

“Communications and Public Engagement”

The Next Steppe Conference

Thursday, November 6, 11:45 a.m. -12:25 p.m.

Moderator:

Jeremy Maestas, NRCS

Presenters:

Génie MontBlanc, University of Nevada

Lisa Eller, The Nature Conservancy



Connecting Scientists and Managers: Lessons from the Great Basin Fire Science Exchange



G nie MontBlanc
Program Coordinator
University of Nevada, Reno
6 November 2014





GREAT BASIN
FIRE SCIENCE
EXCHANGE

A JFSP Knowledge Exchange Consortium



The Joint Fire Science Program Fire Science Exchange Network



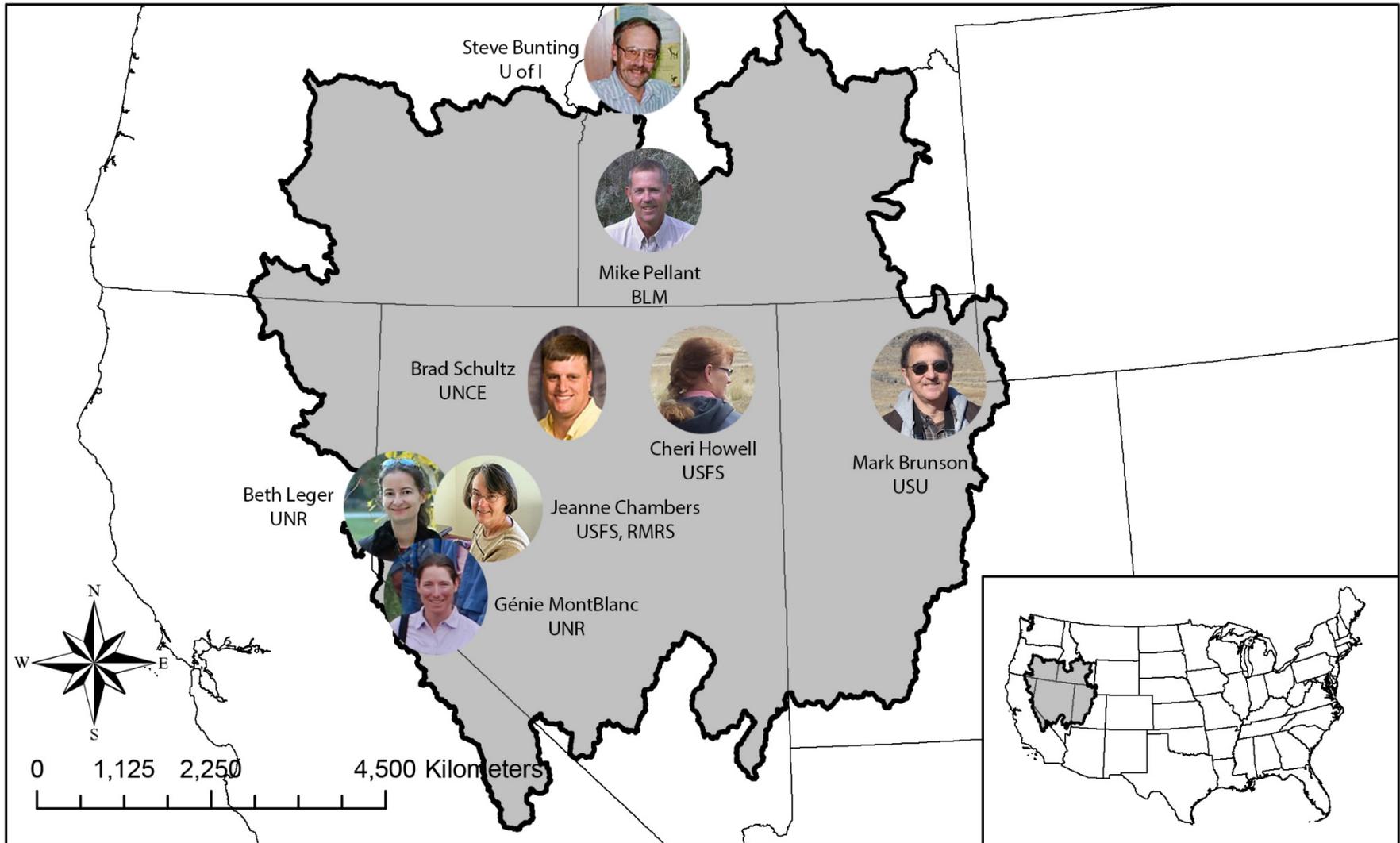


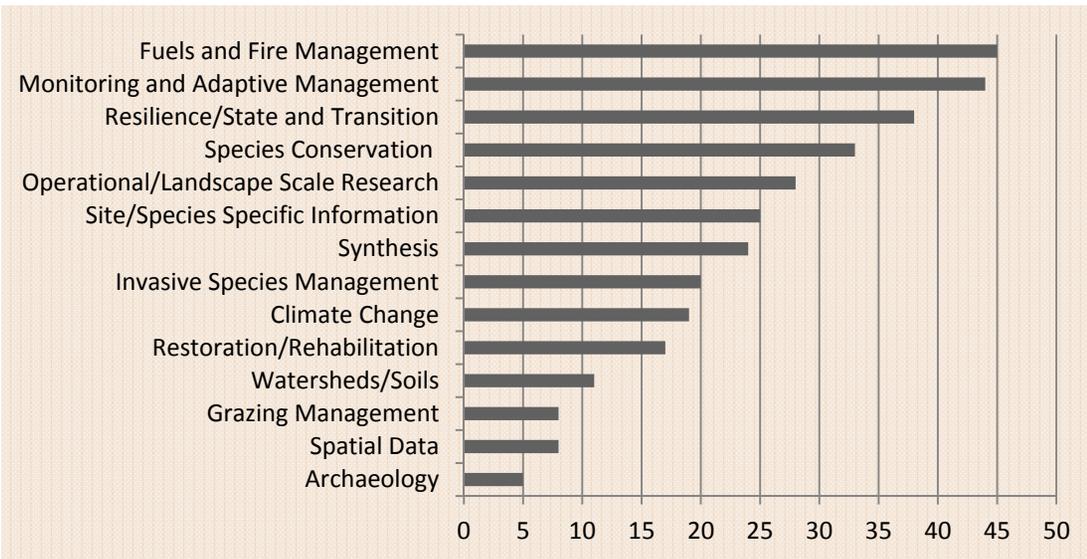
GREAT BASIN
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EXCHANGE

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Steering Committee:



