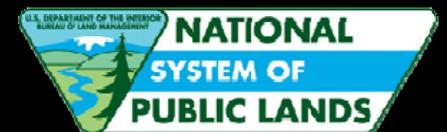


A photograph of two Sage-Grouse in a lek. The birds are facing each other, displaying their white necks and yellow patches. Their dark, patterned wings and tails are spread out, creating a fan-like shape. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape.

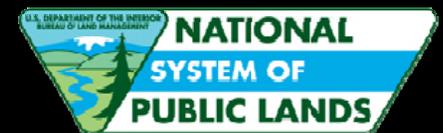
Bi-State Sage-Grouse & Conifer Expansion

Sherri Lisius: Wildlife Biologist





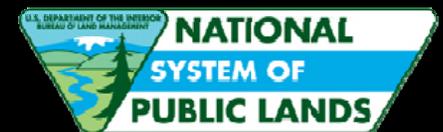
Before we get to the birds...



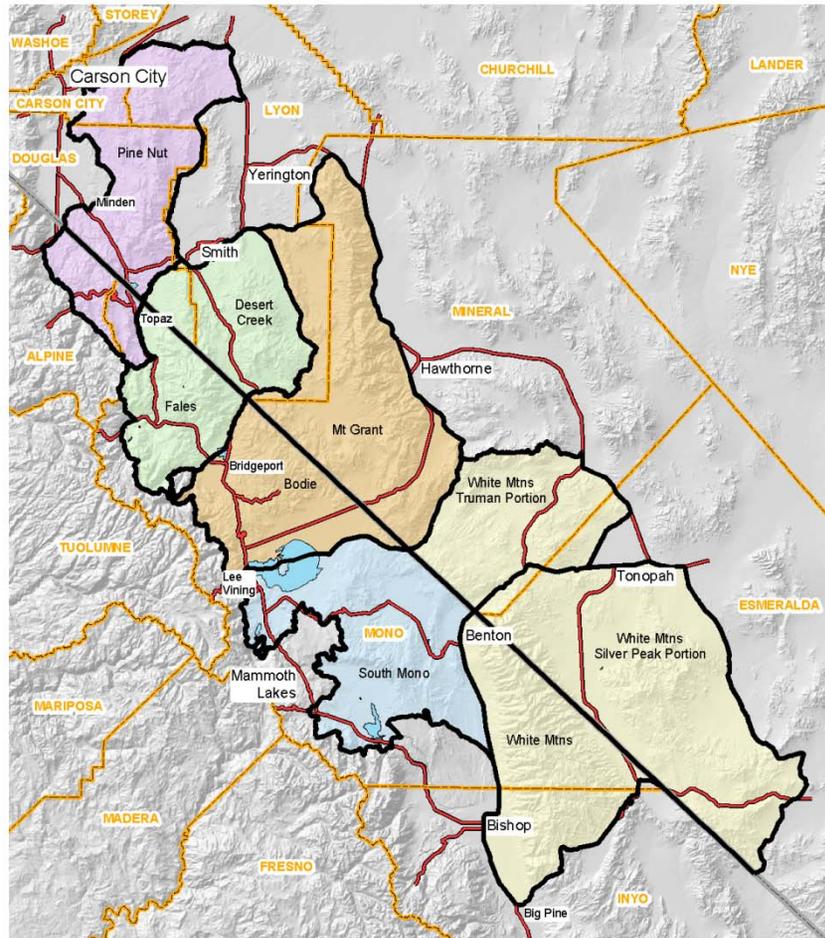


Preliminary data from the Bodie Hills pronghorn project (CDFW unpublished data) indicate that pronghorn selected for low sagebrush and big sagebrush shrublands and avoided pinyon-juniper forest. However, pronghorn migrated through a rather dense 6 km wide PJ forest belt that separated lower elevation winter and upper elevation summer range habitat

Pronghorn in the Bodie Hills

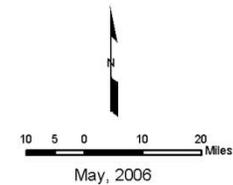


Bi-State Distinct Population Segment of Greater Sage-Grouse

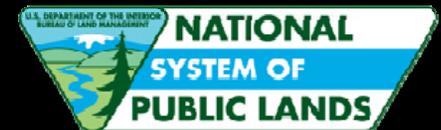


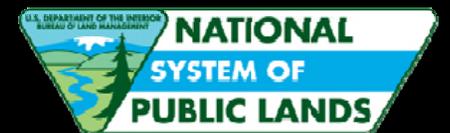
Sage Grouse PMUs

- Pine Nut PMU
- Desert Creek-Fales PMU
- Bodie/Mount Grant PMUs
- South Mono PMU
- White Mountains PMU
- PMU Boundary
- County Line
- State Line
- Highways



