

The Sage Grouse Local Working Group Locator: A Geographic Perspective to Sage Grouse Conservation Efforts

The Locator provides a central resource for stakeholders to facilitate greater connectivity and information exchange ...

Community Based Approaches to Conservation

Greater sage grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) populations have experienced range-wide declines as a result of habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation. Population estimates range from 100,000 to 500,000 birds across the West. Although state wildlife agencies are ultimately responsible for the management of their resident sage grouse populations,

much of the remaining sage grouse habitat lies on public and private lands – with the Bureau of Land Management managing almost 50 percent of the area and the rest on other federal, state, tribal, and private lands.

With such a diverse stakeholder group, the involvement of community based sage grouse conservation teams or Local Working Groups (LWGs) provide a critical element to the success of conserving this species and sagebrush habitat. Sixty-three LWGs have been established in 11 western states and 2 Canadian provinces. Many groups have been active for several years and are engaged in on-the-ground projects. Other groups have either just been formed or are in the process of identifying resource threats in their area and are developing Conservation Plans to address those concerns. Despite this level of activity, a consolidated resource did not exist to bring together relevant data and

information from, and for sharing by, all of these groups.

A Partnership Effort to Disseminate Local Working Group Information

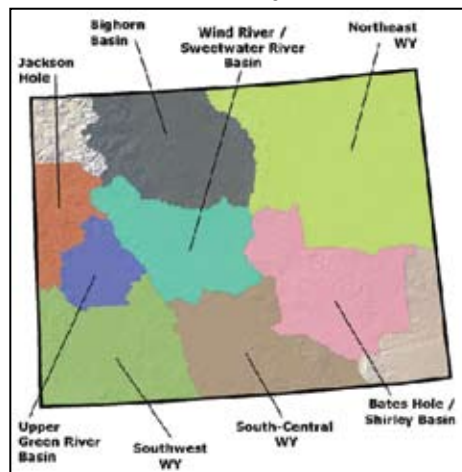
A recommendation to facilitate the development of an information clearinghouse to assist LWGs was reported from the National Conference for Sage Grouse Local Working Groups in February 2005.

In response to this report, the National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) <www.nbii.gov>, Great Basin Information Project <greatbasin.nbii.gov>, and Pacific Northwest Information Node <pnwin.nbii.gov> teamed up to help address the issue of sharing information across the LWGs by developing the Sage Grouse Local Working Group Locator <<http://greatbasin.wr.usgs.gov/LWG/>>.

Sage Grouse LWGs Range-wide



State Page



LWG Page



Sage grouse Species	Total Area	Basin	Area	% of Total Area
Greater Sage grouse	2,244,025 acres (2,239 sq. mi.)			
		Basin	Area	% of Total Area
		Bureau of Land Management	2,042,702 acres (3,193,000 ha)	91%
		Department of Defense	80,469 acres (326,000 ha)	4%
		Private (ownership)	1,120,854 acres (452,000 ha)	5%
		State	1,000,000 acres (404,687 ha)	4%
		Other	100,860 acres (409,100 ha)	5%

Click (see the locator at <<http://greatbasin.wr.usgs.gov/LWG/>> on a state or province to get the state page.

Click on a LWG for local details. State page includes state contact information, links to state Web sites, and conservation plans.

LWG Page includes local contact information, conservation planning status, ownership and vegetation descriptions, and links to existing LWG Web pages.

The NBII is a broad, collaborative program to provide increased access to data and information on the nation's biological resources. Coordinated by the U.S. Geological Survey, the NBII links high-quality biological databases, information products, and analytical tools maintained by NBII partners and other contributors in government agencies, academic institutions, non-government organizations, and private industry.

A Bird's-Eye View to Conservation Planning

The Sage Grouse LWG Locator is a Web-based, geographically-linked database to identify who and where LWGs are range-wide, as well as what types of projects and conservation efforts have been identified in a specific area. The Sage Grouse LWG Locator provides a central resource

for LWGs and interested stakeholders to facilitate greater connectivity and information exchange throughout the sagebrush region. The LWG Locator is a place where LWGs can share information about their:

- accomplishments,
- local success stories,
- lessons learned, and
- photos from the field.

To find out more about the LWG Locator, or if you would like to share information about your LWG, please go to our Web site <<http://greatbasin.wr.usgs.gov/LWG/>> or contact one of the Project Coordinators:

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