

Guide to Stakeholder Groups for Great Basin Sagebrush Steppe Restoration

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Using this guide

This guide is intended to provide information on active stakeholder interest groups focused on restoration of sagebrush ecosystems in the Great Basin region. It is based on a comprehensive search of internet websites, recently filed litigation records, previous interviews, and discussions with land managers in the region. The information contained in the guide is representative of the general environment in which restoration activities are conducted in the six states comprising the SageSTEP project, and is not meant to be an all-inclusive listing of groups. All efforts were made to identify groups most active and thus most pertinent to land managers and researchers in the region. There undoubtedly exist additional groups active on a more local level, which are equally as significant to restoration activities as those identified here. The guide, as developed, is intended to be particularly useful for those working in fuels treatments and NEPA issues.

Online version of the guide

The information provided in this guide is also available on the SageSTEP website at www.sagestep.org/pubs/stakeholderguide/intro.html.

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Introduction

As efforts are made to restore the health and functioning of sagebrush ecosystems within the Great Basin, various stakeholder interest groups have the potential to offer partnerships as well as adversarial involvement with land managers tasked with restoration. Given that greater than 60% of the Great Basin is publicly owned and managed by the Bureau of Land Management and other federal agencies, it is critical for those working in restoration to understand the views held by key stakeholder groups that may enhance or impair such efforts (Brunson and Peterson 2007). Gaining knowledge about and familiarity with those interest groups active in their respective regions, land managers can begin to identify the needs and priorities of individual stakeholders, and can integrate those positions into restoration planning to more effectively predict and avoid contention and conflict (Brunson and Peterson 2007). While the issues facing the Great Basin ecosystem increasingly become more complex and difficult to manage, it has been shown that stakeholder interest groups and land managers tend to agree on the needed use of restoration treatments by management agencies to address the current threats to public rangelands. Thus, it is vital for land managers to cultivate a thorough understanding of stakeholder groups most likely to assume an active role in public lands restoration.

Section 1: Issues facing Great Basin sagebrush restoration

Issues confronting sagebrush restoration efforts in the Great Basin can be classified as ecological, social, political, and economic in nature (Brunson and Peterson 2007). Public land managers and citizen stakeholders both perceive lack of proper funding as a critical impediment to effective management, financing litigation and appeals, implementing restoration treatments, and conducting monitoring and follow-up of post-treatment sites. Various stakeholder groups may focus on issues relating to their own environmental interests and involvements on rangeland landscapes. Environmental interest groups traditionally focus on issues relating to livestock grazing, land degradation from recreational activities, surface development by extractive industries, and what may be described as a lack of clarity and accountability within federal agencies. Livestock and ranching stakeholders focus on issues that relate to regular interactions with federally employed range conservationists and technicians, as well as governmental interference within agencies, more widespread surface development of rangelands, and lack of the use of local knowledge by agencies in rangeland management and planning. User groups representing recreationists on rangelands tend to focus on issues such as loss of access, increase in surface development, and lack of clarity within management institutions at various scales. Finally, groups such as research institutions and university extension offices focus on training of federal employees, lack of incentive and accountability within federal agencies, and decreased programs within universities focusing on rangeland ecology (compiled from Brunson and Peterson 2007).

Section 2: Identified interest groups

The following section contains a listing of stakeholder groups identified as active in the Great Basin region. Some of these groups focus specifically on the Great Basin ecosystem, while others are additionally active at a national or even international scale. For each identified group, the following information is provided:

- Group name
- A color-coded categorization of perspective and strategic position, from the following:



Conservation

Groups that seek to protect the habitats of plants and animals, and whose interests are grounded in the ethic of conserving and protecting natural resources



Information

Groups that provide information or participate in education or outreach activities for stakeholder groups or the general public



Management

Groups charged with the administration and management of lands or resources



Research

Groups that pursue scientific research with the aim of generating data



Utilization

Groups that support economic and recreational uses of rangelands including livestock grazing, agricultural production, hunting, ATV use, etc.

- A brief summary of each group's stated position or mission
- Website information
- Identified geographic focal area of interest

It should again be noted this list is not intended to provide a complete listing of active groups in the Great Basin region. Rather, a general understanding of the environment in which land managers operate can inform planning for current and future restoration activities.

The groups listed on the following pages are those considered noteworthy to this type of work.

Did we miss one?

If you notice a group we omitted, please email lael.gilbert@usu.edu to be considered for inclusion.

American Forage and Grassland Council

Utilization: To promote and develop the forage industry.

URL: <http://www.afgc.org>

Focal area: National, Great Basin



American Land Conservancy

Conservation: Great Basin Program aims to conserve additional open space, natural resources, critical habitat, and productive rangelands that remain at risk in the face of steady development pressure.