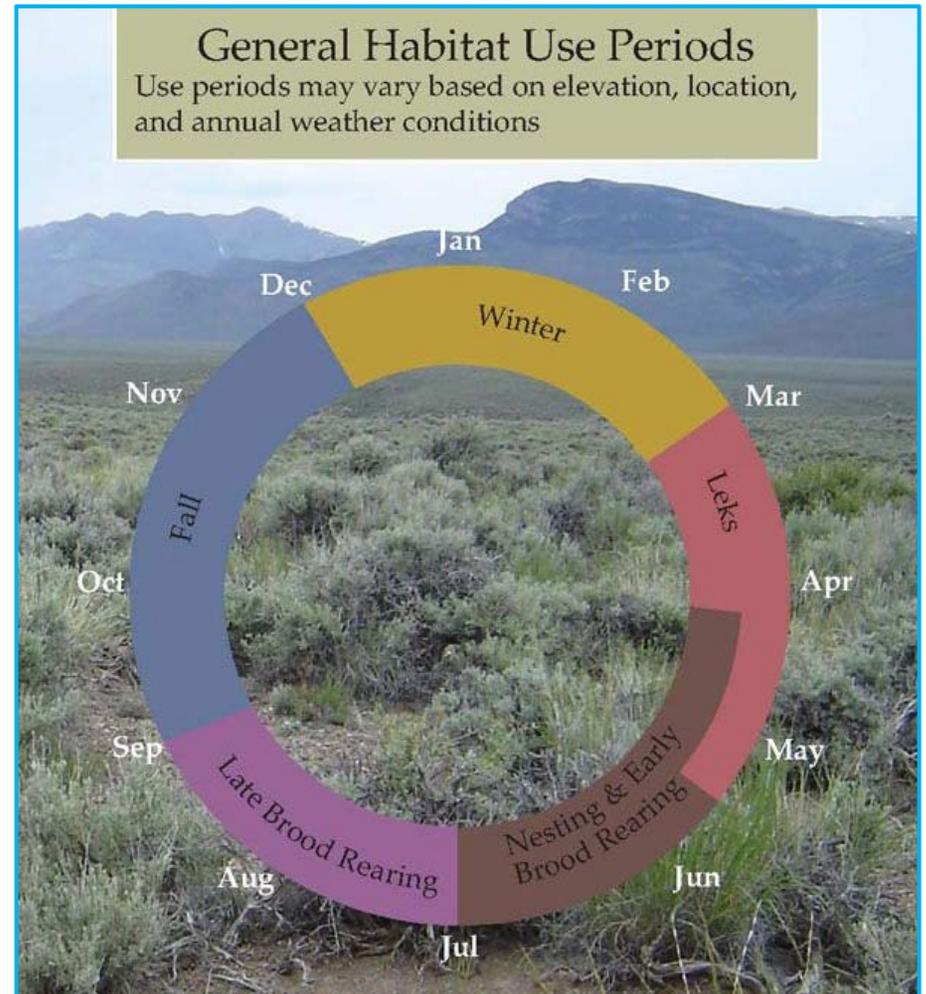
Why are we talking about them here?





What we learned yesterday

- There is more pinyon now than historically
- Pinyon changes understory
- Woodlands vs. Expansion
- Sage-grouse require healthy sagebrush systems
- Sage-grouse avoid pinyon



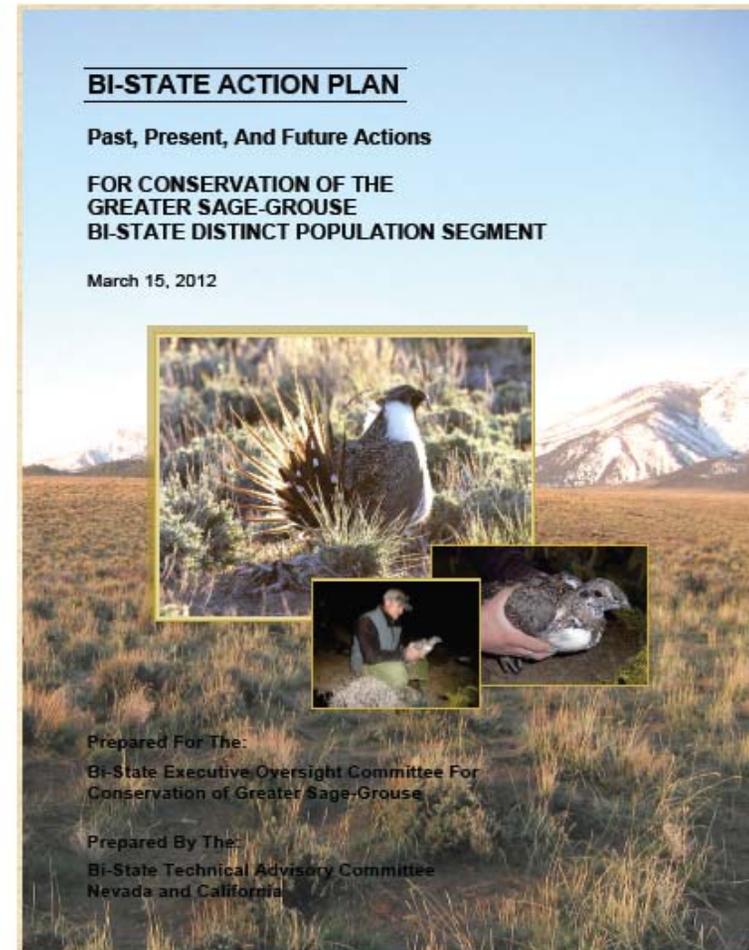
How do we address the loss of habitat from Conifer Expansion in the Bi-State?

