Credit Project Proponent will sign the Participant Contract and Management Plan that ensures that your land will stay the same, or improve if conducting restoration activities, for the duration of the project.

# Accuracy

- Credit Project Proponent must attest to the accuracy of the information provided in all documentation.

# Financial Assurances

- Credit Project Proponents must commit to financial assurances in the form of contract terms and financial instruments. Financial assurances are specifically defined in each Credit Project Proponents' Participant Contract with the CCS and associated Management Plan.

# Generating Credits



# Select and Validate Site



## NEVADA CONSERVATION CREDIT SYSTEM CREDIT SITE VALIDATION CHECKLIST

This Credit Site Validation Checklist is used to express interest in generating credits within the Nevada Conservation Credit System and provide basic information about a potential credit project in order to confirm the project is eligible to generate credits. The Credit Site Validation Checklist is filled out by the Credit Developer or a knowledgeable Technical Support Provider to the best of their ability and submitted to the Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team (SETT). Should shapefiles or documents be missing, the submission will be deemed incomplete.

The SETT will evaluate the proposed project and may follow-up with the Credit Developer to collect additional information. If the credit site validation criteria are met, the SETT will issue a notice to proceed to indicate the proposed project will likely be eligible to sell or transfer credits and may move forward with project design.

### SIGNATURE

I am submitting this Credit Site Validation Checklist to indicate interest in generating credits within the Nevada Conservation Credit System. I recognize that not all projects may be eligible for participation. To be awarded credits under the Nevada Conservation Credit System, my project must fulfill all requirements described in the Nevada Conservation Credit System Manual. Credit estimates must be verified by the SETT. I attest that the information provided in this form is accurate to the best of my ability.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Developer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Project ID	Date Received	WAFWA Zone	PMU	BSU
CREDIT DEVELOPER CONTACT INFORMATION			AUTHORIZED AGENT'S CONTACT INFORMATION (who to contact for 30+ years, IF APPLICABLE)	
Credit Developer Name	Provide first and last name of Credit Developer.		Contact Person Name & Title	Provide first and last name of authorized agent and agent's title.
Mailing Address	Provide mailing address for Credit Developer.		Mailing Address	Provide mailing address for authorized agent.
Telephone	Provide telephone number where Credit Developer can be reached (home, work or cellular).		Telephone	Provide telephone number where authorized agent can be reached (home, work or cellular).
Email	Provide email address for Credit Developer.		Email	Provide email address for authorized agent.

For Internal Purposes only:

Issue Notice to Proceed?  Yes  No

Sett Member Initials:

Notes:

\_\_\_\_\_

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

Specify the county in which the proposed project site is located and general road access and/or place names. Provide the Township, Range and Section if possible. Attach a map showing the proposed project boundaries and provide a shapefile of the boundary.

Property Location

Map or shapefile of proposed credit project area is included

Number of acres you are considering for enrollment in the Credit System

Provide the total number of acres of the proposed project site. An estimate or range is sufficient.

Surrounding Impacts

Is the land adjacent to Public land or Private land not managed by the Credit Developer?

Yes, Public     Yes, Private     No

Is the proposed project separated from the neighboring properties by a fence?

Yes     No

If not, are there opportunities for activities on adjacent lands outside of the control of the Credit Developer to affect the proposed project?

Yes    What? \_\_\_\_\_     No

Briefly describe the current use of the land you are planning to restore, enhance or manage for credits under this program

Briefly describe the current use of the proposed project site.

Briefly describe the proposed credit project and anticipated benefits to greater sage-grouse

Briefly describe any possible uplift or restoration needs, proposed enhancements or changes in management activities, and the anticipated benefits to greater sage-grouse.

Would you have interest in a term or permanent commitment or both? And if so for how long?

Indicate preference to participate in permanent conservation or a term contract (minimum 30 years in increments of 5 years). This Response is NOT a binding commitment. If not known, check "unsure". Provide additional clarification here if needed.

Permanent contract     Term contract: \_\_\_\_\_ years     Unsure

PROPERTY & OWNERSHIP QUESTIONS

<p>Is the proposed project within the Sage-Grouse Management Area?</p>	<p>Indicate whether the proposed project is within the Sage-Grouse Management Area. Credit projects must be located within the Sage-Grouse Management Area to be eligible to participate in the Credit System.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes                      <input type="checkbox"/> No                      <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure</p>
<p>What is the land ownership status of the area of the proposed project (check all that apply)?</p>	<p>Indicate the land ownership status of the area of the proposed project.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Private                      <input type="checkbox"/> State or Local Government  <input type="checkbox"/> Federal                      <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal, Allotted, Ceded, or Indian Land</p>
<p>How will the Credit Developer certify control of the land of the proposed project area?</p>	<p>Indicate how the Credit Developer will certify control of the surface, water, and sub-surface (mineral) rights of the proposed project area. Please attach a copy of proof of control.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I own the property and will provide proof in the form of an Owner's (Title) Policy (which includes and all water rights and subsurface rights)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I do not have an Owner's (Title) Policy; I have control over the following and will provide copies of the appropriate documents showing proof of control</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Land Ownership (Deed)    <input type="checkbox"/> Water Rights    <input type="checkbox"/> Sub-surface/Mineral Rights          (with permit #s)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I have a written Lease Agreement for any of the above (describe, including start and end dates for the lease):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other agreement or legal conveyance for any of the above (describe):</p>
<p>Has the proposed project area ever received funding to implement a conservation project (e.g., Farm Bill funds) or participated in another credit market?</p>	<p>Indicate if you have ever received an outside source of funding to implement conservation on your proposed project area. If yes, describe the funding source. This includes Farm Bill (i.e. EQIP) funds. This will not preclude you from participation in the Credit System. If yes, please specify here.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes (describe)                      <input type="checkbox"/> No                      <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure</p>
<p>Is any of the proposed project area covered by a conservation easement, held by a conservation organization or agency, or otherwise had conservation values protected?</p>	<p>Indicate whether there are any existing conservation easements or external conservation restrictions on the property. Please provide a copy of the Easement Documentation and provide additional clarification here if needed.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes (describe)                      <input type="checkbox"/> No                      <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure</p>

## Uplift and Maintenance Acknowledgements

All projects will be required to conduct some form of uplift and implement new management actions and maintenance of such, depending on the results of the HQT field data. Required management actions that could be addressed are listed below. Plans can be simple or complex, depending on individual situations. The only exemption to this is if the field results show pristine habitat that cannot be improved in any way. Implementation of these actions may be contingent upon sale of credits and will be planned collaboratively with the land manager to ensure feasibility and affordability. Depending on funding and staff availability, assistance may be available to cover the upfront costs of supplies and labor for certain actions. Additional credits may also be generated depending on the success of these actions.

- If Proper Functioning Conditions show a degradation of riparian health in the stream or meadow systems: Implementing a plan to trend towards Proper Functioning Condition.
- If noxious weeds or invasive annual grasses are present: Implementing a planned noxious weed treatment and invasive annual grass strategy. Flexibility on the type of treatment is allowed for Certified Organic Ranching depending on the severity of the invasion.
- If a map unit shows little to no habitat function and has the ecological potential to be improved: Implementing a restoration strategy to return it to higher-quality habitat (e.g. noxious or invasive plant treatments, seeding, sagebrush planting, soil amendments, fencing) etc.
- If Phase I or II Pinyon or Juniper stands (PJ) are located on the project site: PJ will be removed.
- Implementing a grazing management plan. The guideline for an approved grazing management plan is located on the Sagebrush Ecosystem Program website [here](#).
- Implement wildlife friendly haying methods. The guideline for approved haying methods is located on the Sagebrush Ecosystem Program website [here](#).
- New permanent or temporary fencing to provide adequate rest/recovery of restoration areas as applicable.

Do you understand the requirements and are you agreeable to them?

- Yes, I agree to work with the SETT to improve degraded areas or those of diminished quality within the project area.
- No, I do not agree to implement uplift or to change management on the project area.

Please state why:

Do you agree to maintain the work set forth by these requirements for the duration of the project?

- Yes, I agree to maintain the actions taken to improve the habitat within the project area.
- No, I do agree to maintain these actions.

