



INTERMOUNTAIN WEST  
JOINT VENTURE



PARTNERING TO CONSERVE

# SAGEBRUSH

RANGELANDS

2024 ANNUAL REPORT





# Partnering to Conserve Sagebrush Rangelands

FY 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024

Access a digital copy at [www.PartnersInTheSage.com/Annual-Reports](http://www.PartnersInTheSage.com/Annual-Reports).

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This report shares the partnership accomplishments of the intra-agency agreements between the Bureau of Land Management and the Intermountain West Joint Venture during fiscal year 2024. Between FY 2016 and FY 2024, BLM Headquarters has provided \$15,189,737 to build sagebrush rangeland capacity in priority landscapes. These funds have been matched with \$7,676,068 by dozens of partners. BLM State, District, and Field Offices have also contributed \$853,740. Our nine-year partnership has resulted in **\$23,719,545** in funding to support sagebrush rangeland conservation. These collaborative efforts have helped deliver **\$59,070,619** in projects, benefiting communities, wildlife, and habitat across the West.

The goal of our work is to scale up efforts to conserve intact and resilient sagebrush rangelands through proactive, science-based, landscape-scale management and stewardship of public, Tribal, and private lands. This partnership is a premier example of how to effectively accelerate the pace and scale of conservation actions that address threats to sagebrush rangelands across ownership boundaries. We continue to support locally led efforts to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the lands, waters, and wildlife on which we all depend across the American West.



INTERMOUNTAIN WEST  
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# Executive Summary

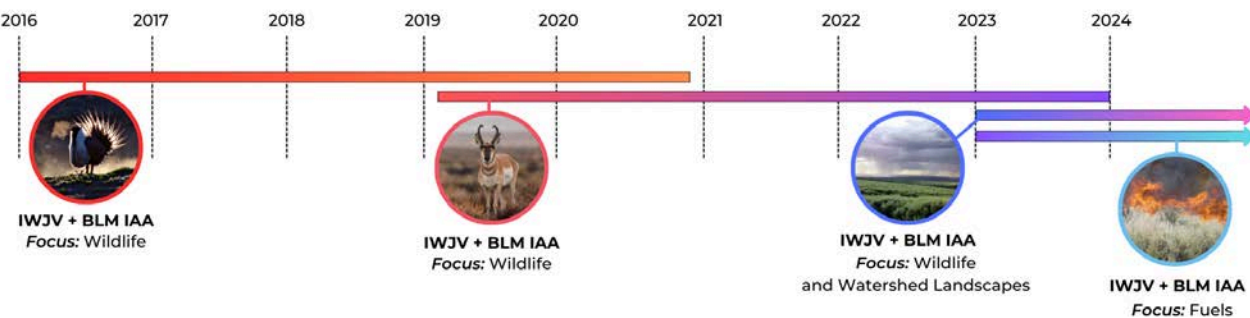
In FY 2024, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV) continued building on nine years of success founded on innovative intra-agency agreements and partnerships. This collaboration, **Partnering to Conserve Sagebrush Rangelands**, implements voluntary, incentive-based stewardship of sagebrush rangelands across jurisdictional boundaries. Success relies on a continued commitment to growing field-level support, producing in-depth communications, and expanding the technical transfer of science to the field.

At the heart of this partnership is a shared vision:

*We and our partners achieve impactful and durable outcomes for the sagebrush biome of the western United States by providing purposeful support to innovative, community-based conservation efforts.*

Since 2016, the IWJV and the BLM have partnered with hundreds of state and local organizations, federal agencies, landowners, non-governmental organizations, and others to catalyze the proactive, voluntary, community-led stewardship of sagebrush rangelands across private and public lands. Partners have contributed a variety of perspectives, values, and resources to achieve a common goal of implementing the latest science to keep the working lands of the American West healthy for both people and wildlife. Their efforts have resulted in creating and accelerating on-the-ground projects that have lasting impacts on wildlife, economies, and local communities.

## A TIMELINE OF INTRA-AGENCY AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE IWJV AND THE BLM



Over the past fiscal year, this partnership has continued to foster outcomes that enhance ecological, social, and economic values by working across jurisdictions at various scales. By working together, we have seen that partnerships and investments in key places can help maintain the long-term viability of the largest ecosystem in the West. The core of our work involves providing field capacity that helps the BLM and other partners achieve conservation across boundaries. We've built relationships with 62 BLM State, District, and Field Offices to engage in project planning and implementation and to evaluate barriers. We

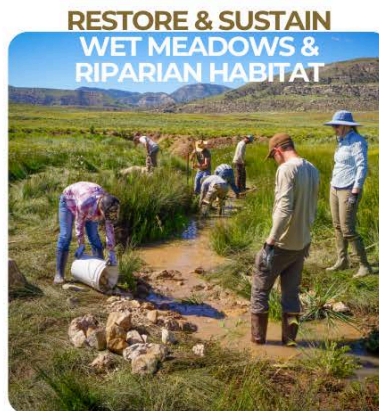
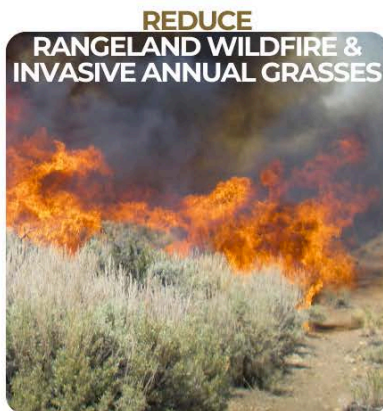


support the BLM's collaboration with partners to address persistent, large-scale threats such as invasive annual grasses, catastrophic wildfire, conifer encroachment, and drought. We also bring targeted communications, outreach, and technical transfer tools to address these challenges. With the continued dedication of BLM staff and financial support from congressional dollars, this collaborative approach to habitat improvement continues to be a win-win approach that achieves sustainable, long-lasting benefits for multiple uses.

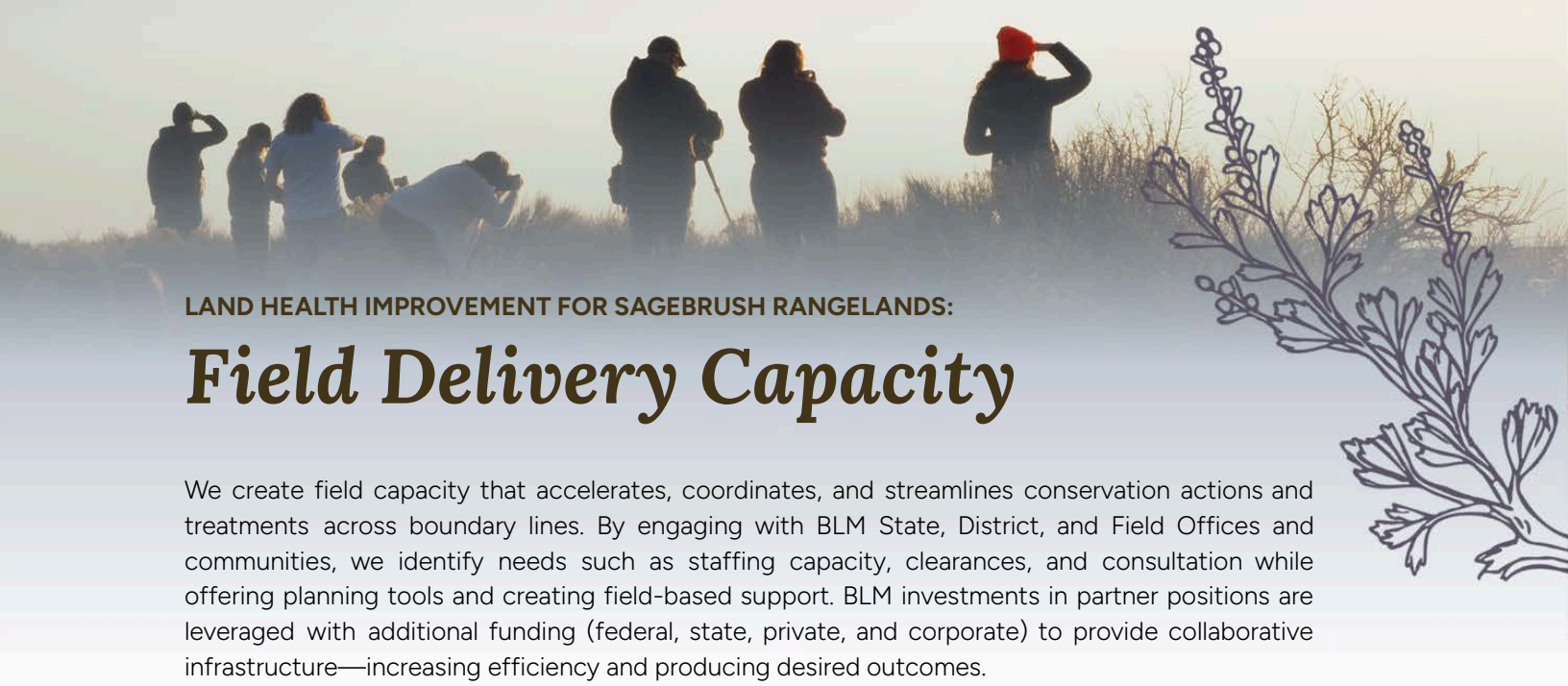
*"With nearly 1.5 million acres of BLM lands, the Hi-Line Sagebrush Anchor is a vast and diverse landscape where having dedicated capacity to work directly with the ranching community is invaluable. This role bridges the gap between private ranching operations, the BLM, and a wide range of partners, helping to design and implement land management practices that benefit both the agricultural community and the wildlife we share this landscape with."*

**Angel DeVries,**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE RANCHERS STEWARDSHIP ALLIANCE

Our partnership addresses the following threats and opportunities in sagebrush ecosystems:



For more information on these five work focus areas, visit our website at [www.PartnersInTheSage.com](http://www.PartnersInTheSage.com).



