



# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
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Senator Lew Frederick, Co-Chair  
Representative Susan McLain, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Subject: Letter of Support for the Institute for Natural Resources submitted to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education

Dear Senator Frederick and Representative McLain:

I write to you in support of the Institute for Natural Resources (INR). It is important for our conservation work throughout Oregon that INR and its staff, services, and products continue to be supported by the State of Oregon. In particular, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and our partners engaged in conservation of Greater sage-grouse rely heavily on the essential work conducted by INR, including state-of-the-art geospatial products, information management, and project management.

INR's staff are foundational to SageCon, the stakeholder sage-grouse conservation organization chaired by the Governor's Natural Resource Office, which is leading the implementation of sage-grouse conservation across nearly a third of the state. SageCon's overarching goal is to advance policies and actions that reduce threats to sage-grouse and Oregon's sagebrush ecosystem, as well as promote rural community and economic health, according to the goals, approaches, and strategies adopted in the state's Sage-Grouse Action Plan. INR's products and staff working in the sage are integrated with no less than eight counties, dozens of diverse stakeholders, and hundreds of private landowners who are stepping up to deliver meaningful conservation for the bird and its habitat. This work is particularly important now, as conservation for sage-grouse and their habitat gains renewed interest at the highest levels of the State and Federal governments.

**INTERIOR REGION 9  
COLUMBIA-PACIFIC NORTHWEST**

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IDAHO, MONTANA\*, OREGON\*, WASHINGTON

\*PARTIAL

Our interactions with INR have been exceptional, with researchers and project leaders willing to provide assistance in a thorough and timely manner. We support the ongoing work of INR and look forward to incorporating new and innovative products as they become available. Based on more than 10 years of working with INR and the use of their products, we recommend continued support from the State of Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical part of Oregon's conservation stewardship. If you have any questions or if we can be of any assistance, please contact Jeff Everett of my staff at (503) 231-6179.

Sincerely,

Paul Henson, Ph.D.  
State Supervisor

Citation:

Sage-Grouse Conservation Partnership. 2015. The Oregon Sage-grouse Action Plan. Salem, Oregon. USA.

