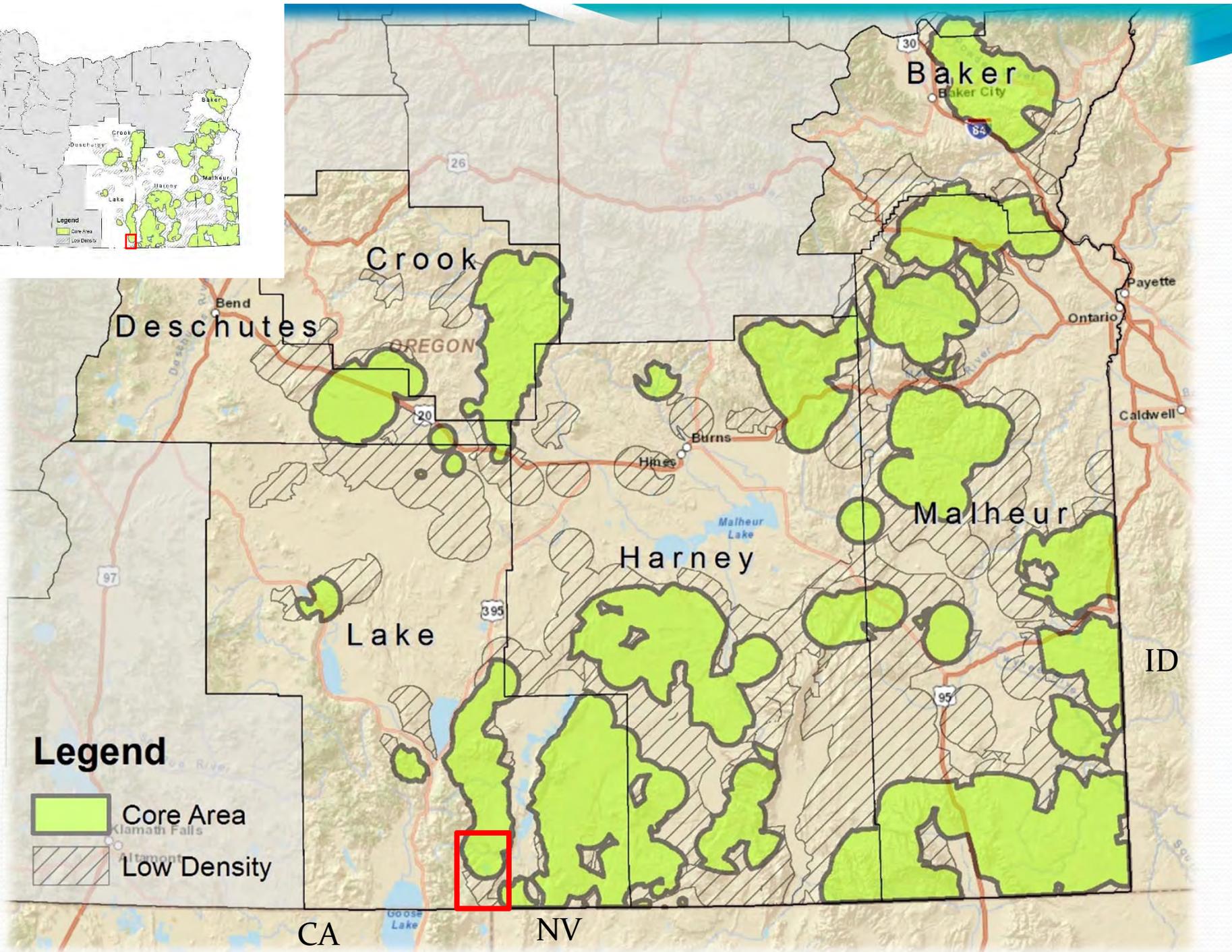
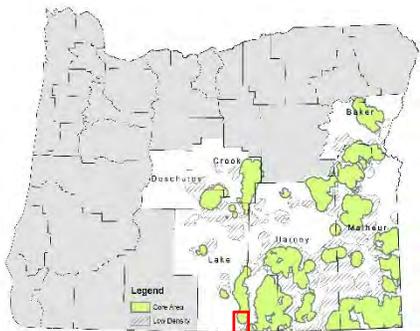