LAND HEALTH IMPROVEMENT FOR SAGEBRUSH RANGELANDS:

# Field Delivery Capacity

We create field capacity that accelerates, coordinates, and streamlines conservation actions and treatments across boundary lines. By engaging with BLM State, District, and Field Offices and communities, we identify needs such as staffing capacity, clearances, and consultation while offering planning tools and creating field-based support. BLM investments in partner positions are leveraged with additional funding (federal, state, private, and corporate) to provide collaborative infrastructure—increasing efficiency and producing desired outcomes.

TOTAL FY 2018–2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS	
799,387	total project acres
484,904	acres of conifer removal
119,570	acres of improved grazing practices
50,900	acres of annual/noxious weeds treated
2,520	mesic structures installed
5,327	acres of fuels treatment
3,002	acres of fuel breaks
18,227	acres of conservation easements
107,480	acres of vegetation treatment/enhancement
10,139	acres of wet meadows restored
62	BLM Field, District, and State Offices supported with capacity

## Sage Capacity Team

One of the most powerful elements of the BLM-IWJV partnership is our ability to provide much-needed “boots on the ground” through the development and support of field delivery capacity positions that promote voluntary, proactive sagebrush habitat improvement across the West. These positions are pivotal, adding capacity and forming a robust and coordinated team to achieve cross-boundary, landscape-scale impacts across the sagebrush biome.

As of FY 2024, funds in the BLM-IWJV partnership support field delivery capacity positions in 10 states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming. These positions make up the [Sage Capacity Team](#) (SCT), a suite of non-federal positions hosted by non-governmental organizations and other institutions that help to coordinate rangeland health and wildlife projects across public and private boundaries, address challenges in rangeland conservation, track projects, facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogue and forums, and communicate success stories (Appendix A: Sage Capacity Team Map).



# SAGE CAPACITY TEAM



**Jordan Menge**  
*Arizona Strip  
Project  
Coordinator  
-St. George, UT*



**Jackson Gregory**  
*Arizona  
Partnership  
Coordinator  
-Prescott, AZ*



**Tracy Misiewicz**  
*Bi-State Local  
Area Working  
Group  
Coordinator  
-Bishop, CA*



**Janyne Little**  
*Buffalo-Skedaddle  
Sage Grouse  
Working Group  
Project Coordinator  
-Susanville, CA*



**Ryan Holt**  
*North Park  
Landscape  
Coordinator  
-Kremmling, CO*



**India Young**  
*Northwest  
Colorado  
Sagebrush  
Conservation  
Partnership  
Coordinator  
-Grand Junction,  
CO*



**Connor White**  
*Bruneau-Owyhee  
Sage-Grouse  
Habitat Project  
Outreach  
Coordinator  
-Boise, ID*



**Evan DeHamer**  
*Idaho Natural  
Resource  
Specialist  
-Idaho Falls, ID*



**Ellie Burken**  
*Range and  
Wildlife  
Conservation  
Biologist  
-Burley, ID*



**Brenda Richards**  
*Idaho Rangeland  
Conservation  
Partnership  
Coordinator  
-Murphy, ID*



**Adrienne Hoskins**  
*Outcome-Based  
Grazing  
Authorization  
Coordinator  
-Pocatello, ID*



**Grace Hershberg**  
*The Hi-Line  
Sagebrush Anchor  
Landscape  
Coordinator  
-Malta, MT*



**Ethan Kalinowski**  
*Southwest  
Montana Natural  
Resource  
Specialist  
-Dillon, MT*



**Sean Claffey**  
*Southwest Montana  
Sagebrush  
Partnership  
Coordinator  
-Dillon, MT*



**Emma Fullerton**  
*Southwest  
Montana  
Sagebrush  
Partnership IAG  
Coordinator  
-Dillon, MT*



Wildlife focused



Fuels focused



Watershed focused



Range focused





**Kathy McKim**  
*New Mexico  
 Partner Project  
 Coordinator  
 -Chama, NM*



**Vacant**  
*Bristlecone  
 Project  
 Coordinator  
 -Ely, NV*



**Susi Algrim**  
*Montana Mountains  
 Natural Resource  
 Specialist  
 -Winnemucca, NV*



**John Haddock**  
*Humboldt/O'Neil  
 Basin Natural  
 Resource  
 Specialist  
 -Elko, NV*



**Katlyn Mendive**  
*Results Oriented  
 Grazing for  
 Ecological  
 Resilience  
 Facilitator  
 -Reno, NV*



**Vacant**  
*Local  
 Implementation  
 Team  
 Coordinators  
 -OR*



**Qaim Naqvi**  
*Color Country  
 Converging  
 Restoration  
 Landscape  
 -St. George, UT*



**Jaimi Butler**  
*Upper Bear River  
 Community  
 Outreach and  
 Education  
 Coordinator  
 -Salt Lake  
 City, UT*



**Alyssa Grelecki**  
*LaBarge Natural  
 Resource  
 Specialist  
 -Pinedale, WY*



**Austin Quynn**  
*Muddy Creek  
 Project Manager  
 -Rawlins, WY*



**Nancy Webb**  
*Wind River/Bighorn  
 Basin District IAG  
 Coordinator  
 -Worland, WY*



**Wildlife focused**



**Fuels focused**



**Watershed focused**



**Range focused**





## FY 2024 Accomplishments in the Field



The following table includes the cumulative accomplishments of the Sage Capacity Team in FY 2024.

Overview of Capacity		Partnership Accomplishments	
Total Projects Planned	123	Improved Grazing Practices (acres)	38,822
Total Projects Completed	97	Conifer Removed (acres)	80,782
Total Project Acres	149,916	Annual/Noxious Weeds Treated (acres)	26,864
Total Project Funding	\$7,722,029	Vegetation Management/Habitat Enhancement (acres)	1,693
Partners Engaged	711	Wet Meadows Restored (acres)	1,780
Landowners Engaged	164	Fence Modification (miles)	15
Meetings/Field Tours	153	Seedlings Planted	24,500
Outreach/Volunteer Events	23	Mesic Structures Installed	895



*Photos submitted by Sage Capacity Team members in FY 2024. Top row, left to right: Rangeland landscape a day after jackpot burning, taken by the BOSH Project Coordinator; a helicopter transports fencing materials to protect a fragile stream habitat on one of the Buffalo Skedaddle Sage-Grouse Working Group Project Coordinator's projects; cattle wear virtual fencing collars on a Virtual Fence Field Day organized by the Hi-Line Sagebrush Anchor Landscape Coordinator. Middle row, left to right: An intern looks out at a landscape during monitoring assisted by the Wind River/Big Horn Basin District Invasive Annual Grass Coordinator; the LaBarge Natural Resource Specialist and collaborators install a beaver dam analog; the Hi-Line Sagebrush Anchor Landscape Coordinator presents at The Nature Conservancy's Science Symposium. Bottom row, left to right: Crews install beaver dam analogs with the Muddy Creek Project Manager; the New Mexico Partner Project Coordinator and team replace net wire fencing with wildlife-friendly fence; the Bi-State Local Area Working Group Coordinator presents at a USFWS field tour.*



## FY 2024 Sage Capacity Team Accomplishment Reports

The following narratives detail the accomplishments of each position. Please see the [Partners in the Sage](#) website to learn more about each position and their location.

### Field Delivery Capacity Icon Key

Each position provides project delivery or partnership facilitation services, and in some cases, both.

