

# SAGE GROUSE INITIATIVE STRATEGIC WATERSHED ACTION TEAM



In 2011, USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) teamed up with the Intermountain West Joint Venture and more than 30 partner organizations to expand the field delivery, science, and communications capacity for the Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI). The partnership, known as the *SGI Strategic Watershed Action Team (SWAT)*, was established with the shared vision of *achieving wildlife conservation through sustainable ranching*. Through SWAT, partner organizations have hired new range conservationists and wildlife biologists, plus a cultural resources specialist, to help get more Farm Bill conservation on the ground. Located in critical geographic “pinch points” for conservation delivery, these partner positions are based in NRCS field offices and work under the direction of NRCS staff – assisting landowners one-on-one who voluntarily chose to participate in SGI. Partner positions are employed by conservation districts, state wildlife and agricultural agencies, and non-governmental organizations (employing partners and funding contributors, in parentheses, are listed below).

Follow the partnership at: [www.sagegrouseinitiative.com](http://www.sagegrouseinitiative.com)

<b>Location</b>	<b>Employing Partner (Funding Partners)</b>	<b>Employee Contact</b>
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>		
<i>Susanville</i>	<b>Point Blue Conservation Science</b> (Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Point Blue Conservation Science)	<b>Tiffany Russell</b> <i>tiffany.russell@ca.usda.gov</i> (530) 257-7271, ext. 111
<b>COLORADO</b>		
<i>Craig</i>	<b>Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation</b> (ConocoPhillips Company, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation)	<b>Chris Yarbrough</b> <i>chris.yarbrough@co.usda.gov</i> (970) 824-3476 ext. 108
<i>Kremmling</i>	<b>Bird Conservancy of the Rockies</b> (ConocoPhillips Company, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)	<b>Donn Slusher</b> <i>donn.slusher@co.usda.gov</i> (970) 724-3456
<i>Montrose</i>	<b>Bird Conservancy of the Rockies</b> (Bureau of Land Management, ConocoPhillips Company, Intermountain West Joint Venture, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)	<b>Marcella Fremgen</b> <i>marcella.fremgen@co.usda.gov</i> (970) 249-8407
<b>IDAHO</b>		
<i>Burley</i>	<b>Pheasants Forever</b> (ConocoPhillips Company, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)	<b>Connor White</b> <i>connor.white@id.usda.gov</i> (208) 678-1225, ext. 111
<i>Mountain Home</i>	<b>Pheasants Forever</b> (ConocoPhillips Company, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)	<b>Eduardo Contreras</b> <i>econtreras@pheasantsforever.org</i> (208) 587-3616 ext. 116
<i>Rexburg</i>	<b>Pheasants Forever</b> (Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)	<b>Lara Fondow</b> <i>lfondow@pheasantsforever.org</i> (208) 356-3218

<b>Location</b>	<b>Employing Partner (Funding Partners)</b>	<b>Employee Contact</b>
<b>MONTANA</b>		
<i>Dillon</i>	<b>Natural Resources Conservation Service/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program</b> (Intermountain West Joint Venture, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)	<b>Lindsay Schmitt</b> lindsay.schmitt@mt.usda.gov (406) 683-3811
<i>Ekalaka</i>	<b>Montana Association of Conservation Districts</b> (Bureau of Land Management, ConocoPhillips Company, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pheasants Forever, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)	<b>Justin Hughes</b> jhughes@macdnet.org (406) 775-6355
<i>Forsyth</i>	<b>Montana Association of Conservation Districts</b> (ConocoPhillips Company, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pheasants Forever, Rosebud Conservation District, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)	<b>Heather Nenninger</b> hnenninger@macdnet.org (406) 346-7333
<i>Glasgow</i>	<b>Montana Association of Conservation Districts</b> (Intermountain West Joint Venture, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Natural Resources Conservation Service, North American Grouse Partnership, Pheasants Forever, World Wildlife Fund)	<b>John Fahlgren</b> john.fahlgren@mt.nacdnet.net (406) 228-4321 ext. 132
<i>Malta</i>	<b>Montana Association of Conservation Districts</b> (ConocoPhillips Company, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pheasants Forever, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)	<b>Kelsey Molloy</b> kelsey.molloy@mt.nacdnet.net (406) 654-1334 ext. 119
<b>NEVADA</b>		
<i>Elko</i>	<b>Pheasants Forever</b> (ConocoPhillips Company, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Nevada Department of Wildlife)	<b>Mandy O'Donnell</b> aodonnell@pheasantsforever.org (775) 738-8431
<i>Elko</i>	<b>Pheasants Forever</b> (ConocoPhillips Company, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Nevada Department of Wildlife)	<b>Rachelle Peppers</b> rpeppers@pheasantsforever.org (775) 738-8431 ext. 119
<b>OREGON</b>		
<i>Baker City</i>	<b>Baker Valley Soil and Water Conservation District</b> (Baker Valley Soil and Water Conservation District, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board)	<b>Logan Ross</b> logan.ross@bakercountyswcds.com (541) 523-7121 ext. 111
<i>Ontario</i>	<b>Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife</b> (ConocoPhillips Company, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife)	<b>Laura Schnapp</b> laura.a.schnapp@state.or.us (541) 889-7637 ext. 122
<i>Lakeview</i>	<b>Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife</b> (ConocoPhillips Company, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife)	<b>Hiring in progress</b>
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b>		
<i>Belle Fourche</i>	<b>Pheasants Forever</b> (ConocoPhillips Company, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks)	<b>Mary Beth Albrechtsen</b> malbrechtsen@pheasantsforever.org (605) 892-3368 ext. 129

<b>Location</b>	<b>Employing Partner (Funding Partners)</b>	<b>Employee Contact</b>
<b>UTAH</b>		
Randolph	<b>Utah Department of Agriculture and Food</b> (Bureau of Land Management, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Forest Service, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food)	<b>Taylor Payne</b> taylorpayne@utah.gov (435) 793-3905 ext. 106
Tremonton	<b>Mule Deer Foundation</b> (ConocoPhillips Company, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Utah Chapter Safari Club International, Utah Chukar & Wildlife Foundation, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources)	<b>Kourtney Stonehouse</b> kourtney.stonehouse@ut.usda.gov (435) 257-5403, ext. 120
Vernal	<b>Mule Deer Foundation</b> (ConocoPhillips Company, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Utah Chapter Safari Club International, Utah Chukar & Wildlife Foundation, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources)	<b>Leah Lewis</b> leah.lewis@ut.usda.gov (435) 789-2100, ext. 131
<b>WASHINGTON</b>		
Waterville	<b>Pheasants Forever</b> (ConocoPhillips Company, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)	<b>Helen (Lisa) Dowling</b> ldowling@pheasantsforever.org (509) 745-8561
Wenatchee	<b>Pheasants Forever</b> (ConocoPhillips Company, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife)	<b>Michael Brown</b> mbrown@pheasantsforever.org (509) 662-1141 ext. 122
<b>WYOMING</b>		
Gillette	<b>Bird Conservancy of the Rockies</b> (Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, Bureau of Land Management, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service)	<b>Hiring in progress</b>
Lander	<b>Popo Agie Conservation District</b> (ConocoPhillips Company, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Popo Agie Conservation District, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)	<b>Mandi Hirsch</b> mandi.hirsch@wy.usda.gov (307) 332-3114 ext. 13
Saratoga	<b>Bird Conservancy of the Rockies</b> (Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Saratoga-Encampment-Rawlins Conservation District, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)	<b>Garrett Pantle</b> garrett.pantle@wy.nacdnet.net (307) 326-5657 ext. 108