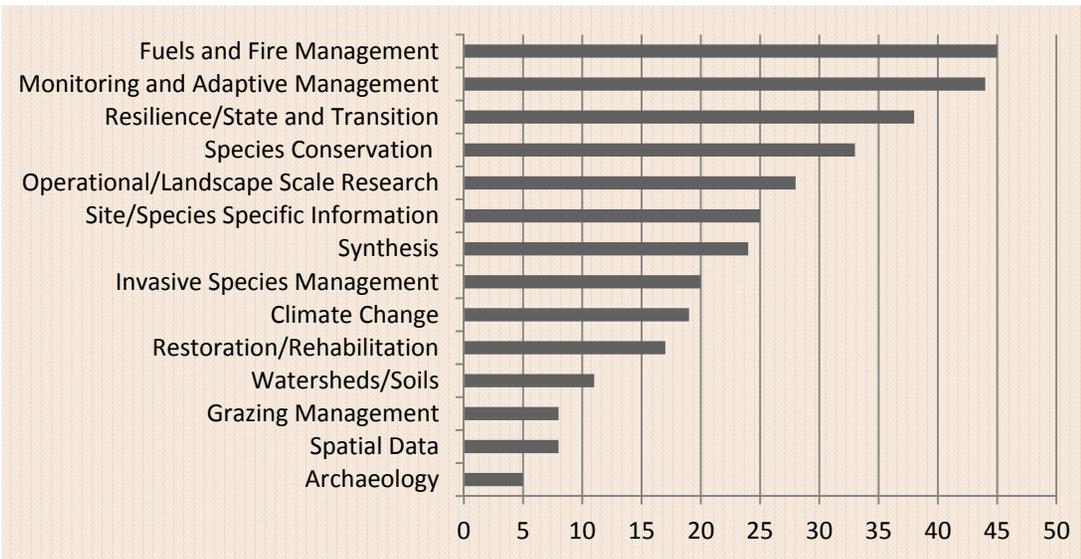


Eleven focus groups were conducted across the Great Basin from 2009-2010: BLM (64), USFS (27), NPS (10), Tribes (4), FWS (2), IDL (2), BIA (1), and USGS (1). Of these 111 participants, 77 were technical specialists and 34 were line managers.

Technical needs

Desired delivery modes





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Technical needs

Desired delivery modes





Syntheses and Field Guides

Field Workshops



Online Classes



Section 1: The Great Basin Region

The geographic boundaries of this synthesis extend from the sagebrush and salt-desert regions of the Columbia River Basin and Snake River Plain in the north to the southern boundary of the Central Basin and Range in Nevada and Utah (Figs. 2, 3). From west to east, it stretches from the east slopes of the Sierra and Cascade mountains in California, Oregon, and Washington to the west slopes of the Wasatch Mountains in Utah. The region covers nearly 200,000 mi² (520,000 km²) of the semi- and intermountain West and encompasses the Central Basin and Range, Northern Basin and Range, Columbia Basin, Snake River Plain, and Blue Mountain ecoregions (Fig. 3) (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 2011). The synthesis includes the Botanic sections of the northern and southern Great Basin, Snake River Plain, and Columbia Basin (Dunkler 1970, West 1983b), and 11 Major Land Resource Areas (MLRAs; see glossary for definition; USDA-NRCS 2011) (table 1; Fig. 2) and extends across southern Washington, eastern Oregon, north-eastern California, southern Idaho, the northern two-thirds of Nevada, and the



Figure 3. This synthesis covers literature from shrub steppe and shrub desert ecoregions within the ecoregions of the Central Basin and Range (13), Northern Basin and Range (18), Columbia Basin (110), Snake River Plain (112), Blue Mountains (111), Eastern Cascade Slopes and Foothills (19), and Wasatch Uinta Mountains (119) (from U.S.

Webinars



Originally aired: Wednesday, April 24th, 2013
Run time: 40:48
Download: .wmv file for Windows Media Player (308 Mb)
Materials:
 Powerpoint Presentation (2.62 Mb pdf)
 Webinar Brief (399 Kb pdf)



In person, email, and phone requests



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GREAT BASIN FIRE SCIENCE DELIVERY

A JFSP Knowledge Exchange Consortium



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- About Us +
- Contact Us
- Events and Webinars
- Bibliography
- Discussion Blogs
- Field Guides
- Models and Tools
- Online Courses
- Syntheses
- Webinar Recordings
- Workshop Presentations
- More Research and News
- Tools from our Partners

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Ask An Expert

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Your Question: *

Welcome to the Great Basin Fire Science Delivery web site

Porter Canyon Experimental Watershed Tour-Aug 20th

Come see what is new and ongoing at the Porter Canyon Experimental Watershed located on Smith Creek Ranch in the beautiful Desatoya Mountains. Join researchers from the Agricultural Research Service and the Desert Research Institute to discuss piñon and juniper water use, sagebrush water use, and watershed-scale modeling. Five years of pre-treatment data have been collected and the trees are going to start coming down this fall. Register by August 1st. View details [here](#).



Porter Canyon Experimental Watershed. Photo courtesy of Tamzen Stringham.

Great Basin Fire Science Delivery is dedicated to linking managers and scientists to improve pre- and post-fire management decisions in the Great Basin. Investigate the following topics to find syntheses, workshops, webinars, and much more!



