



Landscape Conservation Design

Planning for Success of the Refuge System
within the Landscape

Landscapes Conservation Design

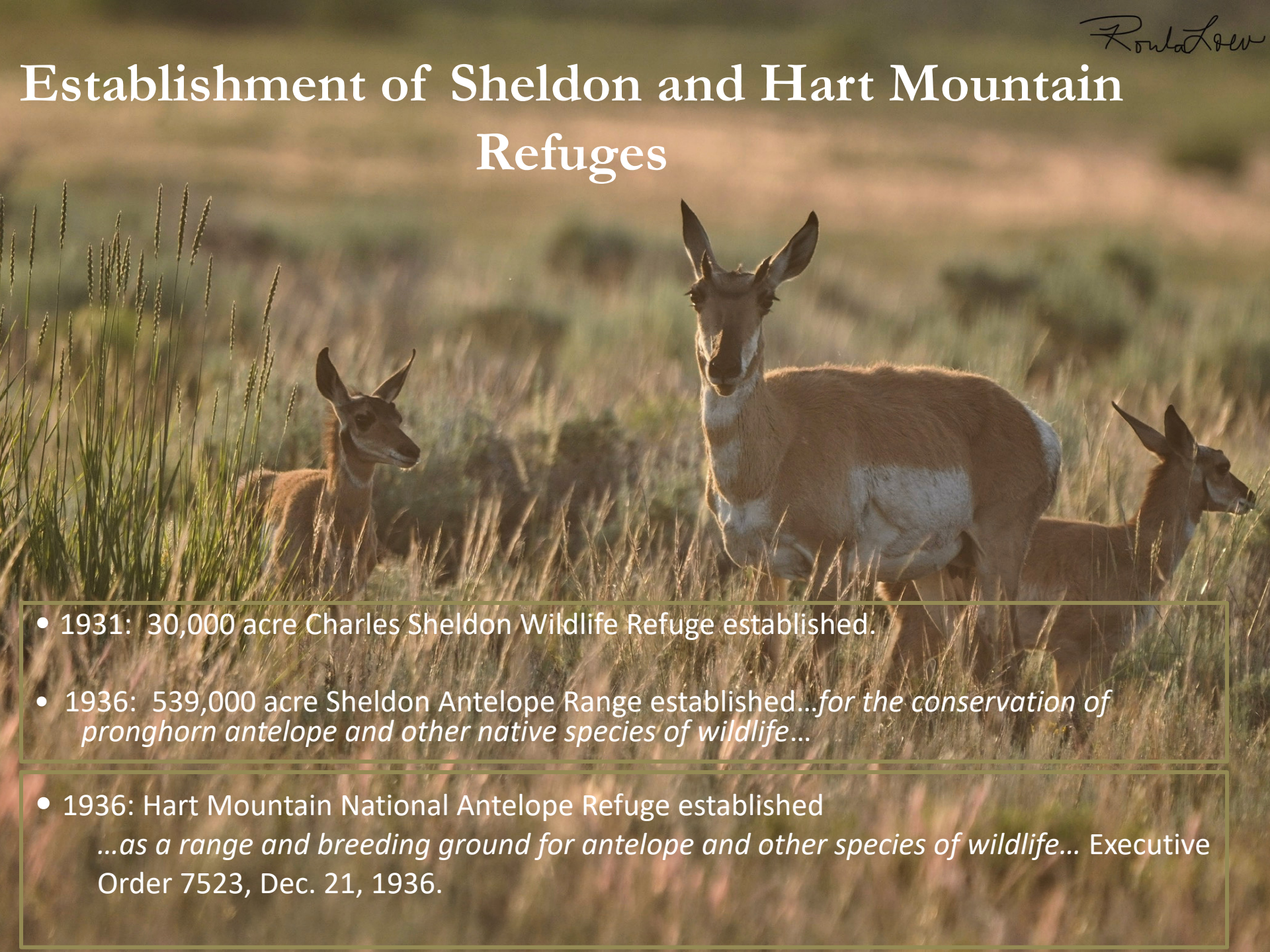


HOW DO WE ADDRESS LARGE-SCALE CHALLENGES ACROSS A LANDSCAPE WHILE MAINTAINING THE INTEGRITY OF MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION DELIVERY WITHIN OUR BOUNDARIES?



