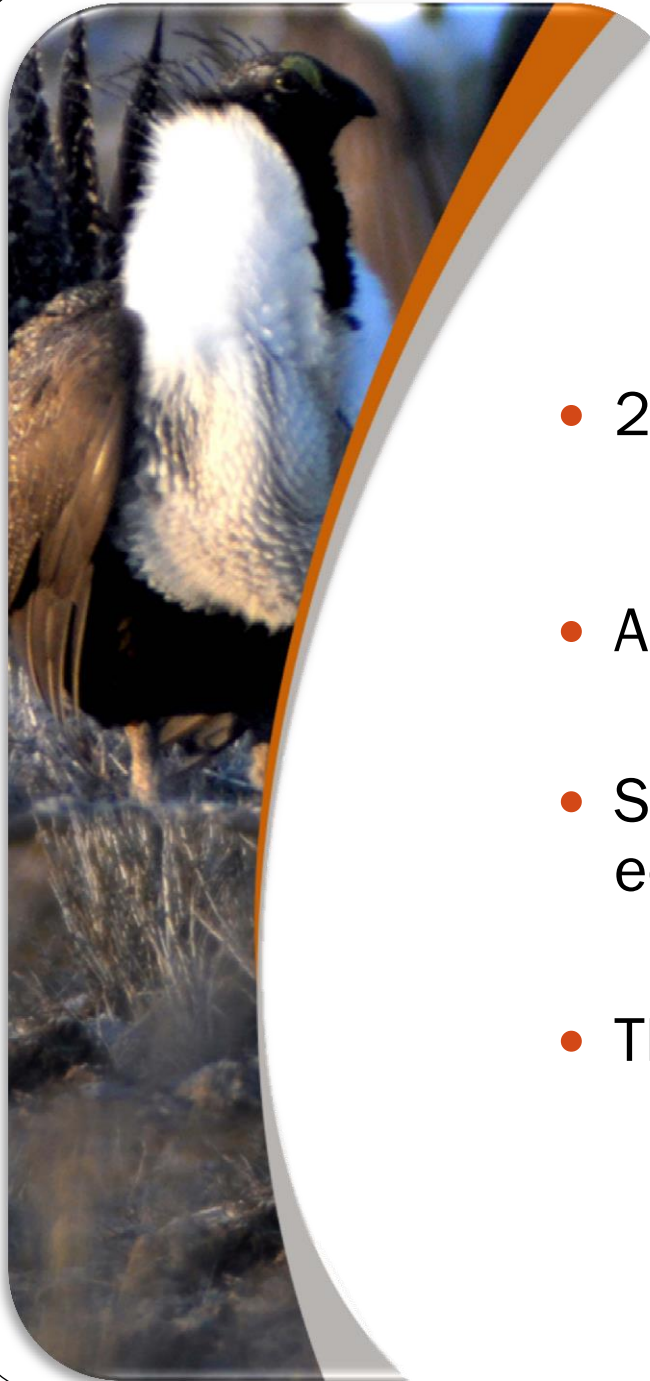


Oregon Sage-grouse Planning Efforts

Oregon State Legislature
House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