URL: <http://www.alcnet.org/projects/overview/basin>

Focal area: National



Audubon Society

Conservation: To conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats.

URL: <http://www.audubon.org/>

Focal area: National



The Andrus Center for Public Policy

Information: Dedicated to independent, non-partisan policy formation on critical issues.

URL: <http://www.andruscenter.org>

Focal area: Idaho, regional, national



Avian Knowledge Network

Information: To understand the patterns and dynamics of bird populations across the Western Hemisphere.

URL: <http://www.avianknowledge.net>

Focal area: National



Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

Utilization: To ensure America's outdoor heritage in a natural setting, through education and work in behalf of clean water and wilderness.

URL: <http://www.backcountryhunters.org>

Focal area: National



Blue Ribbon Coalition

Utilization: Dedicated to preserving responsible recreational access to public lands.

URL: <http://www.sharetrails.org>

Focal area: National



Bureau of Indian Affairs

Management: To provide services to American Indians and Alaska Natives.

URL: <http://www.doi.gov/bia>

Focal area: National



Bureau of Land Management

Management: To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

URL: <http://www.blm.gov>

Focal area: National



Center for Biological Diversity

Conservation: To secure a future for all species through science, law, and creative media.

URL: <http://www.biologicaldiversity.org>

Focal area: Regional, national, international



Center for Invasive Species Management

Information, Research: To promote ecologically sound management of invasive species in western North America.

URL: <http://www.weedcenter.org>

Focal area: Western Region



Central Oregon Partnerships for Wildfire Risk Reduction

Management: Multi-stakeholder collaboration project aimed at reducing wildfire risk, enhancing ecosystem health, and providing community jobs and income in Central Oregon.

URL: <http://orsolutions.org/osproject/wildfire-risk-reduction>

Focal area: Oregon



Consortium for Integrated Climate Research in Western Mountains (CIRMOUNT)

Information, Research: A collaborative, interdisciplinary consortium dedicated to understanding climates and ecosystems of western North American mountains.

URL: <http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/cirmount/>

Focal area: Western region



Consortium of Intermountain Region Herbaria (CIRH)

Information: Make specimen information available and usable via the internet.

URL: <http://intermountainbiota.org>

Focal area: Great Basin



Cooperative Sagebrush Initiative

Conservation: Cooperative conservation through partnerships, science, and incentives

URL: <http://sandcounty.net/projects/csi/>

Focal area: Western region



Defenders of Wildlife

Conservation: Work to protect and restore America's native wildlife, safeguard habitat, resolve conflicts, work across international borders and educate and mobilize the public

URL: <http://www.defenders.org>

Focal area: National, international



Desert Research Institute

Research: The environmental research arm of the Nevada System of Higher Education.

URL: <http://www.dri.edu>

Focal area: Nevada



Ducks Unlimited

Conservation: Habitat conservation.

URL: <http://www.ducks.org>

Focal area: North America



Earth Justice

Conservation: A non-profit public interest law firm dedicated to protecting the magnificent places, natural resources, and wildlife of this earth, and to defending the right of all people to a healthy environment

URL: <http://www.earthjustice.org>

Focal area: National



Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition

Conservation: To restore the Great basin ecosystem through collaborative efforts

URL: <http://www.envlc.org>

Focal area: Eastern Nevada, Great Basin



Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center

Research: A cooperative research effort between Oregon State University and USDA-ARS focusing on rangeland ecology and restoration of wildlands, environmentally compatible livestock systems, forage crops, and alternative livestock systems

URL: <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/eoarc>

Focal area: Great Basin, Pacific Northwest



Ecologically-Based Invasive Plant Management

Information, Management: Science-based solutions for invasive annual grasses.

URL: <http://www.ebipm.org>

Focal area: National



Environmental Council of the States

Conservation, Information: To improve the capability of state environmental agencies and their leaders to protect and improve human health and the environment

URL: <http://www.ecos.org>

Focal area: National



Friends of the Earth

Conservation: To protect the rights of all people to live in a safe and healthy environment

URL: <http://www.foe.org>

Focal area: International



Grassland and Shrub Steppe Species Collaborative

Research, Utilization: Serves to identify the impacts, if any, wind energy has on grassland and shrub steppe avian species.

URL: <http://www.nationalwind.org/issues/wildlife/g33c.aspx>

Focal area: National/West



Great Basin Bird Observatory

Conservation: Dedicated to the conservation of birds and their habitats in the Great Basin and the northern Mojave Desert through partnerships, public education, and applied research.

URL: <http://www.gbbo.org>

Focal area: Great Basin and Northern Mojave Desert



Great Basin Business and Tourism Council

Utilization: Promote tourism and businesses in and around Baker, Nevada.