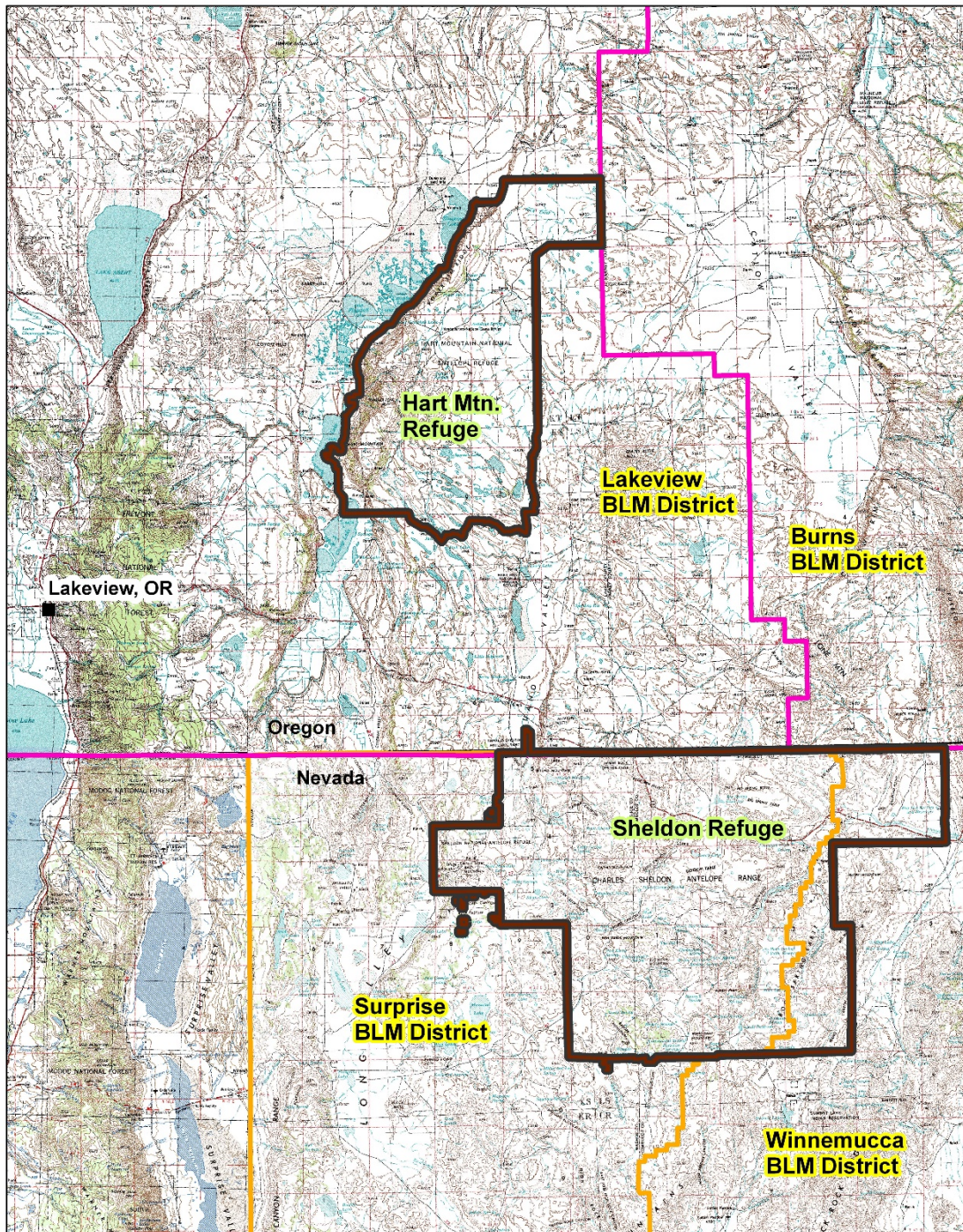
FOCUS NEXT GENERATION OF PLANNING ON LCD'S DEVELOPED BY THE CONSERVATION COMMUNITY THROUGH PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