**Project Delivery:**



**Partnership Facilitation:**



### 1. Arizona Strip Project Coordinator (**Arizona**)



*Supports:* Arizona Strip BLM District Office  
Established 2020

This position coordinates partnerships among a variety of BLM specialists, stakeholders, and partner organizations, which increases the Arizona Strip District's capacity for collaboration and completion of priority vegetation projects. As an essential conduit for Arizona Strip District's Integrated Vegetation Management project, the Coordinator ensures the continuation of cross-boundary collaborative habitat treatments by planning, implementing, and monitoring activities. Contributions include providing valuable input regarding habitat-enhancement locations, assisting with collection of natural resource monitoring data, conducting project inspections, securing funds for habitat treatments, and developing informative outreach products.

This collaboration and resource sharing enables more extensive landscape-scale work to implement habitat-improvement efforts. Together the Coordinator and the Arizona Strip Habitat Working Group have removed 876 acres of conifer, and they expect to increase their momentum next year with an upcoming project spanning 1,000 additional acres. The projects of this position are vital to the management of fuels and fires across multiple jurisdictions. They create multitudes of ecological benefits and lower the threat of catastrophic wildfires. They also have a direct impact on the socio-economic landscape of the region by providing employment for contractors, supporting local businesses, and stimulating new recreational opportunities by creating resilient landscapes.

#### Overview

Host Entity: Pheasants Forever  
Total Projects Completed: 3  
Total Project Funding Completed: \$508,535  
Partners Engaged: 6

#### Partnership Accomplishments

Conifer Removed: 876 acres

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## 2. Arizona BLM Partnership Coordinator (Arizona)



*Supports:* All Arizona BLM Field and State Offices  
Established 2024

The Coordinator cultivates the relationship between the Arizona BLM Fire and Fuels Program and the various federal and non-governmental organization partners throughout Arizona. This position increases resource efficiency and shares resource goals by identifying collaboration opportunities. The Coordinator is the main contact for the Arizona State Fuels Program and acts as a catalyst and facilitator for a statewide agreement

with the Arizona BLM and the Mule Deer Foundation. The Coordinator organizes prescribed burns, fuel break establishments, mastication and thinning projects, and other activities in collaboration with many agencies and organizations. The position serves as a force multiplier, bringing a wide diversity of partners into the fold of large-scale project planning and management.

### Overview

Host Entity: Pheasants Forever

Partnership Meetings/Field Tours: 13

Partners Engaged: 10+

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## 3. Bi-State Local Area Working Group Coordinator (California/Nevada)



*Supports:* Bishop BLM Field Office  
Established 2018

The Coordinator works across jurisdictional boundaries to grow partnerships and facilitate collaboration on sagebrush ecosystem management between private landowners, federal, state, and local government, Tribes, and nonprofit organizations.

The Bi-State Coordinator worked closely with the IWJV Science to Implementation Team and U.S. Geological Survey to develop three in-person Conservation Planning Tool Trainings incorporating the importance of conifer removal and expansion threats.

The Coordinator also held a rancher-focused event to disseminate information about sage grouse

habitat enhancement practices with agricultural producers and proactively built relationships with a range of partners.

This technical outreach increases the capacity of the BLM and other Bi-State partners to contribute to sage grouse protection efforts in a coordinated way, streamlining data collection, management, and reporting, and providing a primary point of contact for all sage grouse related action.

The Coordinator devoted substantial time to developing the 2024 Bi-State Sage-Grouse Action Plan, which will guide habitat improvement in the Bi-State region over the next decade.



## Overview

Host Entity: Eastern Sierra Interpretive Assoc.  
Partnership Meetings/Field Tours: 18  
Partners Engaged: 366  
Total Projects Completed: 12

## Partnership Accomplishments

Conifer Removed: 3,547 acres  
Vegetation Management: 237 acres  
Wet Meadow Enhancement: 1,227 acres

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### 4. Buffalo-Skedaddle Sage-Grouse Working Group Project Coordinator (California)



*Supports:* Bishop, Eagle Lake, and Applegate BLM Field Offices  
Established 2020

The Coordinator plays a key role in the improvement of sagebrush ecosystems through efforts that include juniper removal, stream improvement, and the implementation of virtual fencing technology.

This year, the BLM Eagle Lake and Applegate Field Offices worked with a crew from [American Conservation Experience](#) to complete habitat-improvement projects that included inventorying 150 miles of fence, cutting 550 acres of juniper, installing spring protections, building stream repair structures, and treating invasive weeds.

Projects prioritized juniper removal and the protection of fragile spring systems, including the installation of protective fencing. The partnership expanded its virtual fencing projects in Lassen County, with two new Vence antennas covering 27,000 acres for improved grazing and vegetation management. Testing showed over 90 percent effectiveness in controlling herd grazing patterns, enhancing real-time monitoring to make management more efficient. These collaborative efforts demonstrate the group's commitment to sustainable stewardship of the sagebrush ecosystem through a wide variety of projects and innovative techniques.

## Overview

Host Entity: University of California  
Cooperative Extension  
Total Projects Planned: 13  
Total Projects Completed: 7  
Partnership Meetings/Field Tours: 9  
Partners Engaged: 45

## Partner Accomplishments

Conifer Removed: 950 acres  
Improved Grazing Practices: 38,822 acres  
Wet Meadow Enhancement: 84 acres  
Mesic Structures Installed: 109  
Seedlings Planted: 12,500

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### 5. North Park Landscape Coordinator (Colorado)



*Supports:* Kremmling BLM Field Office  
Established 2024

The Coordinator supports the Kremmling BLM Field Office by planning, facilitating, and implementing habitat-improvement projects as well as providing outreach to strengthen community involvement. This position was

responsible for several riparian and wetland enhancement projects in FY 2024, and through collaboration with various organizations, the Coordinator bolstered efforts while fostering civic engagement. Seasonal youth crew employees

from the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps assisted with low-tech wet meadow enhancement projects. Additionally, volunteer organizations such as [Wildlands Restoration Volunteers](#) amplified habitat-improvement efforts.

This year, the Coordinator built relationships with partners and stakeholders by fostering trust through shared experiences, including attending trainings, workshops, and conferences.

### Overview

Host Entity: Colorado Open Lands

Partners Engaged: 4

The Coordinator streamlined project planning by integrating several new geographic information system (GIS) tools, including the Beaver Restoration Assessment Tool, the Colorado Ownership, Management, and Protection service, and the Colorado Beaver Activity Mapper, which allowed for more precise targeting of project areas.

### Partnership Accomplishments

Wet Meadow Enhancement: 19 acres

Mesic Structures Installed: 83

Total Project Funding Completed: \$23,280

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## 6. Northwest Colorado Sagebrush Conservation Partnership Coordinator (Colorado)



*Supports:* Grand Junction BLM District Office, White River BLM Field Office  
Established 2021

The Coordinator collaborates with wildlife, fuels, range, and ecology staff to plan and implement projects, identify priorities, and assist with the preparation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This year, work has expanded into the White River BLM Field Office jurisdiction to meet an increased need for capacity in fuels projects. The Coordinator will manage several upcoming projects and has applied for a [RESTORE Colorado](#) grant for support.

Projects completed in FY 2024 included thinning and mastication, herbicide application, riparian enhancement, and native vegetation replanting. These projects provided work for both local and national contractors. The Coordinator also organized a low-tech, process-based restoration workshop, fostering collaboration among

nonprofits, landowners, and federal agencies to promote key habitat-improvement techniques. Meetings with organizations such as Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, The Nature Conservancy, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) facilitated partnerships and resource-sharing.

A key achievement this year involved developing a mosaic-type mastication treatment by mapping priority areas, conducting site visits, and securing a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to fund project implementation. Additionally, collaboration with CPW secured a custom seed mix from their seed warehouse at no cost, with CPW committing to aerial seeding in a remote, difficult-to-access area. This collaboration will improve crucial winter range on BLM land for big game.



## Overview

Host Entity: Mule Deer Foundation  
Partners Engaged: 16  
Partnership Meetings/Field Tours: 8

## Partnership Accomplishments

Conifer Removed: 460 acres  
Vegetation Management: 911 acres  
Mesic Structures Installed: 89  
Seedlings Planted: 12,000  
Total Project Funding Completed: \$326,729

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### 7. Bruneau-Owyhee Sage Grouse Habitat Project Outreach Coordinator (Idaho)



*Supports:* Boise BLM District Office  
Established 2020

The Coordinator provides technical support for the Boise BLM District Office and the Bruneau-Owyhee Sage Grouse Habitat (BOSH) project. The [BOSH project](#) is one of the largest juniper removal efforts in the country, located in southwest Idaho's Owyhee uplands. The position is critical for keeping open communication between multiple entities, including local BLM offices, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the Idaho Department of Lands, the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service (USFWS), the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Pheasants Forever. FY 2024 was BOSH's best year yet, with the Coordinator managing two major projects—47,166 acres and 16,579 acres—and achieving the highest number of new cutting acres to date. Cumulatively, over 60,000 acres of conifer intrusion into sagebrush rangelands were reduced this year. Additionally, this partnership combated annual grass invasion on over 5,500 acres in their region, representing a wide-scale support of rangeland health across the Owyhee uplands.