URL: <http://www.greatbasinpark.com/>

Focal area: Nevada



Great Basin Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Information: To provide research, technical assistance and education to federal land management, with emphasis on working collaboration

URL: <http://www.cabnr.unr.edu/GBCESU>

Focal area: Great Basin



Great Basin Ecosystem Management Project

Research: A collaborative, interdisciplinary approach to increase understanding of Great Basin ecosystems. (USDA-FS)

URL: <http://www.cabnr.unr.edu/gbem>

Focal area: Great Basin



Great Basin Environmental Program

Conservation: Supports with funding initiatives addressing environmental issues in the Great Basin.

URL: <http://greatbasinenvironmentalprogram.org/>

Focal area: Great Basin



Great Basin Fire Science Delivery

Information: Develops tools to meet managers' information and technical needs on fire, fuels, and post-fire vegetation management

URL: <http://www.gbfiresci.org/>

Focal area: Great Basin



Great Basin Information Project

Information: To provide consolidated and efficient access to information about the Great Basin and Columbia Plateau regions of the Intermountain West

URL: <http://greatbasin.wr.usgs.gov/>

Focal area: Great Basin, Columbia Plateau



Great Basin Institute

Conservation, Information, Research: An interdisciplinary field studies organization promoting environmental research, education, and conservation

URL: <http://www.thegreatbasininstitute.org>

Focal area: Great Basin



Great Basin Integrated Landscape Monitoring



Research: To improve the understanding of land conditions and impacts of land use, to evaluate management actions, and to provide knowledge for informed decision making. (USGS)

URL: <http://www.usgs.gov/features/greatbasin/index.html>

Focal area: Great Basin

Great Basin Intertribal NAGPRA Coalition



Management: Provides a process for museums and federal agencies to return Native American cultural items to lineal descendants and culturally affiliated Indian tribes.

URL: <http://www.nps.gov/nagpra/>

Focal area: Great Basin

Great Basin Landscape Conservation Cooperative



Conservation, Information, Research: Enhances understanding of the effects of changing climate and other natural and human impacts across the region and promotes the coordination of science-based actions to enable human and natural communities to respond and adapt to those conditions. (BLM)

URL: http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/prog/more_programs/GBLCC.html

Focal area: Great Basin

Great Basin National Heritage Area



Information, Utilization: Develop partnerships to identify, research and evaluate, conserve, protect, interpret and promote resources of the Great Basin National Heritage Area in a way that enhances economic opportunity without managing or regulating land use.

URL: <http://www.greatbasinheritage.org/>

Focal area: Great Basin

Great Basin Native Plant Selection and Increase Project



Management: Improve the availability of native plant materials and to provide the knowledge and technology required for their use in restoring diverse native plant communities across the Great Basin.

URL: <http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/boise/research/shrub/greatbasin.shtml>

Focal area: Great Basin

Great Basin Research Center



Research: To develop DWR capability to restore poor-condition big game winter ranges. (Utah DWR)

494 W 100 S, Ephraim, UT 84626

Phone: 435-283-4441

Focal area: Great Basin

Great Basin Resource Watch



Conservation: A regional environmental justice organization dedicated to protecting the health and well being of the land, air, water, wildlife, and human communities of the Great Basin from the adverse effects of resource extraction and use.

URL: <http://www.gbrw.org/>

Focal area: Great Basin

Great Basin Restoration Initiative

Information: To provide technical assistance and guidance, obtain funding, and keep the issue of the failing Great Basin ecosystem in the public's vision. (BLM)

URL: <http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/prog/gbri.html>

Focal area: Great Basin



Great Basin Research and Management Partnership

Information, Management, Research: To promote comprehensive and complementary research and management collaborations to sustain ecosystems, resources and communities across the Great Basin

URL: <http://greatbasin.wr.usgs.gov/gbrmp>

Focal area: Great Basin



Great Basin Water Network

Conservation: Protect the water resources of the Great Basin for current and future residents – human, animal and plant.

URL: <http://www.greatbasinwater.net/>

Focal area: Nevada



Greater Sage-grouse Rangeland Issues Forum

Conservation: Identifies priority goals for the conservation of greater sage-grouse, including strategy, protection of existing habitat, and information-sharing.