Please state why:

Upon sales of credits, all projects will be required to set aside a sum of money in an account for financial assurance of the continual maintenance and monitoring of the project or the areas relevant to the transaction for its duration. These assurances will be agreed upon by both the project proponent and the SETT and may vary from project to project based on factors such as maintenance and monitoring costs, and the interest percentage of the chosen financial assurance instrument, among others. On average, the amount required for continual maintenance and monitoring of the project is equal to about 1/3 of the sale price. However, maintenance and monitoring of the Project Area are the fiscal responsibility of the Participant if the funds established in the Financial Assurance instrument are depleted prior to the end of the project duration.

Do you understand the requirement and are you agreeable to it?

- Yes, I agree to set aside a sum of money for the maintenance and monitoring of the project for its duration.
- No, I do not agree to set aside a sum of money for this purpose.

Please state why:



NEVADA CONSERVATION CREDIT SYSTEM

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF USE**

I acknowledge that the Sagebrush Ecosystem Program (SEP, Program) requires the submittal of various forms of documentation pertaining to my project(s). I also acknowledge that the members of the SEP may take photos during scheduled visits for their own records. Accordingly, I acknowledge that all of the files and information I submit to the SEP and that the SEP collects becomes available for use by the SEP for the purposes of implementing the Program. Program implementation includes, but is not limited to, necessary registry, educational, promotional, and/or other lawful activities. I will hold the SEP free of liability for the exchange of this information and any other reasonable and necessary information incident to the requirements of the Program.

Name of Owner (Print): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Authorized Agent (Print): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Project: \_\_\_\_\_

# Initial Credit Estimate

- A member of the SETT will run a desktop credit estimate based on the parcel given. The credit estimate is a free service that is provided to the credit producer.
- If the project is viable, the SETT will meet with the landowner to discuss the wants, needs, and ideals as well as answer any questions they may have.

# Select a Verifier

- Your verifier (certified by the SETT and acting as an un-biased third party) will refine the initial estimate by completing the Habitat Quality Assessment (HQT).
  - During this process, the initial map units will be created, along with the first delineation of anthropogenic features, including but not limited to powerlines, mines, and other structures that may affect the credit score.
  - The SETT member tasked with the project will then complete a pre-field quality assurance form to ensure that all information is correct.
- The verifier will then complete the required field work to better assess the property and submit a post-fieldwork report to the SETT.
  - The SETT member will then work with the verifier, completing the Post-Field Quality Assurance Form, and a final credit number will be set.

# Create a Management Plan

1. Project Information
2. Land Ownership, Current Management and Local Resources
3. Credit Project Overview, Reserve Account & Credit Release Schedule
4. Management and Monitoring
5. Further Terms and Conditions
6. Management Plan Section B



# HQT Process

1. Complete Site Validation
2. Pre-Field Submission
3. Pre-Field QA
4. Conduct Fieldwork
5. Post-Field Submission
6. Post-Field QA



## Project Checklist

Project Name \_\_\_\_\_

\*Project Proponent \_\_\_\_\_

\*Verifier \_\_\_\_\_

Date Completed

Attend Verifier Training for the Current Year\*

Typically January

Site Validation Checklist\* (Credit Projects Only)

Submit to SETT  
PRIOR TO Pre-Field,  
Due by February 1

Pre-Field Work Submittal Checklist\*

- Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form
- Proof of Ownership and Rights (Credit Projects Only)
- Debit Project Review Form Part 1 (Debit Projects Only)
- Pre-Field Credit System Calculator
- Valid CCS Shapefiles with Map Units
- Valid CCS Shapefiles of PFC Reaches for Surveying (Credit Projects Only)

Submit to SETT  
Due by March 15

SETT Approval of Pre-Field Work Submittal Packet\*  
Will Provide the Transects Upon Final Approval

Expect two weeks  
Post-submission

Conduct Fieldwork\*

- Anthropogenic Features Review Form
- Map Unit Datasheets
- Resistance & Resilience Scorecards (Credit Projects Only)
- Ability to Control Wildfire Scorecards (Credit Projects Only)
- Transect Datasheets [Project Site]-[MU#]-[T#]
- PFC Datasheets (Credit Projects Only) [Project Site]-PFC-[ReachName]
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

April 15<sup>th</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup>  
(Variable per Year)

Enter Data into Calculator\*

Name Photos\* [Project Site]-[MU#]-[T#]-[Descriptor] or [Unknown Code\_#]-YYYYMMDD; [Project Site]-PFC-[ReachName]-[#]-YYYYMMDD

Scan Datasheets\* [Project Site]-[MU#] or [PFC] or [Anthro]-\_Datasheets\_YYYYMMDD.pdf

Verifier Project Assessment Submission Form\*

- Project Geodatabase and Map (.mxd)
- Final Credit System Calculator
- Anthropogenic Features Review Form
- Map Unit Datasheets
- Resistance & Resilience Scorecards (Credit Projects Only)
- Ability to Control Wildfire Scorecards (Credit Projects Only)
- Transect Datasheets
- PFC Datasheets (Credit Projects Only)
- PFC Summary (Credit Projects Only)
- Transect Photographs
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Submit to SETT  
By October 31<sup>st</sup>

Project may be subject  
to a new Version if not  
finalized 90 days after a  
new version is released

<input type="checkbox"/>	Receive QA Results from SETT*	<a href="#">Expect one month post submission</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete and Sign Debit Project Review Form Part 2* (Debit Projects Only) <small>If not purchased or transferred within 5 years from signing of Debit Project Review Form Part 2, then the Debits must be rerun under the newest Version</small>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Draft Management Plan** (Credit Projects Only)	<a href="#">Submit to SETT</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Finalize and Sign Management Plan Section A* (Credit Projects Only) <small>If not completed within 90 days from approval of a new Version, then the Credits will be subject to the new Version</small>	<a href="#">Submit to SETT</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Credits Eligible for Sale* (Credit Projects Only)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pre-Sale Annual Management and Monitoring Report* (Credit Projects Only)	<a href="#">Submit to SETT</a> By July 31 <sup>st</sup>
	Year HQT is Completed (Year 0) _____	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Year 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Year 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Year 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Year 4	
	<small>If Credits are Not Sold by Year 5 (Credit Projects Only)</small>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Conduct 5-Year Qualitative Assessment* (Maintains Credits for another 3 years)	<a href="#">Re-start Pre-Sale Annual Monitoring Cycle</a>
	Or	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Remove Project from CCS*	
	<small>When an Arrangement is Made to Sell/Transfer Credits, Completed with Each Credit Sale/Transfer</small>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Finalize Financial Assurance Plan* (Credit Projects Only)	<a href="#">Submit to SETT</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Participant Contract* (Credit Projects Only)	<a href="#">Submit to SETT</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Set up Financial Assurance Account* (Credit Projects Only)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Finalize and Sign Management Plan Section B* (Credit Projects Only)	<a href="#">Submit to SETT</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Credit Purchase / Transfer Agreement*	<a href="#">Optional: Submit to SETT</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Credit Purchase / Transfer Form* (Credit Projects Only)	<a href="#">Submit to SETT</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Debit Project Review Form Part 3* (Debit Projects Only)	<a href="#">Submit to SETT</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Annual Management and Monitoring Report* / 15-Year Verification* (Credit Projects Only)	<a href="#">Submit to SETT</a> By July 31 <sup>st</sup> / By October 31 <sup>st</sup>
	Year HQT is Completed (Year 0) _____ Term of Project _____ Years	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Year 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Year 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Year 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Year 16 <input type="checkbox"/> Year 21 <input type="checkbox"/> Year 26	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Year 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Year 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Year 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Year 17 <input type="checkbox"/> Year 22 <input type="checkbox"/> Year 27	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Year 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Year 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Year 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Year 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Year 23 <input type="checkbox"/> Year 28	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Year 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Year 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Year 14 <input type="checkbox"/> Year 19 <input type="checkbox"/> Year 24 <input type="checkbox"/> Year 29	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Year 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Year 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Year 15 <input type="checkbox"/> Year 20 <input type="checkbox"/> Year 25 <input type="checkbox"/> Year 30...	

# **Site Validation Checklist**

# Credit Validation Quality Assessment Form

## VALIDATION CHECKLIST QUALITY ASSESSMENT FORM

This form is intended for use by the SETT to ensure that the validation checklist for proposed credit projects undergo a consistent Quality Assessment (QA) process. This validation checklist QA process is intended to ensure a credit project is most likely to result habitat that is most beneficial to sage-grouse.

