

## *Fact Sheet*



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

### **CP 38E Colorado Western Slope Grouse Conservation SAFE Program**

#### **Purpose**

The goal of the Colorado Western Slope Grouse Conservation SAFE Program is to restore and enhance habitat for the Colorado state species of concern: Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, greater sage-grouse and Gunnison sage-grouse. This project targets the conversion of cropland to suitable grass, forb and shrub species and the enhancement and the maintenance of expired CRP land to support at-risk grouse species.

Total acres for the program are: 6,750

#### **Sign-Up Time Frame**

The program sign-up will take place at the local FSA offices, and it will run on a continuous basis.

This means that eligible land may be enrolled at any time until the program acreage goal is met.

#### **Eligible Land and Practices**

To be eligible for this practice the land must be located in the following counties: Dolores, Moffat, Montezuma, and Routt and be located in the SAFE designated area.

In addition, the land must meet the basic CRP eligibility requirements.

#### **Cost-Share Payments**

CCC will pay up to 50 percent of the eligible cost of establishing a permanent cover.

#### **Rental Rates**

Rental rates are based on three predominant soils on land offered for enrollment. FSA bases the rental rates on the average value of dry land cash rent for the past three years, and adjusts rates to reflect the relative productivity of soils with each county.

#### **Contracts**

The effective date of the CRP contract is the first of the month following the month of approval. In certain circumstances, procedures may defer the effective date for up to six months.

Contracts cannot be less than ten years, and they cannot be more than fifteen years.

#### **Applicable CRP Practices Include:**

CP4D (Permanent Wildlife Habitat, Non-easement)  
CP10 (Vegetative Cover - Grass Already Established)  
CP12 (Wildlife Food Plots)

The minimum size for a food plot is 1/4 of an acre and the maximum size is 5% of the acreage enrolled.

#### **Measurable Outcomes Include:**

The enrollment of new cropland and expired CRP into the SAFE program.

#### **Cooperating Agencies**

- Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW)
- Dove Creek Gunnison Sage-grouse Working Group
- Northwestern Colorado Sage-grouse Working Group
- Routt County Conservation District
- Farm Service Agency (FSA)
- Natural Resources Conservation Services (NCRS)
- United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Utah Cooperative Extension Service
- Utah Division of Wildlife Resources