Establishment of Sheldon and Hart Mountain Refuges



- 1931: 30,000 acre Charles Sheldon Wildlife Refuge established.
- 1936: 539,000 acre Sheldon Antelope Range established...*for the conservation of pronghorn antelope and other native species of wildlife...*

- 1936: Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge established
...as a range and breeding ground for antelope and other species of wildlife... Executive Order 7523, Dec. 21, 1936.



Landscape Conservation Design

Landscape Conservation Designs (LCD) are living blueprints to meet the current and future habitat needs of wildlife.



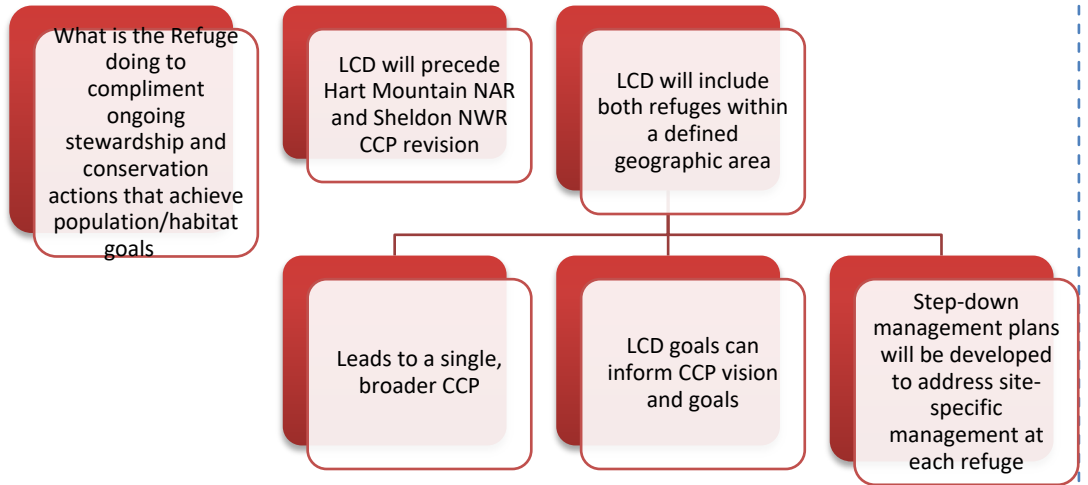
LCDs encompass a large network of connected ecosystems and are used to inform conversation, decision making, and planning.



Products are often maps and decision support tools to help make informed, strategic, and coordinated conservation decisions.