### SIGNATURE

The validation checklist QA process has been completed and the information provided in this form is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Credit System Administrator Name      \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit System Project Lead      \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Completion

### QA SUBMISSION STATUS

**\*Please mark and initial the "For Internal Purposes only" box in the validation checklist form \***

<input type="checkbox"/>	Notice to Proceed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rejected (describe)
Notes: _____	
_____	
_____	
_____	

### PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

WAFWA Zone: \_\_\_\_\_ Biologically Significant Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ Population Management Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

### PROJECT PROPONENT INFORMATION

Project Proponent Name \_\_\_\_\_

### VERIFIER INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE)

Verifier Name \_\_\_\_\_

### QUALITY ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

1. Has an estimate been done to ensure habitat quality? (Reduce estimate by 40%)

- Yes Estimate: \_\_\_\_\_ Adjusted Credits/Acre: \_\_\_\_\_  
 No Why not? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Other pre-work:

- Recent fires in the general area?  
Notes or paste map below: \_\_\_\_\_
- Annual grass in the general area?  
Notes or paste map below: \_\_\_\_\_
- WHB above AML in the general area?  
Notes or paste map below: \_\_\_\_\_
- PJ dominance in the general area?  
Notes or paste map below: \_\_\_\_\_
- Are anthropogenic disturbances significant in the general area?  
Notes or paste map below: \_\_\_\_\_
- Is the general area contiguous to significant GRSG habitat or more isolated?  
Notes: \_\_\_\_\_
- What did NDOW say about the potential project? Are there marked birds in the area? Are populations declining too rapidly in the area to allow a long-term GRSG project?  
Notes: \_\_\_\_\_
- What did NDOW say about the potential project? Are there marked birds in the area? Are populations declining too rapidly in the area to allow a long-term GRSG project?  
Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Are there any concerns regarding the property?

- Not Privately Owned land (Public or Tribal)  
 In checkerboard land  
 Adjacent to Public Land not separated by a fence  
 Adjacent to Private Land not separated by a fence  
 Other opportunities for activities on adjacent lands outside the control of the Credit Developer to affect the project  
What? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Any concerns about the current use that could decrease the habitat quality, either now or in the future?

- Yes What: \_\_\_\_\_  
 No

5. Do they have any plans for restoration or enhancement on the site?

- Yes What: \_\_\_\_\_  
 No

6. Are they willing to lock into a 30 year or more term?

- Yes  No

7. Are there any concerns with project location or ownership? Confirm that all lands within map units appear to be private lands in the control of the credit producer for private lands credit projects or vice versa. Assess whether the project footprint and map units are the same as previously received information, if applicable. Check [water rights status](#) (match permit #s, not APN) If changes have been made, please note why. Confirm with the [Secretary of State](#) that the Project Proponent has signatory authority, and if not, require proof they do.

- Does not own the land outright (is leasing or managing)  
Dates of leasing or managing: \_\_\_\_\_
- Does not have water rights
- Does not own subsurface/mineral rights (split-estate)
- Other What: \_\_\_\_\_
- No

8. Is there an additionality concern on the property (fill out chart below)?

- Yes What: \_\_\_\_\_
- No
- NA

Check Which	Conservation Credit System Easement Questions	If Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the easement principally geared towards development without additional specification?	Additional to CCS, Include in Project
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the easement principally geared towards protection of agriculture without additional specification?	Additional to CCS, Include in Project
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the easement principally geared towards habitat management where GRSB benefit in some way?	Not additional to the CCS, Exclude from Project
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are any areas restricted from being managed any differently?	Not additional to the CCS, Exclude from Project
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are there incongruencies with the CCS such as stipulations that pinyon-juniper remain?	Not additional to the CCS, Exclude from Project
<input type="checkbox"/>	Can the CCS add any additional protection or management to the land (not uplift)?	Describe, may be additional to CCS and included
	<b>If not clear from above questions, determine the following</b>	<b>Consider</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Why was the easement put into place?	What were they trying to target with the easement?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Was there compensation to the landowner? If so, who was the funding source?	If it was a voluntary easement, may be allowed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	When was the easement enacted?	Does the easement still stand? Is it still recognized?
<input type="checkbox"/>	What vegetative requirements are within the easement?	Are they required to maintain current vegetation (Not additional) or do they have the freedom to till (additional)?
<input type="checkbox"/>	What are the restrictions in how the land can be used?	Are they not allowed to use chemicals or till the land? Are they allowed to put in pivots?
<input type="checkbox"/>	What are the ways in which additionality will be boosted within the mgmt plan?	If minor additionality, but it can lead to a larger restoration project, then may be allowed.

9. Are they agreeable to the uplift and maintenance requirements?

Yes

No Why not?

10. Are they agreeable to maintain the uplift requirements?

Yes

No Why not?

11. Are they agreeable to the Financial Assurances requirements?

Yes

No Why not?

12. Did they sign the Acknowledgement of Use?

Yes  No

# **Pre-Field Work Submission**

# Pre-Field Quality Assessment

## PRE-FIELD SUBMISSION QUALITY ASSESSMENT FORM

This form is intended for use by the SETT to ensure that pre-field submissions for proposed credit and debit projects undergo a consistent Quality Assessment (QA) process. This pre-field QA process is intended to ensure project footprints, map units, and transects provided by certified verifiers are assessed by the SETT following the same process prior to the commitment of significant resources to complete field work.

### SIGNATURE

The pre-field QA process has been completed and the information provided in this form is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Credit System Administrator Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Credit System Project Lead

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Completion

### QA SUBMISSION STATUS

Please mark the applicable QA submission status below.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Acceptable
<input type="checkbox"/>	Requires revisions (describe)
_____	

### PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name	_____		
County	_____	State	NV
WAFWA Zone:	_____	Biologically Significant Unit:	_____
		Population Management Unit:	_____

### PROJECT PROPONENT INFORMATION

Project Proponent Name \_\_\_\_\_

### VERIFIER INFORMATION

Verifier Name \_\_\_\_\_

## QUALITY ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

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1. For credit projects, confirm that the following forms have been received prior to allowing field work to move forward.

INITIAL WHEN COMPLETE:

Pre-Field Work Submittal Cover Page:

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Verifier Conflict of Interest Form:

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Credit Site Validation Checklist with Signed Waiver and Other Requested Information Attached:

A geodatabase with GIS shapefiles identified by the appropriate naming conventions for the applicable project area, analysis area boundaries, habitat categories, map units, proposed PFC reaches, and final transect numbers:

2. For debit projects, confirm that the following forms have been received prior to allowing field work to move forward.

INITIAL WHEN COMPLETE:

Pre-Field Work Submittal Cover Page:

---

Verifier Conflict of Interest Form:

---

Debit Project Review Form with Signed Waiver and Other Requested Information Attached:

A geodatabase with GIS shapefiles identified by the appropriate naming conventions for the applicable project area, analysis area boundaries, habitat categories, map units, and final transect numbers:

3. For credit projects, confirm that all lands within map units appear to be private lands in the control of the credit producer for private lands credit projects or vice versa. Assess whether the project footprint and map units are the same as previously received information, if applicable. If changes have been made, please note why.

Confirm with the [Secretary of State](#) that the Project Proponent has signatory authority, and if not, require proof they do.

INITIAL WHEN COMPLETE:

Completion status:

Date completed:

Notes:

Action items:

Description:

Status:

4. For debit projects, confirm that the direct and indirect disturbance areas are delineated as expected and that map units make up all sage grouse management category habitat in these areas. Assess whether the project footprint and map units are the same as previously received information, if applicable. If changes have been made, please note why.

INITIAL WHEN COMPLETE:

Completion status:

Date completed:

Notes:

Action items:

Description:

Status:

5. Confirm that all potential meadows, including stringer meadows, springs and seeps, are characterized as meadow and delineated as accurately as possible within the project area. Further assessment in the field will assess the accuracy of the meadow characterization and the delineation, prior to sampling.

INITIAL WHEN COMPLETE:

Completion status:

Date completed:

Notes:

Action items:

Description:

Status:

6. For Credit Projects, ensure PFC reaches are accurately delineated for analysis. All Seeps and Springs and Streams should be delineated for PFC. Riparian systems on the same source and same reach profile can be combined into one survey, but differences in elevation, slope, substrate, form, source, use, ownership, etc. should be broken up into different reaches.

