

# State Action Report

Executive Order 15-18



**2016**

Through

**2018**

## Oregon Sage-Grouse Action Plan

Executive agency  
implementation  
actions conducted  
with state funds



**Authors**

This report is a joint effort of the SageCon Partnership staff at the National Policy Consensus Center at Portland State University and the following state agencies:

- Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)
- Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE)
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)
- Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)
- Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI)
- Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)
- Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL)
- Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

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**Contact**

Brett Brownscombe  
National Policy Consensus Center  
503-725-8114, brownscombe@pdx.edu

Julia Babcock  
National Policy Consensus Center  
503-725-8109 jjb@pdx.edu



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## SUMMARY

In September 2015, Governor Kate Brown signed Executive Order 15-18 adopting the Oregon Sage-Grouse Action Plan and directing executive branch agencies to advance coordination across state, federal, and local governments as well as other stakeholders and partners. The executive order, action plan, and related efforts noted below capped Oregon’s proactive approach to addressing a pressing federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing review and related challenges facing rangeland health and rural communities through a new, coordinated governance approach. The Oregon Legislature has invested over \$4 million over the 2015–2017 and 2017–19 biennia to advance the action plan’s implementation through bi-partisan support of various funding packages. In addition, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) committed \$10 million of lottery funding that is now part of an OWEB Focused Investment Partnership (FIP). This funding will span ten years to support actions tied to sage-grouse, sagebrush habitat, and rural community health. The Oregon Legislature and OWEB also advanced funding support in the 2017–2019 biennium.



These funding investments are critical to advancing the Oregon Sage-Grouse Action Plan and associated program elements, including land use and mitigation rules adopted by the Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission and Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, local county programs, and voluntary commitments by private landowners and soil and water conservation districts (with regulatory assurances secured through Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances with the US Fish and Wildlife Service). These are the cornerstones of Oregon’s overall approach to addressing threats to sage-grouse, sagebrush ecosystems, and rural economic and community health across what amounts to approximately one-third of the state. Because the threats (as well as opportunities) facing this ecosystem, its wildlife, and rural communities span private, state, and federal lands involving multiple layers of government jurisdiction and diverse non-governmental interests, a coordinated, integrated, and landscape-level approach was and remains needed. Continued funding support is key to the action plan’s effectiveness and sustainability.

Oregon’s Action Plan was developed through the Sage-Grouse Conservation Partnership (SageCon Partnership), a collaborative effort that gathered government entities, private sector, and non-governmental interests together to design and advance this approach, as well as shape federal planning on US Bureau of Land Management (BLM) public lands. Along with state plans and actions taken by BLM and western states, Oregon’s approach was central to the September 2015 decision that sage-grouse were not warranted for listing under the ESA.

This ESA “not warranted” finding—unlike Oregon’s previous ESA experiences, which included listing of the spotted owl and various salmon species—marked a notable federal decision to support and

test state-based collaborative efforts, actions, and related plans. As a result of this decision, partnership efforts advanced and the state and local communities retained control over authorities, including wildlife management and land use decision-making.

The 2015 decision marked the end of the planning phase across Oregon and the West, and with decisions related to jurisdictional authorities and plans in place, states embarked on the implementation phase of a remarkable effort expected to span decades given the issues and threats facing sage-grouse, rangeland habitat health, and rural communities. With a federal administration change in 2016, federal land plans and other policy is today in flux, with BLM working to increase the consistency of its plans with state plans. With this work and some legal challenges still pending, along with challenges inherent in implementing large-scale planning efforts at the programmatic and ground levels, the SageCon Partnership continues as a hub for coordination, integration, conflict resolution, and solution-shaping across stakeholders holding diverse interests and values.

This report responds to Executive Order 15-18 and summarizes state executive branch agency actions taken to implement the 2015 legislative and lottery fund investments tied to the Oregon Sage-Grouse Action Plan and rural Oregon in 2016, 2017, and the first half of 2018. In addition to addressing sage-grouse populations and habitat threats, it should be noted that this state investment promotes job creation (e.g., active management work advanced under contract or by the local workforce), support for local rural entities and institutions, (e.g., rangeland fire protection associations and soil and water conservation districts, etc.), and economic benefits related to sustainable advancement of development projects and improved rangeland health. 🌱

## SAGE-GROUSE ACTIONS HIGHLIGHTS

**A**ctions highlighted in the table below are focused on abating threats and improving conditions in areas of core and low density sage-grouse habitat, generally designated through scientific consensus as the highest priority areas for treatments. This table rolls up data from 2016 through mid-year 2018 to illustrate results of the on-the-ground work implemented across all agencies discussed in this report.

Metric (Quantity)	Highlighted Action
16 million	Acres of sage-grouse habitat protected at the local landowner level by rangeland fire protection associations (RFPA). Twenty-two RFPAs have been formally organized, covering the majority of sage-grouse habitat with fire protection capacity. In addition, a memorandum of understanding has been formally adopted between RFPAs and BLM. It advances coordination, collaboration, and capacity across private and public land boundaries.
713,000	Acres of habitat assessed on Common School Funds land acreage to advance Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAA) compliance and to prioritize future-year implementation efforts.
14,225	Acres of invasive annual grass or other noxious weed treatments, including 1,400 acres of herbicide application for annual grass resiliency treatment.
10,039	Acres of juniper removal and treatment.
3,415	Acres of post-wildfire reseeding of sagebrush and native grass/forbs.
999	New pieces of fire operations equipment, including fire engines, pumps, tanks and accessories, bulldozers, and transports, plus 1,433 pieces of personal protective equipment purchased to strengthen rangeland fire protection associations' local capacity and to accelerate wildfire response. Training for 340 volunteer firefighters.
66	Percent of known sage-grouse leks surveyed in 2016 (the most lek data ever collected). In 2017, 58 percent of known leks were surveyed. As an enhancement to that work, thirty GPS transmitters were purchased to track sage-grouse throughout their life cycle.
25	Miles of new livestock fencing installed to manage grazing impacts on habitat.
21	Miles of fence marking to minimize bird injury and mortality.
17	Water trough escapement ramps.
9	Springs developed to enhance limited wet habitat.