Landscape Conservation Design



Attributes of an LCD

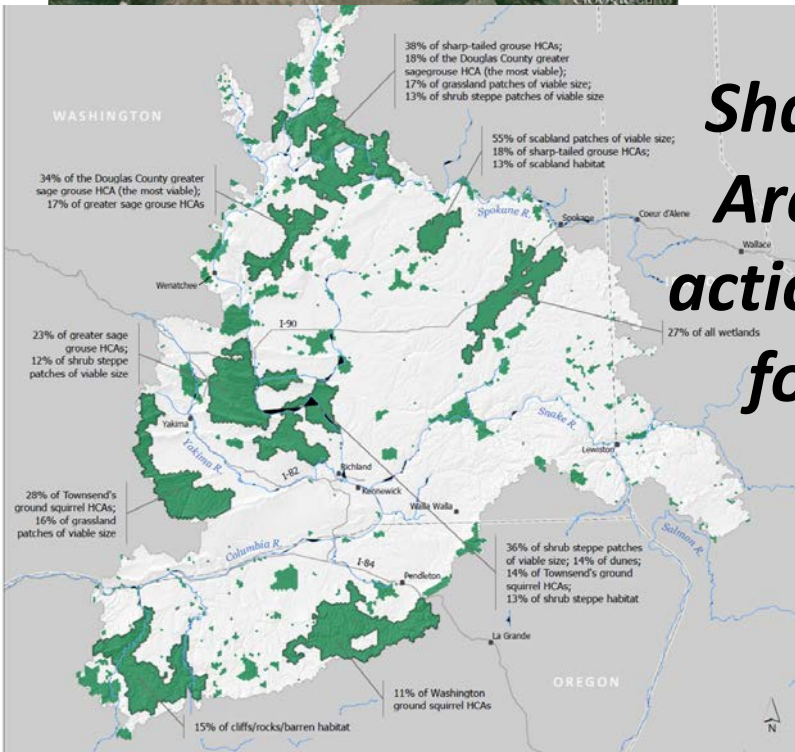
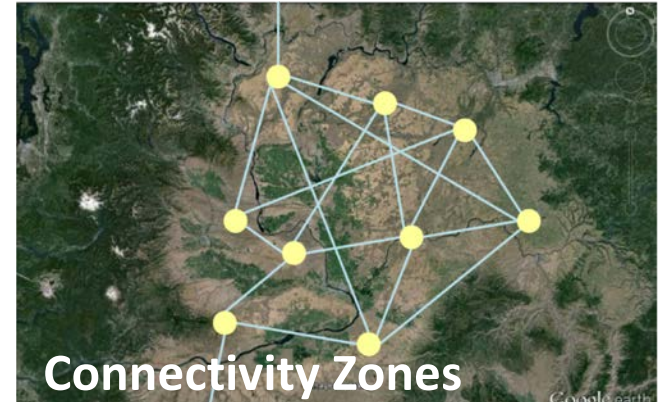
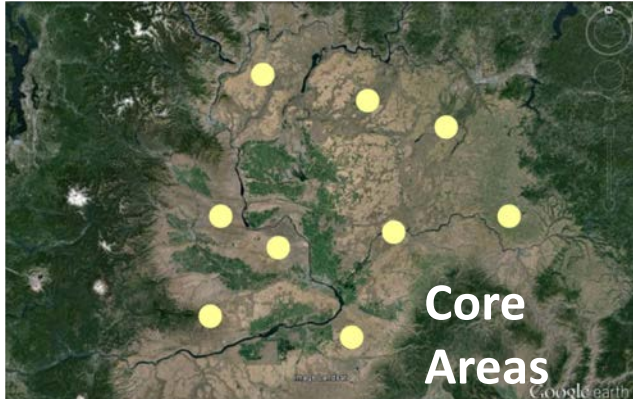
- An LCD is neither an individual partner's management plan nor a decision-document that requires National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance.
- LCD is not prescriptive.
- LCDs can inform the development of management plans (and NEPA compliance documents) within the landscape described by the LCD.
- LCD is linked to Refuge Purpose
- LCDs can employ models to describe potential future conditions under various scenarios.
- LCDs are collaborative and peer-reviewed.

