

APPENDIX C: PRINEVILLE LIT TEAM CHARTER

LIT Vision

The LIT helps maintain and enhance culturally, economically, and ecologically healthy public and private landscapes.

Mission

The LIT implements the Oregon Sage-grouse Action Plan ([Action Plan](#)) of the SageCon Partnership within the LIT geographic area of focus, according to the Action Plan.

LIT Goals

The LIT will,

1. Identify priority areas for habitat conservation within its respective geographic scope;
2. Promote coordinated actions across jurisdictional boundaries to address threats to sage-grouse habitat and populations within its scope; and
3. Serve as a forum to align interest groups' and organizations' sage-grouse conservation actions.

Limitations

- The LIT has no authority to direct management actions to private landowners or public land administrators; rather, recommendations provided by the LIT are intended to help inform land management actions and provide opportunities for collaboration across public and private lands.
- The LIT will provide recommendations but does not have decision-making authority. The LIT cannot dictate priorities to any individual group.
- The LIT members (including Working Group members) will provide input and/or come to agreement on issues directly regarding the development of the LIT products, only.

Definitions

Consensus: an agreement among the majority of people in a group. Consensus does not require unanimity. In practice, a consensus is a large enough majority that the group can act on the majority opinion with a minimum of continuing disagreement or dissent.

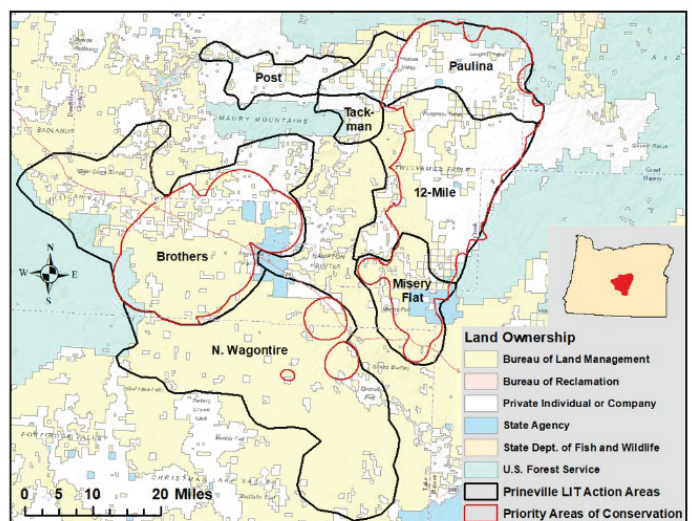
Conservation: a system of governmental and social efforts to protect natural resources against abuse, destruction, or degradation.

Conservation Action: any purposeful effort to promote or achieve Conservation.

Ecosystem: the organisms interacting with each other and their physical environments within a specified geographic area and period of time.

Geographic Focus Area: the Landscapes subject to the actions of the LIT, generally as shown to the right.

Landscape Health: the levels or status of a landscape's essential services relative to their target levels. Landscape Health is synonymous with Ecosystem Health ([Collins 2018](#)).



Landscape Resilience: the ability of one or more Landscape Services to return to levels that were reduced due by abusive, destructive, or degradational events or processes, natural or anthropogenic, without human intervention.

Landscape Resistance: the ability of one or more Landscape Services to maintain their levels against potentially abusive, destructive, or degradational events or processes, natural or anthropogenic, without human intervention. Landscape Resistance is synonymous with Ecosystem Resistance.

Landscape Restoration: the restoration of the desired or needed levels of a Landscape Service. Landscape Restoration is synonymous with Ecosystem Restoration.

Landscape Service: a process, product, or condition of a landscape that benefits people. The main types of services are provisioning, regulating, cultural, and supporting ([Reid 2005](#)). Landscape Service is synonymous with Ecosystem Services.

Landscape: the set of physical geographic features, including landforms, aquatic areas, vegetation, land uses, and built structures that can be viewed together from the Earth's surface, its atmosphere, or space. In the context of landscape ecology, landscape refers to a mosaic of patches that recurs over a broad region of the earth's surface ([Forman 1995](#)).

Threat: an existing or future natural or anthropogenic event or process that currently or has the potential to abuse, destruct, or degrade a Landscape Service.