## Overview

Host Entity: Pheasants Forever  
Total Projects Planned: 5  
Total Projects Completed: 7  
Partners Engaged: 10

## Partnership Accomplishments

Conifer Removed: 67,368 acres  
Annual /Noxious Weeds Treated: 5,916 acres  
Total Project Funding Completed: \$1,932,603

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### 8. Idaho Natural Resource Specialist (Idaho)



*Supports:* Idaho Falls BLM Field Office, Idaho BLM State Office  
Established 2024

Hired in September 2024, the Specialist assists with forming partnerships, conducting outreach, implementing and monitoring projects, and tracking treatment success. The Specialist prepares summaries for completed and ongoing projects and plans to create an ArcGIS StoryMap

as an outreach tool to share project information in a visual and engaging way.

This position is important to project evaluation and will galvanize new relationships, advance existing partnerships, and bolster trust through collaboration. Planned projects include low-tech,

process-based wetland enhancement to improve quality and seasonal availability of water, vegetative plantings, and fence removal.

### Overview

Host Entity: Pheasants Forever  
Total Projects Planned: 5  
Partners Engaged: 21

### Partnership Accomplishments

Accomplishments for this new position will be included in the FY 2025 report.

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## 9. Range and Wildlife Conservation Biologist (Idaho)



*Supports:* Twin Falls BLM District Office and Burley BLM Field Office  
Established 2018

This position was filled in August 2024 to continue the important work of expediting and expanding habitat enhancement practices across the Burley Landscape Project area through the coordination of partners, including the BLM, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the U.S. Forest Service, public land permittees, and other agencies and stakeholders.

The Biologist contributes to work across multiple landscapes, including large conifer removal projects on Forest Service lands, NRCS programs on private lands, and fuel management on BLM lands.

### Overview

Host Entity: Pheasants Forever

### Partnership Accomplishments

Accomplishments for this new position will be included in the FY 2025 report.

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## 10. Idaho Rangeland Conservation Partnership Coordinator (Idaho)



*Supports:* Idaho BLM State Office, Owyhee BLM Field Office  
Established 2018

The Coordinator supports the Idaho Rangeland Conservation Partnership (IRCP) by planning and participating in meetings, events, and workshops and by serving as a conduit among stakeholders on rangeland issues. The IRCP's unique role in assembling diverse stakeholders for discussions on critical rangeland issues is vital to the creation of partnerships that work toward innovative and collaborative solutions for sustainable, economically viable, healthy rangelands.

This year's IRCP meeting brought together about 100 attendees for presentations, information sharing, and discussion on two timely rangeland topics: renewable energy and virtual fencing. In the discussion of renewable energy, The Nature Conservancy's Renewable Energy program presented on "[Power of Place-West](#)," and a panel discussion titled "Energy Siting: Getting from Challenges to Solutions" gave practitioners valuable resources in energy development.



Panelists included Idaho Power, the Bureau of Land Management, and private landowners.

The Coordinator also worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Idaho Fish and Game, the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation, and the Idaho Bureau of Land Management to facilitate and host regional workshops titled "Water for

Working Landscapes: Mesic Habitat Conservation Across Land Ownership."

The IRCP Coordinator continues to play a vital role in bringing together land management agencies, private landowners, the local community, and other partners to support rangeland habitat improvement.

## Overview

Host Entity: Pheasants Forever

Partners Engaged: 13

Landowners Engaged: 50+

Partnership Meetings/Field Tours: 7

---

## 11. Outcome-Based Grazing Authorization Coordinator (Idaho)



*Supports:* BLM Headquarters

Established 2018

The Coordinator provides capacity to expand the BLM's Outcome-Based Grazing Authorizations (OBGA) effort on public lands and among livestock operators. Fostering relationships with the OBGA demonstration-project participants continues to be a priority and helps in collecting data for the BLM across projects.

The Coordinator presented at the Society for Range Management's annual meeting and the Great Plains and Rocky Mountain Regions Joint Agriculture and Range Conference, discussing cooperative monitoring and the BLM's authorization of grazing flexibility with the public at both meetings.

In collaboration with the IWJV communications staff, the Coordinator helped produce [six short films](#), five internal training modules with accompanying educational materials, an [illustrated](#)

[video](#), and a [printed pamphlet](#) to educate the public and BLM staff on OBGA and grazing flexibility. Additionally, work continued with the BLM, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Jornada, and Tech Matters/Terrasos to improve the [LandPKS](#) mobile application, making it more user-friendly for cooperative monitoring. A soft launch of the LandPKS soils data collection app is underway with offline functionality improvements, while development of the accompanying vegetation monitoring app is progressing.

Now part of the broader flexibility in BLM grazing authorizations, OBGA continues to grow through public outreach and internal BLM education efforts. The IWJV and the BLM remain committed to expanding flexible livestock grazing authorizations and enhancing communication about the program.

## Overview

Host Entity: Pheasants Forever

Demonstration Projects Implementing OBGA Grazing Decisions: 8/10

Communications Projects Completed: 12  
Partnership Meetings/Field Tours: 7

---

## 12. Hi-Line Sagebrush Anchor Landscape Coordinator (Montana)



*Supports:* Malta and Glasgow BLM Field Offices  
Established 2024

The Coordinator collaborates with the Malta and Glasgow BLM Field Offices to implement a wide range of habitat enhancement projects focused on big game migration, grazing management, mesic habitat improvement, conifer removal, woody draw habitat, and grassland enhancement and diversification projects. Operating in a region with strong ranching, community, and working partnerships, the Coordinator engaged 50 partners and at least 24 landowners in just eight months through personal outreach and relationship-building.

All projects were in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, and other partners included The Nature Conservancy; Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks; The Prairie Pothole Joint Venture; and the National

Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The Coordinator played an important role with BLM staff in planning a [conifer tour](#), helping landowners and stakeholders understand the benefits of proposed treatments, including prescribed fire and fuels projects.

The Coordinator and Ranchers Stewardship Alliance colleagues appeared on [Live Under the Big Sky](#), a Glasgow, Montana, radio show, discussing how the Hi-Line sagebrush program will fund and support habitat in North Central Montana, benefiting producers and local communities. Additionally, the Coordinator helped initiate a research project with Ranchers Stewardship Alliance, the BLM, Vence, and Wyoming Migration Initiative researchers to assess the habitat benefits of virtual fencing.

### Overview

Host Entity: Ranchers Stewardship Alliance  
Total Projects Planned: 19  
Total Projects Completed: 8  
Partners Engaged: 50  
Landowners Engaged: 24  
Partnership Meetings/Field Tours: 5

### Partnership Accomplishments

Vegetation Management: 424 acres  
Improved Grazing Practices Planned: 2,697 acres  
Wet Meadow Enhancement: 408 acres  
Total Project Funding Completed: \$252,338

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## 13. Southwest Montana Natural Resource Specialist (Montana)



*Supports:* Dillon BLM Field Office  
Established 2024

The Specialist supports cross-boundary habitat enhancements with a specific focus on soils. Filling

a critical role on the BLM interdisciplinary team while expanding habitat-improvement efforts



beyond BLM-managed lands, the Specialist also coordinates with the Southwest Montana Sagebrush Partnership, the local Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, and the local Natural Resources Conservation Service.

This position serves as the lead soil scientist on a 50,000-acre assessment project of BLM land and

was the designated coordinator for prescribed fire treatments on over 6,000 acres, including private land. The Specialist helped develop a Targeted Implementation Plan boundary for conifer removal, treatment of invasive weeds, and wildlife-friendly fence installation in Beaverhead County and is planning several projects in cooperation with private landowners in Madison County.

### Overview

Host Entity: Pheasants Forever

Total Projects Completed: 2

Total Projects Planned: 9

Partners Engaged: 11

Partnership Meetings/Field Tours: 5

### Partnership Accomplishments

Total Project Acres Planned: 11,228

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## 14 and 15. Southwest Montana Sagebrush Partnership Coordinator and Invasive Annual Grass Coordinator (Montana)



*Supports:* Dillon BLM Field Office, Western Montana District Office

Coordinator established 2018; Invasive Annual Grass Coordinator established 2023

The Southwest Montana Sagebrush Partnership (SMSP) made significant strides in habitat enhancement in FY 2024, increasing its on-the-ground accomplishments while expanding its partnerships and capacity. The Coordinators built on the SMSP's existing success, attracting new collaborators and broadening the partnership's work in the sagebrush steppe ecosystem.

