



**M E M O R A N D U M**  
**OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**Hines District Office**

DATE: January 24, 2012  
TO: Vale (Jordan Valley) Sage-Grouse Local Implementation Team  
FROM: Autumn Larkins  
SUBJ: **Minutes from Jordan Valley Sage-Grouse Meeting January 24, 2012**

**Participants:** Autumn Larkins (ODFW), Scott Torland (ODFW), Philip Milburn (ODFW), Bob Skinner (Rancher), Daniel Thee (Biologist/Rancher), Larry Cottrell (Resident), John Hasleby (Oregon Energy), Garth Ross (BLM), Anthony Spencer (OSP), John Stoddart (Rancher), David Stoddart (Rancher), Michelle Caviness (BLM), Jim Elordi (Resident)

**Topics of discussion:**

Discussed the responsibilities, vision and goal of LIT (handout, also attached)

- Clarification of definition of prioritized
  - More issue based (juniper, weeds, etc.) not geographic
  - We are not prioritizing between area
- Status of Sage-Grouse in Oregon
  - Candidate Species
  - Warranted but precluded
  - Population trend is increasing
    - Currently between 21-27,000 birds
    - Statewide goal is to sustain 30,000 birds
- ESA Listing Factors-Threats
  - A Habitat loss and fragmentation
  - B Harvest or over utilization
  - C Disease or predation
  - D Inadequate regulatory mechanisms
  - E Other natural or manmade factors
    - (focus on A and D)
  - Next review for listing 2015
- Brief discussion of CCA and CCAAs
- Other local issues
  - West Nile Virus

- District flexibility for vector control
- Danner Valley has been operating 3 foggers
- Fire
  - Rural fire district and BLM program
  - Rapid fire response, lack of backfire
  - Good job of actively depressing fires
  - Money to protect sage-grouse could go to rural fire district
- Potentially write up a plan
  - Which would address goals, and accomplishments as we proceed

We reviewed the map of “Action Areas” identified by the Vale LIT on November 18, 2011. The Jordan Valley group felt comfortable with the boundary designations and issues. The group wanted to add a few more issues to three of the Action Areas (see highlighted areas). The other Action Areas will remain as is, refer to the Vale LIT minutes for details on those.

### COW LAKE

- Within Core and Low Density and Conservation Opportunity Area (COA); Northern Basin and Range Ecoregion (NBR-13: Middle Owyhee River Area)
- Issues are fire, annual grass, weeds (white top), crested wheat seeding/lack of sagebrush, west Nile virus, population level concerns, human impacts (ATV-Succor Creek), and raven predation.

### SADDLE BUTTE

- Within Core and Low Density and Conservation Opportunity Area (COA); Northern Basin and Range Ecoregion (NBR-12: Saddle Butte Area)
- Issues are fire, lack of sagebrush/decadent sagebrush, protect low sage and wet meadows

### SOLDIER CREEK

- Within Core and Low Density
- Issues are medusahead (talk to DSL), juniper (east end), fire risk, lack of sagebrush (west side), raven predation, west Nile virus (north side), human impacts (snowmobile use on the south end)

### Future meetings

- Would like to meet quarterly but will only meet when action needed