## INVESTMENT AND ACTIONS

To reflect leveraged investments, partner capacity and coordinated actions for implementation, described below are the outcomes of state executive branch agencies to meet the goals outlined in the Oregon Sage-Grouse Action Plan. These actions are supported through the Sage-Grouse Conservation Partnership (SageCon) to strategically apply legislative funding and OWEB lottery funds during 2016, 2017, and the first half of 2018. References below to policy option packages (POP) and bill numbers are from the 2015 and 2017 sessions of the Oregon Legislature (2015–2019 biennial funding).

### Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife—Lead Agency

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) conserves and manages Oregon's sage-grouse populations through its wildlife statutes and rules, which include population and habitat goals. ODFW's wildlife-division local staff and biologists engage with private landowners, federal agencies, hunting and other recreation interests, and the broader public in advancing the agency's mission. In addition, through OAR 635-140-0000, ODFW oversees development and implementation of a mitigation program that ensures economic development projects (and impacts) are consistent with sage-grouse conservation. This mitigation program syncs with state and local land use rules and a mitigation hierarchy set forth through DLCD OAR 660-023-0115 and also applies to other state agency actions in sage-grouse habitat.



### Legislative and other state investment

- **\$500,000** in pre- and post-fire habitat resilience work (2015 POP 801, adopted in 2015 SB 5511)
- **\$350,000** for mitigation coordinator and development and mitigation work (2015 POP 801)
- **\$90,000** for Sage-Grouse Initiative (SGI) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) two joint positions

### Actions and related SageCon Partnership work

#### *Pre- and post-fire habitat resilience work*

- **\$65,000**—annual grass control at edge of core habitat (post-fire) on Department of State Lands (DSL) across 3,000 acres.
- **\$24,000**—annual grass control in core habitat (post-fire) on ODFW state wildlife area land (500 acres).

- **\$53,000**—herbicide application for annual grass resiliency treatment (intact sagebrush habitat with moderate annual grass invasion) on DSL lands in core and low density sage-grouse habitat across 1,400 acres.
- **\$162,000**—seed technology research effort with Oregon State University (OSU)/Burns Agricultural Research Station (investigating the application of seed pellets, hydroseeding material, and furrow depth in rangeland fire restoration).
- **\$25,000**—purchased and stored herbicide to treat approximately 4,000 acres for quick treatment during next fire season.
- **\$140,000**—purchased thirty GPS radio transmitters for fitting on sage-grouse. When conducting prioritization of pre-fire habitat protection and post-fire habitat restoration to benefit sage-grouse, it is imperative to target actions towards those areas that will have life-history benefits beyond breeding/lek season only. Targeted GPS telemetry data from a subset of priority areas of conservation most at risk of wildfire will serve to improve the ability of decision makers to direct pre-fire and post-fire habitat improvement projects towards areas that have the greatest potential benefit to populations, both in terms of excluding fire from critical sage-grouse habitat areas throughout their life-cycle and in restoring those areas following fire. Additionally, significant data gaps exist regarding the distribution of late-summer and winter habitat for the species across much of the range in Oregon. These life-history phases have significant impact on population trajectories. The GPS data will improve knowledge of habitat use and population modeling efforts throughout all of Oregon’s priority areas of conservation.
- **\$2,400**—Invasive grass treatment near Sheep Rock.

### Development and mitigation work

- **Established a full-time mitigation program coordinator position**—tasked with implementation of ODFW’s 2015 mitigation rules. Coordinator worked with SageCon partners to build the Habitat Quantification Tool and related mitigation credit and debit calculation efforts; engaged with agency and other partners in building the DLCD Development Registry and broader Decision Support System; and engaged development project applicants, local county planners, and others on specific site-level development permitting and application of the Habitat Quantification Tool and related mitigation obligations. The coordinator remains engaged in in-lieu fee mitigation credit development efforts.
- **Mitigation pathway and permit advancement**—for development projects in rural Oregon, including the following:
  - Boardman to Hemingway transmission line (multiple counties).
  - Spencer Wells aggregate project (Deschutes County).
  - Little Eagle Butte sunstone mine projects (Lake County).
  - Glass Buttes cell tower—input on BLM project (Deschutes County near Brothers).
  - Solar energy siting projects (initial discussion with no final plans received; Harney County, near Burns and Riley).
  - Calico Resources Grassy Mountain Gold Project (Malheur County).
- **Commitment of \$30,000 in partnership with DLCD funds** to construct the State’s Development Registry (as required by Oregon Administrative Rules) through contract with OSU’s Institute for Natural Resources.



## Additional work

- **Habitat:** Utilized federal Pittman-Robertson funds along with state hunting license dollars to match with partner funds in advancing seed collection, seedling grow-out and restoration planning, including **\$61,000 for habitat-scale mapping in Baker County.**
- **Population:** Lek/population monitoring with assistance from federal agency partner biologists and “Adopt a Lek” volunteer program. Counting sage-grouse on leks during the breeding season is a standard approach to estimating population levels. 2016 marked the greatest proportion of leks ever surveyed in Oregon. (Sixty-six percent of all known leks were surveyed). Survey effort in 2017 declined from 2016 levels, but remained the second highest ever accomplished. (Fifty-eight percent of all known leks were surveyed). Data gathered included annual lek attendance by each July and brood count by August. See [http://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/sagegrouse/docs/OR\\_GSG\\_Population\\_Report\\_2016.pdf](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/sagegrouse/docs/OR_GSG_Population_Report_2016.pdf) and [https://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/sagegrouse/docs/ODFW\\_2017\\_Sage-Grouse\\_Population\\_Report.pdf](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/sagegrouse/docs/ODFW_2017_Sage-Grouse_Population_Report.pdf)
- **Research:** Utilized federal Pittman-Robertson funds matched with state hunting license dollars to continue long-term study on sage-grouse response to wildfire in southern Harney and Malheur counties, and to institute a new research project investigating raven influence on sage-grouse nesting success in Baker and northern Malheur counties. See [http://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/sagegrouse/docs/OR\\_GSG\\_Population\\_Report\\_2016.pdf](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/sagegrouse/docs/OR_GSG_Population_Report_2016.pdf)
- **Private Lands Conservation & Oregon NRCS SGI support:**

