From:	Kenneth E Mayer
To:	Elsa Haubold
Bcc:	Noreen_Walsh@fws.gov
Subject:	Re: NAS Panel input -- thanks!
Date:	Thursday, April 30, 2015 10:32:13 AM
Attachments:	NAS LCC_SageGrouse Conservation 4.28.15.ppt

Elsa--attached please find my PPT. I'm glad I could help. Please let me know if you need anything else!

Cheers!

KM

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On Thu, Apr 30, 2015 at 8:33 AM, Elsa Haubold <elsa_haubold@fws.gov> wrote:

> Howdy Ken,
> Thanks so much for making the time to pull information together and present to the LCC NAS review panel. The panel appreciated your insights as did I! They commented at the end of the meeting they had learned more in the past two days about LCCs than they ever had. Ken Haddad was sorry he missed you - he made it in for yesterday's session.
>
> Would you be willing to share your powerpoint presentation with me? I wasn't able to take as many notes on your recommendations as I had hoped and it would be helpful to me.
>
> Again thanks so much for helping the NAS review panel help the LCC Network improve!
> -Elsa
>
> Elsa M. Haubold, Ph.D.
> National Landscape Conservation Cooperative Coordinator
> lccnetwork.org

Conservation of Greater Sage-grouse: Challenges Managing a Landscape Scale Species

Kenneth E. Mayer
Fire and Invasive Initiative Coordinator
Western Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

Guidepost

- The Bird
  - Description
  - Distribution
- The Issue
  - Biology
  - Listing
  - Threats
  - Addressing the threats

The Bird

- Description
  - Weight
    - Adult Males 2.7 kg
    - Adult Females 1.5 kg
  - Length
    - Up to 30”
  - Reproduction
    - Lek Based
    - Clutch size 7 eggs av.
    - Chick survival 1-2 chicks/nesting female

The Bird

- Original Distribution
  - 12 Western States
  - 3 Canadian Provinces
  - >1,200,000 km^2
- Current Distribution
  - 11 Western States
  - 2 Canadian Provinces
  - < 668,400 km^2
  - > 40 populations

Current Distribution

The Bird

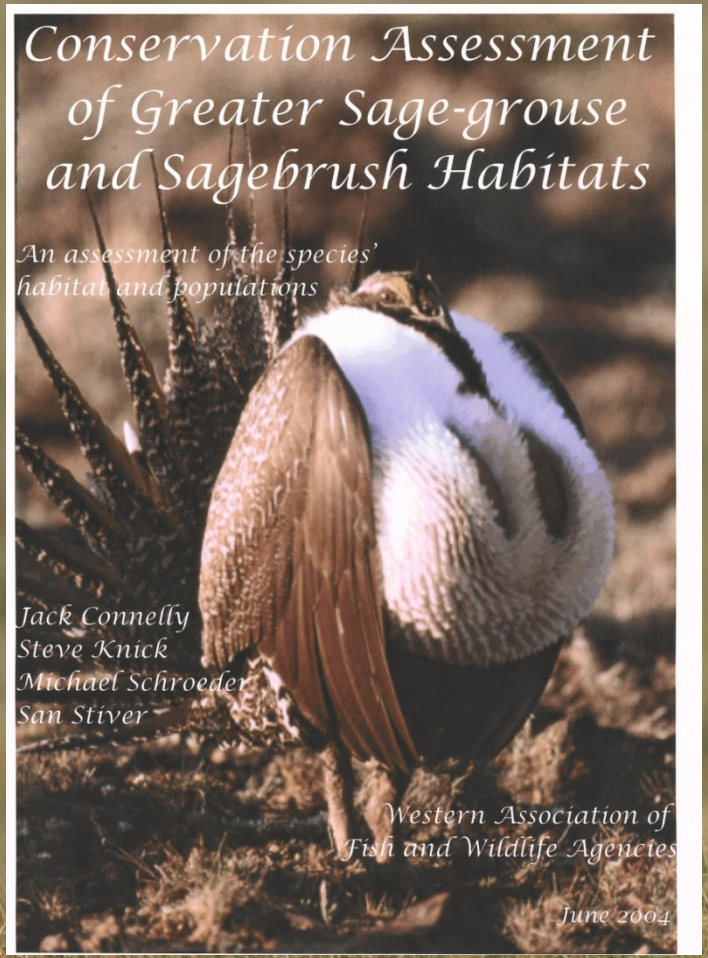
- Sagebrush obligate
  - Food
  - Cover
  - Reproduction
- Long-lived, low reproductive rate
- Can be migratory (>100km between habitats)
- High fidelity to seasonal habitats

