

Lorien Belton works in the Community-Based Conservation Program (CBCP) at Utah State University (USU) in Logan, Utah. She has a bachelor's degree in Earth Systems from Stanford University and a master's degree in Sociology of Natural Resources from USU. In her role with the CBCP, she facilitates several of the sage-grouse local working groups (adaptive resource management groups) in Utah. She also facilitates planning meetings with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and other partners to implement the state Wildlife Action Plan, and participates in the Utah Partners for Conservation and Development. She has also managed stakeholder scoping meetings for the College of Natural Resources at USU. Prior to coming to USU, she spent four and a half years at Rare, an international nonprofit conservation organization in Arlington, Virginia, which focuses on making conservation efforts both economically and socially viable for communities around the world. In 2007, she co-organized the 2007 International Symposium for Society and Resource Management, a 700-person academic conference, in Park City, Utah. Raised in Wyoming, she returned to the West to study collaborative conservation planning in ranching communities. Between 2006 and 2009, she conducted a needs assessment for the 60+ sage-grouse local working groups across the western United States. Her master's thesis examined the concept of 'psychological ownership' of individuals in the work of these groups. Other major products from the research include presentations of findings to a wide variety of audiences, training materials to enhance the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) outreach to sage-grouse local working groups, and a technical report containing the full results of the needs assessment.