South Warner Juniper Removal Partnership – An Oregon Example





Legend

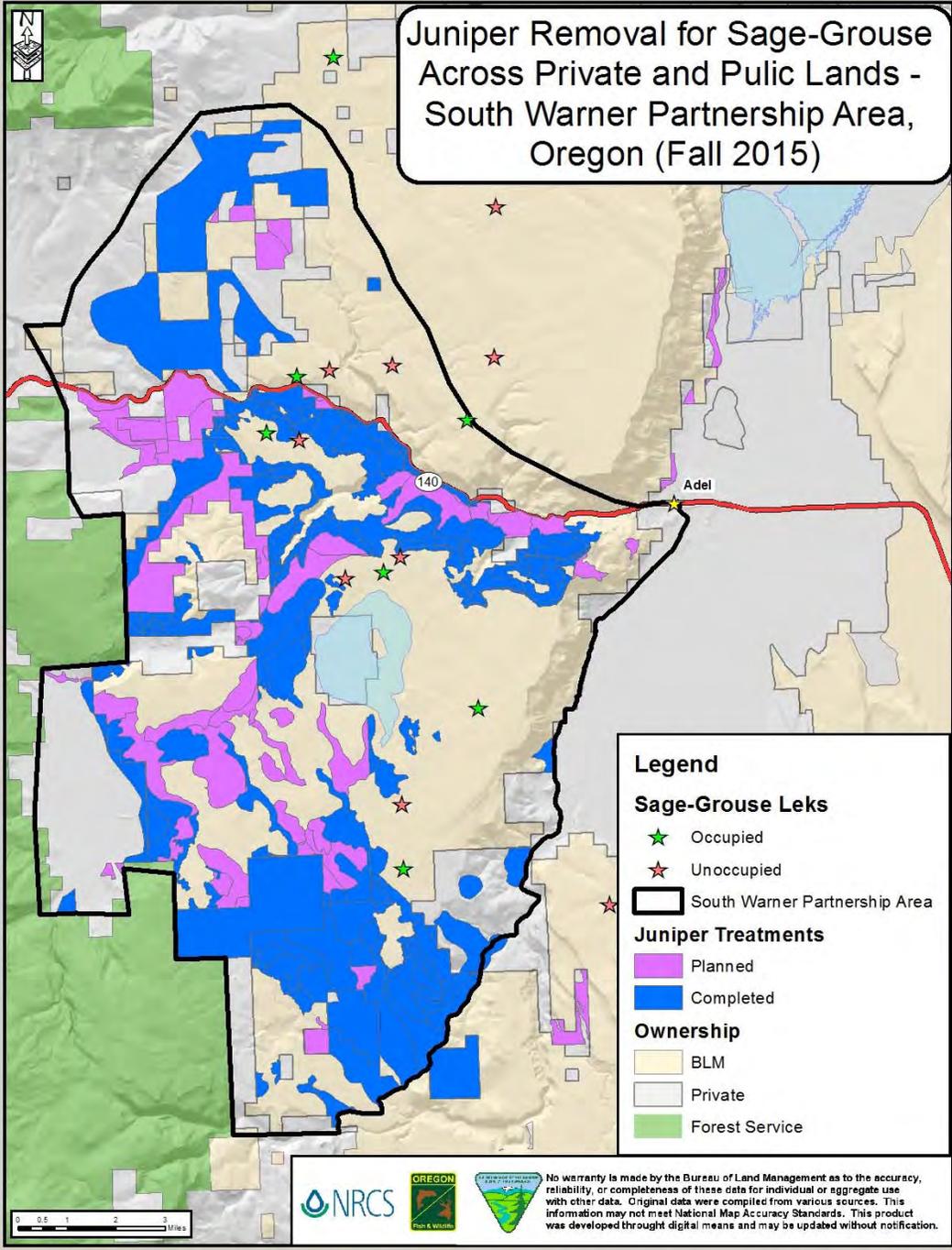
- Core Area
- Low Density



Major Goals & Objectives of the Project

- Restore sage-grouse habitats.
- Improve habitats for bighorn sheep, mule deer and pronghorn.
- Restore aspen stands encroached by juniper.
- Reduce stream sedimentation.
- Maintain integrity of old-growth juniper.
- Maintain habitats for wildlife species that use juniper.
- Design juniper treatments to limit the spread of weeds.

Juniper Removal for Sage-Grouse Across Private and Public Lands - South Warner Partnership Area, Oregon (Fall 2015)



Legend

Sage-Grouse Leks

- ★ Occupied
- ★ Unoccupied

South Warner Partnership Area

Juniper Treatments

- Planned
- Completed

Ownership

- BLM
- Private
- Forest Service



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.

Key Partners – How it Happened?

- Well established partners
 - ODFW, Watershed Councils, NRCS, Universities, Private Ranches
 - Partnerships = People
- Shared Vision – Developed a shared vision with partner input.
- Trust – without this, nothing happens!
- Each partner used their agency mechanisms to leverage support for the project within their agency.



NEPA - How did we determine what to cut?

- Used satellite images to establish juniper stands.
- Inventory - Visited each stand on the ground.
- Assessed wildlife habitats, weeds, fire history, old-growth, other concerns.
- Developed individual treatment prescriptions based on the habitat needs within each stand.



NEPA – Potential Pitfalls?

- Seek to maximize retention of shrub community. – No broadcast burning in SG habitat.
- Avoid controversial treatments.