- **Completed to date:
Approximately 20,000
acres**



Bi-State Action Plan

- 2012 Action Plan:
“roadmap to conservation” FWS
 - Best available science
 - Based on a long history of conservation, not just a response to potential listing
 - Collaborative



How did we get here?



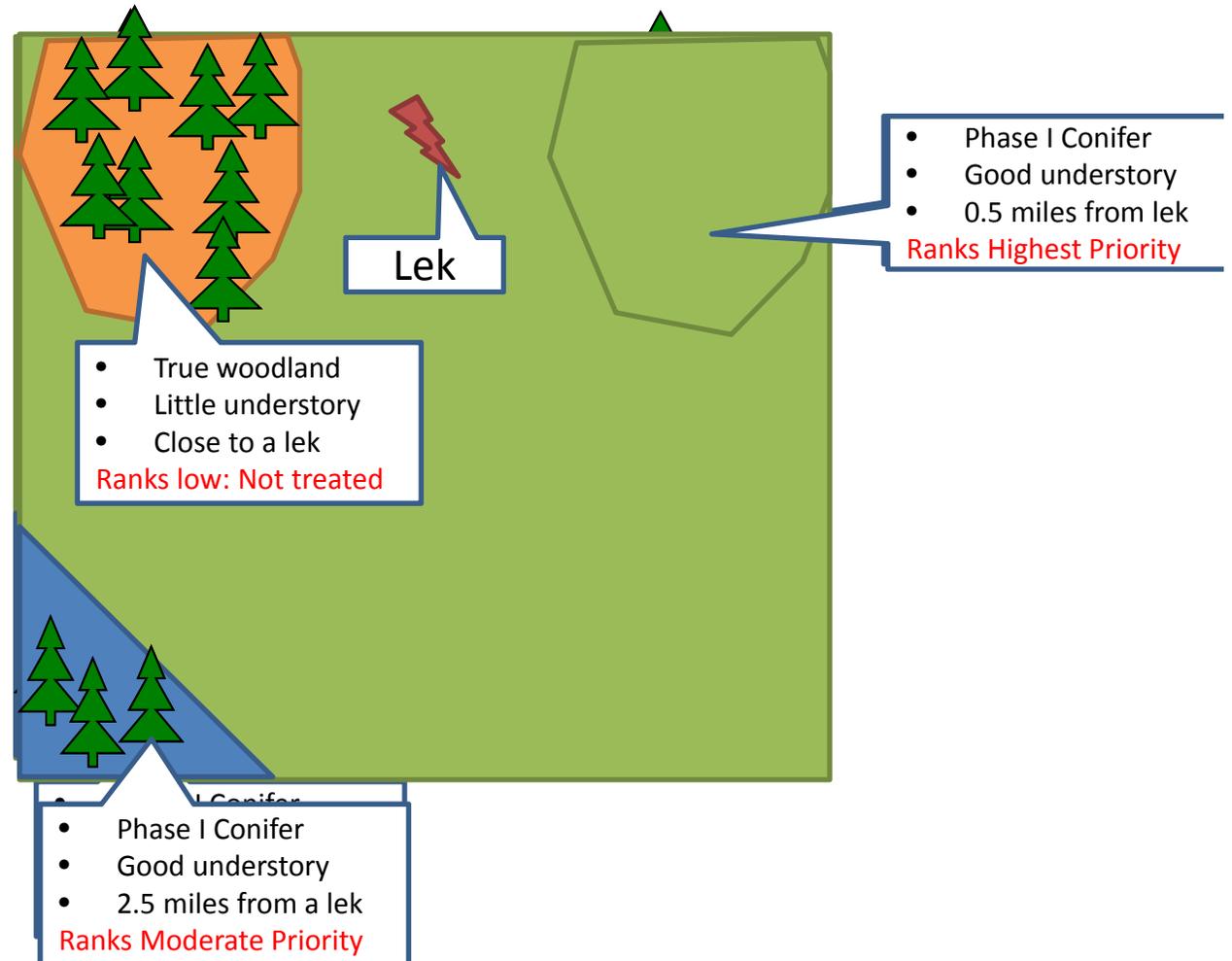
Conservation Planning Tool (CPT)

