

Annual SageCon Summit 2022

Meet Our Presenters!



Megan Creutzburg, *Institute for Natural Resources*

Megan Creutzburg is an ecologist that leads the Rangeland Sustainability Program at the Institute for Natural Resources. She is interested in bridging the gap between science and management by working with managers and practitioners to identify and break down communication barriers, providing maps and tools to access data and information, and facilitating discussions of how to incorporate science-based information into natural resource decision-making. She has been the Technical Coordinator for the SageCon Partnership since 2016, and prior to her current role spent several years working on large landscape assessments at INR. Megan attended Whitman College as an undergraduate and received her doctoral degree from Utah State University.



Sara O'Brien, *Willamette Partnership*

In her role as Executive Director, Sara O'Brien is responsible for the care and feeding of Willamette Partnership's mission, values, people, and partnerships. Sara manages complexity and conflict in cross-sector collaborations, with a specialty in reaching resolution to policy challenges. She leads process design and facilitation on projects involving intricate policies, politics, and relationships at the local, state, and regional levels. Sara holds a B.A. in anthropology and linguistics from Grinnell College and an M.S. in natural resource management from the University of Arizona. In her spare time, she enjoys relaxing with projects such as managing a farm, building a straw bale house, raising children, and serving on a school board.



Brenda Smith, *High Desert Partnership*

Brenda has been the Executive Director of High Desert Partnership since 2015. She has a Ph.D. in Agronomy from Oklahoma State University, a M.S. in Agriculture from California State University Fresno and a B.S. in Agricultural Science and Management from the University of California Davis. Her deep interest in collaborative work started years ago when she trained in facilitation while teaching at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. She has had various professional experiences that range from starting her own business, Smith & Smith Farms, using the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) model to market vegetables and cut flowers, to conducting agricultural research, to starting a university on-farm internship program, to developing outreach products for land managers. Her work has given her appreciation of landscape-scale management and the importance of addressing land management's social issues.

Jay Gibbs, *NRCS*

Jay Gibbs is the Basin Team Leader with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Oregon. He has spent his entire 25+ year career with NRCS in Eastern Oregon. Jay has been intimately involved with the implementation of the Conservation Title of every Farm Bill since 1985. Working with private landowners and collaborating at scale to solve resource concerns on the land is still the best part of the job. Jay has a B.S. in General Agriculture with minors in Range and Crop Science from Oregon State University. He resides in Heppner, Oregon with his wife Sue, three children and their horses.



Barry Shullanberger, *Lake County Commissioner*

Barry Shullanberger is in his first term as a County Commissioner for Lake County beginning in 2021. Previous to becoming a commissioner, Barry was a fire fighter for the USFS Fremont-Winema NF for 32 years, with the last 5 ½ years as the Fire Staff Officer for both the Forest and Lakeview District BLM. He served over 16 years on a Type 1 incident Management Team performing operational duties traveling to many parts of the country fighting large wildfires. Barry is currently a member of the SageCon group representing County Commissioners for the Association of Oregon Counties. Barry and his wife Annette are busy raising their twin granddaughters Ashlynn and Danica who are in their freshman year at Lakeview High School.



Chad Boyd, *Agricultural Research Service*

I am currently a rangeland ecologist and the Research Leader for the Agricultural Research Service in Burns, Oregon. I received a BS in Wildlife Management from Texas Tech University and an MS (nutritional ecology of musk oxen) and Ph.D. (prescribed fire effects on lesser prairie-chicken habitat) in Rangeland Ecology from Utah State and Oklahoma State universities, respectively. I currently pursue research aimed at shedding light on topical management challenges bridging rangeland agricultural production and management of natural resources. Much of my current research focuses on restoration of exotic annual grass-dominated rangeland and the relationship between rangeland fuel load attributes and wildfire

probability and impact. I am also involved in management planning for sagebrush rangelands at local, regional, and national levels through my participation in development of CCAAs for Greater Sage-Grouse, cooperative management planning with BLM, and work with a diverse array of partners to develop ecologically-based decision support systems for rangeland managers and decision-makers.

Skyler Vold, *ODFW*

Skyler Vold is the Sage-grouse Conservation Coordinator for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. He is based in Hines, Oregon.



Glenn Frederick, *BLM*

Glenn Frederick is a wildlife biologist for the Bureau of Land Management in the Oregon-Washington State Office, Portland, where he delivers Greater sage-grouse science and guidance to BLM field offices. Prior to joining the BLM, Glenn worked for the US Forest Service in southeast Arizona. His 30-year career in wildlife management also has included stints with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, US. Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Idaho Natural Heritage Program, and the Institute for Wildlife Studies. His Masters thesis was on another grouse, White-tailed ptarmigan, in the Sierra Nevada, CA.



Julie Unfried, *Pheasants Forever*

Julie Unfried is the Coordinator for the Prineville and Vale Local Implementation Teams. She is as an employee of Pheasants Forever (PF) through a partnership agreement between PF, Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management, and the Intermountain West Joint Venture. Before coming to this position, she was a partner biologist for PF in Montana and Washington. Julie received a bachelor's degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences from Oregon State University and has worked in several capacities over the last eight years to streamline conservation efforts for various stakeholder groups within wetland and sagebrush ecosystems. In her free time, Julie enjoys smelling the ocean and foraging for all the best food stuffs the West has to offer.



Alex Dohman, *Pheasants Forever*

My name is Alex Dohman. I grew up on the bluffs of Southeast Iowa above the Mississippi River where I spent a lot of my time running around in southern Iowa timber. I graduated from the University of Minnesota Crookston with a degree in Natural Resources Management with emphasis on wildlife management, that grew my passion for work in wildlife conservation. After graduating college for a few years, I worked seasonal in various locations year to year including short time on the coast of Oregon, working with Spotted Owls. I eventually became a grassland biologist for six years in North Dakota with prairie restoration work before coming to back to Oregon. I had a drive to get back to do what I thought was more impactful work and a longing to be in West. In my spare time, like many of us, I enjoy doing just about anything outside especially hiking, hunting, and wildlife photography.



Morgan Solomon, *Baker County LIT Coordinator*

My name is Morgan Solomon and I am the new Baker LIT Coordinator. Originally from New England, I moved to Montana to get my bachelors and then master's in wildlife ecology and management. I have worked across multiple geographies and agencies in the western United States including rangelands in Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, South Dakota, and now Oregon. While most of my work has focused on those "other" prairie grouse (namely lesser prairie-chickens and sharped-tails) I am very excited to be working with sage-grouse in the sagebrush steppe of Eastern Oregon!



Brandi St. Clair, *Lake County SWCD*

Brandi St. Clair is a Wildlife Biologist for Lake County SWCD's and comes from a diverse background working with many species of wildlife including sage grouse, pygmy rabbits, mule deer, peregrine falcons, bald eagles, and multiple bat species of Oregon. St. Clair received her Bachelor's Degree in Fish & Wildlife Science from Oregon State University (OSU) and has had the privilege of working for a variety of agencies/organizations, such as BLM, OSU, US Geological Survey, US Forest Service, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) and currently Lake County SWCD's. While working for ODFW, she partnered with NRCS to implement the national Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI) and became well known and recognized for her conservation endeavors in Lake

County and across the 11 western states. St. Clair lives in Lakeview with her husband Cody St. Clair, a Wildland Firefighter with USFWS, and her daughter Charlotte and son Carson. Her ties to the community are highly valuable and indispensable for conservation efforts, not only due to her work in conservation, but also because St. Clair is the 8th generation of her family to live in and have been raised in Lake County.



Rachael Davee, *Crook County SWCD*

Rachael Davee co-manages the CCAA program for Crook County SWCD by writing grants, developing conservation plans, and managing data. She studied ecology and geography at Oregon and Oregon State and loves the transition to working in the sagebrush steppe. The best part of her job is getting out in the field to learn new plants and having her opinions challenged through meaningful conversations.



Emmy Tyrrell, Powder Basin Watershed Council

Emmy Tyrrell is the Sage-grouse Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances Coordinator for Baker and Union counties (Oregon). She received her B.S. in Biology from Boise State University and M.S. in Avian Sciences from University of California Davis. Prior to her current position, Emmy spent nearly six years with the U.S Geological Survey assisting with and conducting sage-grouse research primarily focused on understanding how habitat disturbances impact demographic rates. Outside of her passion working in sagebrush steppe ecosystems, she loves to hike, climb, fish, hunt, backpack, and dote on her pup, Icky.



Anya Tyson, The Nature Conservancy

Anya Tyson works to improve collaborative conservation outcomes across the sagebrush steppe with The Nature Conservancy in Oregon. Previously, she worked as a science communicator at the helm of volunteer-driven research efforts spanning the Pacific Northwest and the Northern Rockies. Fun facts: Anya plays accordion and co-starred in a 2019 documentary about mule deer migration in Wyoming.



Katie Wollstein, OSU Extension

Katie is the Rangeland Fire Specialist for the Forest & Natural Resources Extension Fire Program for Oregon State University.



Jackie Cupples, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Jacqueline Cupples is a Sagebrush Ecosystem Wildlife Biologist in the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service La Grande, Oregon Field Office, with a special emphasis on sage-grouse. Collaborating with partners across Oregon and the region is the most rewarding part of her job. Jacqueline 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. She has conducted research and field work with a number of species including Australian dingoes and foxes, wolves, black bears, mule deer, elk, Columbia spotted frogs, sage-grouse, and ravens.



Michelle Jeffries, USGS

Michelle Jeffries is a Biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey located at the Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center in Boise, Idaho. She primarily develops resources, tools, and models to improve the understanding of ecological systems and solve challenging problems in natural resource management. She often works on science that is co-produced with federal partners. She is the coordinator for the Land Treatment Digital Library and the Land Treatment Exploration Tool.



Jeremy Maestas, USDA-NRCS

Jeremy Maestas is an ecologist with the USDA-NRCS West National Technology Support Center based in Bend, OR. There he serves as the agency's National Sagebrush Ecosystem Specialist providing technical leadership on conservation issues across arid lands of the western US. Much of his career has focused on improving the resilience of working rangelands by helping staff and partners reduce large scale threats, such as, conifer expansion, cheatgrass invasion, and riparian degradation.



Matt Cahill, The Nature Conservancy

Matt leads The Nature Conservancy's Sagebrush Sea Program, a collection of six states working together to improve conservation outcomes in sagebrush ecosystems. Together these states – Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming – are focused on innovative solutions that can improve restoration success and reverse the trend of degradation and wildfire in rangelands across the American West. Matt began with The Nature Conservancy in 2015, first as an ecologist implementing restoration in Oregon's sagebrush steppe, then as a collaboration specialist bringing partners together to find solutions to rangeland management issues. Matt lives in Bend, Oregon.



Vanessa Schroeder, Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center

Vanessa Schroeder has been working in Burns at the Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center (EOARC) since 2013 and has been in her current role as a Faculty Research Assistant for the Extension Service with Oregon State University (OSU) since 2016. She holds a master's degree in Wildlife Science from OSU. Vanessa works to advance research and outreach programs that promote healthy sagebrush ecosystems that are more resistant and resilient and can support multiple land uses, rural communities and the enhancement of greater sage grouse and other sagebrush associated wildlife habitat.



Marci Schreder, Wallowa Resources

Marci has had an active career in the natural resource and agricultural industries for the past 25 years where she's enjoyed representing private landowners and collaborating with diverse stakeholders in a variety of rural Oregon communities. She acted as Watershed Council Program Director in Lake County where she was instrumental in planning and implementing landscape level restoration projects focused on streams, uplands and sage-steppe rangeland systems. Since 2020 she has focused her energies on independent Natural Resource contracting working with a variety of organizations. Most recently, she joined Wallowa Resources as a Rangeland Program Manager, and considers it a great honor to return to her agricultural roots, where she can give back to a community and her family ranch.

Joe Kline, NRCS

Works for the NRCS as a Range Management Specialist covering counties in the John Day, Umatilla, and Snake River basins.



Mark Porter, ODA

Mark earned a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Science from Oregon State University. After college, he rounded out his schooling by doing a wide variety of seasonal field work (trail crew, stream surveys, range and wildlife surveys, timber marking, fire, etc.) for the Forest Service and spent seven years cowboying in the Lower Imnaha. He combined his schooling and practical experience as Stewardship Director for Wallowa Resources in Enterprise OR between 2000 and 2013 where he coordinated the Wallowa Canyonlands Partnership Cooperative Weed Management Area and implemented many forest and riparian health projects. Mark has served on several boards including the Oregon Invasive

Species Council, Wallowa County Weed Board, and the Tri-County Cooperative Weed Management Area Board. Mark has been Oregon Department of Agriculture's Integrated Weed Management Specialist in NE Oregon since Nov 2013.



Kaylee Littlefield, High Desert Partnership

Kaylee has been working for High Desert Partnership for almost two years as the Community Involvement and Monitoring Coordinator. Growing the monitoring program and helping local students to explore careers in Natural Resources have been highlights of her position. Helping friends with ranch work, hunting, and exploring Eastern Oregon are the reasons for leaving culinary arts and retail and pursuing a career in Rangelands.



Josh Hanson, High Desert Partnership

Josh grew up in western Oregon and developed a passion for rangelands and sunny skies after high school. He received Animal and Rangeland Science degrees from Oregon State University and Montana State University and loves learning about plant-animal interactions as well as plant response to disturbances. After work, he enjoys braiding rawhide.

Megan McGuire, Vale BLM

Megan McGuire is a Wildlife Biologist with the Vale District Office, Malheur Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management. She is based in Vale, Oregon.



Jeff Everett, USFWS

Jeff Everett is a Fish and Wildlife Biologist with the US Fish & Wildlife Service in Portland, OR where he serves as the sage-grouse coordinator for the past 10 years. He coordinates the efforts of nearly a dozen staff throughout the state working to implement private, state, and federal sage-grouse conservation plans. He served on the team which arrived at the not-warranted determination for the species in 2015, and is the lead for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation (BIL) project in Oregon. In his spare time, Jeff works as the lead biologist for Franklin's bumble bee and Western bumble bee. He works on a variety of ESA listing and recovery projects, and represents the Service on several regional and national pollinator teams. Prior to that he worked on renewable energy development and permitting throughout the PNW, and spent the first 10 years of his career with the Service as a private lands biologist in western Montana. Jeff and his wife have four busy kids, two lazy cats, one oblivious rabbit, but no bees. Jeff has a BS in Environmental Science from the State University of NY at Buffalo.