INITIAL WHEN COMPLETE:

Completion status:

Date completed:

Notes:

Action items:

Description:

Status:

7. Confirm the presence or absence of any existing debit or credit projects in the analysis area of the project. Make note and work with the corresponding SETT Lead on any impacts due to presence.

INITIAL WHEN COMPLETE:

Completion status:

Date completed:

Notes:

Action items:

Description:

Status:

8. Assess the aerial imagery, ESDs, DRGs, previous fires, slopes, aspects, and other terrain characteristics to understand map unit delineations and decisions to split or lump specific areas. Are heterogeneous meadow map units split? How are areas planned for treatments delineated? Are areas with significantly more sagebrush cover lumped with cheat grass dominated areas? Please make descriptive notes on delineations and any issues from your perspective. Confirm all map units are divided by WAFWA zone at minimum. No map unit should exist in two different WAFWA zones.

INITIAL WHEN COMPLETE:

Completion status:

Date completed:

Notes:

Action items:

Description:

Status:

9. Confirm anthropogenic features are delineated and categorized correctly. Review all squares in project area, including indirect and analysis area, for non-delineated features.

**SUPER IMPORTANT** – check for any overlaps and make sure they are labeled correctly. That is why it is always necessary to start from scratch on creating the current anthro layer from the base layers, so that the overlaps can be pulled out. What people are doing is adding new anthro features to their Current\_Anthro\_Features\_Project, forgetting about overlaps, and then having major problems. Also check to ensure ALL columns in the layer are filled out and accurate (Removed, Returned, Subtype as Modified).

Date completed:

Notes:

Action items:

INITIAL WHEN COMPLETE:

Description:

Status:

10. Review the map units dissolved attribute table to ensure everything looks as it should. Provide comments as appropriate. Ensure no overlaps with the "Intersect" tool.

Completion status:

Date completed:

Notes:

Action items:

INITIAL WHEN COMPLETE:

Description:

Status:

11. Confirm that the number of transects planned to be sampled follows the guidelines in the User's Guide. **Provide the verifier with generated and finalized transects.**

For Debit Projects: Check the calculator to see if any map units are returning very low debits (<0.5) at 100% HSI and ask the verifier if they want to collect transects or not. Can skip collecting transects in low to no-yield areas where it isn't cost effective. Phase III PJ and dominated annual invasive grass is sampled in direct impact areas.

Completion status:

Date completed:

Notes:

Action items:

INITIAL WHEN COMPLETE:

Description:

Status:

### ISSUE TRACKING AND COMMENTS

List and describe any comments, issues or problems encountered during the Quality Assessment process and changes made from the original submission to ensure a complete and acceptable pre-field submission.

ISSUE DESCRIPTION	ISSUE STATUS/RESOLUTION

# Field Work

- Completed by the verifier
- Transects and datasheets
- Proper Functioning Condition
- Project HQT Calculator
- Anthropogenic Features Review Form
- Resistance and Resilience Scorecards
- Ability to Control Wildfire Scorecards
- Project Geodatabase (GIS)

# **Post-Field Verifier Submission & QA**

# Verifier Project Assessment Form

## VERIFIER PROJECT ASSESSMENT SUBMISSION FORM

This Verifier Project Assessment Submission Form is used by certified verifiers to submit project assessment documentation for the Nevada Conservation Credit System (Credit System), and attest to the accuracy and completeness of the submitted information. This form, along with all relevant project information, should be submitted to the Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team (SETT) using the instructions found in *Uploaded Documents* section below.

### VERIFIER SIGNATURE

I, the accredited verifier, attest that I am accredited by the Sagebrush Ecosystem Program to conduct assessments for credit and debit projects according to the standards defined by the Nevada Conservation Credit System. I attest that the credit or debit calculations represent a faithful, true and fair account of the benefits or impacts of the proposed project—free of material misstatements and conforming to guidance provided in the Nevada Conservation Credit System User's Guide.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Accredited Verifier

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Provide contact information for the project proponent and accredited verifier signed above.

PROJECT PROPONENT CONTACT INFORMATION		VERIFIER'S CONTACT INFORMATION	
Project Proponent Name		Contact Person Name & Title	
Mailing Address		Mailing Address	
Telephone		Telephone	
Email		Email	
PROJECT SUMMARY			
Project ID	Date Received		

## PROJECT INFORMATION

Provide general information about the project.

Project Name			
County		State	Nevada
WAFWA Management Zone		Biological Significant Unit	NDOW Population Mgmt Unit
Project Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Credit	<input type="checkbox"/> Debit	Credits Generated / Credit Obligation

## DOCUMENT VERSIONS USED

Indicate the versions of the Credit System User's Guide and Calculator used in this assessment. The latest version of each tool is available on the Credit System's [website](#) and is to be used for conducting a valid assessment.

User's Guide Version		Credit System Calculator Version	
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## NAME & UPLOAD DOCUMENTS TO FTP SITE

All documents listed in the List of Uploaded Documents below and appropriate to the type and state of a project must be combined into a single zipped folder and uploaded to the Credit System Verifier FTP site. The "Credit / Debit" column designates the documents that are required for credit and debit projects respectively, and those documents listed as "if available" are requested if available.

LIST OF UPLOADED DOCUMENTS	CREDIT / DEBIT	FILENAME OR DESCRIPTION
Verifier Project Assessment Submission Form	Credit / Debit	
Project Geodatabase and Map (.mxd)	Credit / Debit	
Credit System Calculator	Credit / Debit	
Anthropogenic Features Review Form	Credit / Debit	
Map Unit Datasheets	Credit / Debit	
Resistance & Resilience Scorecard(s)	Credit	
Ability to Control Wildfire Scorecard(s)	Credit	
Transect Datasheets/Final GIS Points Layer	Credit / Debit	
PFC Datasheets/Summary Table	Credit	
Transect Photographs	Credit / Debit	

NAMES OF ALL STAFF WORKING ON THIS PROJECT UNDER THE CERTIFIED VERIFIER(S)

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# Credit Project Quality Assessment Form

## CREDIT PROJECT QUALITY ASSESSMENT FORM

This Quality Assessment (QA) process is intended to validate a project's credit estimate provided by certified verifiers. The following credit estimate has been confirmed by the SETT and is dependent on the signing of the Management Plan to be valid. Upon signing, the credit estimate is valid for

five years from the date of the earliest field collection, under the current HQT version listed below. If the Management Plan is not signed within 90 days of a new HQT version being released, then the project must be re-analyzed under the latest version, and this QA will be invalid and must be completed again. Any changes to the credit project area or map units will require an updated HQT analysis to verify potential changes in calculated credits. Any revisions within the five-year time frame will be completed in the HQT version listed below.

### SIGNATURE

The full Quality Assessment process has been completed and the information provided in this form is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Credit System Administrator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Credit System Project Lead

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of QA Completion

### QA SUBMISSION STATUS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Credits awarded (Total/Saleable)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Version  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Year of Earliest Field Collection

### PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_ State NV  
WAFWA Zone: \_\_\_\_\_ Biologically Significant Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ Population Management Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

### PROJECT PROPONENT INFORMATION

Project Proponent Name \_\_\_\_\_

### VERIFIER INFORMATION

Verifier Name \_\_\_\_\_

## QUALITY ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

1. Ensure all of the following have been received and are named and completed as appropriate.

- Verifier Project Assessment Submission Form
- Project Geodatabase and Map (.mxd)
- Credit System Calculator
- Anthropogenic Features Review Form
- Map Unit Datasheets
- Resistance & Resilience Scorecard(s)
- Ability to Control Wildfire Scorecard(s)
- Transect Datasheets
- PFC Datasheets
- Transect Photographs

Date completed:

INITIAL WHEN COMPLETE:

Notes:

2. Review changes or revisions to pre-field submission package. If changes have been made, please note why.

Date completed:

INITIAL WHEN COMPLETE:

Notes:

3. Confirm that all map units and meadows, including stringer meadows, springs and seeps, are delineated accurately within the project area and confirm that the proper number of transects are sampled.

Date completed:

INITIAL WHEN COMPLETE:

Notes:

4. Confirm anthropogenic features are delineated and categorized correctly. Review the project area and analysis area for non-delineated features.

Date completed:

INITIAL WHEN COMPLETE:

Notes:

5. Run the full HQT to ensure same results are calculated (e.g. same map unit and management category results).

Date completed:

Notes:

INITIAL WHEN COMPLETE:

6. Confirm transects have been completed to satisfaction (transect numbers, location, completion vs rejection, and reflections).