URL: <http://projects.ecr.gov/sagegrouse/>

Focal area: American West



Hawk Watch International

Conservation, Research: To conserve our environment through education, long-term monitoring, and scientific research on raptors as indicators of ecosystem health

URL: <http://www.hawkwatch.org/home>

Focal area: International



Idaho ATV Association

Utilization: To foster, promote and enhance the use of ATVs for recreational purposes, and to educate, encourage and promote the safe and responsible use of ATVs

URL: <http://www.idahoatv.org>

Focal area: Idaho



Idaho Cattle Association

Utilization: Represent the beef cattle industry to the legislative and administrative branches of government;

URL: <http://www.idahocattle.org/>

Focal area: Idaho



Idaho Conservation League

Conservation: To preserve Idaho's clean water, wilderness and quality of life through citizen action, public education, and professional advocacy

URL: <http://www.wildidaho.org>

Focal area: Idaho



Idaho Environmental Forum

Conservation: To promote serious, cordial, and productive discourse on a broad range of environmental policies affecting Idaho.

URL: <http://www.idahoenvironmentalforum.org>

Focal area: Idaho



Idaho Fish and Game

Management: To preserve, protect, perpetuate, and manage all wildlife within the state of Idaho

URL: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov>

Focal area: Idaho



Idaho Forest Restoration Partnership

Conservation: Strengthen collaborative forest restoration efforts across Idaho.

URL: <http://idahoforestpartners.org>

Focal area: Idaho



Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission

Management: Provides support and services to local conservation districts, landowners and land users to improve Idaho's natural resources through non-regulatory and science-based technical assistance, financial incentive programs, and educational programs.

URL: <http://swc.idaho.gov>

Focal area: Idaho



Idaho Wildlife Federation

Conservation: To promote the conservation and protection of our natural resources, wildlife, and wildlife habitat

URL: <http://www.idahowildlife.org>

Focal area: Idaho



Intermountain West Coordinated Bird Monitoring

Conservation: Improve the efficiency and utility of bird monitoring in the intermountain west.

URL: <http://greatbasin.wr.usgs.gov/IWCBM/>

Focal area: Intermountain West



Joint Fire Science Program

Research: An interagency research, development, and applications partnership between the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Department of Agriculture

URL: <http://www.firescience.gov>

Focal area: National



Mule Deer Foundation

Conservation: Ensure the conservation of mule deer, black-tailed deer and their habitat.

URL: <http://www.muledeer.org>

Focal area: Western US



National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON)

Research: Gather and synthesize data on the impacts of climate change, land use change and invasive species on natural resources and biodiversity.

URL: <http://www.neoninc.org>

Focal area: National



National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Conservation, Management: Protect and restore imperiled species, oceans, landscapes and fisheries through conservation grants.

URL: <http://www.nfwf.org>

Focal area: National



National Park Service

Management: To preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.

URL: <http://www.nps.gov>

Focal area: National



National Wildfire Coordinating Group

Management: To coordinate programs of the participating wildfire management agencies to provide more effective execution of each agency's fire management program. (USDA and state agencies).

URL: <http://www.nwccg.gov>

Focal area: National



National Wildlife Federation

Conservation: To inspire Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future

URL: <http://www.nwf.org>

Focal area: National



Native American Fish and Wildlife Society

Information: To develop a national communications network for the exchange of information and management techniques related to self-determined tribal fish and wildlife management

URL: <http://www.nafws.org>

Focal area: National



Natural Resource Conservation Service

Information, Research: To provide leadership in a partnership effort to help America's private land owners and managers conserve their soil, water, and other natural resources

URL: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>

Focal area: National



Natural Resources Defense Council

Conservation: Works to protect wildlife and wild places and to ensure a healthy environment for all life on earth

URL: <http://www.nrdc.org>

Focal area: National, International



The Nature Conservancy

Conservation, Management: To preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive

URL: <http://www.nature.org>

Focal area: National



Nature Serve

Information: Provide scientific basis for conservation action. A source for information about rare and endangered species and threatened ecosystems.

URL: <http://www.natureserve.org/>

Focal area: National



Navajo Natural Heritage Program

Conservation, Management: The Navajo Nation's rare, threatened and endangered species office. Collect, manage and disseminate biological and ecological information for land-use planning to promote conservation.

URL: <http://nnhp.nndfw.org/>

Focal area: Navajo Nation



Nevada Cattlemen's Association

Utilization: To promote a dynamic and profitable Nevada Beef Industry

URL: <http://www.nevadacattlemen.org>

Focal area: Nevada



Nevada Climate Change Portal

Information: Advance the quality and quantity of infrastructure and data collection for climate, hydrological, and ecological information pertaining to the state of Nevada.

URL: <http://sensor.nevada.edu/>

Focal area: Nevada



Nevada Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources

Conservation, Management: Conserves, protects, manages, and enhances the state's natural resources to provide the highest quality of life for Nevada's citizens and visitors.