### OREGON SGI 2010 - 2017



**436,778** acres of conservation practices applied, addressing sage grouse threats on priority private land



**27.9 million** invested in conservation practices on private Ag lands



**261** contracts with farmers and ranchers to perform conservation activities that are beneficial to sage grouse



Efforts targeted within Priority Areas for Conservation (PAC), which support **90%** of birds in the state.

NRCS coordinates sage-grouse conservation efforts with partners through ODFW’s State and Local Sage-Grouse Implementation Teams, and local working group meetings. Partnerships are essential to achieving conservation at ecologically relevant scales and are the cornerstone of SGI.

Partner contributions to the initiative have supported:

- Expanded Outreach and Communications
- Targeted Funding
- Monitoring
- Planning Assistance
- Capacity

Recognizing the bottleneck for conservation implementation is often technical assistance capacity, partners are also helping put ‘boots-on-the-ground’ through the Strategic Watershed Action Team (SWAT). SGI-SWAT is a partnership effort between NRCS, and more than 30 partners across the West to expand field delivery, science and communications capacity for SGI.

In Oregon, ODFW has partnered on several SWAT positions that are located in key NRCS field offices to work one-on-one with landowners to accelerate conservation implementation. These SWAT partner positions, combined with NRCS staff, have helped ensure these field offices in sage-grouse country have adequate capacity to deliver technical and financial assistance.

[https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/PA\\_NRCSConsumption/download?cid=nrcse%2F1366298&ext=pdf](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/PA_NRCSConsumption/download?cid=nrcse%2F1366298&ext=pdf)

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) plays a significant role in managing one of the primary threats to sage-grouse habitat: rangeland wildfire. The vast majority of private sage-grouse habitat is not on protected lands served by ODF's fire division. Instead, through legislative funds and fire staff support, ODF has created an important partnership with local RFPAs to serve this protection role on private, state, and federal land. ODF provides coordination, training and resources to RFPAs and also assists in these roles with BLM.



### Legislative and other state investment

**\$1.6 million** for wildfire (2015 POPs 119 and 120; adopted as part 2015 SB 5019, supplemented via 2015 SB 5507 Sec. 120.)

- Direct connection to local RFPAs
- Twenty-two RFPAs statewide (covering sixteen million acres of sage-grouse habitat in Oregon).

### Actions and related SageCon Partnership work

#### *ODF and RFPA Capacity*

- **\$400,000**—ODF staffing (field coordinator position working directly with RFPAs) and administrative support. Both are limited-duration positions. Field coordinator funding is one-half general funds and one-half federal funds. Administrative support is fully funded by the general fund.
- **\$1.2 million**—pass-through funds to counties and RFPAs. (ODF coordinated with OWEB to administer the funds.) See appendix A for details for FY 2016 and 2017. Some money went to counties directly. Each county with an RFPA received a percentage of money based on the amount of sage-grouse habitat in that county. The rest of the money was awarded to RFPAs through a competitive grant process. Items funded include the following:
  - **RFPA operating budget** (ODF pays up to one-half with an RFPA in-kind match). ODF will reimburse up to 50 percent of RFPA operating budget and in-kind time for administration costs (insurance, state filing fees, accountant work, etc.)
  - **Communications equipment** (e.g., radios used during fire operations)—Legislative funds were applied to procurement, upgrades, and maintenance, resulting in more than doubling pre-2016 capacity.
  - **Firefighting equipment** (e.g., engines, bulldozers, tenders, water tanks, liners). Nearly a thousand pieces of equipment were purchased with the legislative funds.
  - **RFPA liability insurance** (paid from a different part of general funds).

As a result of the state funds, the level of fire protection related to sage-grouse habitat and rural rangelands has increased due to increased interest and engagement in RFPA membership, increased capacity and skills, and resulting increases in acres covered by RFPAs. Relative to pre- 2015 legislative session levels:

- **Two new RFPA's have formed.**
- **Boundaries have expanded.** (Southern Wasco County and five other RFPAs are in the process of expanding.)
- **Twenty-two RFPAs now exist in Oregon,** covering the majority of sage-grouse habitat with fire protection capacity. (See appendix B for a map overlaying Oregon RFPA and sage-grouse habitat boundaries.)
- **In 2016, the Oregon RFPAs suppressed 116 fires,** with only eight of the fires growing larger than 500 acres.

In 2017, the RFPA program was completely integrated into the ODF agency budget, eliminating the need for the ODF rangeland coordinator position to rely on federal funding. ODF rangeland staff is engaged fully in support of the RFPAs through administration of the US Forest Service assistance programs, Federal Excess Personal Property and Firefighter Property program.

