



# Investments in Conservation and Economic Development Vital to Frontier Oregon

Support the Governor’s Recommended Budget of \$600,000 for the Oregon Department of Forestry’s support for Rangeland Fire Protection Associations and the following critical additions:

**Department of Fish and Wildlife**                    **\$425,000**  
Management of state’s sage grouse mitigation program.

**National Policy Consensus Center**            **\$400,000**  
Coordination of Action Plan Implementation

**Department of Agriculture**                    **\$500,000**  
Sagebrush habitat invasive weed control

**Department of State Lands**                    **\$70,000**  
Monitoring state lands covered by an Endangered Species Act pre-listing agreement (CCAA).

### How the Sage Grouse Action Plan is Funded

The Bureau of Land Management, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, private landowners and conservation organizations are all providing significant funding to help implement actions identified in the Sage Grouse Action Plan.

State funding is needed to meet five key roles that can’t be funded by others: management of an effective mitigation program to minimize impacts and support development vital to Frontier Oregon communities; coordination of the SageCon partnership to align state, federal, and private conservation efforts for maximum efficiency and effectiveness; matching funds for invasive species control; monitoring the Department of State Lands CCAA; and support for Rangeland Fire Protection Associations. All of these elements are essential.

In 2015, Oregon completed a comprehensive “all-lands, all-threats” plan to conserve sage grouse—the signature birds of sagebrush habitats of eastern Oregon—and promote rangeland health vital to the future of rural Oregon economies. Backed by funding commitments from the 2015 Legislature, the state’s SageCon Partnership won national recognition as a model for collaborative conservation.

Oregon’s actions played a key role in the federal government’s 2015 determination that the greater sage grouse did not need protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), effectively maintaining state control and averting new federal regulatory restrictions. The decision not to list sage grouse under the ESA will be up for review again in 2020. Continued progress in implementing the state’s plan will be a critical factor in the upcoming review.

The state’s Sage Grouse Action Plan has five key elements: protections for significant sage-grouse habitat under Oregon’s land-use laws; coordinated and strategic investment of federal, state and private funds and actions; development of an effective mitigation program; improving Oregon’s ability to prevent and contain wildfires; and proactive investments in juniper removal and control of invasive annual grasses in sage grouse habitat.

**The state needs to make ongoing investments to implement the action plan and avert the need for a future ESA listing. If Oregon and other states do not follow through on their commitments, we risk increased federal regulation of land use and management over nearly one-third of Oregon.**

In addition to benefits to sage grouse, investments in the Sage Grouse Action Plan provide benefits to rural communities in Frontier Oregon through improved rangeland health for ranchers, improved wildfire protection, creation of rural jobs, healthy wildlife and recreation, and sustainable pathways for renewable energy, mining, and other economic development activities.

In 2015, legislators approved more than \$3 million in additional General Fund support for the state’s sage grouse conservation and rural community efforts. For 2017-19, the governor’s recommended budget would continue some of this support. However, legislative action is needed to fill several holes in the state budget that jeopardize the success of Oregon’s efforts at a time when the state cannot afford to back off on its commitments.

**FUNDING PRIORITIES ARE SUPPORTED BY: Oregon Cattlemen’s Association , The Nature Conservancy, Audubon Society of Portland, Association of Oregon Counties and the Oregon Natural Desert Association**

# Comparison of the 2015-2017 Legislatively Adopted Budget and the 2017-2019 Need

	2015-17 Legislatively Adopted Budget	2017-19 Governor's Recommended Budget	2017-19 Need
<b>Wildfire suppression and management</b>	\$1,600,000	\$600,000	\$600,000 for ODF
<b>Invasive Species Control</b>	\$100,000	0	\$500,000 for ODA
<b>SageCon Coordination</b>	\$300,000	0	\$400,000 for National Policy Consensus Center (Oregon Consensus)
<b>Development and mitigation</b>	\$586,000	0	\$425,000 for ODFW mitigation program coordination
<b>Habitat improvement</b>	\$500,000	0	Can be funded through other sources
<b>State lands management</b>	0	0	\$70,000 for DSL monitoring required under CCAA
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$3,086,000</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>	<b>\$1,995,000</b>