June 04, 2015





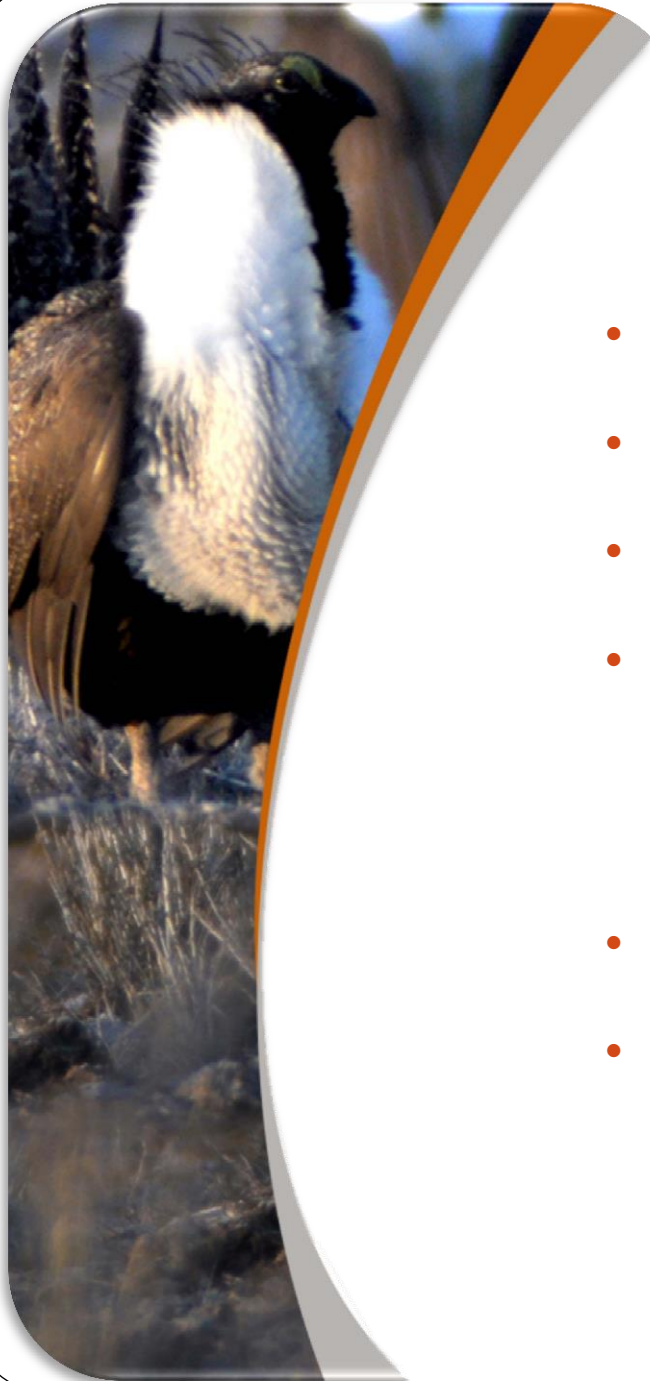
Why do a Plan?

- 2010 USFWS “warranted but precluded”
 - West-wide Effort—11 states
- An ecosystem is at risk (and bird is an indicator)
- So are all the values tied to it—social, economic, and environmental
- There is opportunity in being proactive
 - Increased certainty / predictability
 - ROI
 - Jobs and partnerships



What would the Plan achieve?