Highlights from 2017 include the following:

- **340** firefighters trained
- **Seventy-three** fire engines
- **915** pumps, tanks, radios and accessories
- **11** bulldozers, water tenders, and transports
- **1,433** pieces of personal protective equipment, such as fire shirts and pants

The greatest benefit that the legislative funds have provided are increased communication, coordination, and collaboration with other partners related to landscape-level wildfire protection and health, especially among BLM, NRCS, and soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs). The RFPA training provided by ODF staff was a significant value-add for capacity and integration with BLM fire operations, including an increase in RFPA membership engagement. BLM contributed time and money to leverage training activities. A yearly refresher will be held. RFPA highlights and next steps include:

- **Memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed to formalize BLM coordination** related to BLM's Resource Management Plan Amendment instruction memorandum and Secretary of Interior order regarding wildfire, which includes tracking with a focus on fire and sage-grouse habitat overlap. This MOU marks notable improvement in agency and landowner relations.
- **Increased coordination with other agencies** (ODA, ODFW, etc.) to manage investments across the fire and evasive grass cycle. 🌱

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) plays an important role with respect to private agricultural lands in Oregon and sage-grouse habitat as well as other habitat on those lands. ODA administers Oregon's Invasive Noxious Weed Control Program and oversees the Oregon State Weed Board (OSWB), in addition to its administrative connections, and supports SWCDs and the Oregon Invasive Species Council.



The Noxious Weed Program works with local, state, and federal partners as well as private landowners to implement and coordinate invasive weed control projects. A number of these activities benefit sage-grouse habitat. ODA works with the OSWB to prioritize projects and award noxious weed control grants. OSWB grants are for on-the-ground weed control projects that restore, enhance or protect fish and wildlife habitat, watershed function, and native salmonids or water quality. The following summarizes the chief projects and grant awards through ODA that benefit and protect Oregon's sage-grouse core habitat. These include state lottery funds and general funds, OSWB grants that are funds from OWEB, and federally funded BLM projects that are coordinated through ODA.

### Legislative and other state investment

- \$344,000 (2015 general fund and lottery fund)
- \$426,000 (2015 lottery fund)
- \$291,000 (BLM in 2015)
- \$100,000 Oregon Invasive Species Council (2015 POP 320, adopted via 2015 HB 5002)
- Noxious Weed Program (2015 POP 320, adopted via 2015 HB 5002)

### Actions and related SageCon Partnership work

- **\$348,000 is anticipated for 2017–2019** for the Noxious Weed Program to continue integrated control projects that target state listed noxious weeds. In 2017 alone, there were **26 of these projects valued at \$174,000**.
- **\$953,406 in total OSWB grants** in core habitat areas were awarded during the 2015–2017 biennium. In 2017 alone, OSWB awarded **\$491,552 to 22 grants** in core sage-grouse habitat counties. OSWB grants are Measure 76 lottery funds that are funded through OWEB and administered by ODA.
- **11 projects totaling \$135,900** were coordinated by ODA on federal lands in calendar year 2017. These were BLM-funded, ODA-coordinated projects in core habitat counties. Funding is anticipated to continue at this level for the remainder of the 2017–2019 biennium, and will total **\$271,800**. 🌱

As part of advancing the State's Sage-Grouse Action Plan, OWEB committed \$10 million over ten years, beginning in 2015. This funding is associated with OWEB's Focused Investment Partnership work. The funding has helped leverage federal funds associated with the NRCS's Regional Conservation Partnership Program and SGI (including a \$9 million award to Oregon in 2015), and is directly connected to SWCDs and on-the-ground private land work related to voluntary CCAA's between landowners and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).



### Legislative and other state investment

- \$3.17 million in Focused Investment Partnership and Open Solicitation Grants (2015 lottery funds)
- \$300,000 in Governor's Strategic Priorities Grant (2015 lottery funds)

### Actions and related SageCon Partnership work

As of the end of 2017, OWEB invested over \$3.8 million in lottery funds in sage-grouse-related projects since the board's commitment. In 2015 through 2017, OWEB investments in sage-grouse projects through both the Focused Investment Partnership program and Open Solicitation grants funded the following activities:

- **10,039 acres** of juniper treated
- **7,145 acres** of annual grasses treated
- **3,415 acres** re-seeded
- **15 miles** of fencing marked
- **17 water trough** escapement ramps constructed
- **25 miles** of livestock fencing built
- **9 springs** developed (enhancing sage-grouse and other wildlife habitat)
- **Technical assistance money** provided to SWCDs to design projects

OWEB has also supported Oregon Sage-Grouse Action Plan advancement through its Governor's Strategic Priorities funding and multiple Technical Capacity and Partnership grants in 2015 and 2017. Over the last biennium, these OWEB technical assistance grant funds have initiated or advanced the following actions, with work ongoing in each action:

- **Capacity support** for the SageCon partnership to provide coordination and governance for the partnership. SageCon staff coordinate a staff team, a coordinating council, technical groups, and the CCAA coordinating committee as venues for regular coordination related to implementation of the state Action Plan across all entities in Oregon. In addition, SageCon staff organize an annual SageCon summit with the full partnership each fall.
- **Development of technical tools** to advance strategic, landscape-scale planning in sage-grouse habitat. Technical tools include the Sage-Grouse Development Registry, Sage-Grouse Development Siting Tool, and Sage-Grouse Conservation Planning Tool (in development).
- **Monitoring program** design and advancement tied to the Action Plan.
- **Other technical support** for technical needs, along with development of a SageCon website. The site includes a repository of resources relevant to sage-grouse including information about the partnership, technical tools, foundational documents such as the state Action Plan, and other resources.

All tools associated with the above actions are available on the Oregon Explorer website at <http://oregonexplorer.info/topics/sage-grouse>.



The Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) oversees and administers—in connection with counties and local planners—Oregon’s land use system, goals, and related laws, including the protection of significant natural resources. In 2015, the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) adopted rules specific to the protection of sage-grouse and its habitat. OAR 660-023-0115 sets standards and requirements to ensure project developers, county permitting entities, and other state agencies apply a mitigation hierarchy (avoidance, minimization, and mitigation, including direct connection to ODFW’s mitigation rules) to specified economic development activities proposed in sage-grouse habitat. DLCD tracks, registers, and reports development levels in sage-grouse habitat against protective thresholds established in rule.