URL: <http://dcnr.nv.gov/>

Focal area: Nevada



Nevada Department of Wildlife

Management: To safeguard our natural heritage through conservation of sage-grouse by means of cooperation and collaboration

URL: <http://www.ndow.org>

Focal area: Nevada and Eastern California



Nevada Farm Bureau

Utilization: To promote the interests of Nevada farm and ranch families by seeking to implement Farm Bureau policy positions

URL: <http://nvfb.fb.org>

Focal area: Nevada



Nevada Natural Heritage Program

Conservation, Information: Develop and maintain a cost-effective, central information source and inventory of the locations, biology, and status of all threatened, endangered, rare, and at-risk plants and animals in Nevada.

URL: <http://heritage.nv.gov>

Focal area: Nevada



Nevada Outdoor Recreation Association

Research: Dedicated to the preservation and management of BLM public lands and unappropriated government lands worldwide

Focal area: Nevada



Nevada Pinyon-Juniper Partnership

Conservation, Management: Formed to address how the ever increasing densities of Pinyon-Juniper (PJ) woodlands in Nevada affect a multitude of resources.

URL: <http://www.nvpjpartnership.org/>

Focal area: Nevada



Nevada Rangeland Resources Commission

Conservation: To educate about the value of public land grazing

URL: <http://www.nevadarangelands.org>

Focal area: Nevada



North American Grouse Partnership

Conservation: Works for declining grouse species and their habitats, provides oversight for the health of grouse populations and encourages public policies and management decisions to enhance important habitats and grouse populations.

URL: <http://www.grousepartners.org/>

Focal area: National



North American Pollinator Protection Campaign

Conservation: Encourage the health of resident and migratory pollinating animals in North America through public awareness, collaboration, conservation, and information sharing.

URL: <http://pollinator.org/nappc>

Focal area: National



Northeastern Nevada Stewardship Group

Conservation, Information: To provide a collaborative forum for science-based resolution of issues related to resource stewardship and informed management of our public lands

URL: <http://www.nnsg.org>

Focal area: Northeast Nevada



Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides

Conservation, Information: To protect the health of people and the environment by advancing alternatives to pesticides

URL: <http://www.pesticide.org>

Focal area: Oregon, Pacific Northwest



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife



Management: To protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats

URL: <http://www.dfw.state.or.us>

Focal area: Oregon

Oregon Habitat Joint Venture



Conservation: A loose coalition of conservation organizations to protect and restore important habitats for birds and wildlife.

URL: <http://www.ohjv.org>

Focal area: Oregon

Oregon Natural Desert Association



Conservation: To protect, defend, and restore the health of Oregon's native deserts

URL: <http://www.onda.org>

Focal area: Oregon

Oregon State University Extension Service



Information: Engage the people of Oregon with research-based knowledge and education focusing on strengthening communities and economies, sustaining natural resources, and promoting healthy families and individuals

URL: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu>

Focal area: Oregon

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board



Conservation, Information: To support Oregon's efforts to restore salmon runs, improve water quality, and strengthen ecosystems

URL: <http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB>

Focal area: Oregon

Pacific Legal Foundation



Utilization: To introduce litigation focusing on three major projects: to defend the fundamental human right of private property; to promote sensible environmental policies; and to create a nation in which people are judged by the content of their character

URL: <http://community.pacificlegal.org>

Focal area: National

PRBO Conservation Science



Conservation: Advancing conservation through bird and ecosystem research, from Alaska to Antarctica, on land and at sea.

URL: <http://www.prbo.org>

Focal area: International

Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility



Conservation: An alliance of local, state and federal scientists, law enforcement officers, land managers and other professionals dedicated to upholding environmental laws and values

URL: <http://www.peer.org>

Focal area: National

The Quivira Coalition

Conservation, Information, Utilization:

To offer “common sense” solutions to the grazing debate through collaboration, outreach, education, restoration demonstration projects, and funding to achieve progressive land management

URL: <http://www.quiviracoalition.org>

Focal area: Western United States



Rangelands West

Information: An effort to bring a broad range of agricultural information, resources, and tools to the web

URL: <http://globalrangelands.org/rangelandswest>

Focal Area: Western United States



Red Lodge Clearinghouse

Conservation: Advance citizen participation in natural resources decision-making.

URL: <http://rlch.org>

Focal area: National



Red Rock Audubon Society

Conservation: To protect, restore, and improve natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife, and to educate the public about our unique Nevada environment

URL: <http://www.redrockaudubon.org>

Focal area: Nevada



Round River Conservation Studies

Conservation: Use conservation strategies that preserve and restore wild places. Strive to develop and support traditions that sustain wildness.

URL: <http://www.roundriver.org>

Focal area: International



Sagebrush Bird Conservation Network

Conservation, Information: Improve coordination for research on sagebrush associated birds and provide science based recommendations and decision support tools for land managers.

URL: <http://cain.ice.ucdavis.edu/prbo/sagebrushbird/>

Focal area: Western U.S.



Sagebrush Cooperative

Conservation, Information: Collaborates with land managers, owners, and interest groups with the goal of improved management and conservation of shrub steppe systems.

URL: <http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/SagebrushCooperative>

Focal area: Oregon, Idaho, Nevada



Sagebrush Landscape Project

Research: The Sagebrush Landscape Project conducts research on habitats for species of conservation concern in the sagebrush ecosystem.

URL: <http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/lagrande/sagebrush/>

Focal area: Western U.S.



The Sagebrush Sea Campaign

Conservation, Information, Research: Focuses public attention and conservation resources on protecting and restoring the vast sagebrush-steppe landscape in the American West

URL: <http://www.sagebrushsea.org>

Focal area: Western United States



SageMap Sagebrush Assessment Project

Information, Management: A Web-based Spatial Dataset for Sage Grouse and Sagebrush Steppe Management

URL: <http://sagemap.wr.usgs.gov/>

Focal area: Intermountain West



Sand County Foundation

Conservation, Management: Works with private landholders to improve the quality of their lands through science, ethics, and incentives

URL: <http://www.sandcounty.net>

Focal area: International



Shrub Research Consortium

Conservation, Information: Develops plant materials for shrubland rehabilitation, methods for establishing and managing shrublands; and assisting with publication and dissemination of research results.

URL: <http://wss2010.usu.edu/shrubresearchconsortium.pdf>

Focal area: Western U.S.



Sierra Club

Conservation: A grassroots environmental organization working to protect our communities and the planet

URL: <http://www.sierraclub.org>

Focal area: International



Society for Ecological Restoration

Conservation, Information, Research: Engaged in ecologically-sensitive repair and management of ecosystems through an unusually broad array of experience, knowledge sets and cultural perspectives

URL: <http://www.ser.org>

Focal area: International



Society for Range Management

Conservation, Information, Management: To promote the professional development and continuing education of members and the public and the stewardship of rangeland resources

URL: <http://www.rangelands.org>

Focal area: National



Southern Nevada Agency Partnership

Management: An organization of four federal agencies to respond to a variety of shared management challenges and opportunities.

URL: <http://www.snap.gov/>

Focal area: Nevada



Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition



Management: Collaboration of organizations working to create a sustainable and balanced environment where economic and fiscal vibrancy, social equity, environmental preservation, and physical improvements are experienced by all in the community.

URL: <http://www.snrpc.org/>

Focal area: Nevada

Southern Nevada Water Authority



Management: Charged with managing the region's water resources and providing for Las Vegas Valley area residents' and businesses' present and future water needs

URL: <http://www.snwa.com>

Focal area: Southern Nevada

Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance



Conservation: For the preservation of the wilderness at the heart of the Colorado Plateau, and the management of these lands in their natural state for the benefit of all Americans

URL: <http://www.suwa.org>

Focal area: Colorado Plateau Region

Sustainable Rangelands Roundtable



Conservation: Promoting the social, economic, and environmental sustainability of rangelands through the development and use of the criteria and indicators for rangeland assessments, and by providing a forum for dialogue on the sustainability of rangelands.

URL: <http://sustainableangelands.org>

Focal area: National

Tri-County Weed Program



Management: A collaboration of White Pine, Lincoln and Nye Counties, Nevada. University of Nevada Cooperative Extension coordinated the establishment of the first non-tax based, comprehensive noxious weed control program in the West.

URL: <http://www.tri-countyweedcontrol.com/>

Focal area: Nevada

Trout Unlimited



Conservation: To conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds

URL: <http://www.tu.org>

Focal Area: North America

University of Idaho Extension



Information: To address agricultural, natural resource, youth, family, community and environmental issues

URL: <http://www.extension.uidaho.edu>

Focal area: Idaho

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension

Information: To discover, develop, disseminate, preserve and use knowledge to strengthen the social, economic and environmental well-being of people

URL: <http://www.unce.unr.edu>

Focal area: Nevada



Agricultural Research Service (USDA)

Management, Research: The U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief scientific in-house research agency charged with finding solutions to agricultural problems.