- Terminology
 - Jackpot Burning
 - OG vs. Pre-settlement
- Built in flexibility for changing prescriptions.
- Post-Treatment rest from grazing.



Alternatives?

- Looked at three treatment alternatives.
- Each alternative treated a different amount of juniper.
- Considered Biomass alternative.
- Considered using more cost effective broadcast burning, no cutting.



Partnerships

- Considered different funding mechanisms.
 - BLM – Fuels/HLI
 - NRCS – SGI
 - ODFW – Mule Deer
 - Ruby Mitigation \$
- Procurement Tips
 - IDIQ
 - Interagency Agreements
 - Assistance Agreements



Treatment Prescriptions

Small Scattered Trees (Rx = Cut Trees Only)

Before Treatment - 2008



After Treatment - 2015



Treatment Prescriptions

Larger Trees at Higher Density (Rx = Cut Trees and *Single Tree Burn*)

Before Treatment - 2013



After Treatment - 2015



Treatment Prescriptions

Larger Trees at Higher Density (Rx = Cut Trees and *Single Tree Burn*)

Before Treatment - 2013



After Treatment - 2015



Treatment Prescriptions

Larger Trees at Very High Density (Rx = Cut, Pile & Burn)

Before Treatment - 2010



After Piling - 2012



After
Pile
Burning
2015



Treatment Prescriptions

Cut, Lop & Burn

Before Treatment - 2010



After Treatment - 2012



Burning Single Trees



- Areas with white ash will require reseeding.



Pile Burning



- Piles will require reseeded.



Machine Cut & Pile



Machine Cut & Pile

- Machine piles are larger, but more widely spaced.
- These will also require reseeded.



Monitoring

- Monitor plant communities before and after treatments to measure vegetative response.
- At a minimum, photo points should be taken.