LCD Process

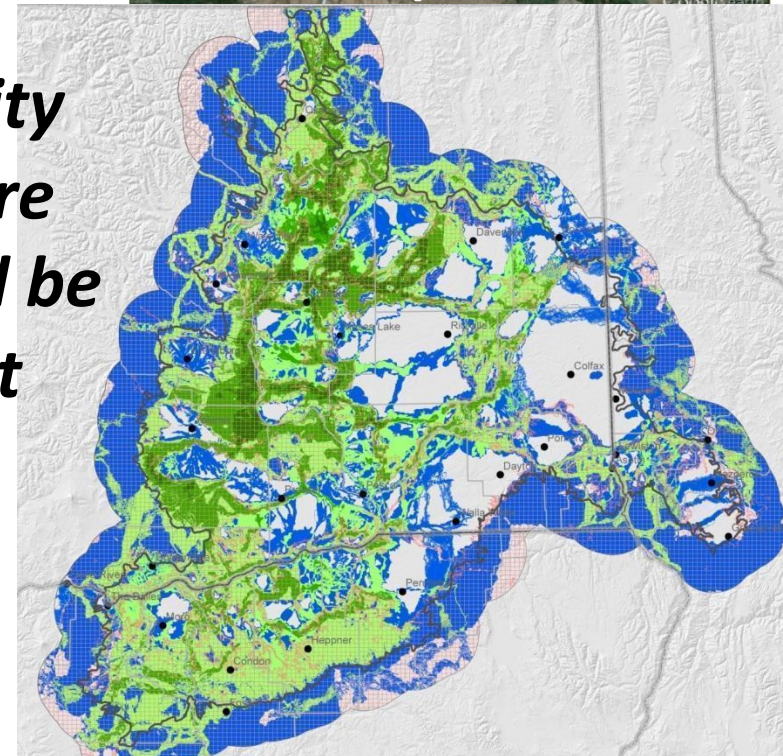
- Evidence-based - Partner-driven, multi-stakeholder, collaborative effort
- **Three main phases:**
 - **Convening:** To facilitate partners' understanding, agreement, and support for LCD processes and products.
 - **Assessment:**
 - Identify shared conservation/management priorities
 - evaluate plans
 - Evaluate landscape drivers and threats
 - "Right-size" and scale
 - **Design:** Develop a product that addresses identified conservation deficits and can achieve the desired future condition
 - Identify actions to achieve population/habitat goals
 - Identify priorities
- Adopt a surrogate species strategy
 - Sagebrush Core Area
 - Sage grouse
 - Pronghorn



LCD Products



Shared Priority Areas – where actions should be focused first



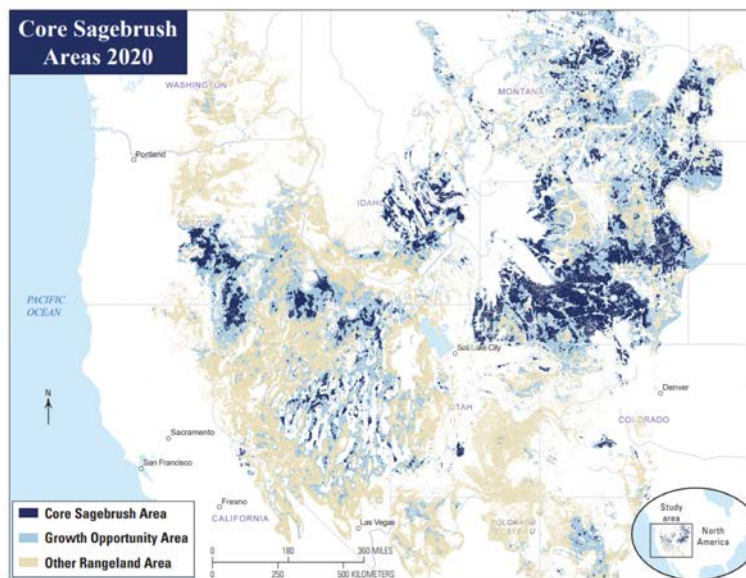
Sheldon-Hart LCD



- Form Core Team
- Invite participation
- Collaborate with partners and community
- Assess relevant management plans – information – tools
- Bridge Oregon and Nevada using existing information

Prepared in cooperation with the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

A Sagebrush Conservation Design to Proactively Restore America's Sagebrush Biome



Open-File Report 2022–1081

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

OREGON EXPLORER SageCon Landscape Planning Tool

Search... Sign in

Tools

Home

The SageCon Landscape Planning Tool allows users to view and download the most relevant and up-to-date spatial data in the sagegrouse ecosystem of southeast Oregon. Each function can be accessed by clicking the icons below, under the red "I want to..." menu in the upper left corner of the map, or by activating the Tools menu in the upper right corner of the map.

- View Layers**
To view data through the interactive map, click **View Layers**. The viewer contains a curated list of the most helpful and relevant datasets for sagegrouse and sage-grouse conservation in Oregon.
- Ecotope Summarization tool**
Use the **Ecotope Summarization tool** to summarize and download threat-based Ecotope Time Series data.
- Download Data**
To download data for an area of interest, use the **Download Data tool**.
- Technical Resources**
The **Rangeland Assessment and Management Tools** webpage contains practical resources for using maps and tools in rangeland management.
- Help**
View a short document for **Help** and tips on navigating the site.