Date completed:

Notes:

INITIAL WHEN COMPLETE:

7. Compare photos with datasheets/imagery to ensure the field results visually match (bearing; location; name; forb, grass, and shrub %; etc.).

Date completed:

Notes:

INITIAL WHEN COMPLETE:

8. Check parameters informing Reserve Account contributions.

Date completed:

Notes:

INITIAL WHEN COMPLETE:

9. Review all tabs in project calculator for completeness and to identify errors:

- Review Summary Tab for correct Project Information
- Review tab 2.1 for transect entry completeness and agreement
- Review tabs 2.2-2.4 for any obvious outliers in entered data (e.g. negative line intercept start/stop, Daubenmire frame entry greater than 6, incorrect units of measurement)
- Review tab 2.5 to identify any potential outliers in transect data.
- Check to ensure the number of transects evaluated in Column G in tab 2.6 match data sheets submitted.
- Ensure all numbers in tab 3.1 match datasheets.

Date completed:

Notes:

INITIAL WHEN COMPLETE:

### ISSUE TRACKING

List and describe any problems encountered during the Quality Assessment process. Feedback will be used to improve and refine the process for subsequent rounds of credit project submissions and debit projects.

ISSUE DESCRIPTION	ISSUE STATUS/RESOLUTION



# Create a Management Plan

1. Project Information
2. Land Ownership, Current Management and Local Resources
3. Credit Project Overview, Reserve Account & Credit Release Schedule
4. Management and Monitoring
5. Further Terms and Conditions
6. Management Plan Section B

# Section 1. Project Information

- Basic Information on location and acreage
- Signatures
- Attachments
- Contact Information

# Project Information

## I. PROJECT INFORMATION

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Project Name \_\_\_\_\_

County(s) \_\_\_\_\_ State Nevada \_\_\_\_\_

WAFWA Management Zone(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Biological Significant Unit(s) \_\_\_\_\_ NDOW Population Mgmt. Unit(s) \_\_\_\_\_

---

Project Type (check all that apply)

Stewardship and Enhancement

Restoration

---

Project Acreage \_\_\_\_\_ acres

---

# 1.1 Signatures

---

Credit Project Proponent Name (Print)

---

Date

---

Credit Project Proponent Signature

---

Credit System Administrator Name (Print)

---

Date

---

Credit System Administrator Signature

# 1.2 List of Attachments

ATTACHMENT	DESCRIPTION, PAGE NUMBER, OR FILE NAME
Maps of the Project Area, Anthropogenic Disturbances in and around the Project Area, Map Units, Treatment Areas and Management Commitments (as relevant), Participating Property and surrounding area. Include driving direction map to the Project Area.  Please provide a map indicating the locations and names the landowner uses for specific pastures, meadows, seeps, springs, creeks, etc. (that will provide additional context to the project area).	
Property Title Policy, Owner's Policy, or Long-term Lease	
Surface & Mineral Rights Documentation	
Water Rights Documentation	
Property Restrictions (e.g., rights-of-way)	
Conservation Program or Easement Documentation (if applicable)	
Grazing Management Plan for the project area if grazing livestock within the project area	
Proper Functioning Condition Assessment Checklist for Each Riparian/Wetland Area	
Final HQT Calculator	
Other Important Documents  (Any descriptions requested in 2.2 and 2.3 may be attached and listed here, as well as additional details for plans listed in 4.1)	

# 1.3 Contact Information

CREDIT PROJECT PROPONENT		TECHNICAL SERVICE PROVIDER (IF APPLICABLE)	
Business Name		Business Name	
Credit Project Proponent Name (First and Last)		Technical Service Provider (First, Last & Title)	
Mailing Address		Mailing Address	
Telephone (specify home, work or cellular).		Telephone (specify home, work or cellular).	
Email		Email	
PROPERTY OWNER		LAND MANAGER	
<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK IF SAME AS CREDIT PROJECT PROPONENT		<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK IF SAME AS CREDIT PROJECT PROPONENT	
Primary Contact Name (First and Last)		Primary Contact Name (First and Last)	
Mailing Address		Mailing Address	
Telephone (specify home, work or cellular).		Telephone (specify home, work or cellular).	
Email		Email	
CREDIT SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR CONTACT INFORMATION			
Credit System Administrator Contact		Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team	
Mailing Address		201 S Roop Street, Suite 101 Carson City, Nevada 89701	
Telephone		(775) 684-8600	
Email		kmcgowan@sagebrusheco.nv.gov	
Notices	Any notices regarding this Management Plan shall be directed to the Credit Project Proponent, Property Owner, Land Manager, and Credit System Administrator at the contact information listed above. Contact information provided on this form must be kept up to date within sixty (60) days of a change for any party by submitting in writing updated contact information to the Credit System Administrator.		

# Section 2. Land Ownership, Current Management & Local Resources

2.1 Land Ownership & Control

2.2 Project Area & Current Management

2.3 Local Resources

# 2.1 Land Ownership & Control

<b>Project Area Location, Boundary &amp; Acreage</b>	<i>Describe the location of the Project Area within the Participating Property, including geographical or political boundaries. If the Project Area is comprised of separate areas, specify the location and boundary of each land mass that compose the Project Area. Provide total acreage for the Project Area. Provide file name and specific page numbers of attachments containing relevant <u>maps</u>, and include in the List of Attachments.</i>
<b>Certification of Control</b>	<i>Describe how the Credit Project Proponent will certify control of the surface rights of the Project Area. Provide a copy of the instrument and include in the List of Attachments. Demonstration of majority ownership of the Project Area is sufficient, otherwise use or lease agreements that confirm permission to develop and manage the Credit Project is required.</i>
<b>Leased or Severed Property Rights</b>	<i>Describe any leased or severed rights on the Project Area, such as leased wind energy rights, leased mineral rights, or severed mineral rights. Indicate their location on a map of the Participating Property.</i>
<b>Existing Easements, Land Use Restrictions or Designations</b>	<i>Describe any land use restrictions or designations, including public land use designations and private easements, existing on the Project Area. Provide a copy of any easements recorded on the Project Area, including their location, nature, authorized users, and access procedures, and include in the List of Attachments.</i>
<b>Conservation Programs &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Funded Conservation Practices</b>	<i>Disclose participation in any federal, state, or local programs for which the Credit Project Proponent or Property Owner has or will receive funding or other support for the stewardship of the Participating Property. Describe any projects or actions previously performed or currently planned. Disclose current or past participation in any agreement to manage species such as a Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA or CCAA).</i>

## 2.2 Project Area & Current Management

<b>Current Land Uses</b>	<i>Describe the current uses of the Project Area, especially those that could affect sage-grouse habitat conditions on the Project Area during the term of the project.</i>
<b>Current Management Practices</b>	<i>Describe all current management practices on the Project Area, including grazing, haying, occasional seeding efforts to replenish forage, and any other applicable practices. If the land is managed for livestock and plans are to continue the current management strategies for the project term, please describe the strategy for the current livestock operation (e.g. pasture rotations, Grazing Response Index, available supporting infrastructure, etc.) and how the strategy supports the <u>long term</u> rangeland goals. If the land is managed for hay production and efforts are not described in a grazing management plan, describe the production and methods used in similar detail.</i>

<b>Current Fencing and Watering Infrastructure</b>	Describe the current fencing and watering infrastructure relevant to the Project Area, details on the maintenance required to maintain it, and other relevant information. Maps should be attached and listed in section 1.2 assuming maintenance of this infrastructure is committed to within this management for the project term.				
<b>Recent Past Land Uses</b>	If applicable, describe land use in the recent past (at least within the past 10 years).				
<b>Anticipated Land Uses</b>	If applicable, describe the anticipated uses of the Project Area, especially those that could affect sage-grouse habitat conditions during the term of the project.				
<b>Adjacent Land Uses</b>	Describe current and anticipated land uses adjacent to the Project Area, especially activities that may affect sage-grouse populations on or near the project.				
<b>Water Rights/Subsurface rights</b>	If documentation is already provided, briefly describe water rights and subsurface rights in the Project Area. If documentation is not <u>provided</u> please provide.				
<b>Current Irrigation Practices</b>	If applicable, describe how irrigation is conducted for the Project Area, where infrastructure exists and the areas irrigated, the maintenance required to maintain the system, and other relevant information. Include a map detailing irrigation infrastructure, as appropriate.				
<b>Proper Functioning Condition Assessment</b>	Provide the Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) assessment summary required in the post-field submittal (e.g., "functioning", "functioning-at risk", "nonfunctional") of each riparian and wetland areas evaluated within the Project Area. This should include a review of the PFC assessment results and note the issues preventing a site from reaching PFC. Provide an attachment containing a map of the riparian and wetland areas within the Project Area and include in the List of Attachments. Create a stepwise plan to address those issues in section 4.1.				
	<b>Stream Reach Name</b>	<b>Map Unit</b>	<b>Reach Potential</b>	<b>PFC Rating</b>	<b>Summary of Reasons for Rating, Including Major Concerns</b>
	Lost Hope Creek (Lotic)	1	Meandering canyon stream, relatively flat with a small narrow floodplain. Sparse woody potential, with stabilizing plants lining the floodplain and point bars.	Functional at Risk – Downward	Active headcut on reach; Lack of stabilizing plants along most of the reach
<b>Riparian and Meadow Management Actions</b>	If applicable, describe current, recent, or intermittent actions that have been conducted to maintain or improve stream systems and meadows relevant to the Project Area.				

