

## Featured Friend

# Mule Deer Foundation



### MDF Supports SGI Partnership Positions in Utah

**W**hen Natasha Gruber and Leah Lewis head out into the field to assist Utah ranchers with sage grouse conservation, they represent the Mule Deer Foundation as the primary partner supporting their positions. The Mule Deer Foundation provides the lead funding for the two biologist positions in Roosevelt and Tremonton, and shares the credit with an impressive list of partners also chipping in funds.

In Utah sage grouse habitats, partners are working together on new grazing systems acres that are designed to benefit ranching, sage grouse, and mule deer. The primary goals are to sustain range health, restore riparian areas, and improve water quality. Other projects include juniper removal to restore the historic sagebrush-steppe.

MDF is one of the vital SGI partners that are assuring we have “boots on the ground” in sage grouse strongholds across the west, carrying out large-scale conservation. Please see [www.sagegrouseinitiative.com](http://www.sagegrouseinitiative.com) for more information.

*“Mule deer winter range overlaps with sage grouse habitat. Both species need the large intact habitats that are threatened in many places by development. What is good for sage grouse is good for mule deer and vice versa. That’s why we’re committed to the SGI partnership.”*  
~Miles Moretti, CEO, MDF



## Meet the Mule Deer Foundation

### About

The Mule Deer Foundation is dedicated to the conservation of mule deer, black-tailed deer and their habitat. The nonprofit group works to restore, improve and protect mule deer habitat, to encourage and support responsible wildlife management, to promote public education and scientific research related to mule deer and wildlife management, to support and encourage responsible and ethical behavior and awareness of issues that affect mule deer, to support regulated hunting as part of deer conservation, and to develop programs that focus on recruitment and retention of youth in shooting sports and conservation.

### Role with Sage Grouse Initiative

Some of the best mule deer habitat in the West can be found on the intact sagebrush landscapes that are vital to sage grouse conservation. The Mule Deer Foundation is a strong partner of SGI, supporting two field biologist positions in Utah. The SGI website features PDFs of a two-part series on sage grouse and mule deer in the MDF magazine:

Sage Grouse & Mule Deer: Landscape Scale Conservation (Jan/Feb 2011 MDF) Part One

Energy Development, Mule Deer Conservation, & Sage Grouse Core Areas (March/April 2011 MDF) Part Two



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