



Investments in Conservation and Economic Development Vital to Eastern Oregon

Support the Governor's Recommended Budget of \$650,000 for Oregon Department of Forestry's support of Rangeland Fire Protection Associations and the following critical additions:

Department of Fish and Wildlife **\$425,000**
Management of state's sage grouse mitigation program. (POP 110)

Oregon Consensus **\$400,000**
Government to Government and stakeholder coordination and conflict resolution.

Department of Agriculture **\$500,000**
Rangeland Health and Resilience

Department of State Lands **\$70,000**
Monitoring state lands covered by an ESA pre-listing agreement (CCAA). (POP 105)

How the State's Action Plan is Funded:

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

State funding is needed to meet five key roles that can't be funded by others: (1) management of an effective mitigation program to minimize impacts and support development vital to Eastern Oregon communities; (2) coordination of the SageCon partnership to align state, federal, and private efforts for maximum efficiency and effectiveness; (3) provide matching funds for invasive species control; (4) meet monitoring requirements associated with the Department of State Lands CCAA; and (5) support local 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 and economic development vital to the future of rural eastern 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 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 the species under the ESA will be up for review in 2020. Continued progress in implementing the state's plan will be a critical factor in that review.

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

The State needs to make ongoing investments to implement the Action Plan. If Oregon and other states don't follow through with our commitments, we risk increased federal regulation of land use and management, and we will fail to address threats that will have increasing impacts on rural communities, economies and ecosystems. over nearly one-third of Oregon.

In addition to benefits to sage grouse, investments in the Action Plan benefit rural communities in Southeast and Central 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.

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 continues some of this support. However, legislative action is needed to fill several budget holes 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, Oregon Natural Desert Association, Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, Oregon Hunters Association

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

Budget Elements	2015-17 Legislatively Adopted Budget	2017-19 Governor's Recommended Budget	2017-19 Need
Economic Development and Mitigation	\$586,000	0	\$425,000 ODFW POP 110
Rangeland Fire Protection and Management	\$1,600,000 ODF budget	\$650,000	\$650,000 ODF POP 314
Invasive Species Control	\$600,000 ODA Budget	0	\$500,000 ODA Budget
SageCon Coordination	\$300,000 DLCD Budget	0	\$400,000 Oregon Consensus
Habitat improvement	\$590,000	0	To be funded through other sources
State lands management	0	0	\$70,000 Monitoring required for State CCAA (DSL POP 105)
Totals	\$3,676,000	\$650,000	\$2,045,000

