



2010 Annual Report

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Sage Grouse Initiative

This report contains fiscal year activity for the state of Colorado from the time period of October 2009 to September 2010.

Who We Are

NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to help agricultural producers and others care for the land. NRCS has six mission goals that include high quality, productive soils; clean and abundant water; healthy plant and animal communities; clean air; an adequate energy supply; and working farms and ranchlands.

Vision

Productive Lands -
Healthy Environment

Mission

Helping People Help the Land

“Sage-grouse have been a species of concern for the past several years due to loss of habitat, but Colorado NRCS will provide funding and assistance to improve sage-grouse habitat for the species and reduce threats that will eventually help to increase their overall population.”

Sage Grouse Program Manager

Fiscal Year 2010 Sage Grouse Initiative Program

Statewide Activities

Number of Applications Contracted	6
Dollar Amount Approved.....	\$687,000
Acres under Contract	13,059

The Program

The Sage-Grouse Initiative is a 2010 pilot offered in 11 Western states under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP).

The purpose is to provide assistance to agricultural producers to implement practices that will alleviate or reduce threats to sage-grouse habitat.

The Sage Grouse are ground-dwelling birds, native to the sagebrush steppe ecosystem of the American West. They are found at elevations ranging from 4,000 to over 9,000 feet and are highly dependent on sagebrush for cover and food. Over the decades they have experienced a significant decline in population and habitat.

The Assistance

Successful applicants will receive funding to implement priority conservation practices designed to improve natural resource conditions.

Not only do these practices offer significant environmental benefits, but they are also important to growers.

Practices that can be applied include:

- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management

- Stockwater
- Pipelines
- Fences
- Fence Marking

The Qualifications

NRCS utilized its Environmental Quality Incentive’s Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentive’s Program (WHIP) to implement the initiative and although a conservation plan was not required for enrollment, all applications that included an NRCS approved conservation plan, received priority status for enrollment consideration.

Colorado landowners within Moffat, Delta, Eagle, Garfield, Mesa, Gunnison, Grand, Summit, Rio Blanco, Montrose, Routt, Jackson, Saguache, San Miguel, and Dolores were affected by the Sage-Grouse Initiative. Staff developed conservation plans aimed to improve Sage Grouse habitat.

For More Information

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