Climate and Fire



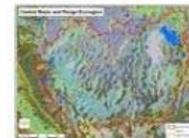
Fire Ecology and Effects

- Erosion
- Native Plants
- Soils
- Water
- Weeds
- Wildlife



Fuels Management

- Mechanical
- Chemical
- Biological
- Prescribed fire
- Grazing
- Seeding



Landscape Assessment and Prioritization

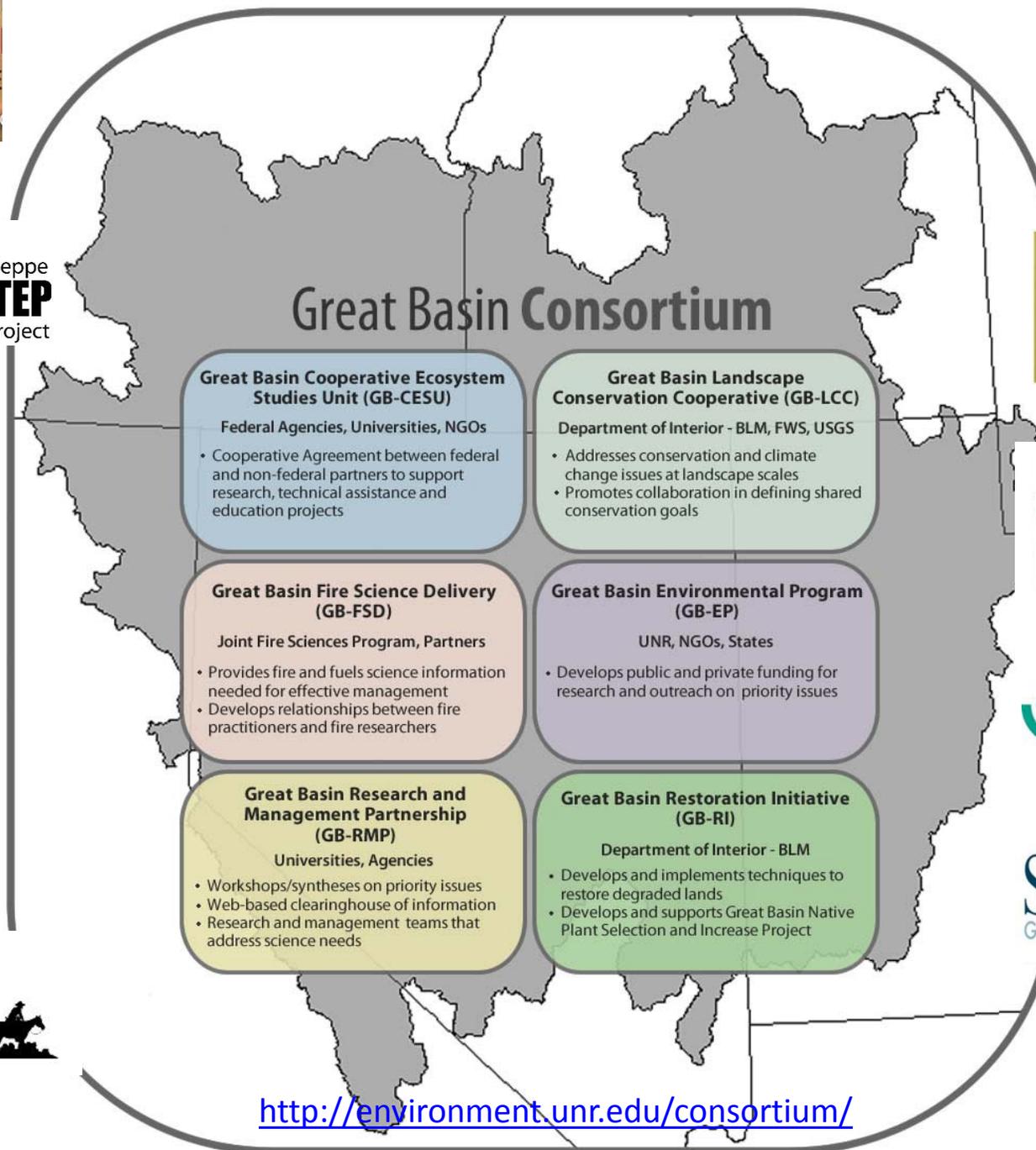


Post-fire Management

- Grazing
- Stabilization
- Seeding
- Rehabilitation



Restoration



<http://environment.unr.edu/consortium/>



Successes with Science Exchange:

- Scientists more accessible
- Science more accessible
- Increased science dialogue between research and management
- Increased science application communication between stakeholders
- Leverage existing resources with partners

Challenges with Science Exchange:

- Institutional differences can make collaboration challenging
 - Language: restoration vs. rehabilitation
 - Combining management projects with research design needs: data collection, timing, repeatability
- Reaching all stakeholders
- Personnel and funding for projects

Positive Feedback:

- “We did this webinar as a group in Burns. We are drawing between 10 and 15 people for the webinars and doing them as a group. It is actually interesting because it is generating discussion within the district after the presentations.”
- “You are doing a good job of connecting management and science and I really appreciate it. Keep up the good work!”