Numerous collaborations were enacted in 2024, including integration of the Dillon [Youth Employment Program](#), which provided over 75 workers for mesic habitat repair and the removal of invasive grass and conifer. Workshops that included riparian restoration project managers throughout the West developed resources to support rural communities, and when the invasive annual grass ventenata was discovered, the SMSP quickly mobilized with partners, including the BLM; Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks; and the local county weed district, to develop a strategic

response plan aimed at eradicating the invasive species.

Continuing a strong focus on controlling invasive annual grass, particularly cheatgrass and ventenata, the two partner positions launched new initiatives in FY 2024, including a flexible grazing program to create ecological and economical sustainability throughout the Missouri River Headwaters region. To support this work, the SMSP has secured over \$2 million in funding for the next five years. Other initiatives include linking habitat project outputs to the local economy through woody biomass utilization. The harvested wood from conifer expansion projects has provided lumber for home building, fencing, and firewood, along with the employment of five local contractors to harvest and transport this underutilized material. Beyond mechanized methods for vegetation and conifer removal, prescribed fire is also a key tool in cross-boundary fuels and sagebrush habitat management projects. The SMSP's advocacy was successful in securing

the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Central Land Office to lead a prescribed burn project across numerous land ownerships to enhance habitat diversity and resilience while reducing fuel loads.

In addition to its work on cross-boundary projects, the SMSP produced numerous technical resources for practitioners and the community, including the following videos and articles:

- [Riparian and Wet Meadow Restoration: Southwest Montana Sagebrush Partnership](#)
- [Fire and Thinning Keep Trees from Invading the Sagebrush Sea](#)

### Overview

Host Entities: The Nature Conservancy and the Beaverhead Conservation District  
Total Projects Completed: 28  
Partners Engaged: 13  
Partnership Meetings/Field Tours: 12

- [The Impact of the Youth Employment Program in Southwestern Montana](#)
- [Burning for Better](#)
- [Songbird Field Study Backs Win-Win Results of "Umbrella Species" Habitat Management](#)
- [Restoring Wildlife Connectivity Across the High Divide](#)

Through these initiatives, the SMSP continues to drive habitat improvement, support local communities, and strengthen partnerships to ensure a sustainable future for the sagebrush ecosystem of Southwest Montana.

### Partnership Accomplishments

Conifer Removed: 7,579 acres  
Mesic Structures Installed: 320  
Improved Grazing Practices Planned: 250,000 acres

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## 16. New Mexico Partner Project Coordinator (New Mexico)



*Supports:* New Mexico BLM State Office, Farmington and Albuquerque District Offices, Taos and Farmington Field Offices  
Established 2021

The Coordinator focuses on partnership facilitation and coordination across agencies to plan and implement on-the-ground habitat-improvement projects for big game and a variety of sagebrush-obligate species. This position allows the BLM and other federal agencies to work inclusively with landowners, state agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other partners, producing more efficient project implementation and collaboration.

This position engages in an array of sagebrush habitat projects in cooperation with public land grazing permittees and manufacturers of virtual fencing to trial tools and practices for prescribed

grazing, shrub thinning, fence removal and modification for wildlife passage, pollinator seedings, and bird-nesting management projects. Planning efforts include water infrastructure projects in wildlife migration corridors, establishment of additional watering sites to keep livestock off riparian areas, and fence modifications in key wildlife migration areas. Outreach and planning efforts continue with oil and gas companies to expand project scale on public and private lands.

Since this position's project docket continues to grow in scope, a seasonal position assisted with vegetation assessments. These assessments



contribute to vegetative planning practices on public lands, further enabling coordination with adjacent landowners to prioritize and increase project size. This partner position has also facilitated landowner participation in funding

programs that enhance migratory corridors by fostering relationships with private landowners. The IWJV's communications team detailed one example of this success in the feature story "[A River of Elk Flows Through Heaven](#)."

### Overview

Host Entity: Pheasants Forever  
Projects Completed: 3  
Total Projects Planned: 9  
Partners Engaged: 7  
Partnership Meetings/Field Tours: 10

### Partnership Accomplishments

Fence Modification/Removal: 7 miles  
Total Project Funding Completed: \$180,367

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## 17. Bristlecone Project Coordinator (Nevada)



*Supports:* Bristlecone BLM Field Office, Ely BLM District Office  
Established 2020

The Bristlecone Project Coordinator position was vacant throughout FY 2024. Partners are currently working to rehire this position to continue impactful habitat-improvement work in this landscape.

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## 18. Montana Mountains Natural Resource Specialist (Nevada)



*Supports:* Black Rock BLM Field Office  
Established 2024

The Specialist assists with coordination, data collection, management, and reporting for prioritized projects throughout the Montana Mountains of Nevada.

The Specialist fostered critical relationships with local stakeholders in the first six months after establishing the position, working to build trust through resource sharing, creativity, partner culture awareness, and added capacity. Wherever possible, this position has participated in various riparian and vegetative restoration efforts

alongside partners and attended an array of meetings to begin building trust with partners. Through this approach, the position enabled passage of new riparian improvement projects within the Winnemucca BLM district and initiated a collaboration with the Seeds of Success program that will flourish in coming years. This position is uniquely able to share resources and expertise from The Nature Conservancy with the BLM, thereby fostering creative development through collaboration.

### Overview

Host Entity: The Nature Conservancy  
Partners Engaged: 18

### Partnership Accomplishments

Wet Meadow Enhancement Planned: 450 acres

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## 19. Humboldt/O'Neil Basin Natural Resource Specialist (Nevada)



*Supports:* Wells and Tuscarora BLM Field Offices, Elko BLM District Office  
Established 2024

The Specialist provides support to the BLM offices in several key areas and focuses on planning, organizing, and implementing stream repair through low-tech, process-based restoration projects. These efforts contribute directly to the stabilization and rehabilitation of aquatic systems that have been impacted by wildfires, including habitat of the Lahontan cutthroat trout. The Specialist works closely with the Wells and Tuscarora BLM Field Offices to lead, organize, and plan stream repair efforts, develop and review documentation for the National Environmental Policy Act, and ensure that resource development is balanced with environmental stewardship through sustainable range-management practices.

Fostering relationships with ranchers has been instrumental in communicating the importance of

these projects to wildlife, riparian, wetland, and fisheries habitat of prioritized areas. This position plans and implements measures to ensure project alignment within the multiple-use mission of the BLM. Recent accomplishments include performing environmental assessments to determine the impacts of grazing on habitat of the Lahontan cutthroat trout; leading a grazing permit renewal, including development of new sustainable grazing plans and range infrastructure improvements; and establishing multi-indicator monitoring. This position has also implemented community outreach efforts, including a Trout in the Classroom program in local schools, generating interest in habitat improvement in the Humboldt/O'Neil Basin.

### Overview

Host Entity: Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition  
Total Projects Planned: 4  
Partners Engaged: 12  
Landowners Engaged: 5  
Meetings/Field Tours: 41

### Partnership Accomplishments

Vegetation Treatment Planned: 60 acres  
Riparian Enhancement Planned: 14,100 feet  
Total Project Funding Planned: \$90,000

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## 20. Results-Oriented Grazing for Ecological Resilience Facilitator (Nevada)



*Supports:* Nevada BLM State Office, Multiple BLM District/Field Offices  
Established 2020

Results-Oriented Grazing for Ecological Resilience (ROGER) is a rancher-led group in Nevada that promotes collaboration among ranchers and agencies to reach land-management objectives that conserve sagebrush ecosystems and support ranching. The group seeks solutions for adaptive

management within current and impending sage-grouse land-use plan amendments to improve ecological resilience, landscape health, and productivity, specifically through livestock grazing. The Facilitator keeps ROGER stakeholders informed and connected primarily by organizing

and facilitating partner meetings and member collaboration throughout the year. This year, the Facilitator worked with ROGER's science team to facilitate the development of a forthcoming grazing-management planning tool. Additionally, this position facilitated a ROGER-hosted field tour covering multiple aspects of range management, including cattle movements on private and public lands and research with the University of Nevada, Reno Experiment Station.

By promoting collaboration among ranchers and agencies, the Facilitator helps to achieve land-management objectives for both sagebrush ecosystems and ranching. The relationships fostered by this position allow a diverse group of stakeholders to benefit from shared lessons and successes. The position also provides an avenue to discuss new programs and initiatives to assist landowners, agencies, and partners in expanding resistant and resilient landscapes.