### Legislative and other state investment

- \$300,000 (2015 general fund) (2015 POP 108; adopted as part of agency budget in 2015 HB 5027 via 2015 SB 5507 Sec. 72)

### Actions and related SageCon Partnership work

#### *Staffing and technical assistance*

**Established sage-grouse coordinator position** to support the project manager for the SageCon Partnership, ensuring coordination, integration, conflict resolution, and opportunity advancement across state agencies, federal entities, local government, non-government organizations, landowners, and other partners.

#### *Development and mitigation work*

- **Construction of a Sage-Grouse Development Registry** pursuant to the LCDC-adopted sage-grouse land use rules and in coordination with BLM, ODFW, local counties and other partners. The registry tracks changes in human development in sage-grouse core habitat across all land ownership types to ensure development does not exceed thresholds set in land use rules. The registry was completed at the end of the 2015–17 biennium, with DLCD funding leveraging **an additional \$30,000 in support** from ODFW (not included in the \$300,000 DLCD investment shown above).
- **Approximately \$40,000 in local planning from DLCD’s Technical Assistance Grant Program** (general funds not included in the \$300,000 DLCD investment shown above) to Harney County for Goal 5 planning work to implement LCDC’s sage-grouse rule.
- **Pursuant to Executive Order 15-18, DLCD staff has reached out to other agencies** to ensure

agency plans and coordination agreements are up-to-date such that actions advanced or authorized by those agencies will be consistent with LCDC's sage-grouse rule and ODFW's mitigation rule.



The Department of State Lands (DSL) manages common school fund public lands in Oregon. In 2015, DSL formalized its commitment to sage-grouse conservation by entering into a CCAA with USFWS applicable to over 600,000 acres of common school fund lands in Oregon's sage-grouse geography. The CCAA provides the state with ESA regulatory assurances so long as CCAA terms are met, and DSL continues to manage the state lands to model best practices in partnership with federal, state agencies, regional entities and lessees.



### Legislative and other state investment

- Common School Fund
- Approximately \$50,000 allocated per biennium on a project-needs basis to Harney County Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA), Jordan Valley CWMA, and Lakeview CWMA for weed control on DSL common school fund/state trust lands. See specific breakdowns for 2017–2018 in Appendix D.

### Actions and related SageCon Partnership work

#### *Habitat Work*

The following has been accomplished in core habitat areas and some low density habitat areas:

- **580 acres of noxious weed treatments** including 100 acres of spray treatments in spring 2018.
- **Post-fire rehabilitation** and spraying of invasive species on the Beaver Tables fire—approximately 500 acres (funded by ODFW)
- **6 miles of fence markers** installed.
- **188,000 acres** of range analysis completed, including 195 new data plots gathered June 22, 2017, through Oct 25, 2017, in 11 sage-grouse habitat assessment areas.
- **Four wildlife escape ramps** on water tanks—five escape ramps installed.
- **Juniper removal** work completed on DSL lands (funded by NRCS and SGI).

#### *DSL Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances*

- **525,000 acres of habitat assessments have been completed;** DSL has received concurrence on all 32 Sage Grouse Habitat Assessments covering the 525,000 acres. Last concurrence was received in January 2017.
- **DSL submitted an official report based on CCAA requirements to USFWS** in early 2017 and

added additional accomplishments for work completed by mid-year 2018 (as of August 10, 2018). DSL will be submitting the annual report in the winter of 2018. It will cover sage-grouse work completed in 2017 and 2018. This report was not submitted in 2017 due to reduced DSL staffing levels and an immense backlog of data. This postponed annual report was agreed upon by USFWS and DSL.

*Additional Contributions*

- **Approximately \$3,525 in 2017–2018 and \$1,100 in 2016 for Rangeland Fire Protection Association (RFPA) support.** DSL pays dues wherever there is DSL land within an RFPA boundary, given the role RFPAs play in wildfire operational assistance on DSL/state lands. 🌻

The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) continues to support and commits staff time to ongoing implementation of the Sage-Grouse Action Plan. As staff to the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC), ODOE has been engaged in actions related to reviewing energy project permit applications in sage-grouse habitat as well as aligning agency/EFSC rules with the Oregon Sage-Grouse Action Plan and ODFW mitigation rules.



### Legislative and other state investment

No state funding specific to sage-grouse conservation or the implementation of the Sage-Grouse Action Plan.

### Actions and related SageCon Partnership work

- Continued with ongoing review of the proposed Boardman to Hemingway (B2H) transmission line project, a portion of which could impact sage-grouse habitat. B2H must comply with the mitigation requirements in the ODFW rules as well as the 1 percent and 3 percent large-scale development-related direct impact thresholds in state rules. Consequently, ODOE continues to work with ODFW on assessment of habitat impacts and corresponding mitigation requirements, as well as the OSU Institute for Natural Resources and other SageCon partners related to the direct impact calculations and assessment relative to the 1 percent and 3 percent thresholds.
- No other energy facilities meeting the EFSC-jurisdictional requirements have been proposed in sage-grouse habitat areas covered in the state's rules. Should any such facilities be proposed, ODOE and EFSC would work with ODFW and other SageCon partners on review of the facility's potential impacts and required mitigation options as aligned with the Oregon Sage-Grouse Action Plan. 🌱

## Oregon Department of Transportation

To date, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) has not completed any projects outside ODOT right-of ways within designated sage-grouse habitat. One project within designated sage-grouse habitat and outside ODOT’s right-of-way is currently on hold pending BLM’s further definition of its sage-grouse review processes for such projects. ODOT is currently working directly with BLM to further define that process. ODOT receives no funding from the legislature related to sage-grouse.



