



February 25, 2015



Senator Richard Devlin and Representative Rayfield, Co-Chairs
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources
900 Court St. NE, Rm H-178
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Devlin and Rayfield,

Thank you for the opportunity to present information regarding the Oregon Department of Agriculture over the last three days.

Below is the department's response to a question raised during Day 3 of the agency's budget presentation.

Regarding sage-grouse conservation efforts, how many federal dollars has been put toward this effort?

Since 2010, the US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS), and its partners in the Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI), have worked with private landowners to restore 4.4 million acres of habitat across 11 western states¹ while maintaining the working farm and ranch landscape.

Through 2014, NRCS has invested \$296.5 million to restore and conserve sage-grouse habitat. Partners and landowners have provided an additional \$128 million, bringing the total SGI investments to \$424.5 million. NRCS has pledged an additional \$200 million over the next four years through the conservation programs funded by the 2014 Farm Bill for this effort.

In Oregon, NRCS has invested \$18.4 million through SGI in on-the-ground restoration, helping more than 100 ranchers remove conifers from 200,000 acres of key nesting, brood-rearing and wintering habitats, addressing 68 percent of the conifer threat to Oregon's sage-grouse population on priority private land. The effort focused on eliminating the encroachment of conifer trees on grasslands not only benefits the sage-grouse, but also improves the forage available on grazing lands.

¹ The western states are Oregon, Washington, California (northern), Nevada, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, North and South Dakota.



If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Katy Coba". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katy Coba
Director