Landscape scale species

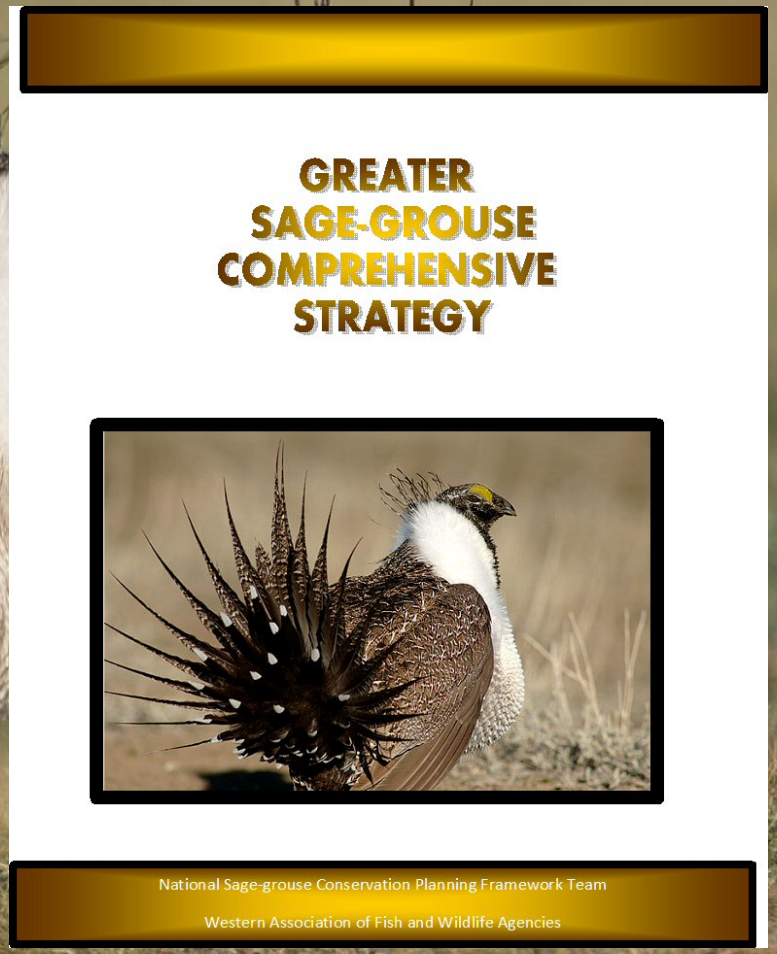
Framing the Issue

- Western Fish and Game Agencies
  - Working together on Sage-Grouse since 1954
- Assessing populations
  - Lek Counts
  - Brood Counts
  - Harvest Tallies
- Robust Research Component
- Biennial Technical Meeting

Assessment and Strategy



2004



2006

Framing the Issue

- Listing
  - ESA petitions began to accumulate since 1999.
    - Washington DPS
    - Gunnison
    - Western
    - Eastern
    - Combined
    - Bi-state

Framing the Issue

- Listing Decisions for Greater and Bi-state DPS:
  - Not warranted - 2005
  - Court Remanded Decision - 2008
  - Warranted but precluded – 2010
  - Multi-settlement Agreement – 2011
  - Bi-state Decision – April 21, 2015 NOT WARRANTED
  - Finding due September 30, 2015

Framing the Issue

- What are the threats to Sage-grouse?
  - Degradation of Habitat
    - Urbanization and infrastructure
    - Wildfire and invasive weeds
  - Fragmentation of Habitat
  - Lack of Regulatory Mechanisms

Addressing the Threats

- Conservation Actions –
  - NRCS – SGI
    - Addressing habitat issues
    - Syncing Conservation efforts across jurisdictions
  - BLM/USFS/States
    - Addressing lack of regulatory mechanisms
    - Syncing Conservation efforts across jurisdictions
  - Partners
    - Applying expertise/funding where needed

Addressing the Threats

- Conservation Actions – Facilitation
  - Funding
    - NRCS – SGI – Approaching $300 million
    - NRCS – Partners – Perhaps $150 million
    - States - > 200 million
    - BLM/USFS - > 45 million
  - Conservation and Regulation implementation
    - BLM/USFS/States working to make sure they have the tools in place to implement plans

Where We Are

- BLM, USFS and States have completed or nearly completed the lack of regulatory mechanisms listing factor
- SGI/States/Partners are continuing to pump millions of dollars into conservation efforts
- WAFWA/USFWS/USGS/USFS/partners are working to solve the Fire and Invasive issue in the western portion of the range.

Where Are We

- The Finding
  - The Fish and Wildlife Service will make a finding by September 30, 2015.
  - The BLM/USFS will have Records of Decisions completed about July 1.
  - The Service is collecting all data for their deliberations-they will need to complete their analysis about June 1st.

Lessons
Conserving a Landscape Scale Species

- Biology is complicated
- Partnerships are essential
- Funding is always a worry
- Politics will be part of the conservation matrix
- Litigation will influence how you talk and what you write

What Role Can the LCC's Play

- LCC can support and complement science delivery
- Serve as a conduit for information exchange at the landscape scale
- Contribute to collaborations and partnerships

DOI Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

Legend

Reclamation Offices
- Area Office
- Region Office
- Reclamation Regions
- State Boundaries

DOI Landscape Conservation Cooperatives
- 1. Appalachian
- 2. California
- 3. Desert
- 4. Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Big Rivers
- 5. Great Basin
- 6. Great Northern
- 7. Great Plains
- 8. Gulf Coast Prairie
- 9. Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks
- 11. North Pacific
- 13. Plains and Prairie Potholes
- 15. Southern Rockies
- 16. Upper Midwest and Great Lakes

LCC's and Greater Sage-grouse

- National LCC Office provided WAFWA with the funds for multi-LCC SG projects:
- 4 GRSR Projects
- Great Northern LCC
- 6 Projects
- Great Basin LCC
- 10 Projects
- Plains & Prairie Potholes LCC
- 1 Project

Potential Impediments to Success

- LCC Funding is Variable & Not Tied to Priorities/Conservation Outcomes
- LCC's Don't Operate as a National Program --- they are Challenged to Work Across LCC's
- Reporting Success is Variable
- LCC's Steering Committees Don't Meet with Other LCC Steering Committees, thus they function as Regional Programs NOT as a True Landscape Program
- State Agencies are Reluctant to Participate Because of the Lack of Capacity

Questions