- “I was recently looking for some webinars to add to one of my classes and found the Great Basin site the easiest to navigate and one of the only with the webinars up and available at any time!”
- “Your project is a great resource. Thanks!”



Thank you!

Please contact us with any questions:
Génie MontBlanc, emb@cabnr.unr.edu, 775-784-1107



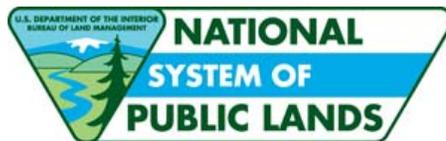
www.gbfiresci.org



University of Idaho



University of Nevada, Reno



SHARING THE SAGE GROUSE STORY

The Nature Conservancy 
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

Lisa Eller,
The Nature
Conservancy
in Idaho

WHY



Photo by Ken Miracle



Photo by Ken Miracle

“Approximately half of all remaining sage-grouse habitat is on public lands ... Because of the sage-grouse’s declining population, the BLM drafted plans to protect the bird ... If BLM acts to protect the sage grouse ... there would be some limits on energy development, livestock grazing, and off-road vehicle use in certain areas.”

WHERE VOTERS STAND

	Important To Protect Sage-Grouse Habitat	Support for Stronger BLM Plans
✓ Colorado	82%	71%
✓ Oregon	84%	76%
✓ Nevada	80%	72%
✓ Montana	79%	63%

Source: Public Opinion Strategies

WHERE VOTERS STAND

**Support for
protecting wildlife
species....**

- ✓ Colorado 61%
- ✓ Oregon 65%
- ✓ Nevada 58%
- ✓ Montana 50%

Source: Public Opinion Strategies

MAKING OUR MESSAGES STRONGER



■ Make it about wildlife





■ Make it proactive



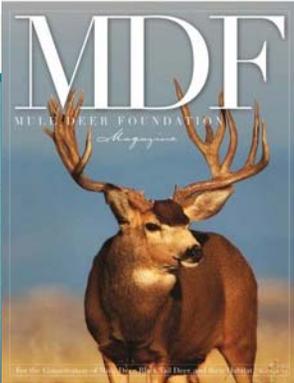
■ Make it about partnerships

■ Make it about people & the Western way of life.