SageCon Tools Navigator
The Oregon SageCon Partnership has developed a suite of tools and resources for partners planning activities in sagegrouse habitat in Oregon, accessible from the SageCon Tools Navigator.

This tool incorporates numerous data layers designed to offer guidance about rangeland condition, threats, and sage-grouse habitat within a landscape context. Data layers contain errors and vary in their accuracy and appropriate scales for use, and should not replace on-the-ground site decisions. Sites are provided as-is, and the entities in the SageCon Partnership are not liable for data errors or improper use of the data.

SageCon Landscape Planning Tool



Nevada Ecostate Map

Ecostate Map: Sagebrush Threats Based Mapping

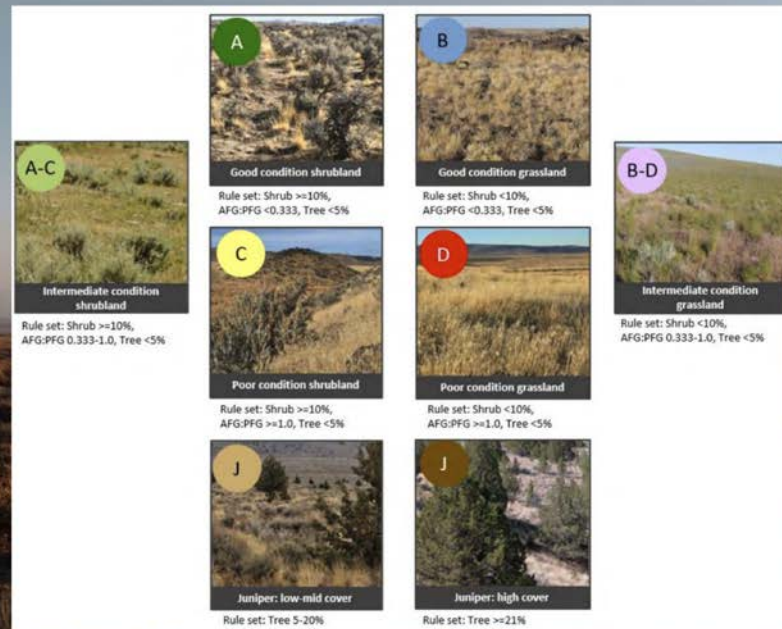
Vegetation cover maps based on broad functional groups:

- Specific Mapping Rules based on:

