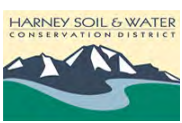




Sagebrush habitat shown before (inset photo) and after (large photo) juniper treatment.



## Partnership Overview

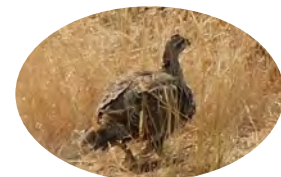
Oregon's private rangelands play a crucial role in sustaining the Greater Sage Grouse, an upland game bird of conservation concern throughout the western United States. The Sage Grouse depend on sagebrush habitat, which also supports many other unique plants and animals. The Oregon Model to protect Sage Grouse, all Counties Initiative works broadly to conserve all of these habitats, providing benefits for many wildlife species while addressing direct threats to the Sage Grouse.

In January 2016, the Oregon Model to protect Sage Grouse, All Counties was awarded funding for implementation through the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's (OWEB) Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant program. A FIP is an OWEB investment that addresses a board-identified priority of significance to the state, achieves clear and measurable ecological outcomes, uses integrated and results-oriented approaches as identified through a strategic action plan, and is implemented by a high-performing partnership.

Initiatives are eligible for up to 6 years of OWEB funding. For the 2017-2019 biennium, OWEB has awarded the partnership \$2,355,250 for conservation projects that protect and restore sage-grouse habitat. When combined with investments from 2015 – 2021, the anticipated total investment is approximately \$5,124,920.

## Core Implementing Partners

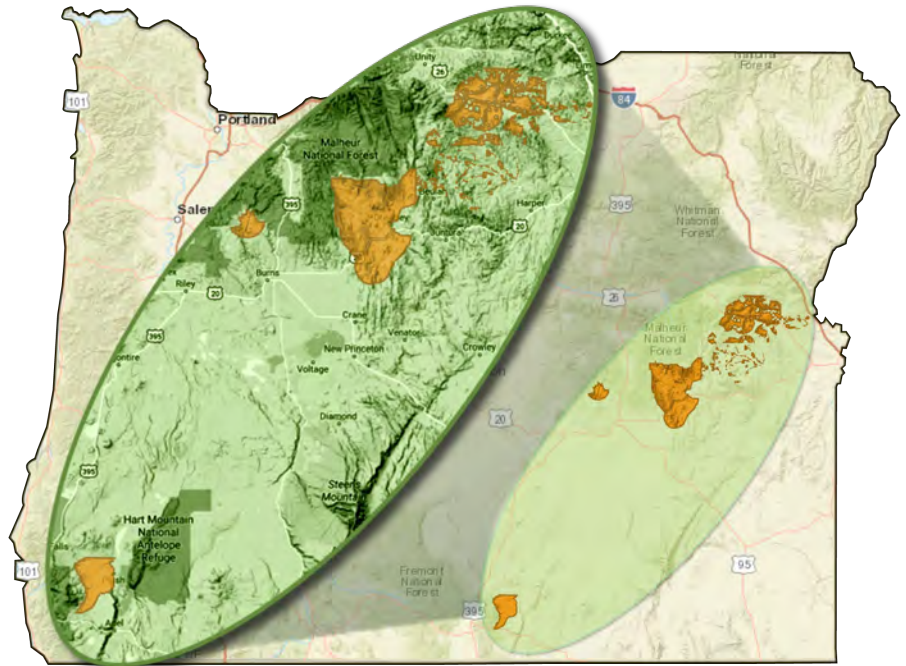
- Bureau of Land Management
- Harney Soil and Water Conservation District
- Lakeview Soil and Water Conservation District
- Malheur County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- US Fish and Wildlife Service



Greater sage-grouse, a unique bird with specific habitat requirements



Sagebrush habitat in southeastern Oregon



## Ecological Outcomes

The Oregon Model to protect Sage Grouse, All Counties has identified specific strategies to work with private landowners in to address threats to sage-grouse and sage habitats. Specific ecological outcomes will be assessed throughout this 6-year time frame, but some desired ecological outcomes will only become evident over a longer period of time.

Strategies and anticipated results in the Oregon Model to protect Sage Grouse, All Counties Initiative include:

### Strategy

Offer Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAAs) for privately owned sage-grouse habitat

#### Conservation Action

- Recruit landowners interested in CCAAs
- Define specific conservation actions in collaboration with landowners

#### Intermediate Ecological Outcome

Immediate threats to sage-grouse habitat are identified and addressed

#### Long-Term Ecological Outcome

- Increased sage-grouse habitat on enrolled private lands
- Stable to increasing trends in sage grouse populations and ecological conditions

### Strategy

Treatment of exotic annual grasses in sage grouse habitat

#### Conservation Action

Initial application of herbicides, mechanical removal, prescribed fire, biological treatment, or targeted grazing

#### Intermediate Ecological Outcome

- Reduced or removed exotic annual grasses from sage-grouse habitat
- Implementation of managed grazing systems

#### Long-Term Ecological Outcome

- Reduced frequency and severity of wildfires in sage-grouse habitat
- Increasing extent and connectivity of desired plant communities

### Strategy

Remove juniper in sage grouse habitat

#### Conservation Action

Prescribed fire or mechanical removal

#### Intermediate Ecological Outcome

- Reduced juniper extent and density
- Reduced avian predator perches and reduced avian predation on sage grouse
- Increase in desired plant cover

#### Long-Term Ecological Outcome

- Improved extent and connectivity of desired plant communities
- Reduced avian predation on sage grouse
- Stable to increasing trends in sage grouse populations and ecological conditions