

SAGE GROUSE INITIATIVE STRATEGIC WATERSHED ACTION TEAM



In 2011, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) teamed up with the Intermountain West Joint Venture and more than 30 partner organizations to expand the field delivery, science, and communications capacity for the Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI). The partnership, known as the *SGI Strategic Watershed Action Team (SWAT)*, was established with the shared vision of *achieving wildlife conservation through sustainable ranching*. Through SWAT, partner organizations have hired new range conservationists and wildlife biologists, plus a cultural resources specialist, to help get more Farm Bill conservation on the ground. Located in critical geographic "pinch points" for conservation delivery, these partner positions are based in NRCS field offices and work under the direction of NRCS staff – assisting landowners one-on-one who voluntarily chose to participate in SGI. Partner positions are employed by conservation districts, state wildlife and agricultural agencies, and non-governmental organizations (employing partners and funding contributors, in parentheses, are listed below).

Follow the partnership at: www.sagegrouseinitiative.com

Location	Employing Partner (Funding Partners)	Employee Contact
CALIFORNIA		
<i>Susanville</i>	Point Blue Conservation Science (Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Point Blue Conservation Science)	Tiffany Russell <i>tiffany.russell@ca.usda.gov</i> (530) 257-7271, ext. 111
COLORADO		
<i>Craig</i>	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (ConocoPhillips Company, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation)	Chris Yarbrough <i>chris.yarbrough@co.usda.gov</i> (970) 824-3476, ext. 108
<i>Kremmling</i>	Bird Conservancy of the Rockies (ConocoPhillips Company, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)	Donn Slusher <i>donn.slusher@co.usda.gov</i> (970) 724-3456
<i>Montrose</i>	Bird Conservancy of the Rockies (Bureau of Land Management, ConocoPhillips Company, Intermountain West Joint Venture, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)	Marcella Fremgen <i>marcella.fremgen@co.usda.gov</i> (970) 249-8407, ext. 129
IDAHO		
<i>Burley</i>	Pheasants Forever (ConocoPhillips Company, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)	Connor White <i>connor.white@id.usda.gov</i> (208) 678-1225, ext. 111
<i>Mountain Home</i>	Pheasants Forever (ConocoPhillips Company, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)	Eduardo Contreras <i>econtreras@pheasantsforever.org</i> (208) 587-3616, ext. 116
<i>Rexburg</i>	Pheasants Forever (Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)	Lara Fondow <i>lfondow@pheasantsforever.org</i> (208) 356-3218, ext. 117

Location	Employing Partner (Funding Partners)	Employee Contact
MONTANA		
Dillon	Natural Resources Conservation Service/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (Intermountain West Joint Venture, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)	Lindsay Schmitt lindsay.schmitt@mt.usda.gov (406) 683-3811
Ekalaka	Montana Association of Conservation Districts (Bureau of Land Management, ConocoPhillips Company, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pheasants Forever, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)	Justin Hughes jhughes@macdnet.org (406) 775-6355
Forsyth	Montana Association of Conservation Districts (ConocoPhillips Company, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pheasants Forever, Rosebud Conservation District, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)	Heather Nenninger hnenninger@macdnet.org (406) 346-7333, ext. 109
Glasgow	Montana Association of Conservation Districts (Intermountain West Joint Venture, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Natural Resources Conservation Service, North American Grouse Partnership, Pheasants Forever, World Wildlife Fund)	Luke McCarty (starts 5/23/16) Email TBD Phone TBD
Malta	Montana Association of Conservation Districts (ConocoPhillips Company, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pheasants Forever, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)	Kelsey Molloy kelsey.molloy@mt.nacdnet.net (406) 654-1334, ext. 106
NEVADA		
Elko	Pheasants Forever (ConocoPhillips Company, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Nevada Department of Wildlife)	Mandy O'Donnell aodonnell@pheasantsforever.org (775) 738-8431, ext. 125
Elko	Pheasants Forever (ConocoPhillips Company, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Nevada Department of Wildlife)	Rachelle Peppers rpeppers@pheasantsforever.org (775) 738-8431, ext. 119
OREGON		
Baker City	Baker Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (Baker Valley Soil and Water Conservation District, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board)	Logan Ross logan.ross@bakercountyswcds.com (541) 523-7121, ext. 111
Ontario	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ConocoPhillips Company, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife)	Laura Schnapp laura.a.schnapp@state.or.us (541) 889-7637, ext. 122
Lakeview	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ConocoPhillips Company, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife)	Ryan Platte (starts 4/11/16) Email TBD Phone TBD
SOUTH DAKOTA		
Belle Fourche	Pheasants Forever (ConocoPhillips Company, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks)	Hiring in progress

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UTAH		
Randolph	Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (Bureau of Land Management, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Forest Service, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food)	Taylor Payne taylorpayne@utah.gov (435) 793-3905, ext. 106
Tremonton	Mule Deer Foundation (ConocoPhillips Company, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Utah Chapter Safari Club International, Utah Chukar & Wildlife Foundation, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources)	Charles Sandford (starts 4/18/16) Email TBD Phone TBD
Vernal	Mule Deer Foundation (ConocoPhillips Company, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Utah Chapter Safari Club International, Utah Chukar & Wildlife Foundation, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources)	Leah Lewis leah.lewis@ut.usda.gov (435) 789-2100, ext. 131
WASHINGTON		
Waterville	Pheasants Forever (ConocoPhillips Company, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)	Helen (Lisa) Dowling ldowling@pheasantsforever.org (509) 745-8561
Wenatchee	Pheasants Forever (ConocoPhillips Company, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife)	Michael Brown mbrown@pheasantsforever.org (509) 662-1141, ext. 122
WYOMING		
Gillette	Bird Conservancy of the Rockies (Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, Bureau of Land Management, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service)	Hiring in progress
Lander	Popo Agie Conservation District (ConocoPhillips Company, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Popo Agie Conservation District, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)	Mandi Hirsch mandi.hirsch@wy.usda.gov (307) 332-3114, ext. 13
Saratoga	Bird Conservancy of the Rockies (Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Saratoga-Encampment-Rawlins Conservation District, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)	Hiring in progress