## Overview

Host Entity: Pheasants Forever

Partners Engaged: 72

Partnership Meetings/Field Tours: 7

Landowners Engaged: 21

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## 21. Oregon Local Implementation Team Coordinators (Oregon)



*Supports:* Vale, Prineville, Lakeview, and Burns BLM Districts and Baker Field Office  
Established 2021

The number of Oregon Local Implementation Team (LIT) Coordinator positions has been increased from three to five, commensurate with expansive Greater sage-grouse habitat in Oregon. Each Coordinator will engage stakeholders in an integrated approach to implementing state and federal sage-grouse conservation strategies. They will also ensure regular communication between the LITs and state-level groups such as the SageCon Partnership, the Oregon BLM, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the U.S. Fish

and Wildlife Service. Each of the five LITs will have a designated Coordinator hosted by a local organization, which will integrate each position into the community, provide local supervision and support, and add value to existing habitat improvement and collaborative work. The Coordinators will also serve as liaisons between federal, state, and local governments and stakeholders, streamlining habitat-enhancement efforts across interest groups and ownership boundaries. Accomplishments will be included in the FY 2025 annual report.

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## 22. Color Country Converging Landscape Coordinator (Utah)



*Supports:* Cedar City and St. George BLM Field Offices  
Established 2024

The Coordinator started in May 2024 and assists with formulating, coordinating, planning, and

supporting habitat-improvement efforts throughout the Color Country of southern Utah.



The Coordinator played a major part in planning six habitat-improvement projects in 2024, with a slew of low-tech, process-based restoration projects planned for next year. The Coordinator also strengthened public outreach by designing interpretive signs that explain upcoming projects, including their benefits to wildlife and the community. This position has fostered

relationships with multiple stakeholders through large-scale habitat projects, enabling organizations and land managers to expand their community impacts. The Coordinator looks forward to expanding low-tech, process-based restoration projects in mesic areas across land-ownership boundaries.

### Overview

Host Entity: Mule Deer Foundation  
Total Projects Planned: 6  
Partners Engaged: 4

### Partnership Accomplishments

Mesic Structures Installed: 120  
Riparian Restoration: 8,976 feet  
Total Project Funding Completed: \$50,000

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## 23. Upper Bear River Community Outreach and Education Coordinator (Utah)



*Supports:* West Desert BLM District Office, Salt Lake BLM Field Office  
Established 2024

The Coordinator position was filled in FY 2025. The Coordinator's key goals are the communication of habitat-improvement opportunities through community outreach and education and the public showcase of information from past, current, and future projects. The Coordinator will play an

important role in broadening efforts between partners such as private landowners, working-lands organizations, and federal, state, and local entities for the completion of habitat-improvement projects throughout the Bear River Watershed.

### Overview

Host Entity: Utah Association of Conservation Districts

### Partnership Accomplishments

Accomplishments of this new position will be included in the FY 2025 annual report.

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## 24. LaBarge Natural Resource Specialist (Wyoming)



*Supports:* Pinedale BLM Field Office  
Established 2024

The Specialist oversees a variety of projects across multiple landscapes. In FY 2024, the position improved wildlife migration corridors through several fence-modification projects, including the active management of 15 miles of drop-down fence during seasonal wildlife migration and livestock movement, leading to

profound benefits for both wildlife and landowners.

The Specialist also implemented low-tech, process-based restoration practices while managing three youth crews in the construction of

400 riparian restoration structures and the planting of willows.

The position provides outreach to the community, practitioners, agencies, and partners to increase

capacity and efficiency for habitat-improvement projects. Outreach efforts included a workshop on low-tech, process-based restoration, hosted by the Pinedale BLM Field Office and Utah State University, and a field day for a local high school that focused on beaver-dam analogs.

### Overview

Host Entity: Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation

### Partnership Accomplishments

Mesic Structures Installed: 79

Total Project Funding Completed: \$54,476

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## 25. Muddy Creek Project Manager (Wyoming)



*Supports:* Rawlins BLM Field Office  
Established 2024

The Project Manager plans and oversees projects in the Muddy Creek watershed with a strong focus on wet-meadow improvement. The position is critical for communication between partners and serves as the primary contact for those seeking information about projects in the watershed.

Over time, Muddy Creek has deteriorated from the loss of beaver populations, years of drought, and overgrazing, resulting in a loss of fish habitat. In FY 2024, the Project Manager improved the area with the construction of approximately 100 low-tech structures consisting of beaver-dam analogs and post-assisted log structures in Upper Muddy Creek and the confluence area of Muddy and Littlefield Creeks. A few weeks after construction,

signs of beaver activity began to appear in the area. The beavers have now begun to maintain most of the beaver-dam analogs and are building new dams as a result of these projects, contributing to the creek's resilience.

The Project Manager also worked with Trout Unlimited to host two separate educational programs to teach young adults about habitat work in the West. These programs were highlighted in the PBS series [This American Land](#). Notably, two news outlets covered the projects' summer fieldwork, and Trout Unlimited produced [Lifeblood](#), a short film highlighting the importance of the watershed and how we are all connected to our water supply in the West, which was released in early November 2024.

### Overview

Host Entity: Trout Unlimited

Partnership Meetings/Field Tours: 7

Outreach Events: 2

### Partnership Accomplishments

Mesic Structures Installed: 91

Total Project Funding Completed: \$80,000

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## 26. Wind River/Big Horn Basin District Invasive Annual Grass Coordinator (Wyoming)



*Supports:* Wind River/Bighorn Basin BLM District Office  
Established 2024

The Coordinator supports the BLM Fuels team and is working through the University of Wyoming's [Institute for Managing Annual Grasses Invading Natural Ecosystems \(IMAGINE\)](#) to organize the treatment of invasive annual grasses. A primary focus of this position is providing pre- and post-monitoring data on project acres to document treatment longevity and effectiveness, vegetation health, and recovery. This data guides habitat-enhancement efforts and helps managers select the most effective treatments for combating invasive annual grasses. In FY 2024, the Coordinator led IMAGINE summer interns in collecting over 1,000 points of vegetation data on more than 20,500 acres of public and private land.

The Coordinator led herbicide treatment demonstration and trial plots by selecting and developing the concept for the demo plots, selecting the sites, and assisting with plot measurements. These plots were sprayed in Washakie, Park, and Hot Springs counties. These

plots will be used next year for outreach purposes and for monitoring the effectiveness of different treatments in the management of invasive annual grasses. The Coordinator collaborates closely with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, the Wyoming Department of Agriculture Weed and Pest Program, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the U.S. Forest Service, multiple habitat-improvement groups, the University of Wyoming, and private landowners to utilize and share resources with the community and habitat-improvement practitioners.

The monitoring efforts of the Coordinator also contributed to the design of a map of invasive annual grasses for the state of Wyoming and are helping to improve remote-sensing capabilities. This data will enable managers to plan more effectively, review treatment results, adjust treatments, identify new areas of focus, and prioritize treatment areas for maximum effectiveness.

### Overview

Host Entity: IMAGINE

Partners Engaged: 35

Total Projects Completed: 37

### Partnership Accomplishments

Annual/Noxious Weeds Treated: 20,555 acres





TELLING THE STORY:

# Communications and Outreach

As many new faces were added to the BLM-IWJV partnership's Sage Capacity Team this year, the IWJV's communications support expanded to keep up with the blooming nature of our partnership. Members of the Sage Capacity Team are strategically situated across the West's public lands to support an array of goals that make a real difference to communities, landscapes, and economies. With so many innovative habitat-management professionals dedicated to this task, our primary obstacle is not in finding stories to tell about cross-jurisdictional land-health improvement efforts, but in determining how to do justice to them all. Our communications efforts in FY 2024 featured stories on grazing management, fire and fuels programs, the mitigation of invasive annual grasses, and other resource-management solutions supporting rural communities.

## *FY 2024 Communications Products and Successes*

The IWJV greatly expanded its production of multimedia storytelling this year, working with contract videographers or, in some cases, fully in-house to produce thirteen high-quality, engaging short films that tell the story of the BLM's community-driven habitat-improvement efforts. The IWJV communications staff also provided feature-length, place-based written stories, dedicated hiring support for field-based capacity positions, and critical resources for rangeland science professionals.

### **TWO VIDEO SERIES ON THE BLM'S OUTCOME-BASED GRAZING**

In 2024, the IWJV collaborated with the Outcome-Based Grazing Authorization (OBGA) Coordinator to produce communications projects showcasing the potential benefits of the BLM's [Outcome-Based Grazing effort](#) for land managers. The collaboration resulted in a six-part, public-facing short-film series titled [Grazing Management for the Future](#), released in September 2024. This series contains over 40 minutes of intimate, engaging footage of ranchers and BLM professionals across five states discussing the benefits of OBGA and grazing flexibility efforts for habitat, livestock, and public resources. The videos in this series have been viewed over 2,800 times collectively on [YouTube](#) as of early 2025. We supplemented this series with an additional short, engaging [illustrated video](#) and

a new pamphlet that both explain the OBGA efforts to the public. The IWJV provided BLM offices with 5,000 copies of the pamphlet to distribute locally to livestock producers and raise awareness of OBGA and grazing flexibilities. Additionally, the IWJV collaborated with the BLM to produce a series of five instructional videos on the nuances of OBGA implementation and a flowchart of the OBGA permitting process to help train BLM staff, increasing internal awareness and knowledge of this process.

