



# MEMORANDUM

## OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

### Hines District Office

DATE: November 17, 2011

TO: Lakeview Sage-Grouse Local Implementation Team

FROM: Autumn Larkins

SUBJ: **Minutes Lakeview Sage-Grouse LIT Meeting November 17, 2011**

**Participants:** Autumn Larkins (ODFW), Christian Hagen (OSU/ODFW), Amy Markus (USFS), John O’Keeffe (Rancher), Brandi St.Clair (ODFW/NRCS), Craig Foster (ODFW), Gail Collins (USFWS), Sheena Miltenberger (DSL), Randy Wiest (DSL), Todd Forbes (BLM, wildlife), Theresa Romasko (BLM, range), Larry Maxwell (Rancher)

**Topics of discussion:** Agency Updates

NRCS: Sage Grouse Initiative, new positions hired to aid in private land juniper cuts

BLM: MET towers are coming down in certain areas

DSL: Pursuing a CCAA and working on weed control

USFWS: Juniper control continuation

USFS: North Warner juniper cutting

OCA: CCA with BLM

Discussed the updated version of ODFW’s Sage-Grouse Plan

- Not much change
- Core Area Approach
- Focus where work occurs
- Conservation triage

Discussed the efforts put forth by The Nature Conservancy and USFS

- Prioritized the forest by conservation needs and multiple use needs
- Now working with the BLM on their EcoRegional Assessments
- Apply finer filters
- Prioritize throughout the Great Basin EcoRegion
- Identify the best of the best in Oregon
- End product would provide seamless vegetation data
- Maybe the LIT could use that data to further identify conservation priorities
- This effort would help justify any funding request because it would include both scientifically rigorous data and the human component (i.e. mapping meetings)

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

Identified 8 areas of priority (digitized maps will be sent later-probably January)  
Some areas still need to be finished by neighboring LIT groups

### **NORTH WAGONTIRE**

- Within Core and Low Density and Conservation Opportunity Area (COA); Northern Basin and Range Ecoregion (NBR-01: Squaw Ridge area playas and sagebrush)
- Issues are juniper invasion, sagebrush canopy closure (>17%), recreation issues (ATV)

### **CABIN LAKE**

- Within Low Density
- Issues are pine encroachment, limited veg component, soil quality (sandy), Mule Deer winter range, recreation issues (ATV use)

### **PICTURE ROCK**

- Within Core and Low Density
- Issues are connectivity between east and west for the grouse, juniper invasion (more on the west side), medusahead, and other noxious weeds

### **DRY VALLEY**

- Within Core and Low Density and Conservation Opportunity Area (COA); Northern Basin and Range Ecoregion (NBR-05: Hart Mountain Area)
- Issues are noxious weeds, fire threats, and sagebrush canopy closure

### **BEATY**

- Within Core and Low Density and Conservation Opportunity Area (COA); Northern Basin and Range Ecoregion (NBR-05: Hart Mountain Area)
- Issues are juniper (west side), cheat grass, fire, human impacts (southeast side), sagebrush canopy closure (guano valley)

### **WARNERS**

- Within Core and Low Density and Conservation Opportunity Area (COA); Northern Basin and Range Ecoregion (NBR-03: Lake Abert-Honey Creek Area)
- Issues are wind energy, juniper encroachment, noxious weeds, human impacts (recreation, ATVs)

### **TUCKER HILL**

- Within Core and Low Density
- Issues are medusahead and juniper invasion

### **COGLAN BUTTES**

- Within Low Density
- Issues are annual grasses, restoration of sagebrush, and other noxious weeds

#### Future meetings

- Would like to meet quarterly but will only meet when action needed
- Next meeting probably late January, early February