# 2.2 Project Area & Current Management Continued

## 2.2 Project Area & Current Management Continued

<b>Noxious Weeds &amp; Annual Invasives Management</b>	<i>Describe the status of noxious weeds, their locations and the acres infested, as well as treatments (who is conducting the treatments, how are the treatments being conducted, etc.). Also discuss invasive annual grasses, areas with particular issues, and strategies and efforts to manage them.</i>
<b>Fuels Management</b>	<i>Describe any actions to manage fuels relevant to the Project Area.</i>
<b>Conifer Removal</b>	<i>Describe any actions to manage conifer encroachment relevant to the Project Area.</i>
<b>Waste Management</b>	<i>Describe actions to manage trash, carcasses, or other items relevant to ravens and scavengers within or relevant to the project area,</i>
<b>Predator Control Efforts</b>	<i>Describe any actions currently taken or planned.</i>
<b>Wildfire Strategy</b>	<i>Describe any local or ranch actions, equipment, or infrastructure that might reduce the probability of the Project Area being impacted by wildfire.</i>
<b>Program Participation</b>	<i>Describe all recent and current participation in federal, state and local conservation programs.</i>

# 2.3 Local Resources

## Conservation Goals

<b>Greater Sage-Grouse &amp; Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat</b>	<i>Describe the current habitat conditions of the Project Area and the habitat conditions expected from planned improvements to the Project Area. Utilize the outputs of the calculator to summarize the habitat type within the Project Area. Include what map units have areas of concern such as invasive annual grass and lack of sagebrush, grasses, or forbs. Describe indicators of sage-grouse use of the Project Area (e.g., sightings and lek status if known).</i>
<b>Sensitive Resources</b>	<i>Identify all endangered, threatened, rare, and special species of concern that occur or may occur in the Project Area. Also identify any species or plant communities tracked by Nevada Natural Heritage Program (NNHP) known to occur on the property. If applicable, provide a map showing their location in section 1.2</i>
<b>Other Wildlife</b>	<i>Describe wildlife resources (e.g., hunting, viewing)</i>
<b>Ecological Sites within the Project Area</b>	<i>Briefly describe the current vegetation community, along with the ecological sites, soils, and landforms associated with them within the Project Area and the map units that relate to each. Also describe the reference potential of each ecological site. Attach a map of the Web Soil Survey results and the corresponding ESDs and list under section 1.2.</i>

## 2.3 Local Resources

<b>Greater Sage-Grouse &amp; Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat</b>	<i>Describe the current habitat conditions of the Project Area and the habitat conditions expected from planned improvements to the Project Area. Utilize the outputs of the calculator to summarize the habitat type within the Project Area. Include what map units have areas of concern such as invasive annual grass and lack of sagebrush, grasses, or forbs. Describe indicators of sage-grouse use of the Project Area (e.g., sightings and lek status if known).</i>
<b>Sensitive Resources</b>	<i>Identify all endangered, threatened, rare, and special species of concern that occur or may occur in the Project Area. Also identify any species or plant communities tracked by Nevada Natural Heritage Program (NNHP) known to occur on the property. If applicable, provide a map showing their location in section 1.2</i>
<b>Other Wildlife</b>	<i>Describe wildlife resources (e.g., hunting, viewing)</i>
<b>Ecological Sites within the Project Area</b>	<i>Briefly describe the current vegetation community, along with the ecological sites, soils, and landforms associated with them within the Project Area and the map units that relate to each. Also describe the reference potential of each ecological site. Attach a map of the Web Soil Survey results and the corresponding ESDs and list under section 1.2.</i>

# Section 3. Credit Project Overview, Reserve Account, & Credit Release Schedule

3.1 Conservation Goals

3.2 Available and Projected Credit Summary

3.3 Reserve Account Contribution

3.4 Credit Release Schedule

# 3.1 Conservation Goals

<b>Purpose of the Project</b>	<i>Describe the purpose of the Credit Project establishment (e.g., as compensation to unavoidable impacts and to conserve and protect sage-grouse habitat).</i>
<b>Conservation Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	<i>Describe the specific goals and objectives of the Credit Project in relation to the Credit System's goals and objectives for improving and managing sage-grouse habitat.</i>
<b>Summary of Management Actions</b>	<i>Provide a summary of the current management actions to be continued for the term of the project, the management actions to be improved upon, and the enhancement and restoration actions planned for the project. Provide further details on plans for grazing management, enhancement, and/or restoration actions, as appropriate, and include in the List of attachments. (Ongoing management actions should be described in Section IV. Management &amp; Monitoring.)</i>

# 3.2 Available and Projected Credit Summary

CURRENT SELLABLE CREDITS	ADDITIONAL PROJECTED SELLABLE CREDITS (IF APPLICABLE)	HQT VERSION

# 3.3 Reserve Account Contribution

RESERVE ACCOUNT SUMMARY	
Standard Contribution Percent (%)	
Probability of Adverse Impacts from Wildfire Percent (%)	
Competing Land Use Reserve Account Contribution Percent (%)	
<b>Total Contribution Percent (%)</b>	

# 3.4 Credit Release Schedule

RELEASE	ESTIMATED SELLABLE CREDITS	ANTICIPATED RELEASE DATE	ACTIONS OR IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE PROJECT OR MAP UNIT NECESSARY TO REALIZE ESTIMATED CREDIT RELEASE	FINAL SELLABLE CREDITS	CONFIRMED RELEASE DATE
Initial Credit Release	200	Upon signature of this plan.	Management commitments and actions to maintain current conditions for the entire project.	220	Upon signature of this plan.
Uplift Portion of Initial Credit Release	30 (1/3)	Upon signature of this plan.	Determined to be available for beginning restoration actions in Map Unit 3 involving robust cheatgrass treatment and perennial grass and forb seeding and sagebrush planting to add to current cover. The credits predicted for the success of this effort takes into account the habitat attributes likely to result from planned treatments given STMs and ecological site potential.	30	Upon signature of this plan.
Uplift Release 2	27	2025	This uplift verification is planned for 2025. The estimated release would be available if cheatgrass is reduced to 5%, perennial grass is improved to 10% cover, forb cover is improved to 8%, and forb richness to 5, compared to current conditions, however the actual credit release will be contingent upon HQT measurements exceeding the initial 1/3 release.		