- Shrub Cover
- Tree Cover
- Perennial Grass and Forbs
- Annual Grass and Forbs

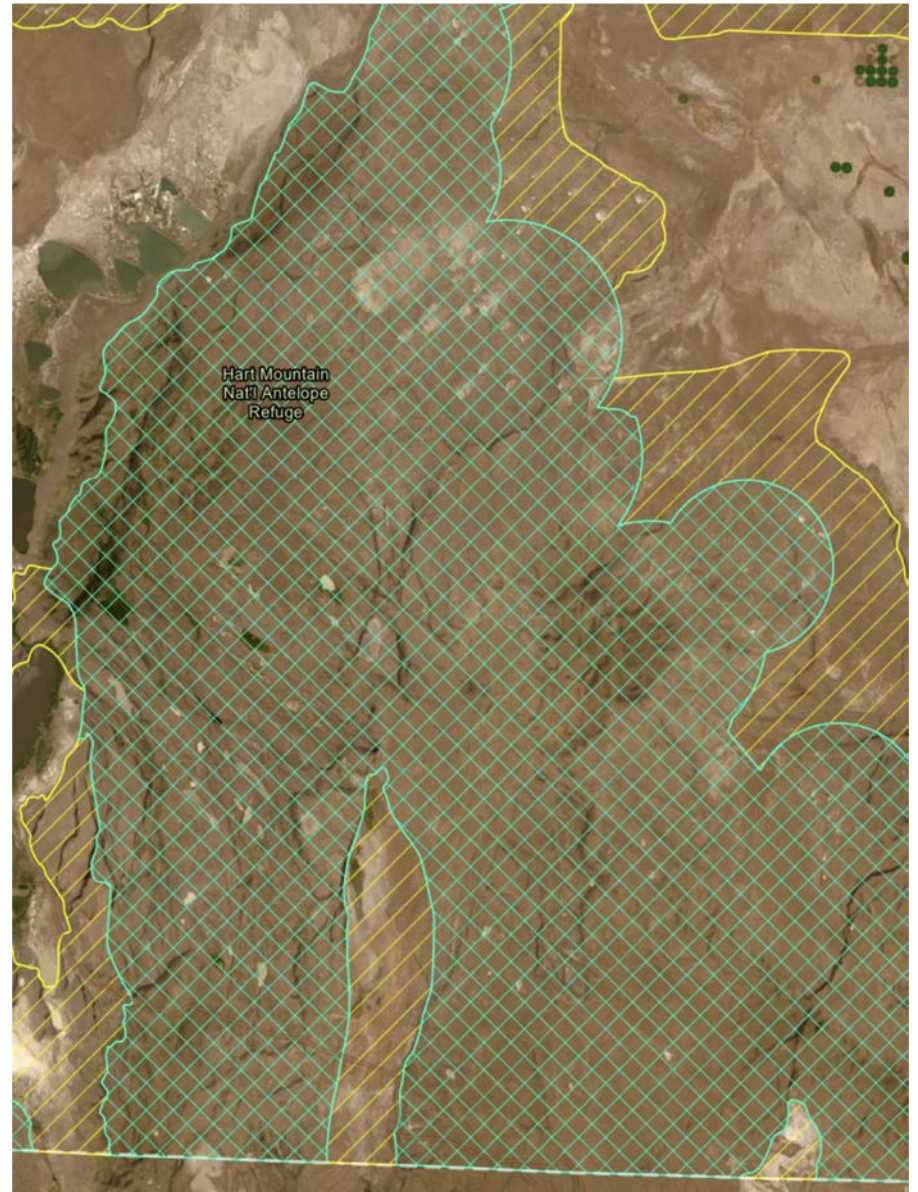
- Data from the Rangeland Analysis Platform remotely sensed products
- Analyzed in 5-year time slices to average out inter-annual variability

Produced in conjunction with the Oregon Sagebrush Conservation Initiative:
https://oe.oregonexplorer.info/externalcontent/sagecon/Oregon_Ecostate_Time_Series_Map_Description.pdf



Sage Grouse Core Habitat

ODFW Draft Revised Core
and Low Density Habitat,
2023.



Sheldon-Hart Pronghorn Corridor

- Data sources Kaufman. M., et al. 2022. Ungulate migrations of the western United States, volume 2: U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report 2022–5008, 160 p., <https://doi.org/10.3133/sir20225008>.