### Legislative and other state investment

No state funding specific to sage-grouse conservation or the implementation of the Sage-Grouse Action Plan. 🌱

## Conclusion

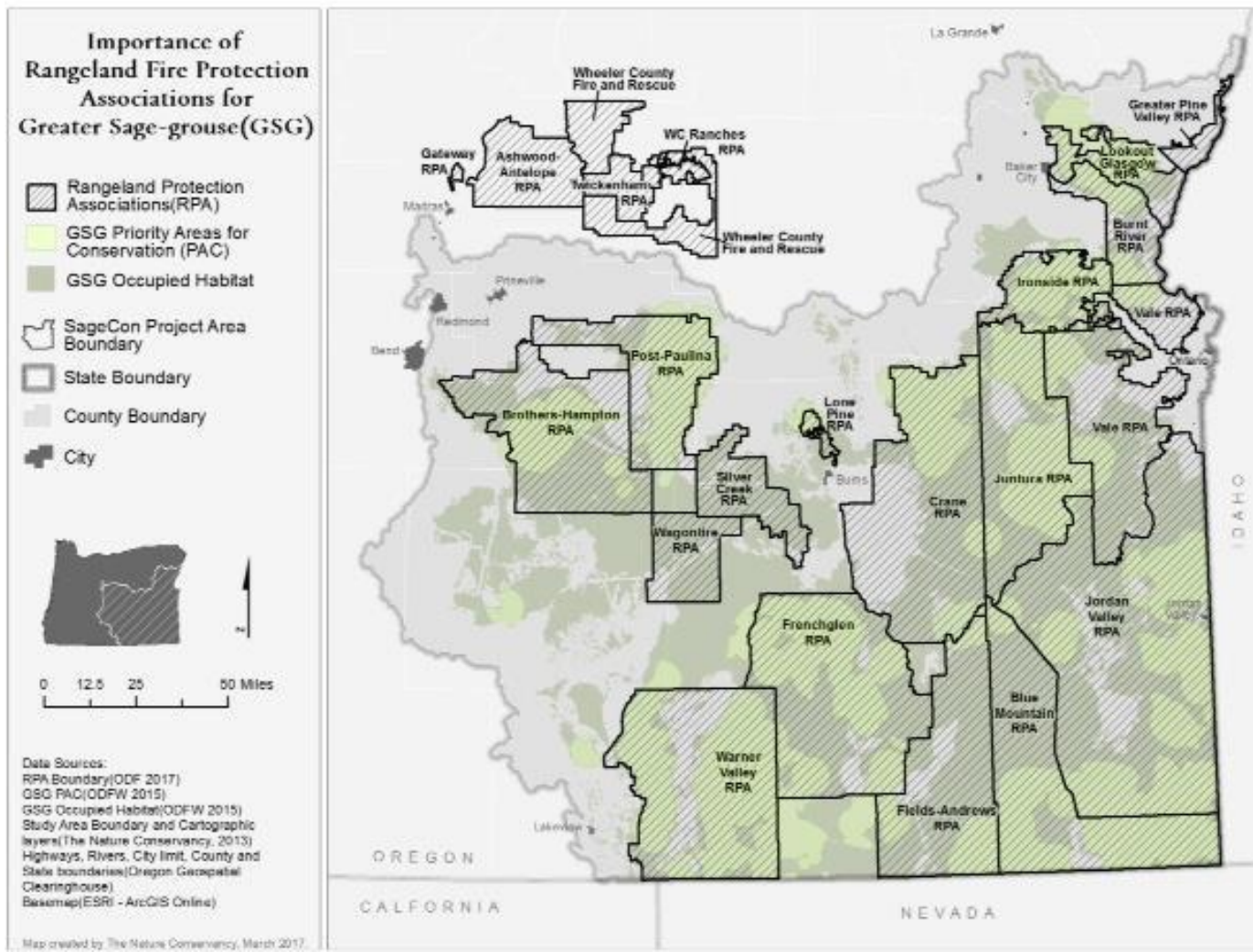
As Governor Brown stated in her September 17, 2015, letter to SageCon partners regarding Executive Order 15-18 and adoption of the Oregon Sage-Grouse Action Plan, “with ten million acres of sage-grouse habitat within the stunning high-desert and working rangelands of eight counties...a lot is at stake not just for wildlife but for all Oregonians.” Sage-Grouse conservation, rangeland and rural community health requires collaboration on many levels, from addressing wildfire and invasive species threats on the ground to coordinating government actors, land use, and management policies across public and private ownership. As demonstrated in this report, the Oregon Legislature and state agencies stepped up over the 2015–2017 biennium to meet these challenges and take action. Their efforts to manage threats, as identified in the Oregon Sage-Grouse Action Plan, demonstrate coordination across broad purposes and landscapes.

Whether it’s by treating thousands of acres of juniper or noxious weeds, installing miles of fences and fence markers or expanding the capacity of rangeland fire protection associations, state agencies and their partners continue to address threats in order to meet sage-grouse population and habitat goals in a way that ensures rural community and conservation benefit. It is through sustaining these partnerships that sage-grouse conservation moves forward. State funding and capacity remain critical to maintaining momentum towards a more resilient high desert landscape that supports rural community and economic values as well as conservation progress that averts the need for an Endangered Species Act listing. This report documents state funding and the work and roles of state agencies that are part of the web of partners advancing an integrated approach to implementation of the Oregon Sage-Grouse Action Plan. 🌱