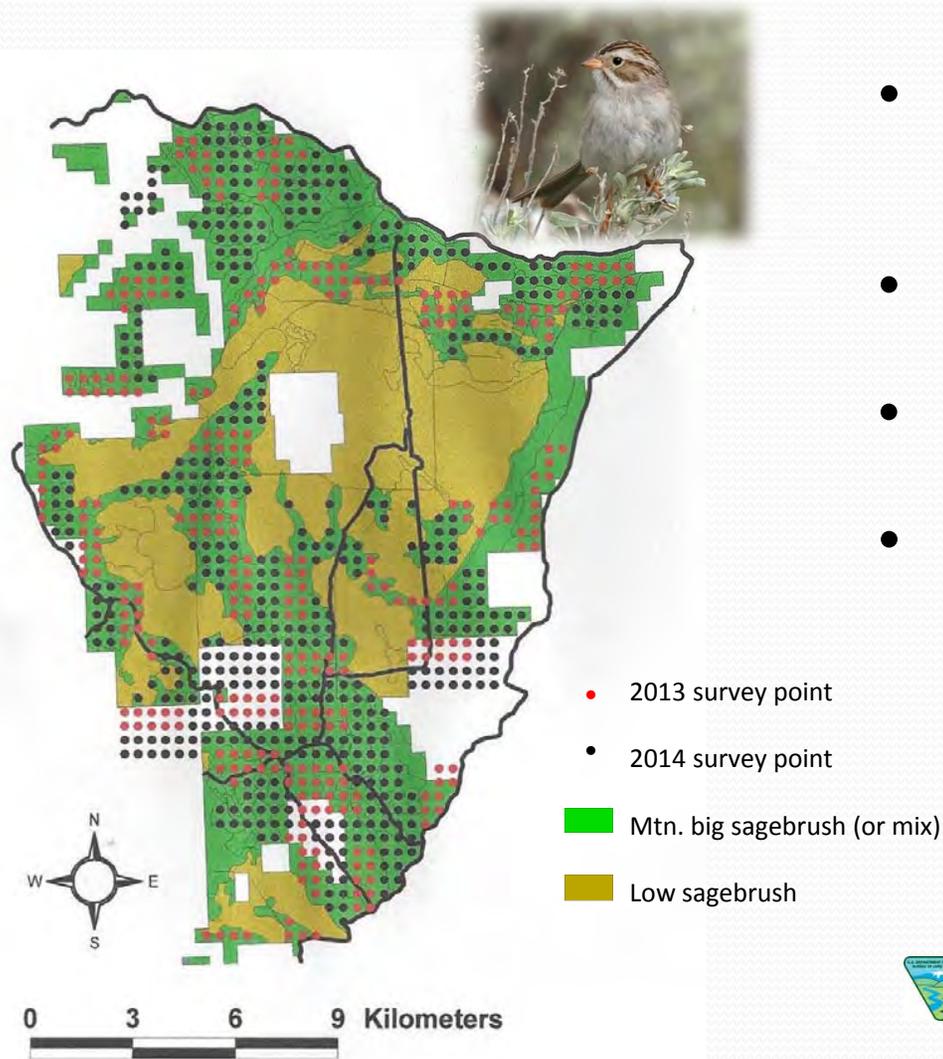
Quantifying Outcomes for Sage-Grouse



- 10-year sage-grouse study
- Two PhD students
 - Phase 1: Univ of Idaho
 - Phase 2: Oregon State Univ
- Effects of juniper encroachment and removal
- Habitat selection, demographics, population trends



Quantifying Outcomes for Sagebrush-Obligate Songbirds



- 2-yr songbird study
 - Field work completed, final report soon
- Point counts conducted over ~800 sampling points
- Effects of juniper encroachment and removal
- Songbird population densities





Summary – Take Home Messages

- Building a Partnership
 - Develop a shared vision (goals) with your partners.
 - Communicate often & instill trust in your partners.
- NEPA / Planning
 - Don't rush, it takes time to work through difficult issues.
 - Involve publics early in the process – take them to the field.
- Manage Your Expectations
 - Build Ownership at all levels from Managers down to the Fire & Monitoring Crews.
 - No project you undertake will ever be perfect.
 - Strive for perfection, but be prepared to accept very good.

Discussion