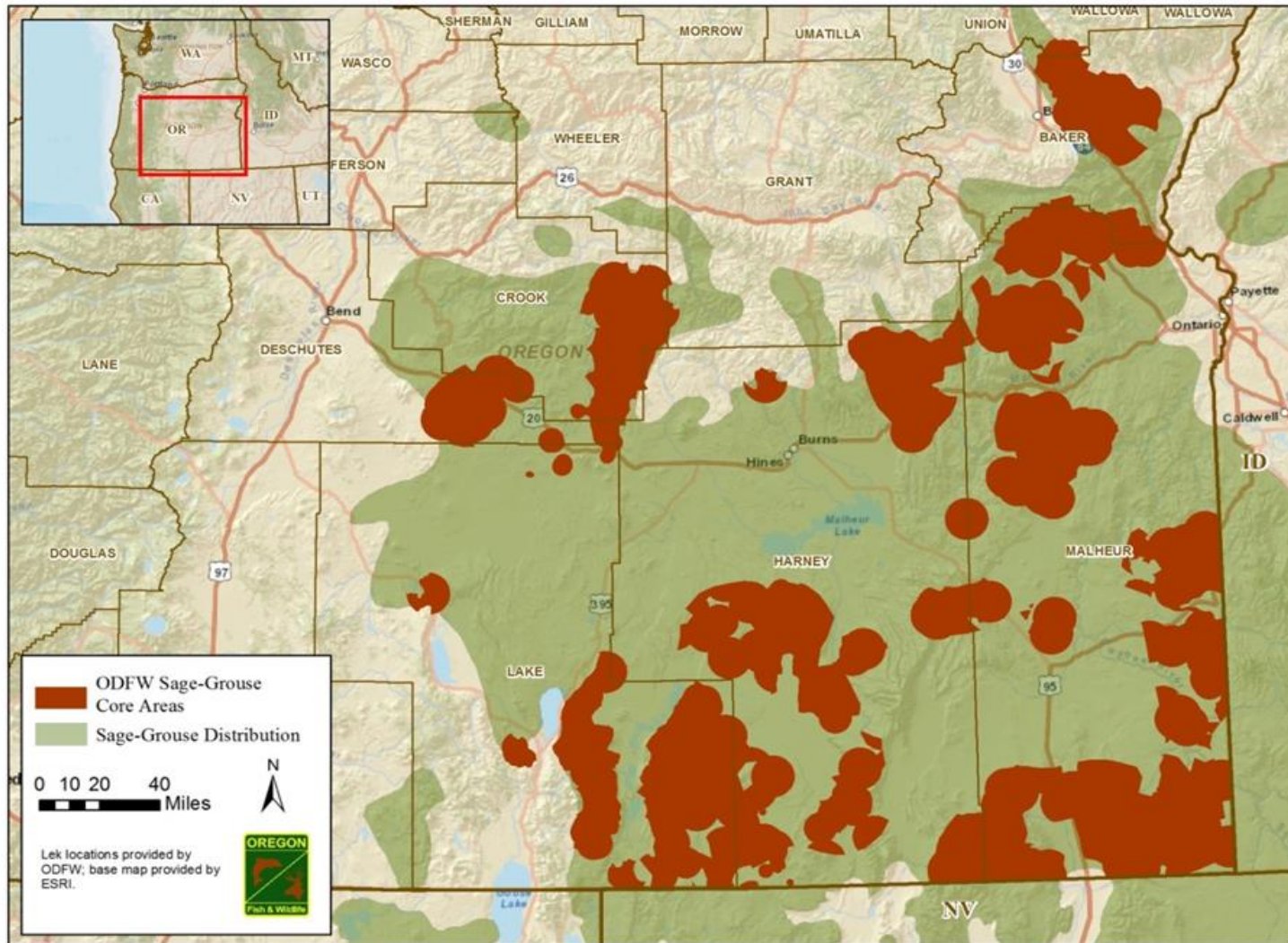
- Oregon's plan of action and "case" to the USFWS for why an ESA listing is not warranted (because Oregon has a bona fide approach to addressing sage grouse threats and recovering populations).
- A sound path forward for rangeland health, rural communities and economic viability—not simply about averting the need for an ESA listing, but strategically addressing threats to habitat, rural community and economic interests that exist regardless of ESA considerations.
- A framework for improved partnership and coordination (public and private lands; federal and state agencies; local government and communities).



What's in the Plan?

- Updates the status of threats to sage-grouse and its habitat
- Highlights of actions taken since 2010 to address threats
- Builds on ODFW 2011 S.Grouse Conservation Strategy
- Strategic Set of Conservation Actions
 - Prioritizes local and statewide conservation actions
 - Provides regulatory certainty to address gaps and opportunities
 - LCDC rules re. land use; ODFW Rules re. Mitigation HB 3086
 - Mitigation protocol and registry approach (Hab. Quant. Tool)
- Decision support tools and best management practices
- Governance structure for Plan implementation and adaptive management across governmental and nongovernmental entities
 - Research, responsible parties, timelines
 - Local Role—LIT's
 - Monitoring and metrics