### **SAGEBRUSH RANGELANDS STORYTELLING**

A primary focus of our communications staff is storytelling that features the work of our BLM partnership's [Sage Capacity Team](#). In 2024, we produced a feature story to showcase the New Mexico Coordinating Wildlife Biologist's work on behalf of local landowners in northern New

Mexico. This story, titled [A River of Elk Flows Through Heaven](#), was accompanied by original photography as well as a short film for optimal distribution. Western authors, landowner collaboratives, and conference websites have all reshared this story.

To expand coverage of the Sage Capacity Team, we also launched [Field Notes](#), an article series that showcases first-person narratives from land-management professionals in the field. Especially notable *Field Notes* entries include an essay from the [Hi-Line Sagebrush Anchor Landscape Coordinator](#) and a [note from a workshop](#) with the University of Wyoming's Institute for Managing Annual Grasses Invading Natural Ecosystems (IMAGINE). *Field Notes* will spotlight additional team members in 2025.

Finally, in 2024 we expanded our communications regarding the BLM's fire and fuels management programs. The first in a series of fuels-related stories was a feature-length article, [Fire on the Chupadera](#), that illustrates the profound positive impact that BLM fuels treatments have had on habitat in central New Mexico.

### **SAGE CAPACITY TEAM EXPANSION**

The IWJV communications team published job advertisements for 17 Sage Capacity Team and

associated positions in FY 2024. These advertisements included stand-alone web pages, social media campaigns, and external ad placements. The IWJV also provided [onboarding](#) and baseline communications support.

### **SCIENCE RESOURCES FOR RANGELAND PROFESSIONALS**

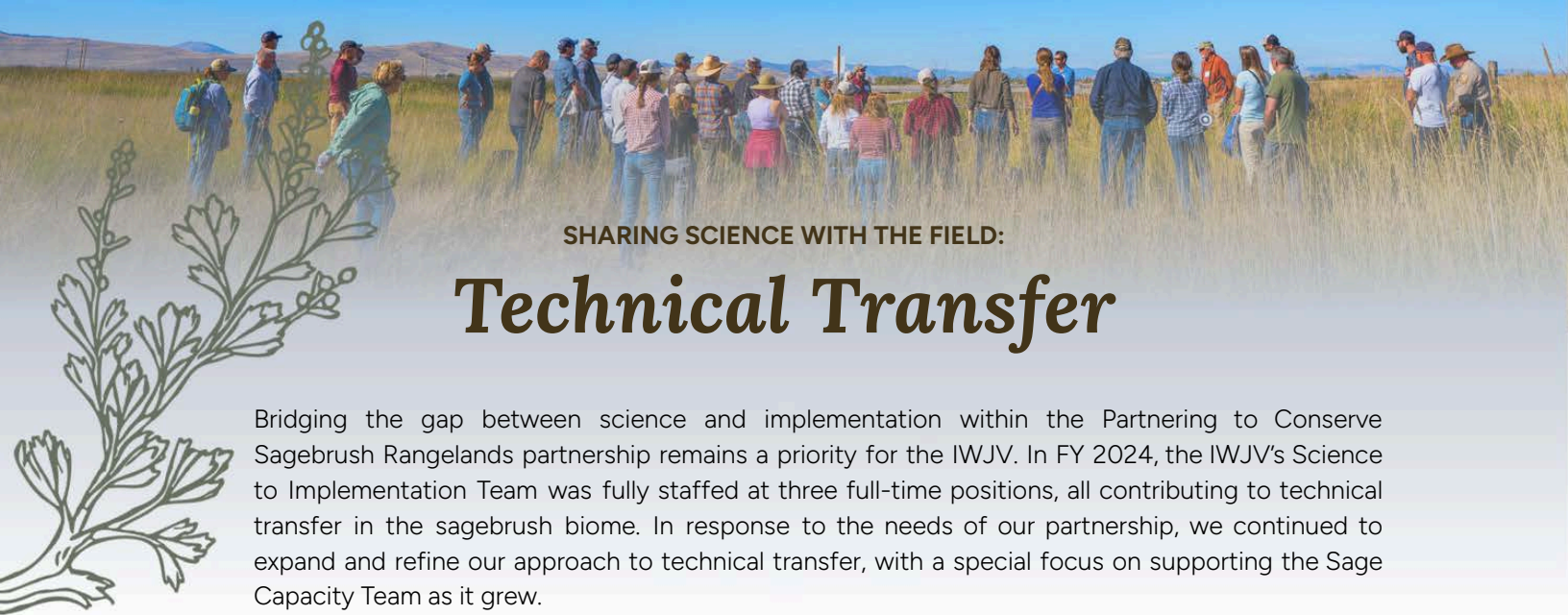
The BLM-IWJV partnership had the privilege of supporting the [University of Wyoming's IMAGINE](#) in producing "Defending and Growing the Core by Breaking the Cycle of Annual Grass Invasion," a virtual workshop on the reduction of invasive annual grasses. Materials from this workshop will remain online for reference by land managers and conservation professionals working to combat the threat of sagebrush habitat degradation by invasive annual grasses.

We also updated several resources on our BLM-IWJV partnership website, [PartnersInTheSage.com](#). These included the "[One-Stop Shop for Zeedyk Resources](#)" guide on low-tech, process-based riparian-health improvement techniques, our [general information page](#), and our pages on [conifer removal](#), [invasive annual grasses](#), and [fire](#). A major overhaul of the partnership's website is planned for FY 2025.

## ***The BLM-IWJV Audience: Analytics & Growth***

The IWJV's communications reached more eyes than ever before in FY 2024, with audience expansions across our social media. Our posts reached 72,000 people on [Facebook](#) and 24,000 on [Instagram](#), a growth of over 500% and 265%, respectively, compared with the previous year—in part due to targeted advertisements for hiring positions. Links to content were clicked over 1,000 times across both platforms, with the highest-performing posts focusing on the public-facing OBGA video series [Grazing Management for the Future](#) and job advertisements.

Overall, we had over 15,000 visitors to the [Partnering to Conserve Sagebrush Rangelands](#) website this year. Our most popular resources were various job advertisement pages, with over 2,500 visitors combined; our feature story, [A River of Elk Flows Through Heaven](#), with just under 1,200 visitors; the homepage for the [Grazing Management for the Future](#) film series, with nearly 1,000 visitors; the new [One-Stop Shop for Zeedyk Resources](#), with over 700 visitors; and our [Sage Capacity Team](#) reference page, with over 500 visitors.



SHARING SCIENCE WITH THE FIELD:

# Technical Transfer

Bridging the gap between science and implementation within the Partnering to Conserve Sagebrush Rangelands partnership remains a priority for the IWJV. In FY 2024, the IWJV's Science to Implementation Team was fully staffed at three full-time positions, all contributing to technical transfer in the sagebrush biome. In response to the needs of our partnership, we continued to expand and refine our approach to technical transfer, with a special focus on supporting the Sage Capacity Team as it grew.

## Technical Transfer Products and Successes

### TECHNICAL TRANSFER SUPPORT FOR THE SAGE CAPACITY TEAM

The Science to Implementation Team continued to support the Sage Capacity Team in accessing, interpreting, integrating, and applying science, data, tools, and best practices through technical transfer. Tailored to the needs of individual SCT positions, our support included onboarding, one-on-one assistance, use of the latest data to prioritize and plan resource management efforts, custom science synthesis, GIS and data support, and targeted outreach. A new effort this year included developing a Sage Capacity Team Community of Practice. In monthly sessions, we facilitated support groups for the SCT on priority resource management topics. An initial session in FY 2024 focused on the Sagebrush Conservation Design, with additional sessions on virtual fencing and low-tech riparian and wet meadow restoration planned for fiscal year 2025.

### IMPLEMENTING THE RIPARIAN AND WET MEADOW RESTORATION STRATEGY

In 2022, the IWJV developed a Riparian and Wet Meadow Restoration Strategy for 2022–2024. In FY 2024, we focused on building broad awareness of low-tech riparian and wet meadow practices and providing access to resources to support practitioners. This included developing a [One-Stop Shop for Zeedyk Resources](#), which includes

factsheets, videos, online training modules, technical documents, research publications, planning and permitting examples, stories of success, and spatial data tools related to Zeedyk practices. Additionally, we developed [simple factsheets](#) to help low-tech newbies learn the basics of Zeedyk and low-tech process-based restoration practices.

