

A close-up photograph of a plant with silvery-green, pointed leaves, likely a species of sage or similar herb. The leaves are arranged in a dense, upright cluster. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting. The lighting is natural, highlighting the texture and color of the foliage.

State of the range: Collaborative capacity & partnerships

NOVEMBER 2, 2022

Laying the Foundation for a Resilient Management Partnership

Capacity to work together to address a common problem

Resources to empower capacity

Authority to implement

Process to ensure equitable and effective decision-making

Let's grow some cool CRAP
together in 2023!



SAGECON COLLABORATIVE PLAYBOOK



- Document collaborative successes and enabling conditions for effective cross-boundary work
- Document opportunities for more effective "mechanisms" of collaboration
- Describe scalable and replicable processes for collaborative work

INTERVIEWS

What agencies do you partner with and what kind of support do you look for from them?

How easily are you able to get what you need/what is available from agency partners?

What makes collaboration with other partners work within your organization?

How do you knit financial resources together to get work done? Do you have ideas of how this could be done more efficiently or effectively?

Pheasants Forever

Lake County Watershed Council

Harney SWCD

High Desert Partnership

LITs

Forest Collaborative

ODFW

BLM

NRCS



FINDINGS

Elevate examples of good outcomes of collaboration to incentivize more (e.g. 762 funding, Dashboard, RFPAs, PF as fiscal agent)

Strategic approach requires collaborative capacity (agenda, prep, follow up, leadership) AND a shared vision/north star

Need for common landscapes and objectives for prioritization

Pincers approach - vision & leadership from top + local knowledge and decision-making

FINDINGS

Groups getting work done on the ground (SWCDs, WCs, LITs, etc.) all report...

Lack of local capacity (including contractors) is a challenge

Everyone is spread too thin

Shared positions have been very effective

High staff turnover is a major challenge

Need to clarify roles and responsibilities, balance E/W within SageCon



THE BIG PICTURE

Things are going pretty well - just need more, better, and faster

Everybody gets the need for collaboration & strategic approach

Still some significant frustrations:

- NEPA
- Grant fundraising
- Grant reporting
- Where does SageCon live & who leads?



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SageCon Partnership

Our model for achieving coordinated & supported implementation of strategic conservation actions on-the-ground

Support to local partners

- Long-term funding and capacity support
- Clear & consistent messaging
- Technical tools & support
- Venues for knowledge sharing
- Research & technical expertise
- Track overall progress toward goals

National &
Regional

Statewide

Rangeland Programs &
Partners

Locally-led Implementation

Provided by local partners

- Articulate funding needs
- Articulate local barriers to successful implementation
- Elevate & showcase success stories
- Contribute technical field expertise
- Share data, information, and best practices
- Track local progress toward goals

SageCon coordination staff: 2022-2023 priorities

Communications & convening

Communications

- Internal
- External

Annual SageCon summit

Knowledge sharing forums

Supportive funding & policy environment

Budget coordination

- State legislature
- Federal investments

Integrated funding concept

Shared priorities, objectives & results

Adaptive management framework

Shared geographic priority areas

Tracking progress

Technical tools for coordinated implementation

SageCon governance & staffing

Partnership vision & purpose

Long-term local capacity support

- Local Implementation Teams
- Voluntary conservation through CCAAs

Staffing & financial plan, institutional home

Exploration of barriers & enabling conditions

Coordinated & supported implementation of strategic conservation actions on-the-ground

SOME 2023 OPPORTUNITIES

Funding and policy

- ❖ Funding for local capacity
- ❖ Plan for ongoing SageCon governance and staffing

Shared strategic priorities & monitoring progress

- ❖ Action Plan adaptive management

Forums for communication

- ❖ Regular communications
- ❖ Annual Summit
- ❖ Workshops & trainings

Technical support and tools





What do we want to grow together in 2023?

Opportunities

Gaps

Requests

Lessons learned



FINDINGS

Finding shared areas of priority seems like a good idea to everyone; SageCon can help land on areas that need attention around XYZ for *this reason*

Geographic Strategy - referencing map to apply for grants; using it to select areas for working together should work, but:

- Need guidance from above about using it
- Will require leadership to use it so that there is shared ownership
- Need local buy-in (right now, "it comes from Portland")
- Map needs more "brand recognition"; if it is used to get funding, then it will have more credibility
- Need clarity on where everyone is working - we did our work on our side; they didn't on their side - need agencies to plan out farther together.

SageCon's evolution and shifting drivers

Planning Stage

Goal: Prevent the sage-grouse from being listed under the ESA

- Gather stakeholders
- Find common ground
- Ensure voices are heard

- **Produce a Plan**

Reactive **crisis mode** with high energy and engagement

Implementation Stage

Goal: Coordinate implementation of the Plan

- Forum for communication
- Governance structure
- Tools and resources

- **Work on the ground**

When crisis is averted, energy and engagement declines

The Next Stage....

Goal: *Work toward shared outcomes*

- *Continue work on the ground → moving toward shared outcomes*
- *Build long-term local capacity*
- *Increase funding and awareness*

*Build an approach that is **resilient to future crises***

2010

2015

2020

2025

Timeline



The SageCon Partnership

SageCon partners work together to build **resilience in Oregon's sagebrush rangelands**, including ecological resilience, social & economic resilience, and partnership resilience.

Our work addresses challenges that operate at a landscape scale where no single agency or organization can make a big enough difference alone.

We strive to create a **supportive, enabling environment for successful and strategic on-the-ground actions** through:

- ❖ funding and policy
- ❖ shared strategic priorities & monitoring progress
- ❖ forums for communication
- ❖ technical support and tools



What do you think we should be working on together?