# Section 4. Management & Monitoring

4.1 Management Commitments

4.2 Potential for Uplift

4.3 Management Budget

4.4 Monitoring, Verification, and Reporting Activities

4.5 Financial Assurances

# 4.1 Management Commitments

Current Management Actions to be Maintained						
MANAGEMENT ACTION	LOCATION	GOALS	ACTION	ANTICIPATED INTERVAL	COMMITMENT TIME FRAME	MONITORING/ REPORTING
Maintain Fencing	Across Project Area, described in Section 2; shown in Attached Maps	All fences are functioning properly to serve as functional barriers to livestock, WHB, etc.	Inspect annually & maintain whenever necessary or when issues are apparent.	As needed.	Duration of Project	Visual inspection & function reported annually, assessed through 5 Year Qualitative Assessments (QAs) & Verification
Maintain Water Rights, Irrigation, and Infrastructure	Across Project Area, described in Section 2; shown in Attached Maps	Irrigation & infrastructure is functioning properly to maintain mesic areas through water transport.	Inspect annually & maintain whenever necessary or when issues are apparent.	As needed.	Duration of Project	Visual inspection & function reported annually, assessed through 5 Year QAs & Verification
Seeding	All Meadow Map Units	Visual increase of desirable perennial grasses and forbs.	Seed whenever a decrease becomes apparent.	As needed.	Duration of Project	Visual assessment, management actions, & effectiveness reported annually, assessed through 5 Year QAs & Verification
Implement Noxious Weed Treatment Strategy	Across Project Area, described in Section 2; shown in Attached Maps	Reduce and control noxious weeds.	Spray noxious weeds as described in detail in Section 2.	As needed.	Duration of project.	Management actions & effectiveness reported annually, assessed through 5 Year QAs & Verification
Implement Invasive Annual Grass Treatment Strategy	Across upland map units and meadow edges	Reduce invasive annual grass cover.	Graze cheatgrass as prescribed in Fall, or other seasons as appropriate, as described in Grazing Management Plan.	Multiple times a year.	Duration of project	Management actions & effectiveness reported annually, assessed through 5 Year QAs & Verification

# 4.1 Management Commitments

New/Improved Management Actions to be Implemented						
MANAGEMENT ACTION	LOCATION	GOALS	ACTION	ANTICIPATED INTERVAL	COMMITMENT TIME FRAME	MONITORING/ REPORTING
Implement Improved Rotational Grazing Strategy	Entire Project Area	Maintain and/or improve rangeland and riparian conditions	Implement grazing strategy as described in Grazing Management Plan.	Every year	Duration of Project	Management actions & effectiveness reported annually assessed through 5 Year QAs & Verification
Implement new wildlife friendly haying strategy	Map Unit 5, the only area hayed	Conduct activities according to proper seasonal timing and reduce mortality.	Hay after nesting and brood-rearing (after June) in accordance with NRCS ANM10.	As needed	Duration of Project	Management actions & effectiveness reported annually assessed through 5 Year QAs & Verification
Install/maintain grade control structures & conduct riparian plantings	On mainstem stream and meadows along mainstem	Trend towards achieving and maintaining PFC.	Install and maintain grade control structures to address erosion. Plant riparian vegetation to hold soils. Map and plans attached.	Installation next year and maintenance as needed thereafter	Initial work then maintains for Duration of Project	Visual inspection, function, & effectiveness reported annually, assessed through 5 Year QAs & Verification
Implement restoration actions	Map Unit 3	Maintain or improve sagebrush cover, compared to current conditions, perennial grass is improved to 10% cover, forb cover is improved to 8%, and forb richness to 5, compared to current conditions.	Seed forbs and grasses, sagebrush, see attached details (e.g., purchasing, timeline, methodology, budget).	See attached details	See attached details	Management actions & effectiveness reported annually, assessed through 5 Year QAs & Verification.
Complete & Maintain Conifer Removal Effort	Entire Project Area	Completed and maintained Pinyon-Juniper removal	Cut pinyon and juniper and occasional post-cut regrowth thereafter.	After initial lop and scatter work, regrowth expected to require maintenance on 5-10-year basis.	Initial Cut then Maintain for Duration of Project	Visual inspection & management actions reported annually, assessed through 5 Year QAs & Verification

# 4.2 Potential for Uplift

Additional Uplift Opportunities						
MAP UNIT	UPLIFT OPPORTUNITY	PROJECTED CONDITIONS IN HQT CALCULATOR	CREDIT YIELD FROM MEETING PROJECTIONS	POTENTIAL TIMELINE FOR REALIZATION OF UPLIFT	OTHER BENEFITS OF IMPROVEMENT	POTENTIAL OF SUCCESS?
7	Meadow Expansion	Increase in meadow area, decrease in shrubs, increase in grasses & forbs	142	20 years	Increased Brood-rearing habitat	Moderate
8	Increase forbs and grasses	>10% increase in forbs, >20% increase in grasses	30	5 years	Increased forage and R&R values	High
				Choose an item.		Choose an item.
				Choose an item.		Choose an item.

## 4.3 Management Budget

Current Management Actions to be Maintained							
MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES	DESCRIPTION	REQUIRED (YES/NO)	LEVEL OF EFFORT	ANTICIPATED COST	FREQUENCY	SCHEDULE (IF APPLICABLE)	ANNUAL COST
Maintain Fencing	Inspect annually & maintain whenever necessary or when issues are apparent.	Yes	Low	\$3,000 per year	As Needed	As needed.	\$3,000
Maintain Irrigation & Infrastructure	Inspect annually & maintain whenever necessary or when issues are apparent.	Yes	Medium	\$250 per month	Monthly	As needed	\$3,000
Implement Pasture Renovation and Seeding	Seed whenever issues become apparent with forage, nutrients, or invasive grasses.	No	Low	\$750 per seeding	Every Few Years	Every three years	\$250
Implement Noxious Weed Treatment	Spray noxious weeds frequently as is currently conducted. Described in detail in Section 2.	Yes	High	\$1,000 per year	As Needed	During everyday activities at least than 10 locations per yr.	\$1,000
Implement Invasive Annual Grass Treatment Strategy	Graze cheatgrass heavily in Fall and Spring as described in Grazing Management Plan.	Yes	Medium	Difficult to Calculate	As Needed	Spring and/or Fall.	NA
<b>TOTAL</b>							<b>\$</b>

# 4.3 Management Budget

New/Improved Management Actions to be Implemented							
MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES	DESCRIPTION	REQUIRED (YES/NO)	LEVEL OF EFFORT	ANTICIPATED COST	FREQUENCY	SCHEDULE (IF APPLICABLE)	ANNUAL COST
<i>Implement Improved Rotational Grazing Strategy</i>	<i>Implement grazing strategy as described in grazing management plan. Costs from increased commitment to rotational grazing.</i>	Yes	Low	\$3,000 per year	As Needed	As needed	\$3,000
<i>Implement new wildlife friendly haying strategy</i>	<i>Implement wildlife friendly haying strategy as described in grazing management plan. Costs due to new equipment requirements.</i>	Yes	Medium	\$2,500 one-time for new equipment	Every Few Years	When producing hay	\$2,500 one-time for new equipment
<i>Install &amp; maintain grade control structures and conduct riparian plantings</i>	<i>Install and maintain grade control structures to address incision. Complete riparian plantings. Plans attached.</i>	Yes	Low	\$5,000 initially, then \$250 per year	Every Few Years	Initial work upfront, then periodic maintenance	\$5,000 one-time cost, then \$250 annually
<i>Implement Restoration Plan (attached) to improve habitat</i>	<i>Cheat grass treatment, seeding forbs &amp; grasses, planting sagebrush. Costs detailed in restoration plan.</i>	Yes	High	\$25,000 initially, then \$250 per year	As Needed	As detailed within restoration plan.	\$25,000 initially, then \$250 per year
<i>Complete &amp; Maintain Conifer Removal Effort</i>	<i>Cut pinyon and juniper and occasional post-cut regrowth thereafter.</i>	Yes	Medium	\$40,000 initially, then \$100 per year	Yearly	Large treatment 2019-2020; maintenance every five to ten years thereafter	\$40,000 initially, then \$100 per year
<b>TOTAL</b>							<b>\$</b>

# 4.4 Monitoring, Verification & Reporting Activities

Site Number, Name (UTMs)	Description of the location, the Map Unit(s) the photo-monitoring will capture, the headings so that photos are comparable over time, and the justification to include location in annual monitoring:
<b>#1 Downstream of Headcut Below Main Meadow</b> (777777E, 777777N)	This site is located at the UTM(s) listed on the river right high bank downstream of the headcut below the main meadow. A photo upstream (0°) depicts the headcut & local riparian, the downstream photo (180°) shows the stream & local riparian, & photos directed away (90° & 270°) from the stream will depict transition from riparian to upland. Map units 1 & 2 will be assessed in photos. The site also indirectly assesses stability of Map Unit 3.
<b>#2 Main Meadow From Lower Impoundment</b> (777888E, 777888N)	Located at the UTM(s) listed, this site is on the center of the lower impoundment of the main meadow. Photos should depict the meadow upstream (0°), the lotic system downstream (180°) and the impoundment and transitional habitats in both directions (90° & 270°). Map Unit 3 is assessed directly and Map Units 4 and 5 are assessed in the background.
<b>#3 Conifer Removal Area</b> (777999E, 777999N)	This site is located in the relative center of the conifer removal treatment area at the UTM(s) listed and will serve to thoroughly monitor Map Unit 6, the response from the treatment, and its continued maintenance. The four cardinal directions will serve as photo-monitoring bearings.
<b>#4 Main Meadow/Upland Western Ecotone</b> (777666E, 777666N)	This site is located at the ecotone between the western Main Meadow and Upland (Map Units 3 and 5). The ecotone is currently quite distinct despite a gentle slope, therefore this area might indicate changes in water availability. 45° & 225° will depict the ecotone and 135° and 315° MUs 3 & 5.
<b>#5 Main Meadow at Upstream Boundary</b> (777555E, 777555N)	This site is located at the upstream boundary of the main meadow and thus serves as a good monitoring site of meadow conditions and the surrounding upland map units. 0° will assess the lotic system upstream, 180° the uppermost main meadow, and 90° & 270° MUs 4 & 5.

