

INTERMOUNTAIN WEST  
JOINT VENTURE

*conserving habitat through partnerships*

November 1, 2013

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Joyce & Tim:

On behalf of the Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV) Management Board and staff, I extend our sincere appreciation to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for partnering with the IWJV on the Sage-Grouse Initiative (SGI) Strategic Watershed Action Team (SWAT).

Please find attached the SGI SWAT NRCS Quarterly Report for July – September 2013. The report also contains the following appendix: Objectives and Evolution of the SGI SWAT.

Please give me a call at (406) 549-0287 if you have any questions. We look forward to reporting on future SGI SWAT successes!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dave Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dave Smith  
IWJV Coordinator

# Sage Grouse Initiative Strategic Watershed Action Team

## Quarterly Report: July 1 – September 30, 2013

Intermountain West Joint Venture  
November 1, 2013

The Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI) Strategic Watershed Action Team (SWAT) continued to make significant gains this past quarter in each of its four focus areas: field delivery, science, communications, and partner development. The following reports on these accomplishments from July – September 2013.

### FIELD DELIVERY CAPACITY

The SWAT field team continued to expand and accelerate SGI conservation delivery this quarter with support from local and state USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) staff, funding partners, and the Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV). The team's 24 dedicated and enthusiastic range conservationists, wildlife biologists, and natural resource specialists not only help get conservation on the ground but also spread the shared vision of achieving wildlife conservation through sustainable ranching throughout the West. Below are some of the incredible highlights from the SWAT field team and the IWJV's efforts to support SGI delivery this reporting period.

#### Conservation Implementation

The IWJV maintains a detailed tracking system to document SWAT team progress on a quarterly basis. This tracking system captures the key conservation activities identified in the NRCS-U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Interagency Agreement for SGI SWAT. These contributions are rolled up with other NRCS actions and reported to the FWS during the annual sage grouse status review process to ensure landowner and partner efforts are considered in Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing decision reviews.

To date, the increased SWAT field capacity has yielded:

- **935,348 acres** of rangeland improvement to increase sage grouse hiding cover during nesting season. Additional grass cover is expected to increase sage grouse populations by eight to ten percent.
- **173,004 acres** of conifer removal in key nesting, brood-rearing, and wintering habitats. Removing encroaching conifers from sagebrush rangelands eliminates tall structures in otherwise suitable habitat. As birds re-colonize former habitats, increased bird abundance is anticipated.
- **107 miles** of "high-risk" fence near leks to be marked or removed. Marking fences is expected to reduce sage grouse fence collisions by 83%.

#### "Mark a Mile" Campaign Launched in Pinedale, Wyoming

Working in tandem with private landowners and partners, Meghann Durbrow (SGI SWAT Range Conservationist in Pinedale, Wyoming) kicked off an aggressive effort to engage the public in helping reduce fence collisions in one of the highest density areas for sage grouse in the world. Initial model results from the [SGI Fence Collision Risk Tool](#) and existing fence data showed significant areas of high-risk strike zones for sage grouse in Sublette County, Wyoming. Through additional conversations with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) biologists, other areas of concern were determined to be around winter concentration areas as well.



*Photo by Jeremy R. Roberts*

Meghann spearheaded an effort to obtain some fence markers through the Local Working Groups to begin marking fences to reduce collision risk; she was able to mark a very problematic section of BLM fence. Seeking ways to scale up implementation, Meghann later contacted the local Future Farmers of America chapter and secured their help to build the markers if materials were supplied. She then obtained a grant through the Pinedale Anticline Project Office to build and distribute fence markers to mark high risk areas in Sublette County.

The project, named "Mark a Mile," will produce over 20,000 markers – enough to mark about 20 miles of fence. The campaign engages the public in marking and seeks to leverage initial investments with more sponsors. Meghann is currently working with BLM to organize a marking day and has notified the public that there is an ongoing effort to mark hazardous fences. Click below for more information:

## Join the "Mark a Mile" effort!

*Meghann's position is made possible with the support of the Sublette County Conservation District, FWS, NRCS, and the IWJV.*

### **SWAT Featured on RFD-TV's *Out on the Land***

Scott Anderson, SGI SWAT Range Conservationist with Montana Association of Conservation Districts in Forsyth, was recently featured on an episode of *Out on the Land*, a weekly half-hour TV program shown nationally on the RFD-TV channel. The show highlighted how SGI and the SWAT team are helping ranchers improve sustainable grazing and boost sage grouse populations.