### SAGEBRUSH TECHNICAL TRANSFER NETWORK

Technical transfer to bridge science and implementation requires significant time, skills, and expertise, which are rarely explicitly taught or supported. Thus, many people engage in technical transfer with limited capacity or resources. In partnership with the [Institute for Natural Resources](#), the IWJV hosts the [Sagebrush Technical Transfer Network](#). Our network seeks to strengthen the work of those who provide technical transfer within the sagebrush biome by equipping them with resources, training, and access to other professional networks. In FY 2024, our network grew to include 38 members across federal agencies, research institutions, nonprofits, and other organizations. We hosted six sessions focused on highlighting and building the practice of technical transfer. This group supported members of our Partnering to Conserve Sagebrush Rangelands partnership, including the BLM and members of the Sage Capacity Team.





*Photos from Technical Transfer and Communications projects in FY 2024. From left to right: Members of the University of Wyoming IMAGINE Tech Transfer Partnership demonstrate aerial herbicide application at an invasive annual grass workshop; new Sage Capacity Team members study maps in a technical transfer workshop led by IWJV Science to Implementation staff; the New Mexico Partner Project Coordinator and a private landowner partner gaze up at a beloved old ponderosa pine during IWJV communications reporting.*

### **INVASIVE ANNUAL GRASS TECH TRANSFER PARTNERSHIP**

[The Invasive Annual Grass Tech Transfer Partnership](#), facilitated through the University of Wyoming Institute for Managing Annual Grasses Invading Natural Ecosystems (IMAGINE), helps land managers address the greatest threat to the sagebrush biome: invasive annual grasses. Comprised of members from multiple universities, nonprofits, and the private sector, as well as federal, state, and local agencies, this cooperative team embraces the proactive “Defend and Grow the Core” framework as it equips land managers with the knowledge, skills, and tools to effectively manage invasive annual grasses. In FY 2024, this partnership hosted numerous events, including a virtual workshop with over 500 attendees and workshops for local managers in Dillon, Montana; Gunnison, Colorado; Cody, Wyoming; and Sheridan, Wyoming, which were all attended by BLM staff. The IWJV Conservation Coordinator serves on the core team for this partnership, which received funding from the BLM in FY 2024.

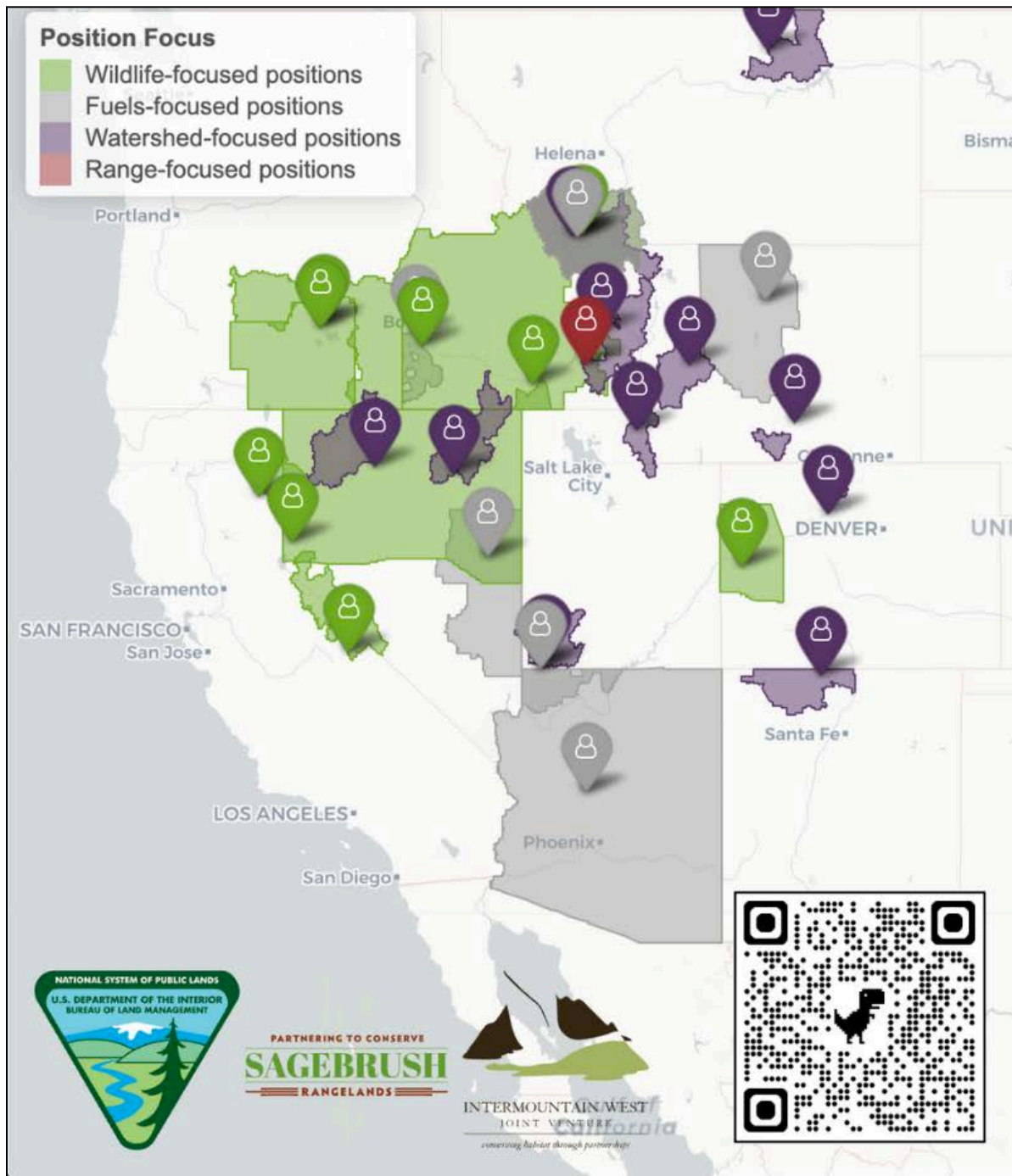
### **SUPPORT FOR THE SAGEBRUSH CONSERVATION DESIGN**

[The Sagebrush Conservation Design](#) used new remote sensing technology to develop spatially and temporally explicit maps of sagebrush rangeland conditions and landscape threats. The IWJV Conservation Coordinator tracked this effort and provided support for technical transfer, ensuring that it was relevant to resource managers, including BLM staff.

### **CAPACITY SUPPORT FOR THE SAGE-GROUSE HABITAT ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK**

The BLM Sage-Grouse Habitat Assessment Framework (HAF) is a multi-scale tool used to evaluate the needs of a sage-grouse habitat. The BLM applies the framework across the sage-grouse range to assess whether its lands provide suitable habitat for sage-grouse. To support the BLM in completing HAF assessments, the IWJV Science to Implementation Specialist assisted the National Operations Center Sage-Grouse Team with report writing.

## Appendix A: Sage Capacity Team Map



An index of our Sage Capacity Team positions, including an interactive webmap, is available on our Partnering to Conserve Sagebrush Rangelands website [here](#) or via the QR code.

## Appendix B: FY 2016–2024 Funding Accomplishments

New funding was added to support field delivery, communications and outreach, technical transfer, and other aspects of our work.

Source	Amount
BLM Headquarters (Wildlife and Fuels Division)	\$15,189,737
BLM State Offices/Other	\$853,740
Partner Contributions	\$7,676,068
Capacity Total	\$23,719,545
Partnership Leverage (BLM : Partners)	68 : 32
Total Project Funds Reported by Other Agencies	\$59,070,619
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$82,790,164</b>



## Appendix C: List of Acronyms

**BLM:** Bureau of Land Management

**BOSH:** Bruneau-Owyhee Sage Grouse Habitat Project

**CPW:** Colorado Parks and Wildlife

**FY:** Fiscal Year

**GIS:** Geographic Information System

**HAF:** Habitat Assessment Framework

**IMAGINE:** Institute for Managing Annual Grasses Invading Natural Ecosystems

**IRCP:** Idaho Rangeland Conservation Partnership

**IWJV:** Intermountain West Joint Venture

**LIT:** Local Implementation Team

**NEPA:** National Environmental Policy Act

**NRCS:** Natural Resources Conservation Service

**OBG (OBGA):** Outcome-Based Grazing (Authorization)

**ROGER:** Results-Oriented Grazing for Ecological Resilience

**SCT:** Sage Capacity Team

**SMSP:** Southwest Montana Sagebrush Partnership

**USFWS:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**WAFWA:** Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies