

# THE COMMUNICATOR

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF UTAH'S COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Published by the Berryman Institute for Wildlife Damage Management



DECEMBER 2022

*Holiday Edition*

Extension  
UtahStateUniversity

Volume 22, Issue 1

## CELEBRATING OUR PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION

Twenty 26 years ago, the concept about implementing a local working group process in Utah to better work with local communities to conserve sage-grouse emerged on a cold snowy day in Monticello, Utah. In 1995, in partnership with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Utah State University Extension launched the Utah Community-based Conservation Program to better engage Utah stakeholders in critical conversations about sage-grouse and natural resources management. By engaging those stakeholders most affected by human and natural resource conservation decisions in discovery, research, and management, the partners hoped to validate the role of local communities in developing policies guiding the management of western working landscapes. The local working group process sought to create achieving organizations not by reallocating governmental power, but rather augmenting that power with increased partner responsibility. The partners were asked to define their contributions. In doing so, they have focused to developing competencies of empathy, respect, and adaptation to change; without change there can be no progress.

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All that they have achieved, they have done so as partners, and in doing so they have learned more about each other as human beings. The partners assumed the risks; financial, policy, relationships, and otherwise. If one partner fails, they all fail; if one succeeds, they all succeed.

In this newsletter, we share a diverse montage of photos and figures from newsletters past to both recognize and celebrate the role of local working groups in conservation in Utah. It has been a beautiful struggle!!

Happy Holidays

Terry A. Messmer Nicki Frey Lorien Belton Dave Dahlgren Simona Picardi Angie Jensen

Utah Sage Grouse click this link: <https://youtu.be/yNTaGwFmQf8>

DECEMBER 2022

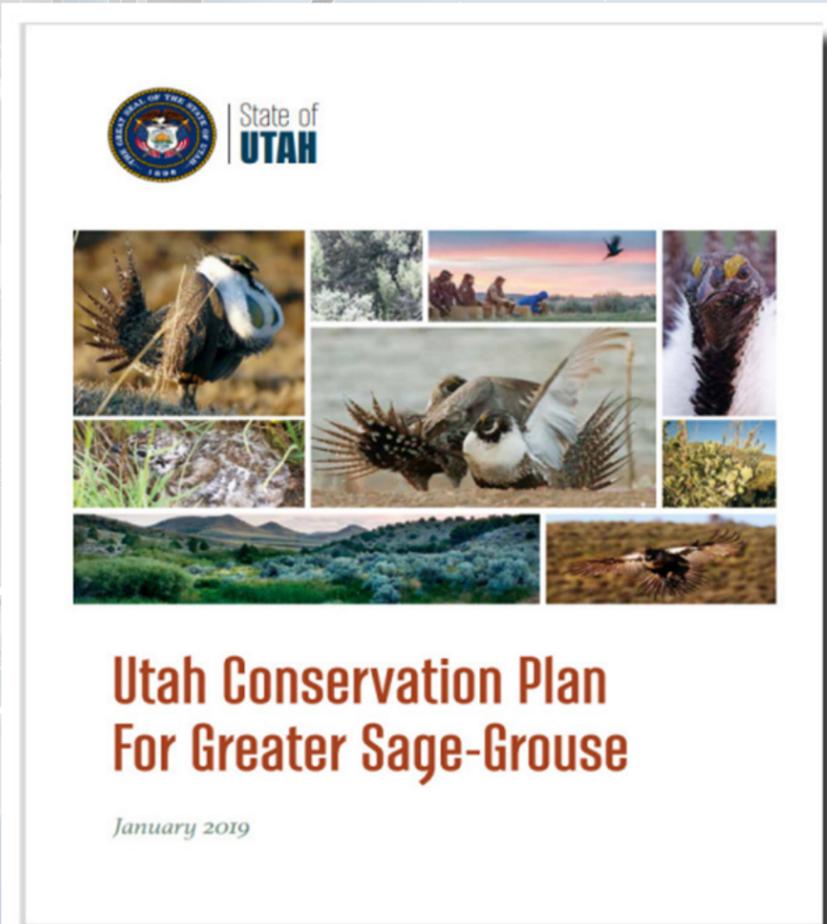
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Jason DeForest, Utah Public Lands Policy Coordination Office

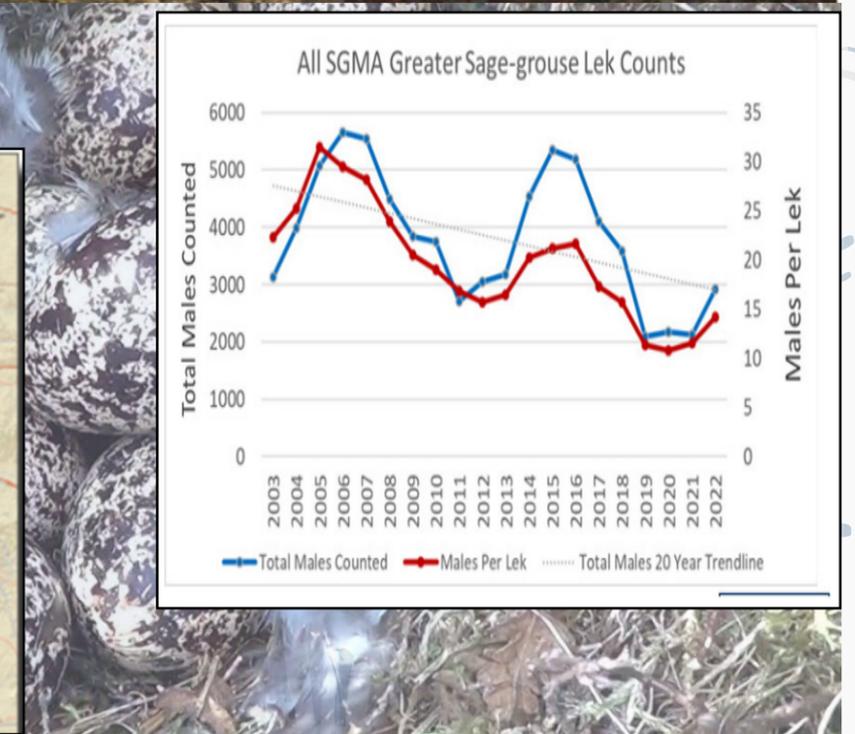
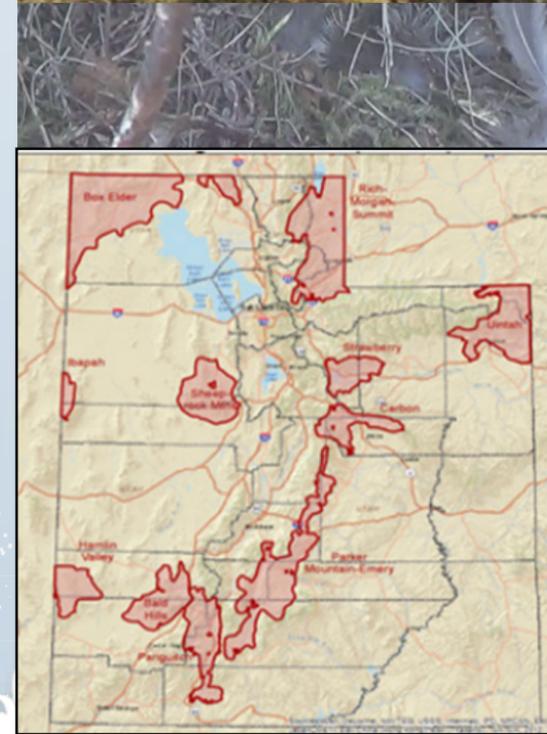
**2019 Utah Conservation Plan for Great Sage-grouse to be revisited in 2023**

The Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”) is currently in the process of reviewing and revising its management plans for greater sage-grouse throughout the species’ range. While the timeline is subject to change, the BLM intends to issue a draft EIS to the public in July 2023 and finalize a record of decision by June 2024. The State of Utah (“State”), with coordination through the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office (“PLP-CO”), is working with the BLM as a cooperating agency and will continue being actively involved throughout the planning process. The full extent of the BLM’s proposed changes is currently unknown, but the BLM is considering whether revisions are necessary for all elements of its prior plan.

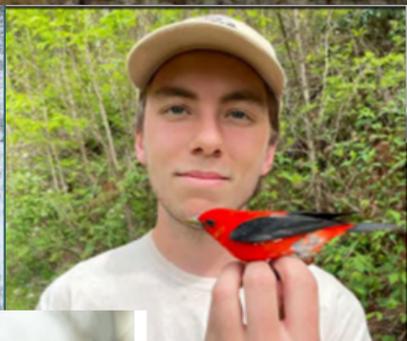
In light of the BLM’s ongoing planning process, the State is also engaging stakeholders to consider revisions to the State’s greater sage-grouse plan, which was adopted in 2019 and currently governs management throughout the State. Some potential issues for consideration include, but are certainly not limited to, mapping of sage grouse management areas, revisions to the current disturbance cap and measurements for guidance of the same, and revisions to the processes governing habitat rehabilitation projects. As the planning process proceeds, the State intends to engage all sage grouse local working groups to consider and evaluate potential plan changes and how local conditions will affect those changes. The State has not set a timeline for revisions to the State greater sage-grouse plan but anticipates continuing these state-specific efforts concurrently with the BLM’s planning process.



COLLAGE OF EVENTS

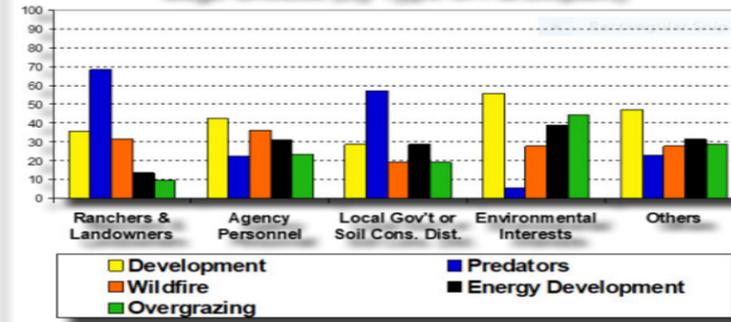


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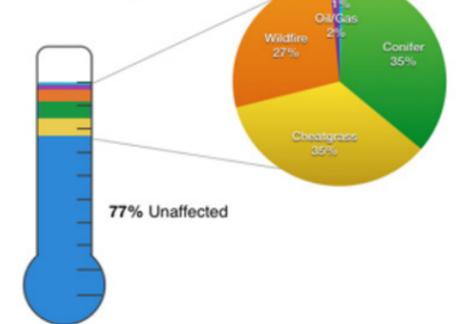


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Percent Citing Factor as "Serious Threat" to Sage-Grouse (by Type of Participant)



Quantified Threat Analysis Based on SGMA acreage affected



THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT!!



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COLLAGE OF EVENTS

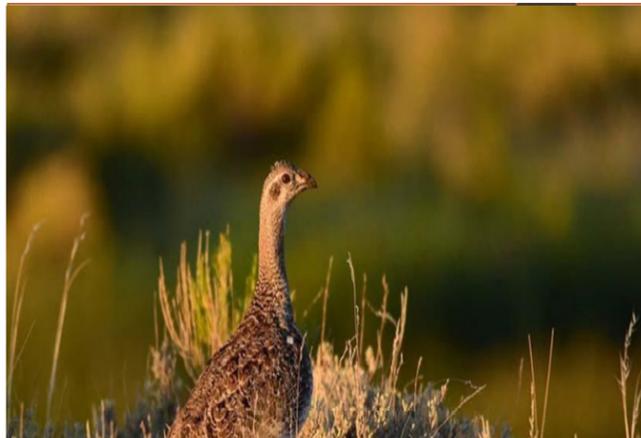


Figure 1. The capture and radio-marking of greater sage-grouse with rump-mounted GPS transmitters has become the new standard for sage-grouse research in Utah.



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**If it's not good for communities,  
it's not good for wildlife.**

VISIT US ON OUR NEW WEBSITE!  
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### Utah's Community-Based Conservation Program Mission

Utah's Community-Based Conservation Program is dedicated to promoting natural resource management education and facilitating cooperation between local communities and natural resource management organizations and agencies.

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