Host, Dr. Larry Butler, interviewed the Lehfeltdt ranch family, as well as SGI SWAT Rangeland Conservationist, Scott Anderson, and SGI National Science Advisor, Dr. Dave Naugle. According to Scott, "Our job is to have a one-on-one relationship with the ranchers...we ask them what their goals are, come up with a plan that fits those goals and addresses any resource concerns we see out there, and blend it all together so we're improving conditions on the land for the next generation, as well as creating suitable habitat for wildlife." To date, Scott has helped plan over 146,000 acres of prescribed grazing systems, including many miles of fence marking to reduce bird strikes. Click the link to watch the [Out on the Land episode](#).

*Scott's position is made possible with the support of the Montana Association of Conservation Districts, Rosebud Conservation District, The Nature Conservancy of Montana, ConocoPhillips Company, NRCS, FWS, and the IWJV.*



*Scott Anderson, right, describing the role of the SWAT to "Out on the Land" host, Dr. Larry Butler.*

## SWAT Field Staff Earn Top Awards from Pheasants Forever for Getting Conservation on the Ground

SGI SWAT field staff, Gillian Brooks and Scott Scroggie, earned prestigious awards from Pheasants Forever (PF) at a recent national staff meeting in Estes Park, Colorado. Howard Vincent, CEO of PF, presented Gillian with the Landowner Service Award and Scott, the Acre Maker Award.



*Gillian Brooks, SGI SWAT, receives award from PF CEO, Howard Vincent; photo by Cheryl Riley, PF Vice President of Education and Outreach.*

“It’s impressive to see two SGI biologists recognized at high levels out of more than 100 Farm Bill biologists working in Pheasants Forever partner positions,” said Sam Lawry, PF’s Western Regional Director.

Gillian Brooks, who is stationed in Belle Fourche, South Dakota, exhibits outstanding service to landowners carrying out PF and Quail Forever habitat conservation. Her efforts to enroll landowners in SGI programs resulted in more than 127,000 acres of enhanced acres for sage grouse. She also secured grant funding for placing 250 sage grouse escape ramps in livestock tanks and more than four miles of fence markers to save birds from deadly fence collisions near leks, the breeding grounds.

“When Gillian arrived in 2011, she didn’t waste time getting the word out about SGI to the landowners,” Lawry said. “After a mail campaign targeting 80 ranchers and farmers in the core sage grouse areas, the applications started coming in, and the word continues to spread as people see the positive results for grazing and grouse.”

Scott Scroggie’s award recognizes his outstanding leadership, dedication and passion – all which have contributed to his significant habitat accomplishments. He played a key role in the Burley, Idaho, juniper removal project, a multi-million dollar conservation partnership to restore more than 32,000 acres of sagebrush habitat.

Scott started his SGI career in Ely, Nevada, in 2012, and ten months later transferred to Burley, Idaho, as an SGI range conservationist. On his first day, he took on the role of project officer for the juniper removal partnership, which was funded by SGI via NRCS Farm Bill dollars, PF, BLM, and Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG).



*Scott Scroggie, far right, receives award from PF CEO, Howard Vincent, far left; photo by Cheryl Riley, PF Vice President of Education and Outreach.*

### SWAT Position Updates

SWAT field team talent does not go unrecognized by other employers. As position vacancies arise, the IWJV works with hiring entities and funding partners to re-assess position locations to ensure technical assistance is focused where it’s needed most; positions are quickly refilled (as needed) to minimize disruption to conservation delivery. The following change occurred this quarter: Sam Sanders (PF – Elko, Nevada) has moved on. The vacancy is in the process of being re-filled.

### Monthly Coordination Conference Calls

The IWJV continues to host monthly conference calls in which SWAT team members receive SGI updates, share accomplishments and experiences, ask questions, and receive continuous technology transfer and training.

## SWAT Field Team Support

To help ensure SWAT team success, IWJV provides two support staff that work one-on-one with team members. Jeremy Maestas, NRCS-IWJV SGI Technical Lead, specializes in conservation delivery assistance by providing direct technical support to team members and NRCS staff. He also fosters regular team coordination and helps maintain funding partner relations. Tina Dennison, IWJV Project Coordinator, provides assistance to the team with accomplishment tracking and reporting, as well as administrative support for team meetings.

## SCIENCE CAPACITY

Last quarter, we featured the release of three papers highlighting new challenges in sage grouse conservation, benefits of the core area approach, and the targeted use of conservation practices to maximize sage grouse benefits. This quarter, we present another recently released paper under the SGI science umbrella: ***Saving Sage Grouse from the Trees: New Study Shows Benefits of Targeted Tree Removal to Declining Birds***. The latest paper resulted from collaboration with [The Nature Conservancy](#) (TNC), a major partner in SGI science.

In the absence of fire, juniper and other conifer tree species have greatly expanded their range into native sagebrush habitats where they don't belong, reducing shrubs and grasses that grouse rely on for their survival. According to the SGI study, published in the scientific journal, [Biological Conservation](#), proactive conservation that removes encroaching trees helps maintain sage grouse populations within their remaining strongholds.



Photo by Jeremy Maestas

Dave Naugle, SGI's National Science Advisor at The University of Montana. Dr. Naugle goes on to say that this new study gives confidence to partners involved in watershed-scale tree removal that their investment is achieving the desired conservation outcome.

The study closes with an estimate of \$8.75 million annually to eliminate the tree encroachment threat in Oregon within the decade, an investment well within the scope of conservation already achieved. "In three short years, we developed both the biological and economic game plans required to match scale of the solution to that of the problem," said Jeremy Maestas, SGI's Oregon-based National Technical Lead. Maestas adds that grouse do not recognize boundaries, so the next frontier in ratcheting up conservation is to seamlessly deliver tree removal across private and public land ownerships in the West.

To learn more about tree removal, view the short YouTube video: [Tackling Conifer Encroachment](#). To read coverage of the latest science paper in the media, see the SGI website for a blog entry from *High Country News*: [Oregon Study Confirms That Cutting Conifers Can Help Sage Grouse](#). Check out the following blog entry from *Cool Green Science – The Science Blog of The Nature Conservancy* on the SGI website: [The Sage Grouse Initiative: Science to Solutions](#).

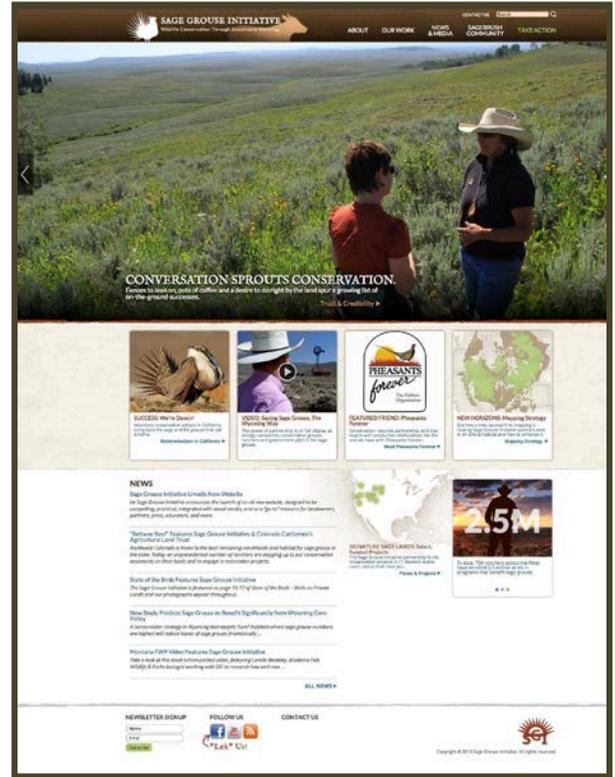
## COMMUNICATIONS CAPACITY

Getting the SGI story covered well and in targeted publications is an important role for communications. That happens in several ways: through NRCS communication outlets; cultivating selected writers and publications; working with partners to make the most of media lists and opportunities; writing press releases and articles; and, assisting the SWAT in their efforts to interview ranchers and write stories for local newspapers and magazines. Following are SGI communications highlights from the quarter:

### New Website

On September 1<sup>st</sup>, SGI unveiled an all new website (same location: [www.sagegrouseinitiative.com](http://www.sagegrouseinitiative.com)) designed to be compelling, practical, integrated with social media, and as a “go-to” resource for landowners, partners, press, educators, and more. The new site features:

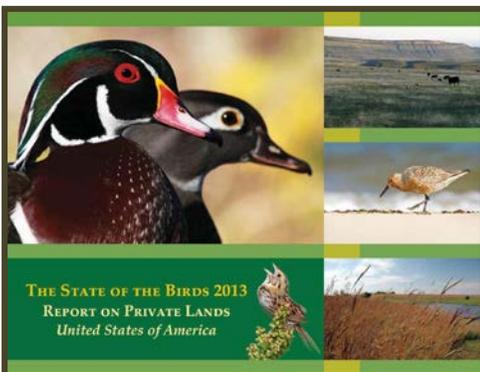
1. **Large photos** that slide across the home page with well-crafted messages like these: “Take the Reins and Keep Them.”; “Conversation Sprouts Conservation.”; and, “On the Ground is What Matters Most.”
2. A “**Featured Friend**” tile below the slider photos, which takes you to a partner profile. SGI is starting with PF and will be regularly featuring groups and individuals who are helping to carry out SGI. Partners are also highlighted in our new “Take Action” section.
3. The [Signature Sage Lands Map](#) features a success story in each of the 11 western states.
4. Located on the bottom-right corner of the homepage is a “by the numbers” image and text rotator – a visual way to show success.
5. The **portals for landowners, for partners and for press** help them find exactly what they need in one place – and make it easy for new partners to join.
6. The “[Sagebrush Community](#)” section embraces the bird, the habitat, the wildlife and the people, showing how all are woven together in one common effort.
7. Under “**News & Media**” is a section called “[Conversations](#).” Here, you can read the latest SGI Facebook posts without having to be on Facebook.



New SGI website

### ENews Launch

As part of the new website launch, SGI Communications also introduced an ENews, scheduled to be delivered to subscriber inboxes bi-monthly – [sign up to receive the ENews](#) via the SGI website and check out the [September 2013 ENews](#).



**The State of the Birds 2013 – Report on Private Lands Features SGI**  
SGI is featured in [The State of the Birds 2013 – Report on Private Lands](#), and SGI photographs appear throughout. SGI is also highlighted in the Report’s foreword and was featured in follow-up opinion editorials in major newspapers. U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary, Tom Vilsack, and U.S. Department of Interior Secretary, Sally Jewell, announced the release of the Report on July 2, 2013. The collaborative effort is part of the U.S. North American Bird Conservation Initiative, involving federal and state wildlife agencies, as well as scientific and conservation organizations. The Report’s official [news release](#) specifically cited SGI as an example of contributions by landowners that are positively influencing conservation:

**“Natural Resources Conservation Service Landscape Conservation Initiatives:** The Sage Grouse Initiative has targeted Farm Bill conservation funding to enroll more than 700 ranchers and implement sustainable grazing systems that improve habitat on more than two million acres in 11 western states.”

Two wide-reaching, opinion editorials featuring the Report also praised SGI: [Denver Post](#); [Washington Post](#).

### Colorado SGI Tour in the News

The [Colorado Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust](#) (CCALT) hosted a tour of CCALT/SGI projects in early August. SGI Communications Director, Deborah Richie, coordinated media invites and wrote a story published in [Beltway Beef](#), a newsletter produced by the [National Cattlemen’s Beef Association](#) that reaches 15,000 journalists, policymakers, and members.

The *Craig Daily Press* accompanied the tour to Cross Mountain Ranch, where SGI is pursuing a major conservation easement with CCALT and other partners; read the article [here](#).

### SGI Highlighted on RFD-TV’s *Out on the Land*

In addition to the episode mentioned, above, a different episode of *Out on the Land* featured host, Dr Larry Butler, interviewing Dennis Mercer (owner/operator of the Paint Rock Angus Ranch in Lavina, Montana), Tim Griffiths (SGI National Coordinator) and Lorelle Berkeley (Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Wildlife Research Biologist). Click the link to watch this [Out on the Land episode](#).

### SGI Facebook Highlights

We continue to post and share success stories, natural history, ranching life, partners and more on the SGI Facebook page, which has reached 1,300 “Likes”. For this quarter, we highlight posts from the **Northwest Colorado Partnership Tour**:

- [Donna and John Rich, ranchers in North Park](#)

Donna and John Rich entered into a conservation easement, utilizing CCALT and SGI dollars, helping them to keep their ranch together.

- [Bord Gulch Ranch](#)

Ray Owens, Bord Gulch Ranch Manager, and Justin Shirley, NRCS District Conservationist, discussed innovative conservation practices on the ranch.

- [Gary Visintainer, Visintainer Sheep Company, 2013 Leopold Conservation Award Winner](#)

“We are not sheep ranchers or cattle ranchers, we are land managers and we grow forage.” – Gary Visintainer.

- [Jay Yust and father, Jim Yust, ranchers near Kremmling, Colorado](#)

The Yusts want to see their lands kept intact and free of the threat of subdivisions – SGI and CCALT dollars have made that possible.