## APPENDIX A: RFPA Budget by County and Expenditures (Funding from OWEB)

Association/County	Budget	Additions	10% Hold back	Total Funds	FFP/FEPP		PPE		Tanks		Water Handling		Communications		Building		Equipment		Misc		Remaining
					Number	Total	Number	Total	Number	Total	Number	Total	Number	Total	Number	Total	Number	Total	Number	Total	
Ash Butte RFPA	\$ 7,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 3,700	\$ 37,000					3	\$ 2,350.00	262	\$ 14,184.16	47	\$ 1,631.40					1026	\$ 15,134.44	\$ -
Baker County	\$ 30,000			\$ 30,000			120	\$ 17,020.53					130	\$ 4,828.94					205	\$ 8,150.53	\$ 0.00
Blue Mountain RFPA	\$ 54,615	\$ 25,000	\$ 7,962	\$ 79,615	4	\$ 4,206.86	75	\$ 6,091.78	19	\$ 22,948.79	150	\$ 3,472.95	224	\$ 10,576.77			3	\$ 4,268.00	2012	\$ 20,088.35	\$ -
Brothers-Hampton RFPA	\$ 38,150		\$ 3,815	\$ 38,150	30	\$ 3,108.66	125	\$ 5,990.89	2	\$ 1,000.00	7	\$ 1,532.84	50	\$ 939.94			1	\$ 1,200.00	1285	\$ 20,562.67	\$ -
Burnt River RFPA	\$ 15,010	\$ 10,000	\$ 2,501	\$ 25,010	5	\$ 3,389.60	120	\$ 3,124.55					4	\$ 4,435.00			1	\$ 9,039.00	20	\$ 2,520.85	\$ -
Crane RFPA	\$ 40,035		\$ 4,004	\$ 40,035											1	\$ 36,031.50					\$ -
Crane 2 RFPA		\$ 45,000	\$ 4,500	\$ 45,000											1	\$ 40,500.00					\$ -
Crook County	\$ 15,000			\$ 15,000					4	\$ 10,200.00									120	\$ 4,800.00	\$ -
Deschutes County	\$ 15,000			\$ 15,000			5	\$ 1,194.00					16	\$ 7,570.14					45	\$ 6,235.86	\$ -
Fields-Andrews RFPA	\$ 42,155	\$ 15,000	\$ 5,716	\$ 57,155	2	\$ 967.00			3	\$ 9,658.80	9	\$ 43.84	1052	\$ 14,245.36			1	\$ 3,850.00	400	\$ 22,674.50	\$ -
Frenchglen RFPA	\$ 62,625	\$ 2,000	\$ 6,463	\$ 64,625	3	\$ 3,725.00	50	\$ 2,257.62	4	\$ 8,000.00	1	\$ 30,450.00					2	\$ 5,334.12	764	\$ 8,395.76	\$ -
Gateway RFPA	\$ 7,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 2,200	\$ 22,000											1	\$ 14,197.12			110	\$ 5,602.88	\$ -
Greater Pine Valley RFPA		\$ 30,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 30,000			52	\$ 12,609.67	3	\$ 7,500.00			21	\$ 4,717.72					90	\$ 2,172.61	\$ -
Harney County	\$ 90,000			\$ 90,000	1	\$ 510.00	75	\$ 9,864.30	1	\$ 2,500.00			101	\$ 4,064.45	1	\$ 10,251.44	2	\$ 21,725.76	1625	\$ 41,084.05	\$ -
Ironside RFPA	\$ 27,130		\$ 2,713	\$ 27,130			44	\$ 2,618.39	2	\$ 5,000.00	31	\$ 8,050.37	14	\$ 4,208.75					501	\$ 4,539.49	\$ -
Jefferson County	\$ 30,000			\$ 30,000	4	\$ 3,265.00					190	\$ 2,479.11			1	\$ 12,451.79			72	\$ 11,804.10	\$ (0.00)
Jordan Valley RFPA	\$ 94,325		\$ 9,433	\$ 94,325	2	\$ 2,650.00	200	\$ 17,079.47	2	\$ 5,000.00	35	\$ 21,163.60							725	\$ 38,999.43	\$ -
Juntura RFPA	\$ 44,380		\$ 4,438	\$ 44,380					3	\$ 23,939.50					1	\$ 3,518.00			12	\$ 12,484.50	\$ -
Lake County	\$ 15,000			\$ 15,000			145	\$ 14,664.44											6	\$ 335.56	\$ (0.00)
Lone Pine RFPA	\$ 8,335	\$ 30,000	\$ 3,834	\$ 38,335			22	\$ 1,081.43									1	\$ 10,500.00	750	\$ 22,920.07	\$ -
Lookout-Glasgow RFPA	\$ 15,455	\$ 20,000	\$ 3,546	\$ 35,455	2	\$ 1,750.00	100	\$ 2,961.43	1	\$ 1,000.00	2	\$ 4,200.00					3	\$ 13,424.59	279	\$ 8,573.48	\$ -
Malheur County	\$ 75,000			\$ 75,000			134	\$ 22,809.00					193	\$ 52,191.00							\$ -
Post Paulina RFPA	\$ 27,470	\$ 10,000	\$ 3,747	\$ 37,470					6	\$ 10,908.12	200	\$ 5,082.50					2	\$ 5,990.75	621	\$ 11,741.63	\$ -
Silver Creek RFPA	\$ 12,340	\$ 30,000	\$ 4,234	\$ 42,340	3	\$ 4,060.00					7	\$ 3,450.00	164	\$ 13,162.15					850	\$ 17,433.85	\$ -
Twickenham RFPA	\$ 7,000		\$ 700	\$ 7,000	1	\$ 1,500.00	20	\$ 2,164.00											127	\$ 2,636.00	\$ -
Vale RFPA	\$ 23,012		\$ 2,301	\$ 23,012	1	\$ 450.00			6	\$ 15,300.00	2	\$ 362.50							26	\$ 4,598.12	\$ -
Wagontire RFPA	\$ 8,335		\$ 834	\$ 8,335	3	\$ 2,825.00											2	\$ 3,820.62	5	\$ 855.88	\$ -
Warner Valley RFPA	\$ 52,835		\$ 5,284	\$ 52,835	1	\$ 3,900.00	26	\$ 1,554.00									1	\$ 25,000.00	621	\$ 17,097.50	\$ -
WC Ranches RFPA	\$ 7,000	\$ 33,501	\$ 4,050	\$ 40,501	1	\$ 1,275.00			4	\$ 1,510.00	4	\$ 3,983.84	54	\$ 14,005.63			1	\$ 3,900.00	550	\$ 11,776.58	\$ 0.00
Wheeler County	\$ 30,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 4,500	\$ 45,000	10	\$ 6,002.90	120	\$ 8,428.95			15	\$ 3,702.67	42	\$ 3,317.36					410	\$ 19,048.12	\$ -
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 894,207</b>	<b>\$ 310,501</b>	<b>\$ 93,471</b>	<b>\$ 1,204,708</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>\$ 43,585.02</b>	<b>1,433.00</b>	<b>\$ 131,514.45</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>\$ 126,815</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>\$ 102,158</b>	<b>2,112</b>	<b>\$ 139,895</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>\$ 116,950</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>\$ 108,053</b>	<b>13,257</b>	<b>\$ 342,267</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>

