

# SAGE GROUSE INITIATIVE STRATEGIC WATERSHED ACTION TEAM



In 2011, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) teamed up with the Intermountain West Joint Venture, Pheasants Forever, 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 locally led wildlife conservation through sustainable ranching on working lands*. 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. This locally led and shared partnership model has continued to be a key to the successful delivery of SGI's Working Lands for Wildlife conservation that contributes towards a healthy and sustainable sagebrush ecosystem that builds stronger working rural economies.

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

<i>Location</i>	<i>Employing Partner</i>	<i>Employee Contact</i>
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>		
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<b>COLORADO</b>		
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<i>Montrose</i>	<i>Bird Conservancy of the Rockies</i>	<i>Marcella Tarantino</i> <i>marcella.tarantino@co.usda.gov</i> <i>(970) 249-8407, ext. 129</i>
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<b>MONTANA</b>		
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<i>Roundup</i>	<i>Soil &amp; Water Conservation Districts of Montana</i>	<i>Hayden Nelson</i> <i>hayden.nelson@macdnet.org</i> <i>(406) 323-2103, ext. 107</i>

<i>Location</i>	<i>Employing Partner</i>	<i>Employee Contact</i>
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<b>WASHINGTON</b>		
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<i>Waterville</i>	<i>Pheasants Forever</i>	<b>Hiring in progress</b>
<b>WYOMING</b>		
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<i>Location TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<b>Hiring in progress</b>