URL: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/pandp/locations.htm>

Focal area: Offices in Reno, Boise, Logan



USDA-ARS Forage and Range Research Laboratory

Research: To provide improved plant materials and management alternatives for sustainable stewardship of rangelands and pastures in the Western U.S

URL: http://ars.usda.gov/main/site_main.htm?modecode=54-28-10-00

Focal area: Western United States



USDA-Forest Service

Management: To manage public lands in national forests and grasslands to provide the greatest amount of good for the greatest amount of people in the long run

URL: <http://www.fs.fed.us>

Focal area: National



US Fish and Wildlife Service

Management: A government agency dedicated to the conservation, protection, and enhancement of fish, wildlife and plants, and their habitats

URL: <http://www.fws.gov>

Focal area: National



USGS Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center

Management, Research: FRESC scientists collaborate with each other and with partners to provide rigorous, objective, and timely information and guidance for the management and conservation of biological systems.

URL: <http://fresc.usgs.gov>

Focal area: Western U.S.



USGS Western Ecological Research Center

Research: Scientists have expertise in a wide range of disciplines to fulfill the varied needs of clients and partners, from ecological research, monitoring and technology development to basic biology and modeling.

URL: <http://www.werc.usgs.gov>

Focal area: Pacific Southwest



Utah Association of Conservation Districts

Conservation: The 38 districts use a voluntary, incentive-based approach to protect soil, water, and other natural resources.

URL: <http://www.uacd.org>

Focal area: Utah



Utah ATV Association

Utilization: To preserve the trail rider's access to National Forest, State Parks and BLM Lands, and to protect the resources of these lands

URL: <http://utahatv.com>

Focal area: Utah



Utah Cattlemen's Association

Utilization: To protect the interests of livestock producers

URL: <http://www.utahcattlemen.org>

Focal area: Utah



Utah Conservation Data Center

Information: Part of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, UCDC is the central repository for Utah biodiversity information.

URL: <http://dwrucdc.nr.utah.gov/ucdc/>

Focal area: Utah



Utah Environmental Congress

Conservation: To engage in genuine protection of living forest systems that provide islands of refuge in Utah's desert country

URL: <http://www.uec-utah.org>

Focal area: Utah



Utah Farm Bureau

Utilization: The Utah Farm Bureau Federation (UFBF) is the state's largest voluntary organization of farmers and ranchers. It is an organization dedicated to improving net farm income and the quality of life for all Utahns.

URL: <http://utfb.fb.org>

Focal area: Utah



Utah Farmers Union

Utilization: Works for farm policies that ensure we have a safe and abundant food supply, and carries the voice of rural community to the state and federal legislatures.

URL: <http://www.utahfarmersunion.com>

Focal area: Utah



Utah-Idaho Cooperative Weed Management Area

Management: To cooperatively control noxious weeds.

URL: <http://www.utah-idahocwma.org>

Focal area: Utah, Idaho



Utah Partners for Conservation and Development

Conservation, Management:

URL: http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/prog/more/Healthy_Lands_Initiative/utah_partners_for.html

Focal area: Utah



Utah Rivers Council

Conservation: Conservation and stewardship of rivers and sustainable clean water sources for people and wildlife. Implemented through grassroots organizing, direct advocacy, research, education, community leadership and litigation.

URL: <http://www.utahrivers.org/>

Focal area: Utah



Utah State University Extension



Information: An integration of teaching, research, and public service to enable response to critical and emerging issues with research-based, unbiased information

URL: <http://extension.usu.edu>

Focal area: Utah

Utah Native Plant Society



Conservation: Appreciation, preservation, conservation and responsible use of the native plant and plant communities.

URL: <http://www.unps.org>

Focal area: Utah

Utah Water Conservation Forum



Conservation: Support water agencies and professionals in creating a state-wide water conservation movement. Improve the efficiency of water use by water conservation.

URL: <http://utahwaterconservationforum.org>

Focal area: Utah

Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative



Conservation: Partnership to conserve, restore and manage ecosystems in priority areas across the state enhancing wildlife and biological diversity, water quality and yield, and opportunities for sustainable uses.

URL: <http://wildlife.utah.gov/watersheds>

Focal area: Utah

Utah Wool Growers Association



Utilization: Promote sheep and wool production.

URL: <http://www.utahwoolgrowers.com>

Focal area: Utah

Wallowa Resources



Conservation, Utilization: An advocate for rural community revitalization.

URL: <http://www.wallowaresources.org/>

Focal area: Oregon

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife



Management: To provide sound stewardship of fish and wildlife

URL: <http://wdfw.wa.gov>

Focal area: Washington

Washington State University Cooperative Extension



Information: Engages people, organizations and communities to advance knowledge, economic well-being and quality of life by fostering inquiry, learning, and the application of research

URL: <http://ext.wsu.edu>

Focal area: Washington

Western Environmental Law Center

Conservation: A nonprofit public interest law firm that works to protect and restore western wildlands

URL: <http://www.westernlaw.org>

Focal area: Western United States



Western Governors Association

Management: Wildlife Council and Climate Adaptation Group

URL: <http://www.westgov.org>

Focal area: Western U.S.



