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
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).