CASE STUDIES

Success in the Press: In Print



Contents

- Foreword 3
- Opinion 4
- Wildlands 8
- Spotlights 12
- Arts/Books 14
- Special 20
- Columns 28
- Revised Game Birds 32
- Opportunities for Improving Private Lands Conservation 36
- Private Lands Conservation Programs 41
- Other 48



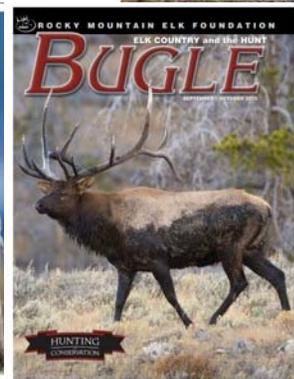
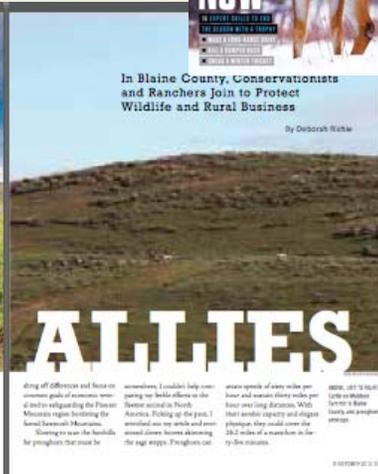
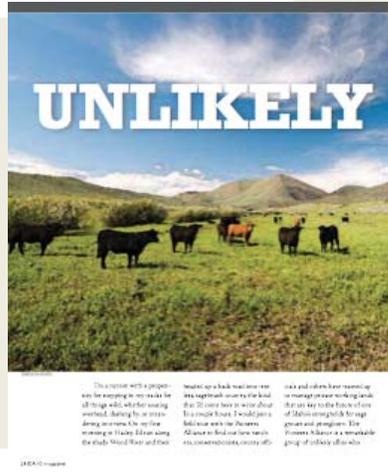
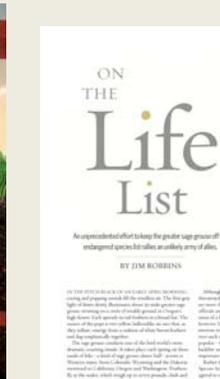
Sage Grouse Initiative shows benefit of removing juniper from Owyhee range

By Joshua White
When Chris Black walked into the Mountain Home Service Center in November, he wanted to have a good day. The Owyhee County member had high hopes for the meeting about planning a habitat project with the Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI), a highly...



Sage Grouse Initiative works with ranchers to protect threatened species.

in a substantial breeding population of sage grouse, part of the larger Owyhee riparian sage grouse. In order to help the sage grouse population, the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Mountain Home Service Center are working to remove juniper from the Owyhee range. In 2013, more than 700 ranchers have signed and hundreds of permits have been issued. The project is just getting started. The Owyhee County member had high hopes for the meeting about planning a habitat project with the Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI), a highly...



news ▶ science ▶ environment

In Montana Wilds, An Unlikely Alliance To Save The Sage Grouse

by **CHRISTOPHER JOYCE**

July 10, 2013 3:01 AM ET



#sagegrouse #sagebrush

Buffalo Bulletin @BuffBulletin · 7h
#Ranchers celebrated for #sagegrouse conservation buffalobulletin.com/news/article_9... #wyoming

RETWEET 1 FAVORITES 2



7:30 AM - 30 Oct 2014 · Details



Jillian Smith @jsmith8143 · 7h
Yay Mark and Priscilla! "@BuffBulletin: #Ranc conservation buffalobulletin.com/news/article



Favorited 64 times



U.S. Fish & Wildlife @USFWSPacific
What the heck is a lek? A place wh bird-mating dances bit.ly/GrSageG



BLM Nevada @blmnv · Feb 27
Check out this cool story on how we used aerial seeding to help restore #sagegrouse habitat. on.doi.gov/1kdF9W3



RETWEETS 5 FAVORITES 3



2:22 PM - 27 Feb 2014 · Details



SAGE GROUSE INITIATIVE

Wildlife Conservation Through Sustainable Ranching.



OPPORTUNITIES



“A Perspective on Fire Policy and Management”

The Next Steppe Conference

Thursday, November 6, 12:25 p.m. -12:45 p.m.

Speaker:

Rocky Barker, The Idaho Statesman

Followed by Panel Discussion and Q&A

