

# NRCS Sage Grouse Initiative

Working Together  
to Make a Difference

*Minden, Nevada*

February 25, 2015



**Presented  
by  
California & Nevada NRCS**



# Sage-grouse Initiative Overview

## 2010 NRCS launched the Sage-grouse Initiative

- ❖ A highly targeted and science based landscape approach to delivering enough of the right conservation practices in the right places to elicit a positive sage-grouse population response.
  - *This Initiative has proven attractive to agricultural producers as a voluntary, incentive based approach to achieving wildlife conservation through sustainable ranching.*
  - *SGI uses dedicated Farm Bill conservation program funds at appropriate large scales to alleviate threats that otherwise fragment habitats.*
- ❖ Utilized EQIP and WHIP Conservation Programs
- ❖ Completed a SGI Conference Report with USFWS.
  - *40 conservation practices*



Photo by Rick McEwan

## **2011 NRCS added conservation easements.**

- ❖ *To protect key habitat*
- ❖ *WRP, GRP, and FRPP*

## **2012 Working Lands for Wildlife**

- ❖ *SGI Brought in under WLFW'*

## **2014 ESA Predictability**

- ❖ *Provide ranchers and other private landowners with regulatory certainty that conservation investments they make today help sustain their operations over the long term.*

## **2015 CSP is being added to SGI**

- ❖ *NRCS is piloting use of its Conservation Stewardship Program*
- ❖ *Similar to regular CSP, but with a Sage-grouse focus*

# Sage-grouse Initiative Keys to Success

- ❖ Utilizing the latest Science to strategically focus conservation dollars
- ❖ Cooperative Partnerships
  - Cooperatively focusing conservation towards a common goal
- ❖ Research
- ❖ Education
- ❖ Outreach



Photo by Rick McEwan

# Sage-grouse Initiative Web Site



SAGE GROUSE INITIATIVE  
Wildlife Conservation Through Sustainable Ranching

CONTACT US

ABOUT

OUR WORK

NEWS  
& MEDIA

SAGEBRUSH  
COMMUNITY

TAKE ACTION



**TAKE THE REINS. AND KEEP THEM.**

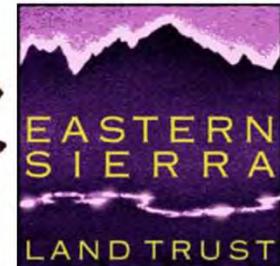
Ranchers in sage country are guiding the future of the places they love and using available sage grouse funds to enrich the range.

**Sage-grouse Initiative**

<http://www.sagegrouseinitiative.com/>



A cross section of partners who are working together on Sage grouse Conservation



# Partnering State Agencies





# *What's good for rangelands, is good for grouse*



## Good for both

- Large, intact landscapes
- Healthy perennial grasses/forbs
- Invasive species management
- Well-designed grazing plan
- Healthy managed riparian areas

## Bad for both

- Fragmented landscapes
- Overgrazing, depleted perennial plants
- Conifer encroachment
- Weeds/annual grasses
- Incised and degraded riparian areas

## Shared Vision

***Wildlife conservation through  
sustainable ranching***