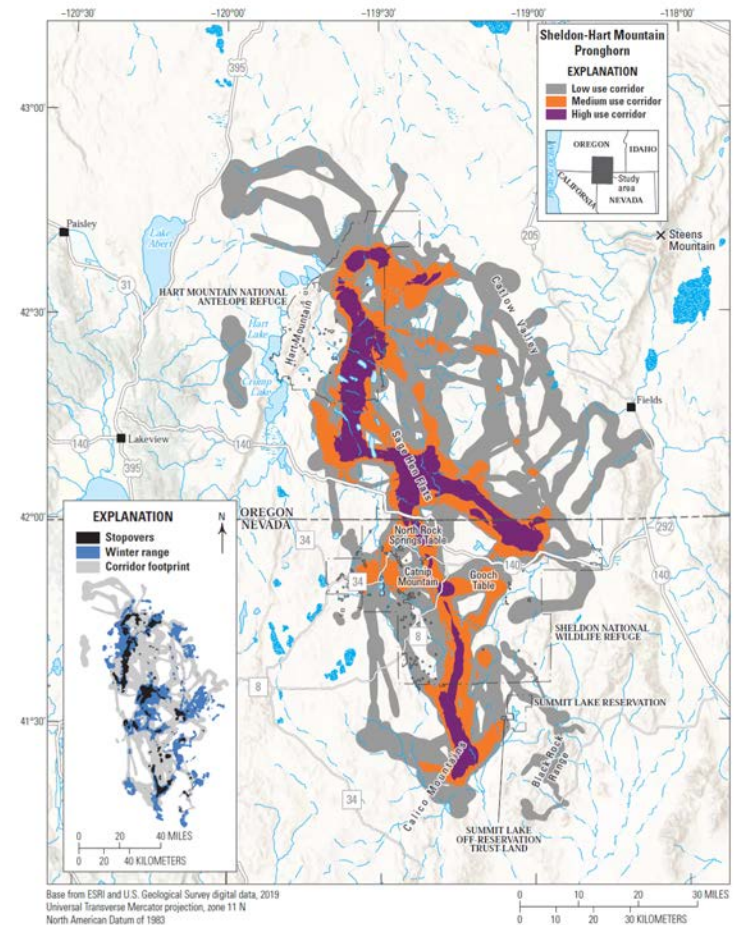
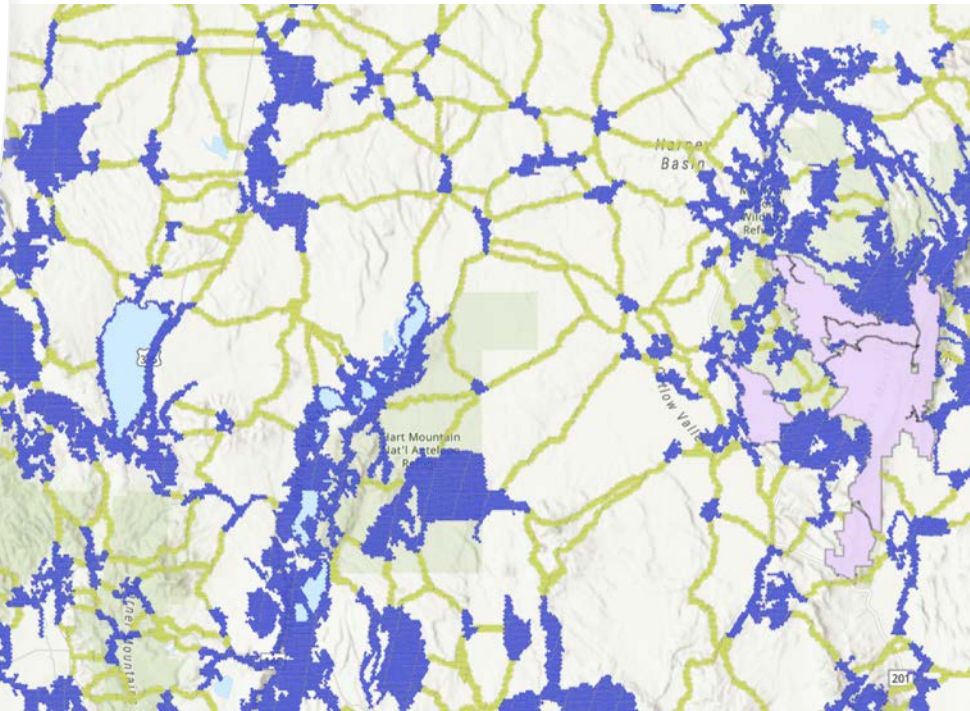


Figure 39. Migration corridors, stopovers, and winter ranges of the Sheldon-Hart Mountain Interstate pronghorn herd.

Oregon Conservation Strategy

- Priority Wildlife Connectivity Areas. 2023. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.



What Does a Greater Sheldon-Hart LCD Look Like?

- Identify shared conservation priorities
- Identify threats and limiting factors
- Bridge Oregon and Nevada
- Apply existing planning and spatial tools
- Use existing sagebrush/vegetation spatial data with sage grouse and ungulate migration corridors
- Identify shared priority areas to apply stewardship
 - Invest in the very good and expand