

**EQIP FY 2013  
Screening Tool  
Sage Grouse Initiative**

**Initial Screening Question (use to prioritize which applications to service first, all applications must be serviced)**

1. Is the proposed project located within the identified overall range of sage-grouse?  
**Yes** **No**

(A field visit with the landowner, F.O. planner and NRCS/Partners biologist will be scheduled for applications with a *yes* answer to question *before* applications with a *no* answer. Applications with a no answer will be visited as time allows after the high priority applications are serviced.)

**1st Field Visit Screening Question (use to prioritize the applications that will benefit sage-grouse):**

1. Preliminary Evaluation: Using the Sage grouse Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG), does the proposed project increase the Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) for sage-grouse by at least .1 habitat value points, or potentially address a documented fence collision problem or predation problem near a lek or winter roosting area, or remove invading pinyon/juniper trees that are having negative impacts on sage grouse in the project area.

**Yes** **No**

(For applications with a *yes* answer, begin inventory and planning process. Potential partners that may share in costs or have valuable in-put in the planning process should be involved at this time. Those with a *no* answer will be serviced as time allows.)

**Final Screening to be used in Protracts to prioritize funding**

This section should be completed after field visits and project planning are completed.  
(*Circle your answers*)

1a. Final Evaluation: Using the Sage grouse Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG), does the proposed project **increase** the Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) for sage-grouse by at least .1 habitat value points, or, remove invading pinyon/juniper trees that are having negative impacts on sage grouse in the project area?

**Yes: High** **No: Go to Question #1b**

1b. Will the proposed project, alleviate any documented collision or predator problems caused by fences?

**Yes: High** **No: Low**

2. In the last 3 years; has the producer had a previous cost share contract cancelled; or terminated due to lack of progress; or has a current contract where no progress has been made.

**No: High**

**Yes: Low**

*Final Priority Status is the lowest priority circled in questions 1 and 2.*

**Final Priority Status:**

(circle one)

**High**

**Low**