*Donna and John Rich; photo by Deborah Richie*



- [New NRCS Deputy Chief, Kirk Hanlin, and CCALT Executive Director, Chris West, participated in the tour of North Park in Colorado](#)

Kirk Hanlin, NRCS Deputy Chief, and Chris West, CCALT Executive Director, participated in the tour of North Park in Colorado, to see conservation easements that are helping to conserve working ranches and premier sage grouse habitat.

*CCALT Executive Director, Chris West, (left) and NRCS Deputy Chief, Kirk Hanlin, (right) in North Park, Colorado; photo by Deborah Richie*

## **PARTNER DEVELOPMENT**

The IWJV continues to strengthen the partnership for SGI implementation through extensive coordination and collaboration among state and federal agencies, non-profit conservation organizations, and corporations – all facilitated by the leadership of its Management Board. The Partner Development element of the SGI SWAT has played a critical role in maintaining strong support for SGI across a diverse group of conservation partners.

In cooperation with PF, a key partner of the SGI SWAT, the IWJV has now effectuated 48 science, communications, and SWAT management agreements. Together, the IWJV and PF closely manage these agreements to ensure successful implementation and achievement of SGI objectives. These projects encumber a total of \$5,177,895 in SWAT funds.

The IWJV devotes significant staff time and resources to maintaining existing partnerships, as well as to the development of new partnerships. Frequent communications with the NRCS SGI National Coordinator, NRCS SGI Science Advisor, and SGI Technical Lead ensures that the implementation of the SGI SWAT is precisely aligned with NRCS objectives and has built a solid foundation for regular communication and coordination that will yield substantial benefits over the life of the SGI SWAT. We implemented our eighth SGI SWAT Coordination Meeting in July 2013, involving NRCS, SGI, IWJV, and PF staff. Our next SGI SWAT Coordination Meeting is scheduled for December 2013. These meetings have proven valuable for maintaining partnerships, identifying needs and opportunities, and setting a long-term direction for SGI SWAT.

The IWJV continues to seek expansion of partnerships that catalyze non-federal investments in SGI SWAT activities. During the last quarter, we submitted a two-year (2014-2015) SGI SWAT proposal to ConocoPhillips Company that, if approved, will provide critical non-federal funding for key aspects of SWAT implementation. In addition, we collaborated with the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory on a successful \$160,000 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant that is partially supporting SGI SWAT field capacity in Saratoga, Wyoming. We are also currently working with IWJV Management Board members on two additional sources of private funding that could further bolster the SGI SWAT over the next three years.

Finally, the IWJV Coordinator briefed the Management Board on the potential for SGI SWAT expansion at the IWJV's Fall 2013 Management Board Meeting in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. The Management Board – comprised of leaders of state fish and wildlife agencies, federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, corporations, and private landowners – issued strong support for continuing to grow the SGI SWAT as a primary vehicle for landscape-scale, sagebrush habitat conservation.

## **SUMMARY**

The SGI SWAT is a model for science-based, landscape-scale habitat conservation – and a model for the future. It represents a landmark step forward in helping NRCS – through partnerships with the FWS, state fish and wildlife agencies, and others – address many of the bottlenecks that have long prevented Farm Bill conservation programs from realizing their true potential for wildlife habitat conservation in the West.

