# Agriculture/Puzzles

**Baker County One of Five to Enter CCAA Agreements for Greater Sage** Grouse with U.S. Fish and Wildlife and **Soil and Water Conservation Districts** 

Landmark conservation agreements signed Wednesday in Juntura, Ore., will allow all private landowners in Oregon with greater sage-grouse habitat the opportunity to voluntary enroll to provide protections for both the bird and their ranching lifestyle.

In a ceremony hosted by the Malheur Soil and Water Conservation District, five Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAAs) became final, covering private lands in Baker, Crook, Deschutes, Grant, Lake, Malheur, and southern Union counties under a Multi-County CCAA with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service).

Under these agreements, landowners who voluntarily agree to manage their lands to remove or reduce threats to sage-grouse receive assurances that they will not face additional regulatory requirements should the species ever be listed under the Endangered Species Act.

"These CCAAs are sections of the patchwork quilt we're piecing together here in Oregon to provide protection for greater sagegrouse, ranchers and the Western lifestyle," said Paul Henson, Oregon State Supervisor of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "This quilt is being sewn by an entire community working together to save the iconic Western landscape. Enrollment is strictly voluntary and the peace-of-mind it provides to landowners to avoid additional government regulation is a powerful incentive."

Added Linda Rowe, District Manager for Malheur Soil and Water Conservation District: "These agreements put in place a path forward for the continued health of the sagebrush ecosystem, along with the economic livelihood of ranchers and the people of Oregon. These conservation partnerships provide tools for people in the rural west who rely on sagebrush habitat for their economic livelihoods as well as their way of life and by working together, ranchers and the Service have made a strong commitment to conservation and the economy

The Multi-County CCAA covers 2,312,673 acres. In combination with the Harney Soil and Water Conservation District CCAA finalized in 2014 and the draft Oregon Department of State Lands CCAA that was announced in Feb., more than 4 million acres are covered under these conservation agreements. Almost all federal lands in Oregon are covered in parallel conservation agreements such that the close to the entirety of greater sage-grouse habitat on private, state, and federal land is covered under conservation agreements that provide these assurances.

Numerous ranchers are ready to enroll under these new CCAAs, following the lead of landowners in Harney County where over 53 landowners with more than 320,000 acres have enrolled since the Harney County Soil and Water Conservation District entered into its CCAA with the Service in May 2014.

Each CCAA was developed through locally-driven efforts with a steering committee comprised of representatives from groups including private landowners, livestock associations and stock growers, watershed councils, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, County Courts, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon State University Extension, The Nature Conservancy, Oregon Depart-

ment of State Lands and Native American Tribes.

Landowners who enroll will develop site-specific plans that address threats to sage-grouse and maintain or improve habitat. The major threats in Oregon are wildfire and a resulting increase of exotic grasses and juniper encroachment. All participating enrollees will agree to maintain contiguous habitat and avoid further fragmentation. Other activities that may be included in plans include juniper removal, invasive grass and weed control, and marking fences known to be a strike hazard for sage-grouse.

Greater sage-grouse currently occur in 11 states and two Canadian provinces. In Oregon, greater sage-grouse were once in most sagebrush habitats east of the Cascades.

#### Current Reservoir and Snow Depths

February 2015 Water Volumes: Recorded on the last day of previous month and subject to

Thief Valley Reservoir Water Storage Volume: 13,861 acre-feet (91 percent of 30-year

average) Phillips Reservoir Water Storage Volume: 24,117 acrefeet (69 percent of 30-year

reet (os percent of 30-year average)
Brownlee Reservoir Water Storage Volume: 1,549,333 acre-feet (137 percent of 30-year average)
Wolf Creek Reservoir Water Storage Volume: 4,349 acre-feet

Storage Volume: 3,101 acre-

(An acre-foot is defined as the

volume of one acre of surfact area to a depth of one foot.)