## APPENDIX B: Overlap of Rangeland Fire Protection Associations and Greater Sage-Grouse Boundaries



## APPENDIX C: 2016–17 Oregon State Weed Board Grants Awarded in Core Sage Grouse Habitat Areas

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### 2016 Oregon State Weed Board Grants Awarded in Core Sage Grouse Habitat Areas

Source : Oregon Department of Agriculture

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Project Number	Project manager organization	Project Name	Amount Requested
2016-29-602	South Fork John Day WC	South Fork John Day Weed Control	\$31,994.00
2016-29-610	Crooked River Weed Management Area	Restoring Sage Grouse Habitat	\$58,867.00
2016-29-611	Crooked River Weed Management Area	Crooked River Watershed Scotch Thistle Project	\$30,389.00
2016-29-621	Grant SWCD Weed Control	County Wide Perennial Pepperweed Project	\$7,503.00
2016-29-622	Harney County Weed Board	Harney Valley African rue IIX	\$15,132.00
2016-29-624	Juntura Cooperative Weed Management Area	Three Forks Perennial Pepperweed Project	\$24,240.00
2016-29-625	Lake County CWMA	Dusenbury Road Spotted Knapweed Control	\$16,211.00
2016-29-626	Lake County CWMA	Goose Lake Basin Dyers Woad Control	\$28,806.00
2016-29-628	Lake County CWMA	Lake County Spotted Knapweed Eradication	\$7,054.00
2016-29-629	Lake County CWMA	Warner Valley Comprehensive Weed Control Project	\$34,094.00
2016-29-634	Malheur County Weed Advisory Board	Malheur Rush Skeletonweed Containment Project	\$28,075.00
2016-29-635	Malheur County Weed Advisory Board	Willow Creek Basin Leafy Spurge Project	\$21,263.00
2016-29-636	Monument SWCD	North Fork John Day Leafy Spurge	\$13,395.00
2016-29-639	Jordan Valley CWMA	Medusahead Mop-Up	\$33,455.00
2016-29-640	Jordan Valley CWMA	Jordan Valley Weed Control 2016	\$55,234.00
2016-29-641	Jordan Valley CWMA	Whiteop Wipeout	\$23,694.00
2016-29-650	Upper Burnt River Weed District	Upper Burnt River Weed Control 2016	\$32,448.00
		<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$461,854.00</b>

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**2017 Oregon State Weed Board Grant Awards in Core Sage Grouse Habitat**

<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>
Crooked River Weed Management Area	Crook	Russian Knapweed Biocontrol Project	\$5,036.00
Crooked River Weed Management Area	Crook, Grant	South Fork Scotch and Musk Thistle	\$23,122.00
Crooked River Weed Management Area	Crook	Restoring Sage Grouse Habitat	\$57,024.00
Grant SWCD Weed Control	Grant	John Day River Yellow Flag Iris	\$8,694.00
Grant SWCD Weed Control	Grant	Plumeless Thistle and Squarrose Knapweed Project	\$18,110.00
Harney County Weed Board	Harney	Harney Valley African rue IX	\$11,786.00
Heart of Oregon Corps	Crook , Wheeler	Ochoco Divide Weed Control and Restoration	\$6,950.00
Malheur Watershed Council	Malheur	Three Forks Perennial Pepperweed Project	\$9,891.00
Lake County Cooperative Weed Management Area	Lake	Lake County EDRR	\$18,933.00
Lake County Cooperative Weed Management Area	Lake	Warner Valley Noxious Weed Control	\$26,996.00
Lake County Cooperative Weed Management Area	Lake	Lake County Dyers Woad Eradication	\$33,894.00
Malheur Watershed Council	Malheur	Malheur Rush Skeletonweed Containment Project	\$29,790.00
Malheur Watershed Council	Malheur	Willow Creek Basin Leafy Spurge Project	\$9,622.00
Monument SWCD	Grant	North Fork John Day Leafy Spurge -Phase II	\$12,227.00
Owyhee Watershed Council	Malheur	Whitetop Wipeout 2017	\$23,214.00
Owyhee Watershed Council	Malheur	Jordan Valley Weed Control 2017	\$44,992.00
Tri-County CWMA	Baker	Baker Sage Grouse Noxious Weed Control	\$38,000.00
Tri-County CWMA	Union	Upper Grande Ronde Meadow Hawkweed Control	\$42,000.00
Union County Weed Board	Union	Union County Priority Weeds	\$30,762.00
Upper Burnt River Weed Control District	Baker	Upper Burnt River Weed Control 2017	\$31,075.00
Wheeler SWCD	Wheeler	Wheeler EDRR	\$3,859.00
Wheeler SWCD	Wheeler	Bridge Creek YST Prevention	\$5,575.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$491,552</b>



## Appendix D: DSL Contributions to Cooperative Weed Management Associations (CWMA's)

### Jordan Valley Cooperative Weed Management Association

Spring 2018	\$8,275
Spring 2017	\$8,300
TOTAL	\$16,575

### Harney County Cooperative Weed Management Association

Fall 2017	\$9,400
Fall 2016	\$14,000
TOTAL	\$23,400

### Lane County Cooperative Weed Management Association

Fall 2016	\$5,109
Summer 2017	\$1,901
TOTAL	\$7,010