

Approaches to Mitigation

Workshop Session D

Purpose: Mitigation is often called on as a critical tool for managing habitat issues. However, the complexity of different approaches can be overwhelming. This session is designed to approach the topic of mitigation by exploring different models for implementing mitigation systems, including how success is measured and how different approaches fit into the recently changing federal regulatory policy framework. After an initial presentation on basic mitigation concepts, we will hear updates on the current federal policy surrounding sage-grouse mitigation. Then several case studies from active mitigation projects will be presented, followed by facilitated Q&A and discussion time with the panel of invited speakers.

Date and Time:

November 13

1:30 pm Concurrent Workshops: Workshop D: Approaches to Mitigation

November 14

10:00 am Concurrent Workshops: Workshop D: Approaches to Mitigation

Format: Presentations followed by facilitated discussion

Organizer: Lorien Belton, Utah State University. lorien.belton@usu.edu; 435-770-2413

Facilitator: Kimberly Chapman, Extension Educator, University of Wyoming

Speakers:

- 1. Mitigation Basics and Current Policy Updates: (Shauna Ginger, USFWS).** Shauna Ginger (pronounced ging-ger, with two hard “g’s”) is the USFWS lead on mitigation policy for sage-grouse. She will present basic mitigation terminology, and how it is used in the context of sage-grouse. A subsequent presentation will provide details on the policy environment federally, including how recent USFWS and BLM policy has developed in recent years.

Contact Information: Shauna Ginger, Ecosystem Services Biologist, USFWS Oregon Field Office, Portland, Oregon. 503-231-6949. shauna_ginger@fws.gov

- 2. Nevada Conservation Credit System, a Conservation Planning and Mitigation Tool: (Eoin Doherty, Environmental Incentives).** Environmental Incentives and Environmental Defense Fund work with partner organizations and entities in several western states to develop habitat exchanges/credit systems for sage-grouse conservation planning and mitigation. Eoin Doherty will share EI and EDF’s approach, including habitat quantification and policy mechanisms such as mitigation ratios and a reserve account, to achieve durable conservation outcomes.

Contact Information: Eoin Doherty, Environmental Incentives, LLC, South Lake Tahoe, CA.
(530) 541-2980, edoherty@enviroincentives.com

- 3. Lessons Learned from Mitigation Programs for Lesser Prairie Chicken (Bill Van Pelt, WAFWA).** Bill Van Pelt was closely involved during the development of the Lesser Prairie Chicken Mitigation Program, which provides for a mitigation program that crosses state boundaries and involves over 100 companies. Although the policy context in which the program was developed differs in many ways from the sage-grouse situation, the implementation of the mitigation program can provide many important lessons for those working on landscape level mitigation programs. Bill will share the challenges and successes they have experienced so far with the model they are using.
- 4. Bob Nead, Alton Coal.** A representative from Alton Coal will present the company's approach to success monitoring as part of a longer-term mitigation plan.
- 5. Panel Questions:** Following the individual presentations, all speakers will be invited to answer questions about their programs, or provide abbreviated advice to those in the audience working on implementing locally-appropriate mitigation programs.
- 6. Coordinated discussion:** Using a technique called "Open Space," workshop attendees will be given an opportunity to delve more deeply into key questions, such as how to navigate the array of tools and potential partners when developing a mitigation program, how to manage the complexity of a mitigation program, policy frameworks to improve cooperation. Attendees with ideas for additional topics to address will be able to contribute as well.

Note: Anyone in attendance interested in sharing information about their own mitigation challenges and programs will have the opportunity to share written material on their programs which both discuss their approaches and solicit advice from others with relevant experience. Anyone with case studies, best practices, or challenging puzzles to share (most likely in written format) should contact the session organizer, Lorien Belton, in advance of the November Forum.

General Information on the International Sage-grouse Forum (ISGF)

www.sage-grouseforum.org

Conservation Through Science, Management and Community Involvement

Purpose: To enhance sage-grouse conservation through science, management and community involvement. At no time in the recorded annals of wildlife management, have so many devoted so much to the management and conservation of a single species – the Greater Sage-grouse. The species is indicative of the health of the sagebrush ecosystem on which many depend. The ISGF will highlight the magnitude and resolve of on-going range wide partnerships, and identify opportunities to further advance species conservation through science, management, and local community involvement.

When: November 13-14, 2014. The Forum will begin at 8:00 am, Thursday, November 13 and conclude at 4:00pm, Friday November 14th, 2014

Where: Radisson Inn Downtown, 215 West South Temple, Salt Lake City, UT. 84101, US
A block of rooms has been reserved under Sage-grouse Forum.

Who: Landowners, local sage-grouse working group members, federal, state, and private sage-grouse conservation partners, industry, elected officials, county and community planners.

Registration: to register for the ISGF go to www.sage-grouseforum.org
Conservation Through Science, Management and Community Involvement)