

Workshop I

State and Province Plans Digested: In-depth Discussion

These workshops will feature in-depth exploration of state and provincial plan implementation challenges, successes, lessons learned, and future coordination/communication needs across jurisdictional boundaries.

Purpose:

To provide the attendees with an understanding of the history of state planning efforts, the integration of state plans and BLM/Forest Service plans, Sage-grouse Initiative, private conservation efforts and conservation of populations that span state boundaries. Further, we will explore the implementation of conservation efforts and monitoring of outcomes from those efforts.

San Stiver, WAFWA Sage-grouse Coordinator

San retired from the Nevada Department of Wildlife after 30 years of service in 2003. Upon retiring from state service, he began working for the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies as a sage-grouse specialist. He has focused much of his work for the past 34 years on sage-grouse conservation in Nevada and across the range. In his current position, he serves the Sage-grouse Executive Oversight Committee as their Secretary and WAFWA as their Sage-grouse Coordinator. San received his B.S. from the University of Montana. He has been a member of the Wildlife Society since 1971 and was a member of the Western Sage and Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Technical Committee from 1981-2003. San has worked on international wildlife conservation issues from Bhutan to Egypt since 1985.

Session 1 State and Province Plans Discussed: California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Utah.

Speakers:

Jackie Cupples

Jackie began as ODFW's Sage-Grouse Coordinator in July 2014. Jackie holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from Georgetown University, a Master of Science degree in Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration from Western Illinois University, and a Master of Applied Science degree in Wildlife Health and Population Management from the University of Sydney, Australia. Jackie began working with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife on a 7-year mule deer research project in south-central Oregon. Most recently, she has been working closely with the Oregon Department of Transportation and other stakeholders to develop recommendations and maps that prioritize sites for wildlife crossings structures with the highest potential to reduce DVCs and sustain/restore migration pathways across U.S. Highway 97. She has conducted research and field work with a number of species including Australian dingoes and foxes, wolves, black bears, mule deer, elk, and sage-grouse. She has coordinated natural resource, community-based, as well as government programs in the areas of wilderness therapy, positive youth development, public health, and sustainable business consulting.

Don Kemner

Don Kemner is the Sage-grouse Program Coordinator for Idaho Department of Fish and Game. He has worked for Idaho Department of Fish and Game for 25 years in several capacities including as a Regional Habitat Biologist, Upland Game Program Biologist, and Farm Bill Program Coordinator. He has a B.S. in wildlife and fisheries management from the University of Missouri and a M.S. in wildlife management and research from the South Dakota State University.

Lara Niell

Lara Niell works on sage-grouse management issues for the Nevada Department of Wildlife and the Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Program. Her efforts are focused on coordination between state and federal agencies related to sage-grouse planning and management, including preparation of the recently adopted 2014 Nevada Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Plan; development of the Nevada Conservation Credit System- the state's quantitative method and policy for determining mitigation due to impacts to sage-grouse habitat from anthropogenic disturbances; and collaboration in the development of revised habitat and management maps for sage-grouse in Nevada. Lara has been engaged in wildlife and natural resources issues in the Great Basin for 10 years + and holds an M.S. in Biology from the University of Nevada, Reno.

Jason Robinson

Jason completed a graduate degree (MS) at Utah State University on greater sage-grouse ecology in Utah's West Desert, and has been the lead in sage-grouse conservation for the UDWR for many years. In addition to sage-grouse, Jason manages 14 other upland game species for UDWR. He enjoys spending time with his family and hunting upland game with his bird dogs (Brittany and yellow Lab).

Session 2 State and Province Plans Discussed: Alberta, Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, Saskatchewan, South Dakota, Wyoming

Speakers:

Tom Christiansen

Tom Christiansen is the Sage Grouse Program Coordinator for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and has been with the Department for 29 years. Tom serves on the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Sage and Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Technical Committee, the Rangewide Interagency Sage-Grouse Conservation Team, the Wildfire and Invasive Species Working Group. Tom received his Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture and Natural Resources from the University of Nebraska. Tom enjoys bird and big game hunting, kokanee salmon fishing, is a retired soccer dad and a new first time grandpa.

Kathy Griffin

Kathy Griffin is the Coordinator for Colorado's Grouse Program which includes the Greater sage-grouse, Gunnison sage-grouse, and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse. She began working with Colorado Parks and Wildlife 3.5 years ago after finishing a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Montana where she also received her PhD. Although her dissertation was on the conservation of turtles she has worked

with other threatened and endangered bird species such as the spotted owl and the red-cockaded woodpecker.

Joel Nicholson

Joel Nicholson was born and raised in the prairie region of Alberta. Life in rural Alberta cultivated his interest in wildlife which led him to pursue a BSc (Special) degree in biology and chemistry from the Augustana Campus, University of Alberta. Since that time his work as a wildlife biologist has encompassed a wide variety of wildlife species throughout Western Canada. He is currently employed by the Alberta Fish and Wildlife Division in Medicine Hat as a Senior Species at Risk Biologist. This work includes conservation and recovery programs for numerous species at risk including greater sage-grouse. Joel is the current chair of the Alberta Sage-grouse recovery team and is responsible for implementation of recovery actions for this critically endangered species in Southeast Alberta.

Travis Runia

Travis Runia earned his B.S. degrees in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences and Environmental Management from South Dakota State University (SDSU) in 2006. He earned an M.S. degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from SDSU in 2009. His M.S. research evaluated the distribution and abundance of sharp-tailed grouse in relation to landscape-level land use. Travis has worked as a Farm Bill Biologist for the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory in Imperial Nebraska from January to October of 2010. Travis has been the senior upland game biologist for the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks since November of 2010.

Yeen Ten Hwang

Dr. Yeen Ten Hwang is the Manager and Chief Ecologist for the Science and Assessment Unit of the Fish and Wildlife Branch at the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment. She has been working with wildlife and disease issues in both academic and wildlife management since 1998. Yeen Ten received her B.Sc. (Hon) from the University of British Columbia in Conservation Biology, and she received her Ph.D. from the University of Saskatchewan in wildlife ecology. Her favorite study animal was the striped skunks as she has spent 6 years following their movement and habits in the prairies for her doctoral research. Currently, Yeen Ten deals with the strategic planning and non-game program for the Fish and Wildlife Branch, specifically in species-at-risk issues, biodiversity conservation and habitat management issues.