Sagebrush Science Initiative: An Example: Catalyzing Science Information, Tools & Partnerships

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Building Trust in Small Manageable Steps

- Initial Focus on a Few Common Science Needs
- Mutual Interests in Science/Policy Decision Interface
- Leveraged Sage-grouse Expenditures & Lessons Learned
Common Science Needs

- LCC network supported $1,000,000 in science/partner support
  - Success predicated on Partnership/Coop Agreement with States through WAFWA and USFWS Science Application Program
- New Science tools were of value to the broader partnership
Mutual Interests in Interface of Science/Policy

TRANSPARENCY:
Data Sharing Agreements, Formal Review of Models, Open and honest feedback
Mutual Interests in Interface of Science/Policy

- Sagebrush Science Initiative Built on Trust
  - Original Science Needs and Coop Agreements
  - Collaboration on Science for Greater Sage-grouse Status Assessment
- Shared Vision
Science Initiative Vision

- Strong Partnerships, Delivering Conservation, Guided by Science
- Transparency
- Document Effectiveness of Conservation Actions in Changing Trajectory of Ecosystem
Sagebrush Science Initiative

- **WHO?** Scientists and managers already working on sage-grouse and sagebrush conservation (Federal, State, Tribal and Private Scientists and Land Managers)

- **WHAT?**
  - The initiative is responsible for generating and delivering identified high priority science to coordinated resource management programs.
  - Efficiently and effectively share data layers, spatial analytical tools, habitat and wildlife management expertise.
Science Initiative Goals (WHY)

- Reduce redundancy and delay in providing science support tools to wildlife and habitat managers.
- Maintain conservation momentum, partnerships and catalyze conservation in the sage brush system that durable and sustainable.
- Leverage existing resources & work together to bring new resources (i.e. this is not new granting initiative)
Sagebrush Science Initiative Structure

Initial Vision and Funder – Catalyze Initiative
- Fish and Wildlife Service – Science Applications

Convener
- Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Sagebrush States (Through Coop Agreement with FWS)

Initiative Team
- WAFWA
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- Forest Service
- USGS – Science Centers and Coop Units
- Inter-Mountain West Joint Venture
- Four Sagebrush LCCs
- Academic Experts
- Others
Sagebrush Science Initiative is More Than Capacity

- Initiative model promotes efficiencies and integration of science efforts.

- Develop tools to be more strategic in conservation delivery across a landscape.

- Focus on win/wins.
  - Recognize different agencies and orgs have different goals, but there is a lot of common ground.
    - How can our products benefit multiple partners?
Leveraged Sage-grouse Expenditures For Other Species

- Example: Sagebrush Obligate Spatially Explicit Modeling
Landscape Level Conservation Tools for Sage-grouse Expanded to Sagebrush System
Can Use Tools for Other Species

Sagebrush & Breeding Bird Survey Routes (BBS)
Sagebrush Science Initiative

Leverage Existing Work

Focus on High Quality Products

Work with Agencies to Ensure Uptake**

(**Uptake is Vital and Often Neglected Component)
Progress to Date

- Convened Expert Panel to Establish Species Priorities
- Enhanced Partnership with States, USGS, FWS, BLM and FS to Develop an Integrated Population Modeling Project
- House and Extend Fire and Invasives Science Needs Assessment from Secretarial Order
- Partnership Gathering Additional Investments
Questions & Discussion?

- Strong Partnerships, Delivering Conservation, Guided by Science
  - Transparency
- Document Effectiveness of Conservation Actions in Changing Trajectory of Ecosystem