

## 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 voluntarily 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 sage-grouse, 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 Department 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 the 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 found 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 revision.

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

**Phillips Reservoir Water Storage Volume:** 24,117 acre-feet (69 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

**Pilcher Creek Reservoir Water Storage Volume:** 3,101 acre-feet

(An acre-foot is defined as the volume of one acre of surface area to a depth of one foot.)

### Water Levels

**Brownlee Reservoir Water Level:** 2,053 feet (24 feet below full pool)

**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 inches

**Bourne SNOLITE Site at 5,850 feet:** Snow Depth - 2 inches

**Taylor Green SNOLITE Site at 5,740 feet:** Snow Depth - 15 inches

**Wolf Creek SNOLITE Site at 5,630 feet:** Snow Depth - 20 inches

**Moss Springs SNOLITE Site at 5,760 feet:** Snow Depth - 32 inches

All measurements are current as of March 17, 2015 at 2 p.m.

### Last Year's Records

Feb. 2014 Thief Valley 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

## 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.

	8		2		6			
			4				3	
3					1		5	6
5						9		1
			9				6	
					2			
8	9			7				
	6					7	3	
							2	

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## Answers to last week's puzzles

2	9	3	8	7	4	6	1	5
6	7	1	9	3	5	2	8	4
4	5	8	1	2	6	9	7	3
7	8	2	6	5	3	4	9	1
9	6	5	4	8	1	3	2	7
1	3	4	7	9	2	5	6	8
3	1	6	2	4	8	7	5	9
8	4	7	5	6	9	1	3	2
5	2	9	3	1	7	8	4	6

M	A	D	A	B	A	S	P	A	T	E					
B	O	L	E	B	U	S	L	E	A	D					
E	P	A	U	L	E	T	S	I	N	T	O	N	E		
M	I	S	C	A	L	C	U	L	A	T	E				
J	A	S	K	E	W	H	A	I	R	J	A	Y			
S	H	A	D	L	E	G	S	P	R	O	S	E			
P	L	E	R	F	O	R	E	T	H	O	U	G	H	T	
P	L	E	R	A	N	T	S	Y							
F	L	A	N	N	E	L	E	T	T	E					
R	O	U	N	D	A	L	O	E	D	E	S	K			
T	O	D	D	B	I	L	E	G	E	N	I	E			
O	V	E	R	I	N	D	U	L	G	E	D				
S	P	O	K	E	N	P	A	I	N	T	I	N	G		
S	P	O	U	R	E	D	S	I	N	A	N	N	E		
A	T	T	A	R	E	L	N	S	E	A					

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	
12				13						14			
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			21							22			
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				49		50			51				
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58						59	60						
61						62				63			
64						65						66	

- Across**
- Cooking meas.
  - Consumes
  - Windy
  - Bang-up (hyphenated)
  - "Goldberg Variations" composer
  - Cliffside dwelling
  - Insulating tubing
  - Discover
  - Divided by a septum
  - Dig with the snout
  - "How \_\_\_ Has the Banshee Cried" (Thomas Moore poem)
  - Doctor Who villainess, with "the"
  - John the \_\_\_, Jewish prophet
  - View from Jidda (2 wds)
  - Certain digital watch face, for short
  - Belt
  - Long
  - Aged
  - "Super!"
  - "My man!"
  - Collect slowly
  - Crow's home
  - Howard of "Happy Days"
  - More inexplicable
  - Partly submerged ridge of loose material in a river
  - Good vantage point
  - "Dear" one
  - Syndicate
  - Pablo \_\_\_, Spanish painter and sculptor
  - Star bursts
  - Time in life when one has attained maturity
  - Dined at home (2 wds)
  - Bolted
  - 1/500 of the Indianapolis 500
  - Square
  - "Comprende?"
  - A pint, maybe
- Down**
- Hit the bottle
  - Become unhinged
  - Wooden spinning child's toy (2 wds)
  - "Unimaginable as \_\_\_ in Heav'n": Milton
  - Appear
  - Bake, as eggs
  - Nonsense
  - Rise or fall of sea level in the same direction as the wind (2 wds)
  - Face-to-face exam
  - Kind of service for syndicated news
  - Appetite
  - Balaam's mount
  - Placing a wager
  - Handles, esp. on knives
  - Propel, in a way
  - Scarlett O'Hara, e.g.
  - Calculator, at times
  - Breed
  - Ashes, e.g.
  - Mideast native
  - Overthrow, e.g.
  - Soon, to a bard
  - Balcony section
  - Spanish appetizer
  - Kind of strength
  - Armed plane attack (2 wds)
  - State when juvenile characteristics are retained by the adults of a species
  - Decree
  - \_\_\_ v. Wade
  - Hindu god
  - Apartments
  - Pigeon's home
  - Affirm
  - 100%
  - Dirty
  - Exclusive
  - "\_\_\_ to Billie Joe"
  - Masefield play "The Tragedy of \_\_\_"
  - \_\_\_-eyed

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