Western Regional Air Partnership

Management: Partnership of state, tribal, land managers, local air agencies and the US EPA to understand current, evolving regional air quality issues in the West.

URL:

Focal area: Western U.S.



Western Resource Advocates

Conservation: A regional conservation organization to protect land, air, and water using law, science, economics, advocacy, education, and action.

URL: <http://www.westernresourceadvocates.org>

Focal area: Western U.S.



Western States Water Council

Management: Representatives from 18 states working toward conservation, development and management of water resources.

URL: <http://www.westernstateswater.org/>

Focal area: Western U.S.



Western Watersheds Project

Conservation, Information: To protect and restore western watersheds and wildlife through education, public policy initiatives and litigation

URL: <http://www.westernwatersheds.org>

Focal area: Western United States



Western Weed Coordinating Committee

Management: Voluntary organization made up of agencies, state weed coordinators, NGOs, and many other entities all concerned about invasive species, particularly invasive plant species.

URL: <http://www.weedcenter.org/wwcc/>

Focal area: Western U.S.



Wild Utah Project

Conservation, Information, Research: To provide scientific research and technical support using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to land managers, citizen activists and other conservation partners

URL: <http://wildutahproject.org>

Focal area: Utah



WildEarth Guardians

Conservation: To protect and restore wildlife, wild rivers, and wild places in the American West

URL: <http://www.wildearthguardians.org>

Focal area: Western United States



Wilderness Society

Conservation: To protect wilderness and inspire Americans to care for our wild places

URL: <http://wilderness.org>

Focal area: National



Working Lands for Wildlife

Conservation, Management:

URL: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/programs/?cid=stelprdb1046975>

Focal area: Western U.S.



Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative

Conservation: A long-term science based effort to enhance aquatic and terrestrial habitats at a landscape scale, while facilitating responsible development through local collaboration and partnerships.

URL: <http://www.wlci.gov/>

Focal area: Wyoming



The Xerces Society

Conservation: An international nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting biological diversity through invertebrate conservation

URL: <http://www.xerces.org>

Focal area: International



Did we miss one?

If you notice an organization we omitted, please email lael.gilbert@usu.edu to be considered for inclusion.

Section 3: Notable partners and adversaries

Each of the groups listed in Section 2 may provide potential partnerships to managers, as well as potential adversarial relationships, as rangeland restoration planning and management is undertaken. Partnerships may exist more commonly among stakeholder groups and local management field offices than at national offices, because of a perception that too large a political influence and agenda may exist at the upper hierarchical level. There may also be geographic variation in stakeholder group-land manager interactions, as management offices in certain locations are perceived to have more experience in dealing with and involving the public. Stakeholder groups may generally consider these offices more progressive, and this attitude may be based on the level of coordination within the management office as well as desired and perceived personality characteristics of land managers. Some recommendations made by interviewed stakeholders for improving working relationships with land managers include:

- The inclusion of local expert knowledge into future management planning
- Increased clarity and consistency in management objectives and goals
- A shift in focus from post-disturbance restoration to recognizing and addressing the root causes of rangeland degradation

Adversarial relationships often manifest as legal opposition to planned restoration activities and management. Stakeholder groups who pursue this course have indicated that decisions to do so may be driven by:

- The need for environmental protection
- Perceptions that federal management often “cuts corners” in administrative and public participation processes
- The belief that restoration treatments are applied at too broad or too large a scale
- The suppressing of relevant information
- Non-consideration of the entire set of restoration treatment alternatives by managers (compiled from Brunson and Peterson 2007).

While not all litigation can be averted, being aware of the local or regional environment in which restoration management takes place can inform and potentially improve the planning process. Knowing which groups are prone to or likely to file litigation to prevent certain restoration treatments from occurring allows land managers to recognize and plan for contentious situations that may arise. The following stakeholder groups have filed such preventative litigation from 2005-2010; once again, this is not a comprehensive list. It is meant to be a regional guide to help managers identify potential adversarial interest groups that may become active in their respective areas.

- Blue Ribbon Coalition
- Center for Biological Diversity
- Defenders of Wildlife
- Earth Justice
- Forest Guardians
- Friends of the Earth
- Idaho Conservation League
- Idaho Wildlife Federation
- National Audubon Society
- National Wildlife Federation
- Natural Resource Defense Council
- Oregon Natural Desert Association
- Sierra Club
- Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
- Western Watersheds Project
- Wilderness Society

References

Brunson, M. and J. Peterson. 2007. Comparing Citizens’ and Managers’ Concerns about Sagebrush Management and Restoration in the Great Basin. Utah State University, Unpublished Manuscript.