



FACT SHEET

www.sagegrouseinitiative.com



The Sage Grouse Initiative Brand

Achieve world-class wildlife conservation through sustainable ranching, applying a highly targeted and science-based approach that succeeds through partnerships, voluntary incentives, and community support.

Who:

Natural Resources Conservation Service Leads the Partnership

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) launched the Sage Grouse Initiative in 2010 and continues to lead a growing partnership of ranchers, agencies, universities, conservation groups, and businesses. Ranchers play a pivotal role by stepping up to voluntarily enroll their lands to improve habitat and conserve intact sagebrush lands.

What:

The Sage Grouse Initiative partnership proactively conserves sage grouse, cares for other wildlife sharing the same extensive sagebrush country, and helps ranchers pass on their legacy and rural way of life. The new paradigm for at-risk wildlife works through voluntary cooperation, incentives, and community support.

Where:

The Initiative covers 11 western states, targeting 78 million acres of intact sagebrush harboring the highest number of birds. Approximately 25 percent of occupied range contains 75 percent of sage grouse. Private lands are the primary focus, with partnership projects on public lands as well. While 40 percent of sage grouse

dwell on private lands, those habitats often shelter critical wet meadows and riparian areas that sage grouse broods depend upon to thrive.

When:

In 2010, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service found the sage grouse merited listing under the Endangered Species Act, but other declining species ranked higher in priority. The Service will decide whether to list the species in 2015. The Sage Grouse Initiative is taking a proactive approach to achieve enough conservation in the right places and to work with its partners to avert the need for a listing. The Initiative is committed to long-term conservation of sage grouse and the hundreds of other wildlife species that inhabit the same range, while securing the nation's food and energy needs.

How:

Farm Bill Fuels Investments

SGI applies the power of the Farm Bill to fund or contribute dollars to voluntary conservation projects in sage grouse strongholds across 11 western states. Those dollars that run through NRCS programs are leveraged many times over through partnerships. From 2010 through 2012, investments of \$145 million generated \$70 million in matching contributions.

Achievements 2010-2012

The speed of success matches the scale: 700+ ranchers enrolled; conservation easements that reduce subdivision and sodbusting threats on 240,000+ acres; new grazing systems that increase hiding cover for nesting birds on 2+ million acres; removal of invading conifers that restores historic sagebrush on 200,000 acres; and marking or removing 500+ miles of high-risk fences that prevent bird collisions.

Eleven states with sage grouse: California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming. Canada harbors remnant populations of sage grouse in Saskatchewan and Alberta.