<b>Project Specific Monitoring</b>	<p>Please fill out project specific monitoring points that are in addition to the normal annual monitoring requirements. See management plan example for examples. Each year, ensure this section gets copied over into Section V. Additional Notes of the submitted annual monitoring document and filled out accordingly.</p> <p>Question 1  <input type="checkbox"/> YES   <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>Question 2...etc.  <input type="checkbox"/> YES   <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>
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# 4.4 Monitoring, Verification & Reporting Activities

Monitoring & Reporting Activities Summary Description & Estimated Budget							
MONITORING & REPORTING ACTIVITIES	DESCRIPTION	REQUIRED (YES/NO)	LEVEL OF EFFORT	COST	FREQUENCY	SCHEDULE	ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST
Annual	<i>Annual Management and Monitoring Report Completed by the Property Owner and Submitted to the Administrator</i>	Yes	Low	<i>\$1,000 per year</i>	Yearly	<i>To be completed in June of every year</i>	\$1,000
Verification	<i>Verification at Years 15 and 30 (or at 15 Year Increments on Projects Greater than 30 Years) and Reporting Completed by a Certified Verifiers</i>	Yes	Medium	<i>\$30,000 per Verification</i>	<i>Every Few Years</i>	<i>To be completed in years 15, 30, 45 of a 45-year term.</i>	\$1,333
<b>TOTAL</b>							<b>\$</b>
<b>Required Date of Submittal</b>	The Annual Management and Monitoring Report will be submitted to the Administrator by July 31st of each year that Verification is not conducted.						

# 4.5 Financial Assurances Estimate

Project Assumptions		
Variable	Value	Description and Rationale
Annual Monitoring Costs	\$0	Enter cost to landowner of annual monitoring. Reference Section 4.4 of Management Plan for amount.
Annual Management Costs	\$0	Enter cost to landowner of annual management. Reference Section 4.3 of Management Plan for amount.
Cost of Upfront HQT	\$0	Enter cost of initial HQT assessment
Monitoring Term	30	Enter number of years that project will be monitored. If project will be monitored in perpetuity, enter "120"
Annual Contingency	\$ 0.00	<u>To refresh formulas, highlight all fields and press F9 or right-click on each white cell in table and click "Update Field"</u>

Financial Assurance Requirements Estimate			
Upfront Funds Required for Annual Management and Monitoring		Upfront Funds Required for Periodic Verification	
Annuity (project monitored for specific number of years)	\$ 0.00	Annuity (project verified for specific number of years)	\$ 0.00
Perpetuity (project monitored forever)	\$ 0.00	Perpetuity (project verified forever)	\$ 0.00
<b>Total Upfront Funds Required</b>			
		Annuity (project verified for specific number of years)	\$ 0.00
		Perpetuity (project verified forever)	\$ 0.00

## Section 5. Further Terms and Conditions

# 5. Further Terms and Conditions

<p><b>Credit Project Proponent Responsibilities</b></p>	<p><i>Describe the Credit Project Proponent's specific responsibilities under the management plan. Add responsibilities as needed to reflect responsibilities and management actions specific to the project.</i></p> <p>Monitor all treatment areas, map units, and grazing, irrigation, and other infrastructure that assists in GRSG habitat management and maintain habitat quality to avoid any intentional reversals. Any activities that decrease the HQT calculation defined in this management plan will be avoided. Undertake reasonable actions to prevent the unlawful entry and trespass by people, feral or stray horses and livestock whose activities may degrade or harm the functional values as quantified by the HQT calculation. Failure to observe and/or report these activities, with no action taken, could lead to an intentional reversal and financial penalties associated to the loss of credit values. The Credit Project Proponent or his authorized agent(s) will do all the monitoring/reporting and proposed treatments. Project Proponent will submit the annual monitoring report each year by July 31<sup>st</sup>. We suggest that all fences be flagged in accordance with NRCS "Fence Considerations in Sage-Grouse Habitat"  <a href="https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2_042043.pdf">https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2_042043.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Property Owner Responsibilities</b></p>	<p><i>Describe the Property Owner's specific responsibilities under the management plan (if the Property Owner is a different party than the Credit Project Proponent).</i></p>
<p><b>Land Manager Responsibilities</b></p>	<p><i>Describe the Land Manager's specific responsibilities under the management plan (if the Land Manager is a different party than the Credit Project Proponent or Property Owner).</i></p>
<p><b>Transfer of Responsibilities</b></p>	<p>Any subsequent transfer of responsibilities under this management plan to a different Land Manager shall be requested by the Land Manager, Credit Project Proponent, or Property Owner in writing to the Administrator. A transfer shall require written approval by the Administrator and shall be incorporated into this management plan by amendment. Any subsequent Property Owner assumes Land Manager responsibilities described in this management plan and as required in the participant contract, unless otherwise amended in writing by the Administrator.</p> <p><u>Emergency Next of Kin (Main)</u></p> <p>Name: _____ Relationship _____          Email: _____ Phone: _____          Address: _____</p> <p><u>Emergency Next of Kin (Optional Other)</u></p> <p>Name: _____ Relationship _____          Email: _____ Phone: _____          Address: _____</p>

## 5. Further Terms and Conditions

<b>Adaptive Management</b>	<p>The requirements set forth in this management plan are intended to ensure the success of the credit project. They are not intended to limit the Land Manager's ability to incorporate new knowledge and use the most effective conservation measures available. The Land Manager will evaluate the effectiveness of management actions to achieve management objectives over time. If required management actions specified herein do not achieve intended results, or if new conservation measures are recommended, the Land Manager may recommend modification to this management plan as necessary. Amendments to this management plan must be agreed upon in writing by the Property Owner, Credit Project Proponent, and the Administrator.</p>
<b>Prohibited Uses</b>	<p><i>Describe any additional uses that will be prohibited throughout the duration of the Credit Project.</i></p> <p>Activities resulting in direct or indirect habitat loss will be analyzed on a case-by-case basis with regards to habitat function and could result in an intentional reversal. Thus, any activities that may alter the initial verification calculation should be avoided. Anthropogenic disturbances defined in table 1 of the CCS Users Guide that are developed by the landowner may constitute an intentional reversal that results in loss of habitat function.</p> <p>If ground disturbance within 3 miles of an active sage-grouse lek is absolutely unavoidable, conduct ground disturbance activities from 15 July to 30 November to avoid disturbing sage-grouse during the breeding, nesting, early brood rearing and winter periods, with the exception that fence removal and installation around project area meadows potentially used as late-brood rearing habitat should be conducted outside the late brood-rearing season, which is from June 15 to September 15, to the extent feasible. If actions must be completed during the time of lek use from March 1st to May 15th, they should be avoided from 6 pm to 9 am and when possible, consist of noise levels less than 10 decibels above ambient.</p>
<b>Remedial Action &amp; Amendments</b>	<p>This management plan may be amended or modified only with the written approval of the Property Owner, Credit Project Proponent and the Administrator. Amendment or modification of this management plan may be required to better meet management objectives and preserve the habitat and conservation values of the Project Area, or to remediate the project due to intentional or unintentional reversals. See the participant contract for additional information on remediation of the credit project.</p>

# Annual Monitoring

# Credit Transactions

# Forms for Credit Proponents

1. Purchase/Transfer Agreement (proponents only)
2. Financial Assurances Pro-Forma
3. Participant Contract
4. Management Plan Section B
5. Credit Purchase/Transfer Form
6. Proof of Financial Assurances

# **Continued Commitments**