



INTERMOUNTAIN WEST JOINT VENTURE

# STRATEGIC PLAN

*A guide to long-term landscape resiliency through partnerships*



MARCH 2023



# INTERMOUNTAIN WEST JOINT VENTURE STRATEGIC PLAN

The Intermountain West Joint Venture's (IWJV) Strategic Plan guides our long-term work. The Plan is written to ensure quick adaptation to unanticipated challenges and meet opportunities as they arise while maintaining mission focus. The Plan reflects the complex nature of social and ecological systems within the IWJV landscape and is the guiding document from which the Implementation Plan (a five-year plan) and the Annual Operational Plans (annual spend plans) are built.



## MISSION

Conserve and enhance bird habitats at meaningful scales through capacity building, science, communications, and partnerships.

## VISION

An Intermountain West where people, birds, and other wildlife thrive.

## PHILOSOPHY

The IWJV philosophy can simply be described as a deep recognition that **people are fundamental to the story of conservation in the West**. People dedicated to working lands, both public and private, compose a huge part of our organizational landscape and are core to our everyday functions. Keystone tenets of the IWJV include finding common ground with others, using science to build durable conservation accomplishments with multiple benefits, and strengthening conservation through a lens of relevancy to people.

The IWJV focuses on wetlands and the waters that support them, sagebrush ecosystems, and forests, habitats that collectively encompass the majority of the Intermountain West and support a multitude of bird species. These habitats need collaborative conservation efforts to address their pressing threats: wetlands are drying; sagebrush ecosystems are being impacted by invasive annual grasses, encroaching conifers, and large-scale wildfires; and forests have degraded structure and function contributing to larger and more severe fires. Our approach to this work will stay consistent: **commitment to working lands** and the people who steward them, and **support of land management** practices that sustain bird habitat in a **voluntary, non-regulatory** manner.

## HOW WE DEFINE "Working Lands"

Lands that are used to support livelihoods and wildlife on public, private, and tribal lands. Our approach to working lands conservation focuses on sustaining bird habitat through solutions that enable working lands to continue providing food, fiber, and forest products for people.

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## WHO WE ARE

The IWJV is a self-directed partnership with shared priorities for conservation, governed by a Management Board composed of federal agencies, state fish and wildlife agencies, industry, nongovernmental organizations, private landowners, agricultural producers, and tribal representatives.

The IWJV Management Board and professional staff are a small part of the larger IWJV enterprise. The work is accomplished through the amazing network of conservation managers and implementers we collectively call the **State Conservation Partnerships**. The IWJV's magnitude, scale, and impact are possible thanks to an array of partners far too numerable to name. This massive network enables IWJV to efficiently **achieve meaningful conservation outcomes** in priority habitats.



## HOW WE OPERATE

The IWJV's interdisciplinary staff work to implement the vision and mission. We do this using four core strategies:

### Build and strengthen partnerships to:

- Connect partners across regions to create a network of practitioners who inform conservation program design, share knowledge to further accelerate habitat conservation efforts, and implement conservation strategies at scale to achieve meaningful and long-lasting outcomes.
- Coordinate and leverage funding from multiple sources that advances conservation outcomes.
- Provide a voice representing a diversity of perspectives that collaboratively advocates for strong conservation funding and programs.

### Build capacity to:

- Deliver strategic on-the-ground conservation at scale.
- Accelerate the application and enhance the impact of conservation funding.
- Invest in partnerships and communities to coordinate across boundaries, break through conservation challenges, track success, and facilitate forums.

### Bridge science development and conservation implementation to:

- Help partners access, interpret, and apply science, as well as additional forms of knowledge, to inform bird habitat conservation, conservation programs, and policy.
- Support the production of science and tools that address the needs of conservation practitioners.
- Inform our work with evidence-based approaches.

### Design communications to:

- Craft impactful products and tools that illuminate and elevate conservation challenges, priorities, practices, science, and successes.
- Reach specific audiences with key messages, including actions that can be replicated across landscapes.
- Implement content collaborations and distribution strategies to amplify the reach to the right people at the right time.

## HOW WE DEFINE "Science to Implementation"

Science to implementation—also known as technical transfer—means any effort to support bird habitat conservation by helping partners gain access to, interpret, and apply science, tools, and local and traditional knowledge in the field. This approach seeks to bridge the persistent gap between production of scientific knowledge and delivery of meaningful conservation outcomes."





## CORE VALUES

- Relationships: We forge and sustain lasting relationships through collaboration. We meet people where they are by listening, learning, and supporting strategic conservation. This emphasis on **relationships and shared vision creates relevancy** with a multitude of conservation perspectives.
- Strategic Approach: We bridge science, policy, partners, and approaches to attain landscape-scale conservation. Our **strategic focus is infused into all aspects of our efforts**, from habitat delivery to operations and from administration to communications, and information sharing.
- Innovation: We explore and develop **creative ways to address complex conservation** challenges. In this process, we holistically work across land ownerships, habitat types, conservation programs, funding sources, and social landscapes.
- Get It Done: Through our relationships, strategic approach, and innovation, we **advance tangible, on-the-ground conservation**.



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