Acronyms and Terms

Organizations

BLM – Bureau of Land Management

DSL – Department of State Lands

ECAS – East Cascades Audubon Society

NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service

ONDA – Oregon Natural Desert Association

ODFW – Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

OWEB – Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

SWCD – Soil and Water Conservation District

USFS – US Forest Service

USFWS – US Fish and Wildlife Service

Plans, Programs, Terms, etc.

Action Plan – Sage-grouse State Action Plan

AIM – Assessment and Inventory Monitoring

ARMPA – Oregon Greater Sage-grouse Approved Resources Management Plan Amendment

CCA – Candidate Conservation Agreement

CCAA – Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances

CFA – Causal Factor Analysis

DNA – Determination of NEPA Adequacy

EA – Environmental Assessment

GHMA – General Habitat Management Areas

HAF – Sage-grouse Habitat Assessment Framework

LIT – Local Implementation Team

NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act

PAC – Priority Area for Conservation

PHMA – Priority Habitat Management Areas

Prineville TRP – Prineville Threats Reduction Plan

RCPP – Regional Conservation Partnership Program

SGI – Sage Grouse Initiative

The Strategy – ODFW's Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy

WLFW – Working Land for Wildlife

Threats Reduction Plan (TRP)

The primary product of the LIT will be the Prineville LIT Threat Reduction Plan (TRP). The TRP will identify and prioritize collaborative, cross-boundary sage-grouse conservation actions within the LIT geographic focus area. The TRP is expected to have the following beneficial results and uses,

- Consensus-based recommended conservation actions;
- Communication of needed conservation actions to the community of conservation scientists, managers, and concerned citizenry;
- Funding for recommended conservation actions.

TRP Timeline

The TRP will be completed in Spring 2023. The TRP may soon need to be revised or updated, however, given that ODFW is updating The Strategy and revising core and low-density sage-grouse habitat designations, and that the BLM is preparing its Greater Sage-grouse Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendments.

LIT Structure

LIT Coordinator

The LIT Coordinator convenes the LIT and its Working Group. The responsibilities of the LIT Coordinator include, but are not necessarily limited to,

- Prepare meeting agendas for the LIT and its Working Group;
- Facilitate LIT meetings;
- Track and report LIT activities and progress to the LIT and ODFW;
- Coordinate with the ODFW Sage-Grouse Coordinator to ensure the LIT is developing objectives that align with the State Action Plan;
- Communicate with LIT members, other partners, and the public at large to achieve and maintain good working relations and public awareness of the LIT;
- Ensure all interest groups that choose to participate in the LIT are equitably represented.

LIT Membership

Participation in the LIT is open to anyone with an interest or investment in sage-grouse and sagebrush landscapes within the LIT geographic area of focus. The LIT Coordinator will maintain a comprehensive roster of past and current LIT members.

Working Group

The LIT Working Group is responsible for drafting and revising the TRP based on the advice and review of the LIT and other qualified interests, as determined by the LIT Coordinator.

TRP Development Guidance

The Working Group will consider the following guidance in developing the TRP.

- Identify and rank the threats and recommend threat-specific conservation actions, recognizing that some actions can address multiple threats.
- Utilize the Oregon Sage-grouse Action Plan (Action Plan) as a guide and reference.
- Utilize landscape planning datasets and tools, including tools available through SageCon and the Conservation Efforts Database; plus, data and information from LIT members and other interests.
- Compile information on existing relevant conservation efforts and strive to recommend new or revised conservation actions that are consistent and compatible with existing efforts.
- Subdivide the LIT geographic Area of focus into “Action Areas,” wherein recommended conservation actions should be prioritized. The Action Areas should reflect geographic variations in the need and applicability of different conservation actions.
- Recommend conservation actions that are achievable, scientifically valid, consistent, and compatible, and that in aggregate are likely to achieve the LIT mission.
- Identify critical information gaps that must be filled over time to address critical threats or implement recommended conservation actions, recognizing that information gaps may be threat- or action-specific and that some gaps may relate to multiple threats and actions.

- Periodically reconvene with entire LIT to ensure all interests have input to Working Group activities and are informed of Working Group progress and products.
- Always use the best available science to identify and prioritize threats, and to recommend conservation actions. Solicit and incorporate independent, third-party review of the TRP.
- Acknowledge and plan for TRP updates to accommodate changes in understanding and context.

Working Group Decorum

Members of the Working Group will adhere to these conduct guidelines regarding Working Group meetings.

- Communicate regularly with others in your interest group to ensure they are able to provide input to the Working Group and are informed about Working Group progress and products.
- Prepare for Working Group meetings by understanding meeting agendas and materials and communicating with others to plan for productive participation.
- During meetings, stay on task and help the LIT Coordinator keep other Working Group participants on task.
- Attend meetings regularly. In the event no participants from a given interest group can attend a meeting, absentee participation may be permitted at the discretion of the LIT Coordinator.
- Refrain from personal comments about others. Restrict comments to the tasks of the Working Group.
- Be intellectually honest; represent what you believe to be right and true and useful.
- Maintain an open mind. Fully consider the perspectives and knowledge of others. Ask and answer questions objectively. Strive to advance and resolve debate with consensus, rather than win arguments. Listen actively.
- Be as active as possible given realistic assessments of personal expertise and capacity. Avoid over-commitment.

Work Group Decision Making

Disagreements among Working Group members are expected. Landscapes encompass multitudes of belief systems and political perspectives reflecting differences in culture, heritage, and professional and personal experience and orientation. The diversity of perspectives embodied in the Working Group is a primary source of its validity and strength.

Decision-making by the Working Group will strive for consensus. The LIT Coordinator will facilitate requisite debate and discussion or assign a facilitator from the Working Group, LIT, or from outside the LIT.

A quorum of Working Group Members is required for the Working Group to make a decision. A quorum consists of at least eight Working Group members in good standing, including the LIT Coordinator. No decision can be made in the absence of the LIT Coordinator.

Decisions are made by a simple verbal or written vote. Each member is allowed one vote each time a vote is taken. A member may vote yes, no, or abstain. The votes are tallied by the LIT Coordinator or meeting scribe and reported during the meeting. How each member votes is not recorded. The decision is based on the majority vote. The LIT Coordinator may decide if and when a majority of votes is large enough to represent consensus (see definitions). In the absence of consensus, the LIT Coordinator may decide to facilitate more discussion at that time or at a later date and retake the vote. If the LIT Coordinate accepts a decision based on a small majority vote in the absence of a clear consensus, the LIT Coordinator may ask the minority voters to develop a written dissenting opinion on the decision. All decisions and dissenting opinions will be recorded in the final minutes of the meeting.

Members who participate in the decision-making process of the Working Group must cast their votes based on what they sincerely believe will most likely achieve the objectives of the Action Plan and the TRP, without undo regard for their own interests or those of the organizations they represent.

Working Group Membership

Members of the Working Group (i.e., member organizations as well as specific individuals) are selected by the LIT Coordinator to capture the breadth of perspectives across the LIT geographic area of focus. The LIT Coordinator will strive to recruit members non-governmental organizations, public agencies at all levels of government, and private interests that have major influence on sage-grouse conservation.

Member organizations will be represented by one or two individuals associated with each interest group. The LIT Coordinator will maintain a comprehensive roster of past and current Working Group. Only one representative from any member organization can participate in the decision-making process of Working Group meetings.

Any member who is absent from three or more consecutive Working Group meetings will be notified in writing by the LIT Coordinator of being dropped from the Working Group roster. Members who are dropped from the roster can request in writing to be readmitted by the LIT Coordinator. Readmission to the roster will be decided by the LIT Coordinator.

The Working Group automatically includes the LIT Coordinator. Meetings of the Working Group will be supported by a meeting scribe for note taking, vote tallies, and other administrative activities. The meeting scribe may be a Working Group member.

ODFW Sage-grouse Coordinator

- Role: ODFW is the convener of the LITs – the Sage-grouse Coordinator will represent ODFW at a statewide level
- Responsibilities,
 1. Support the LIT Coordinator by attending meetings; helping to resolve any conflict between partners;
 2. Present annual population estimates to the working group and entire LIT membership.
 3. Provide sage-grouse scientific expertise to ensure the working group is developing recommendations based on scientific rationale.
 4. Ensure the LIT develops recommendations that align with the State Action Plan.

Working Group Members

Private Landowners

- Role: LIT working group participant
- Responsibilities,
 1. Support and elevate private landowner interests. Help LIT Coordinator outreach to private landowners.
 2. Provide insight regarding landscape-level resource concerns.
 3. Utilize the LIT to learn about opportunities to collaborate with neighboring landowners/land administrators on cross boundary project implementation.

Bureau of Land Management

- Role: LIT working group participant
- Responsibilities,
 1. Listen to partner perspectives with regard to sage-grouse habitat needs.
 2. Inform and provide BLM updates to LIT partners to increase communication.

3. Learn what other partners are doing; when possible, align BLM actions.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

- Role: LIT working group participant
- Responsibilities:
 1. Listen to partner perspectives with regard to sage-grouse habitat needs.
 2. Inform and provide NRCS updates to LIT partners to increase communication.
 3. Learn what other partners are doing; when possible, align NRCS actions.
 4. Support and elevate private landowner interests. Help LIT Coordinator outreach to private landowners.

US Forest Service

- Role: LIT working group participant
- Responsibilities:
 1. Listen to partner perspectives with regard to sage-grouse habitat needs.
 2. Inform and provide USFS updates to LIT partners to increase communication.
 3. Learn what other partners are doing; when possible, align USFS actions.

US Fish and Wildlife Service

- Role: LIT working group participant
- Responsibilities:
 1. Resource for reputable sage-grouse scientific and ecological information.
 2. Listen to partner perspectives with regard to sage-grouse habitat needs.
 3. Inform and provide USFW updates to LIT partners to increase communication.

Department of State Lands

- Role: LIT working group participant
- Responsibilities:
 1. Listen to partner perspectives with regard to sage-grouse habitat needs.
 2. Inform and provide DSL updates to LIT partners to increase communication.
 3. Learn what other partners are doing; when possible, align DSL actions.

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife

- Role: LIT working group participant
- Responsibilities:
 1. Resource for reputable sage-grouse scientific and ecological information.
 2. Inform and provide ODFW updates (including lek survey efforts) to LIT partners to increase communication.

Counties

- Role: LIT working group participant
- Responsibilities:
 1. Listen to partner perspectives with regard to sage-grouse habitat needs.
 2. Inform and provide County updates to LIT partners to increase communication.
 3. Learn what other partners are doing; when possible, align County actions.

Soil and Water Conservation District

- Role: LIT working group participant
- Responsibilities:
 1. Listen to partner perspectives with regard to sage-grouse habitat needs.
 2. Inform and provide SWCD updates to LIT partners to increase communication.
 3. Learn what other partners are doing; when possible, align SWCD actions.
 4. Support and elevate private landowner interests. Help LIT Coordinator outreach to private landowners.

Conservation Groups

- Role: LIT working group participant
- Responsibilities:
 1. Ensure LIT recommendations prioritize sage-grouse habitat and population requirements.
 2. Identify opportunities in which conservation organizations can provide support to land managers and practitioners when implementing sage-grouse conservation actions.

Working Group participants listed alphabetically (one voting member per interest group)

- BLM (Central Oregon Field Office: Larry Ashton, Prineville Field Office: Brie Porter)
- Conservation groups (primary: ECAS – Stu Garrett, alternate: ECAS – Josh Collins)
- Crook County (primary: Tim Deboodt)
- Crook SWCD (primary: Andy Gallagher)
- Deschutes SWCD (primary: Erin Kilcullen)
- DSL (primary: Randy Wiest)
- Landowner Representative (primary: Jade Cooper, alternate: Runinda McCormack)
- NRCS (primary: Chris Mundy, alternate: Damon Brosnan)
- ODFW (primary: Greg Jackle, alternate: Andrew Walch)
- USFS (Deschutes: Lauri Turner; Ochoco: Monty Gregg)
- USFWS (primary: Emily Weidner, alternate: Brian Wilk)

Literature Cited

Collins, J. 2018. A Look Ahead: Toward Comprehensive Russian River Watershed Health Assessment and Reporting. Russian River Regional Monitoring Program.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12UQkOIMB2vTJaObYwHHCY787qw-q8fW2/view>

Forman, R.T.T. Some general principles of landscape and regional ecology. *Landscape Ecol.* 10, 133–142 (1995).

<https://doi.org/10.1007/BF00133027>

Walter V. Reid, H. A. (2005). *Ecosystems and Human Well-Being - A Report of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment*. Washington DC: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Board.

<http://www.millenniumassessment.org/documents/document.356.aspx.pdf>