

MONTANA PROGRAMMATIC  
CANDIDATE CONSERVATION  
AGREEMENT WITH  
ASSURANCES  
FOR GREATER SAGE-GROUSE AND  
DECLINING GRASSLAND SONGBIRDS



# Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA)

- Voluntary agreement between the USFWS and The Nature Conservancy
- The Nature Conservancy enrolls other landowners
- Encourages conservation of proposed, candidate, or at-risk species on non-Federal lands
- Majority of habitats for these species occurs on private lands

# Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA)

- Landowners agree to manage lands enrolled in the CCAA to remove or reduce key threats to species covered under the CCAA
- In exchange, USFWS provides assurances that no additional conservation measures or land, water, or resource use restrictions will be imposed should any of the Covered Species become listed under the ESA
- USFWS provides assurances through an Enhancement of Survival Permit

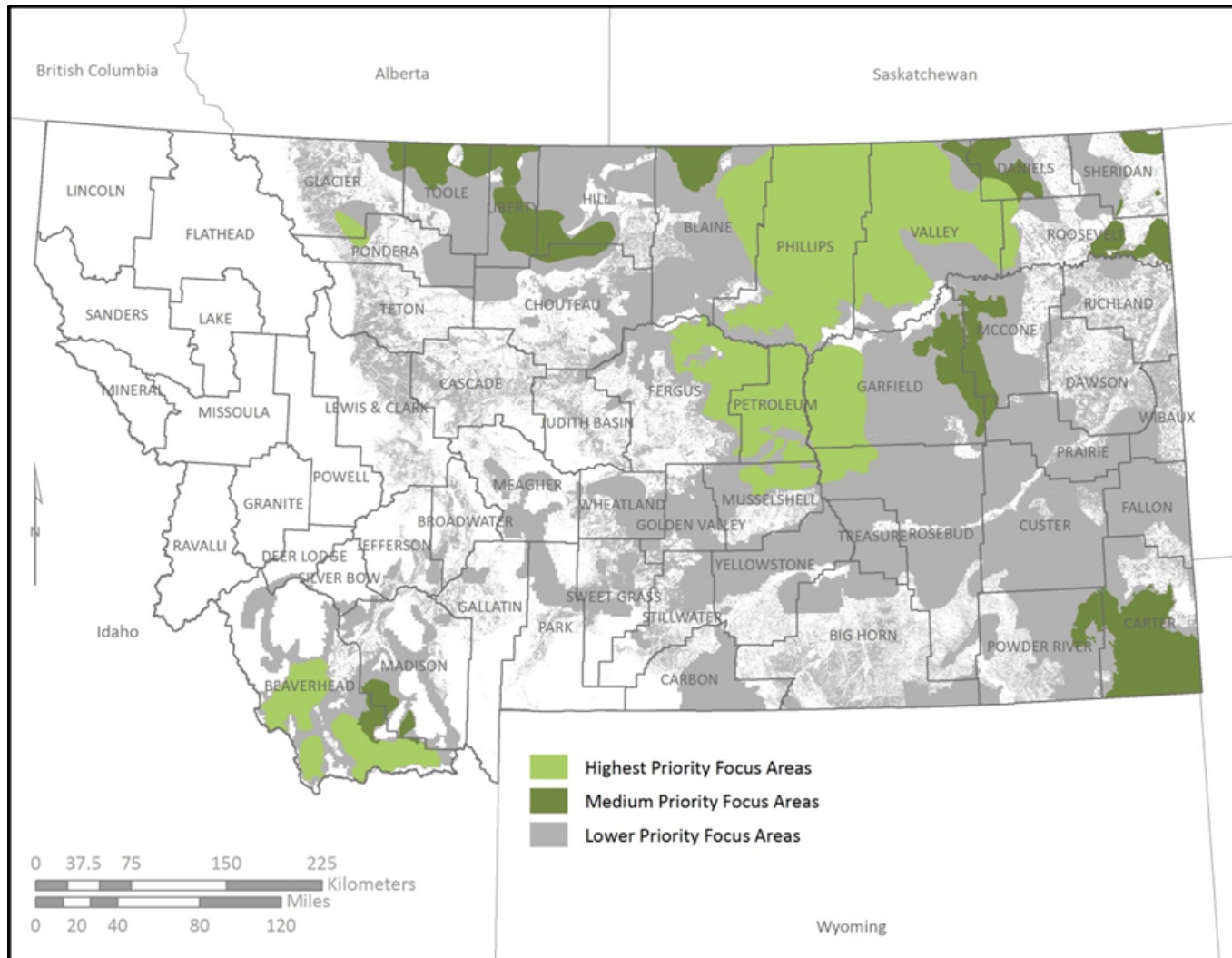
# Montana Programmatic CCAA

- Permit issued to The Nature Conservancy (TNC)-  
January 2018
- TNC will enroll individual landowners and extend  
assurances through Certificates of Inclusion
- Covers activities related to ranching and agriculture  
on private rangelands
- Permit duration is 20 years

# Montana Programmatic CCAA Covered Species



# CCAA Focus Areas



# Activities Covered

- General farm operations
- General ranching and livestock operations
- Recreation
- Rangeland treatments
- Species and habitat monitoring associated with the CCAA

# Primary Threat: Habitat Loss and Fragmentation

- Conservation Measure required for all enrolled properties:

*Maintain contiguous habitat by not undertaking new activities that would result in fragmentation (e.g., do not subdivide, develop, or convert habitat on the property).*