“Core Area” approach to conservation



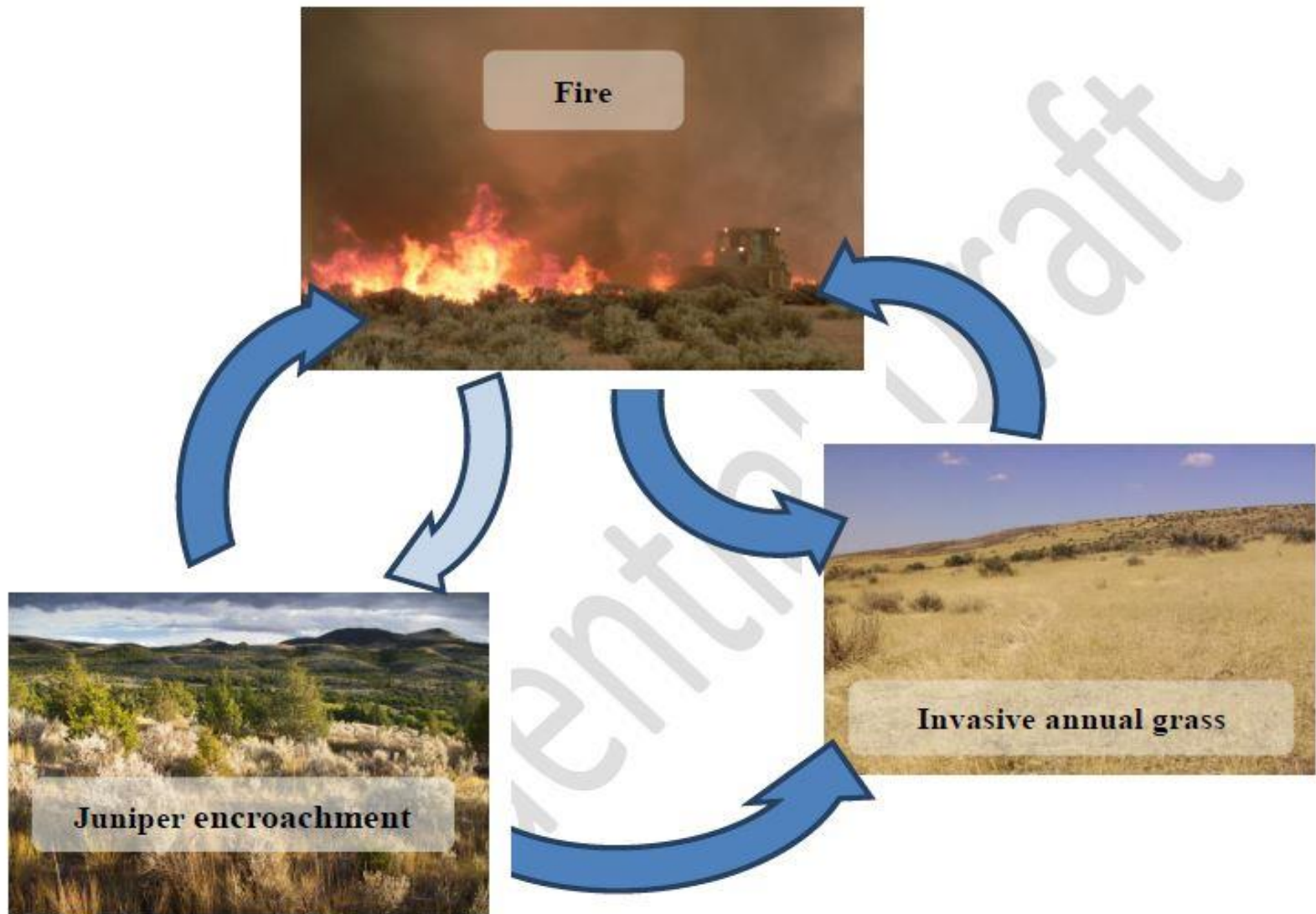


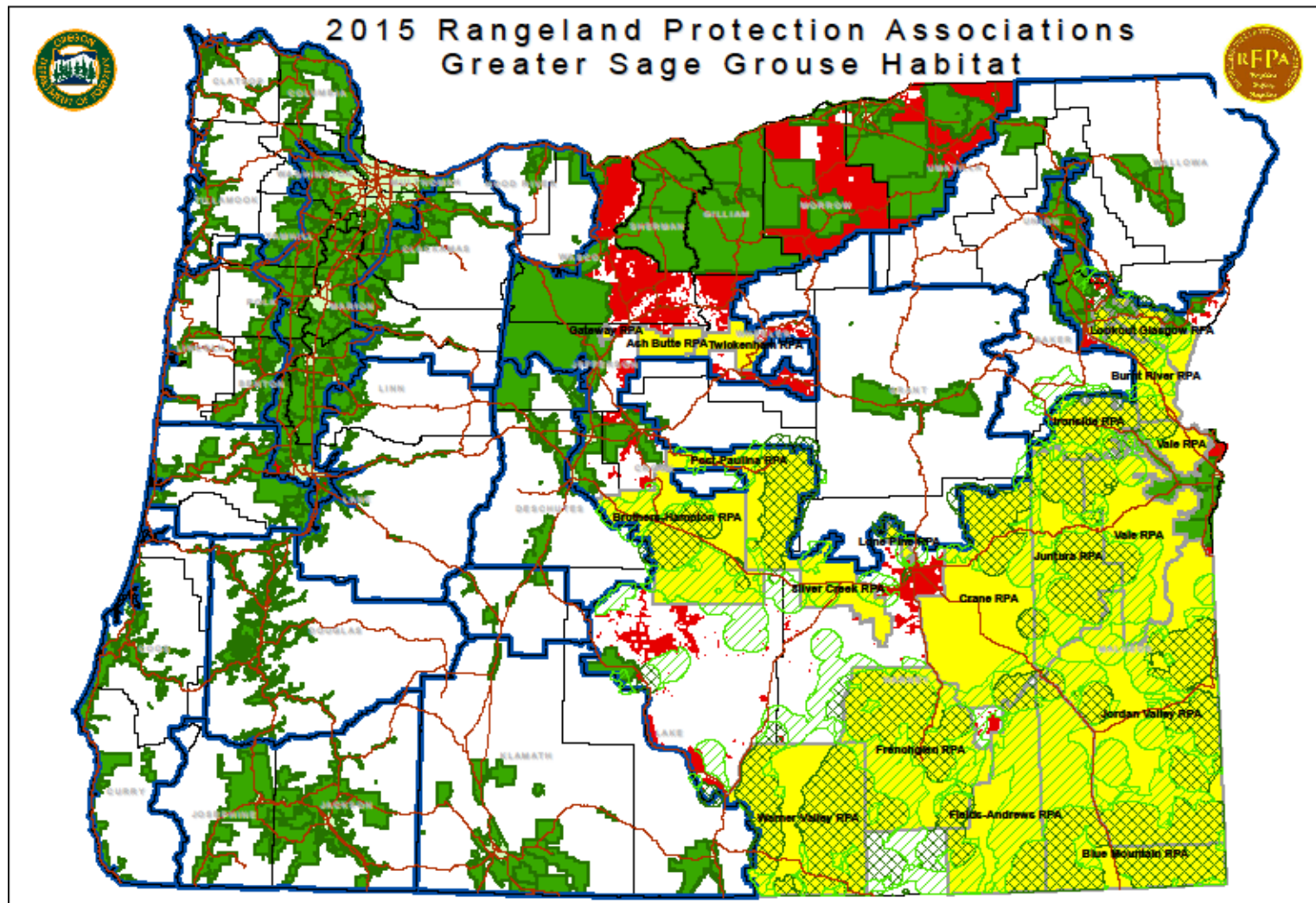
Figure 1 The three main threats to sage-grouse habitat include juniper encroachment, invasive annual grasses, and catastrophic wildfire. These threats are interrelated with dark arrows representing the positive feedback loop between them. The light arrow indicates the lack of fire that contributes to juniper expansion.

Oregon's Rangeland Fire Protection Program



- Independent Associations of landowners
 - Authorized by Board of Forestry
 - Funded by landowners
 - ODF support; grants, equipment, training
- Approximately 700 volunteer firefighters
- Total Acres in RPA's - 15 million
 - Private Land Protected- 3,928,511 ac.
 - State Acres-(DSL & OPRD)- 545,427 ac.
 - Federal Acres in RFPAs- 10,379,622 ac.