## NRCS SGI SWAT AGREEMENT PERFORMANCE METRICS

- a) *Efforts for outreach to, and participation of, beginning farmers or ranchers, and Native American Tribes within the project area.* The SWAT field capacity workforce worked directly with eight Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Producers this quarter and no new Indian Tribal members.
- b) *Assistance provided to program participants to help meet local, state, and/or federal regulatory requirements.* The intent of SGI is to proactively conserve sage grouse habitat to negate the need for additional regulations. Participating producers are highly committed to sage grouse conservation, and the SGI provides an excellent vehicle for addressing threats to sage grouse populations at very large scales.
- c) *Numbers of NRCS program participants assisted and/or cooperating in the project effort.* The 24 SWAT partner positions made 1,409 contacts (field visits, etc.) with 641 different agricultural producers as of December 31, 2012. The reporting system was revised in 2013, and we now track Technical Assistance days. Since January 1, 2013, the SWAT provided 2,021.5 Technical Assistance days. This level of technical assistance provision is indicative of how the SWAT will ratchet up SGI implementation over the next few years.
- d) *Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) being employed through the SWAT agreement.* Thirty-four (34) FTEs (24.0 Field Delivery Capacity Partner Position FTEs, 1.0 SGI Technical Lead FTE, 1.0 SGI Communications Specialist FTE, 1.0 Communications Support FTE, 3.0 IWJV FTEs, and 4.0 Science Support FTEs) were employed during the reporting period.
- e) *Acres of project area addressed in NRCS program contracts and/or extents of conservation activities implemented in the project area.* The SGI SWAT, to date, resulted in the following accomplishments: conservation planning for 935,348 acres of grazing systems; 173,004 acres of conifer removal; 565,239 feet (107 miles) of fence marking or removal; 5,492 acres of wetland restoration; 8,772 acres of rangeland seeding; and, 22,213 acres of conservation easements. Notable accomplishments during this period included **35,046 acres of grazing systems planned by John Fahlgren in Glasgow, Montana; 22,017 acres of grazing systems planned by Noah Bates in Kremmling, Colorado; and, 16,353 acres of grazing systems applied by Reese Irvine in Buffalo, Wyoming!**
- f) *NRCS program dollars obligated in agreements in the projects area by program.* A total of \$1,770,652 in Environmental Quality Incentives Program funds and \$196,443 in Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program funds were obligated during the reporting period, for a combined total of \$1,967,095 in contract obligations! **This brings the total amount contracted by the SWAT, to date, to an impressive \$40,303,602.**
- g) *Other partner or resource contributions from other agencies or organizations which help implement provisions of the agreements.* We have secured \$1.63 million toward the 24 partner positions and leveraged an additional \$2.04 million in partner funding for other elements of the SGI SWAT. We are in the process of securing commitments from partners for continuation of their SWAT field delivery capacity matching contributions for the out-years.

## **Appendix A.**

### **Objectives & Evolution of the Sage Grouse Initiative Strategic Watershed Action Team**

*Launched in 2010, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI) is a highly targeted and science-based landscape approach to delivering enough of the right conservation practices in the right places, in order to elicit a positive sage grouse population response to management. SGI uses dedicated Farm Bill conservation program funds at appropriately large scales to alleviate threats that otherwise fragment habitats, the primary reason for the species "candidate" designation under the federal Endangered Species Act. SGI targets Farm Bill resources to high sage grouse abundance centers, or "core areas", to maintain large and intact habitats rather than providing palliative care to small and declining populations.*

*The SGI Strategic Watershed Action Team (SWAT) was established to strengthen NRCS' capacity to implement SGI. The SWAT builds field capacity and strengthens the science guiding SGI, as well as bolsters communications capacity – all through partnerships that leverage the NRCS SGI funding with significant contributions from other sources. The Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV), in close collaboration with NRCS at multiple levels, continued to make significant progress toward the following objectives in launching the SGI SWAT during the reporting period:*

- Increase field-level capacity by placing specialized human skill sets at critical geographic "pinch points" to increase SGI benefits.*
- Increase science capacity to better focus SGI implementation, assess biological outcomes, and continually improve program delivery.*
- Improve and enhance outreach and communication strategies to increase partner buy-in and SGI participation from landowners.*
- Expand SGI partnership to further leverage NRCS contributions resulting in increased outcomes and participation.*

*This work is facilitated by execution of an Interagency Agreement (IA) between NRCS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and subsequent modifications to the IA. The \$4 million in SWAT funds were obligated in an NRCS-FWS IA, signed June 24, 2011. NRCS provided an additional \$3 million to the SGI SWAT NRCS-FWS IA late in FY 2011, from another funding source, to bring the total NRCS commitment to \$7 million. The "Phase 2" \$3 million was obligated in a modification to the IA, executed on September 13, 2011. NRCS provided an additional \$2.3 million to extend the agreement through December 1, 2016, through a "Phase 3" modification to the IA on September 28, 2012. As with all SWAT projects, the IWJV leveraged NRCS' investment by raising 25% of the funds needed to implement the SGI SWAT from an array of conservation partners, including the FWS, state wildlife and agricultural agencies, conservation districts, non-governmental conservation organizations, and corporations.*

*The IWJV, through the FWS, subsequently entered into a Cooperative Agreement with Pheasants Forever (PF) to facilitate fiscal administration and partnership-based implementation of SGI SWAT, effective August 9, 2011. PF works closely with the IWJV staff on SWAT implementation and is also playing a key role in building field capacity for SGI, specifically by supervising seven of the 24 positions through agreements they have negotiated with state fish and wildlife agencies and other partners. For the purpose of this and future reports, we consider the overall \$14.7 million effort as the SGI SWAT, even though only \$4 million arose from NRCS' FY 2011 SWAT appropriation.*