Water Levels Brownlee Reservoir Water Level: 2,053 feet (24 feet below

Wolf Creek Reservoir Water Level: 4,349 feet (100 percent of full pool) Pilcher Creek Reservoir Water

Level: 3,956 feet (52 percent of full pool)

Snow Depths Anthony Lakes SNOLITE Site at 7,160 feet: Snow Depth – 36 Bourne SNOTEL Site at 5,850

feet: Snow Depth – 2 inches Taylor Green SNOTEL Site at 5,740 feet: Snow Depth – 15 Wolf Creek SNOTEL Site at

5,630 feet: Snow Depth - 20

Moss Springs SNOTEL Site at 5.760 feet: Snow Depth - 32

All measurements are current as of March 17, 2015 at 2 p.m Last Year's Records Reservoir Water Storage Volume: 13,882 acre-feet Feb. 2014 Phillips Reservoir Water Storage Volume: 13,241

acre-feet Feb. 2014 Brownlee Reservoir Water Storage Volume: 1,347,493 acre-feet Feb. 2014 Wolf Creek Reservoir Water Storage

Volume: 2,919 acre-feet

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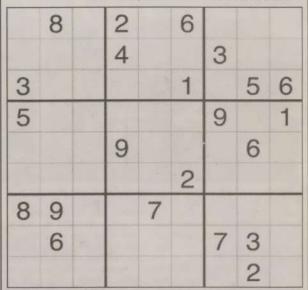


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#### SUDOKU

The challenge is to fill every row across, every column down, and every 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9. Each 1 through 9 digit must appear only once in each row across, each column down and each 3x3 box.



Sudoku puzzle sponsored by **Embroidery** 

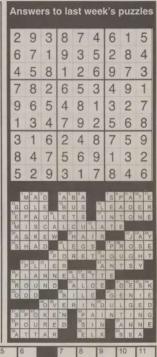
## Blue Mountain **Pesign Works**

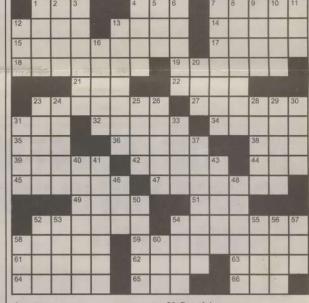
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Across
1. Cooking meas.

4. Consumes

12. Bang-up (hyphenated)
13. "Goldberg Variations" composer
14. Cliffside dwelling

Insulating tubing Discover

18. Divided by a septum 19. Dig with the snout

"How \_\_ Has the Banshee Cried" (Thomas Moore poem) 22. Doctor Who villainess, with "the'

23. John the \_\_\_\_, Jewish prophet 27. View from Jidda (2 wds) 31. Certain digital watch face, for

32. Belt

32. Bell 34. Long 35. Aged 36. "Super!" 38. "My man!"

39. Collect slowly 42. Crow's home

44. Howard of "Happy Days" 45. More inexplicable

47. Partly submerged ridge of loose material in a river

49. Good vantage point

"Dear" one Syndicate

Pablo\_\_\_, Spanish painter and sculptor

58. Star bursts Time in life when one has attained

maturity
Dined at home (2 wds)

62. Bolted 1/500 of the Indianapolis 500

64. Square 65. "Comprende?"

66. A pint, maybe

Down
1. Hit the bottle

Become unhinged Wooden spinning child's toy (2

4. "Unimaginable as \_\_\_ in Heav'n":

Milton

5. Appear 6. Bake, as eggs

7. Nonsense 8. Rise or fall of sea level in the same direction as the wind (2 wds) 9. Face-to-face exam

10. Kind of service for syndicated

11. Appetite 12. Balaam's mount 13. Placing a wager 16. Handles, esp. on knives

24. Calculator, at times

26. Ashes, e.g. 28. Mideast native

29. Overthrow, e.g.

30. Soon, to a bard 31. Balcony section

Spanish appetizer
 Kind of strength

40. Armed plane attack (2 wds) 41. State when juvenile characteris tics are retained by the adults of a

species 43. Decree

46. \_\_\_\_v. Wade 48. Hindu god

50. Apartments 52. Pigeon's home 53. Affirm

54. 100% 55. Dirty

56. Exclusive 57. "\_\_\_ to Billie Joe" 58. Masefield play "The Tragedy of 60. \_\_-eyed

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