Wildfire / Rangeland Fire







Oregon Department of Forestry

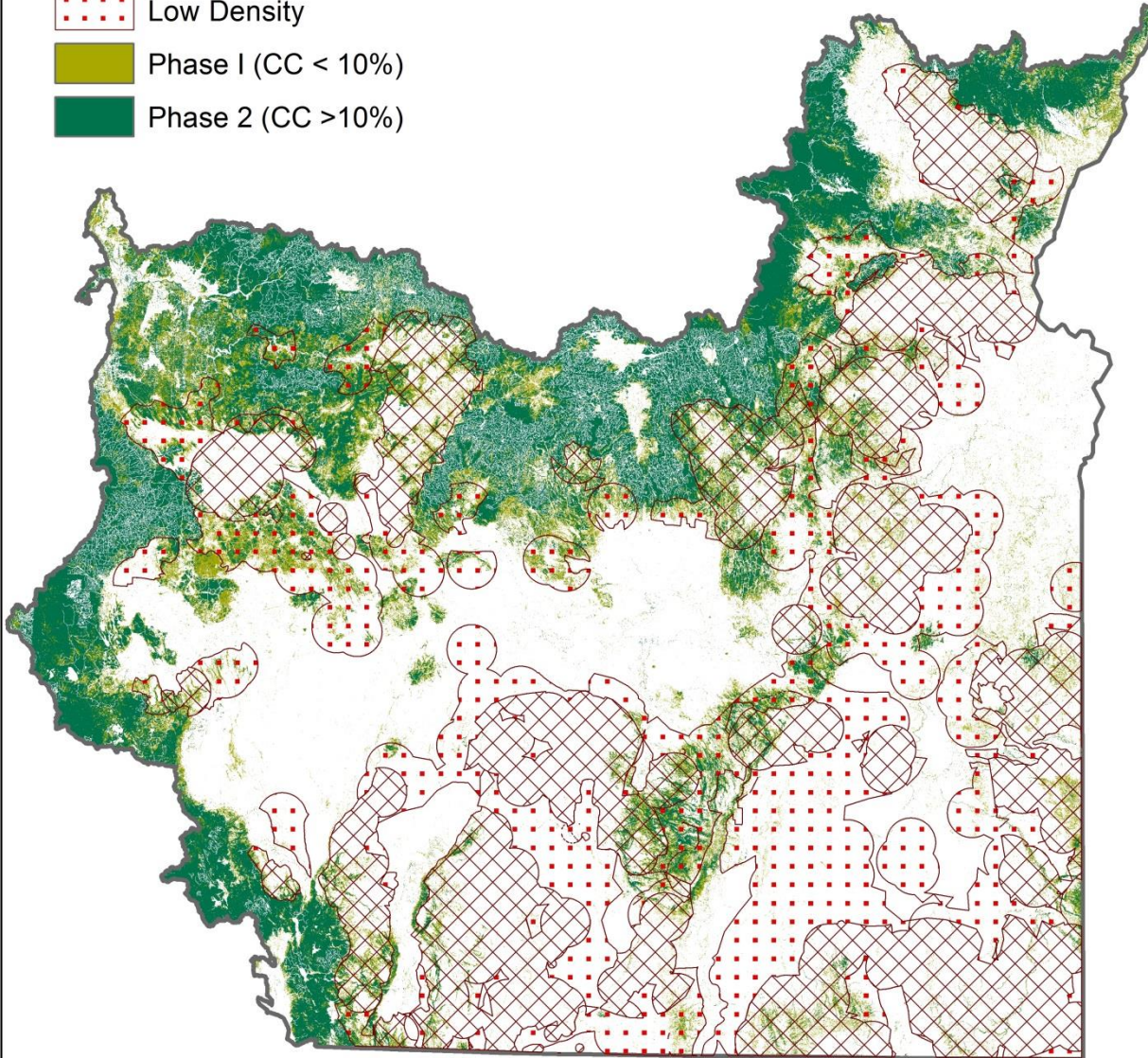
Prepared by: Gordon Foster
Date: January 5, 2015

- Core Area
- Low Density
- Rangeland Protection Associations
- City & Rural Fire District
- State & Federal Wildland Fire Protection
- Un-Protected Lands, no structural or wildland protection



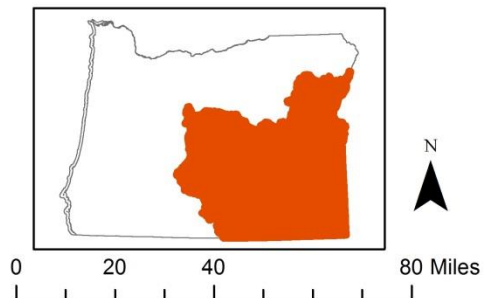
Juniper Removal

-  Core Area
-  Low Density
-  Phase I (CC < 10%)
-  Phase 2 (CC > 10%)



- 1.2 million acres of Phase I and II juniper across Action Areas
- Pre-SGI (2003-2009)
 - 31,000 acres treated
- SGI (2010-2014)
 - 190,989 acres treated
- ODFW sponsored (2009-2014)
 - 3,320 acres treated

Total ~ 225,000 ac



Proposed GRB (2015-17) Investments: Sage Grouse Action Plan and Working Lands

Agency Package	Description	Amount
ODF – 119 and 120	Rangeland Fire Package related to “unprotected” lands. This includes Rural Fire Protection Association support and other enhanced local capacity to address wildfire threats to habitat, rangeland, and rural community values.	1,659,130
ODFW - 132	Pre- and Post-Wildfire Resilience – Funding to implement pre-fire actions such as juniper removal that improve resilience of sagebrush habitat to wildfire, and promote effective recovery of native habitat post-fire in partnership with landowners, managers, and other partners.	1,350,000
ODA - 390	Invasive annual grasses / weeds —advances landowner actions to inventory, treat, and reduce invasive species threats to sage grouse habitat and rural economic values. Restores native plant habitat. Coordinates with county weed boards and other local delivery mechanisms.	\$500,000
ODFW – 130	All-Lands Mitigation Program. Rules laying the foundation for the program will come to the Fish & Wildlife Commission for approval in July. Agreements with federal agencies in preparation. Will allow streamlining of development activities in sage grouse habitat on federal and non-federal lands. Also ensures agency capacity and alignment with proper fund type.	350,000
DLCD - 108	All-Lands Disturbance Framework Administration. Framework provides assurances that habitat disturbance will remain below key tipping points. Ties to the new LCDC Rules and involves partnerships between DLCD and each of the seven Oregon counties with sage grouse habitat. A portion of the funding is for grants to counties that elect to adopt their own, locally-tailored, disturbance programs.	438,000
ODFW – 105	NRCS-co-funded positions – Support for conservation practices to alleviate threats to sage grouse, while improving sustainability of working ranches.	90,000
ODA-320	Oregon Invasive Species Council (Sage Grouse) - Improves Oregon’s overall response to invasive species including restoration and protection of Sage Grouse habitat.	100,000

TOTAL Sage Grouse and Working Lands

\$4,487,130

How are we doing / what will it get us?

- **Other States?**

- **Wyoming: \$14 million** (not including personell)
 - habitat and easement funding = \$10 million (50% GF and 50% State Trust \$)
 - Local Working Groups = habitat and management = \$3 million
 - Research / other purposes = \$1 million
- **Nevada—\$13.7 million (GRB request)**
 - 5.1 mil for Sagebrush Ecosystem Program;
 - \$8.6 mil. for wildland fire protection and other programs.
- **Montana: \$12 million** GF appropriation
 - oversight team and conservation easements

- **Other options for Oregon?**

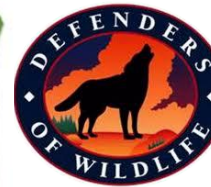
- Our needs re. Habitat actions are more costly and need sustained sources of investment
 - OWEB \$-- \$1 mil. / yr.
 - Ongoing ODFW actions
 - Sage Grouse Initiative – NRCS
 - CCAA and CCA's
- **HB 2171**—Self Determination, Wild Bird & Community Investment Act – \$2-3 mil. / yr.

SageCon Partnership



AOC | Association of Oregon Counties

Governor's Natural Resources Office



Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development