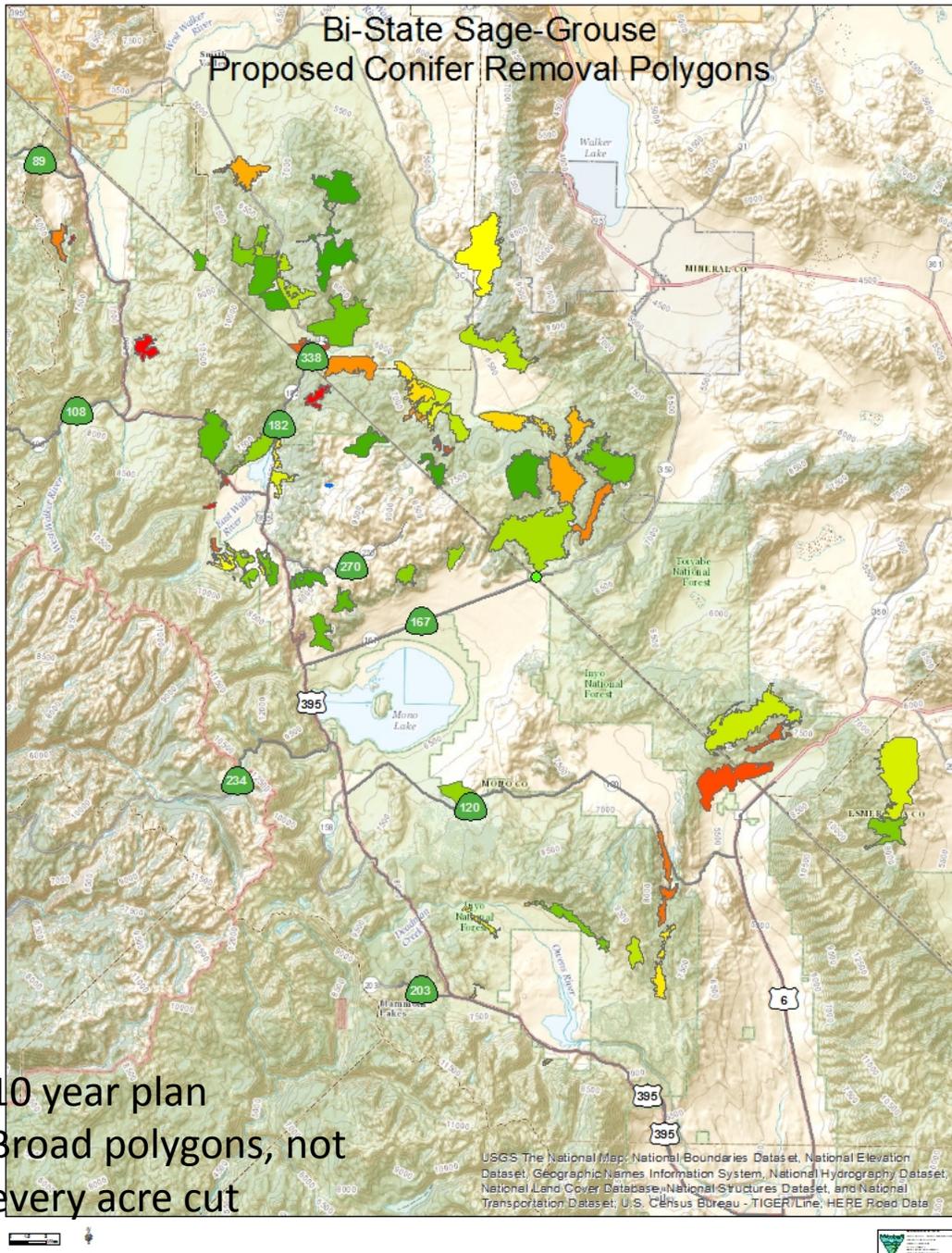
Inputs:

- Habitat characteristics good for grouse
- Distance to lek
- Thousands of grouse telemetry locations

Output:

Ranking for a piece of ground as it relates to grouse and then a relative rank of how good it would be if trees were removed.

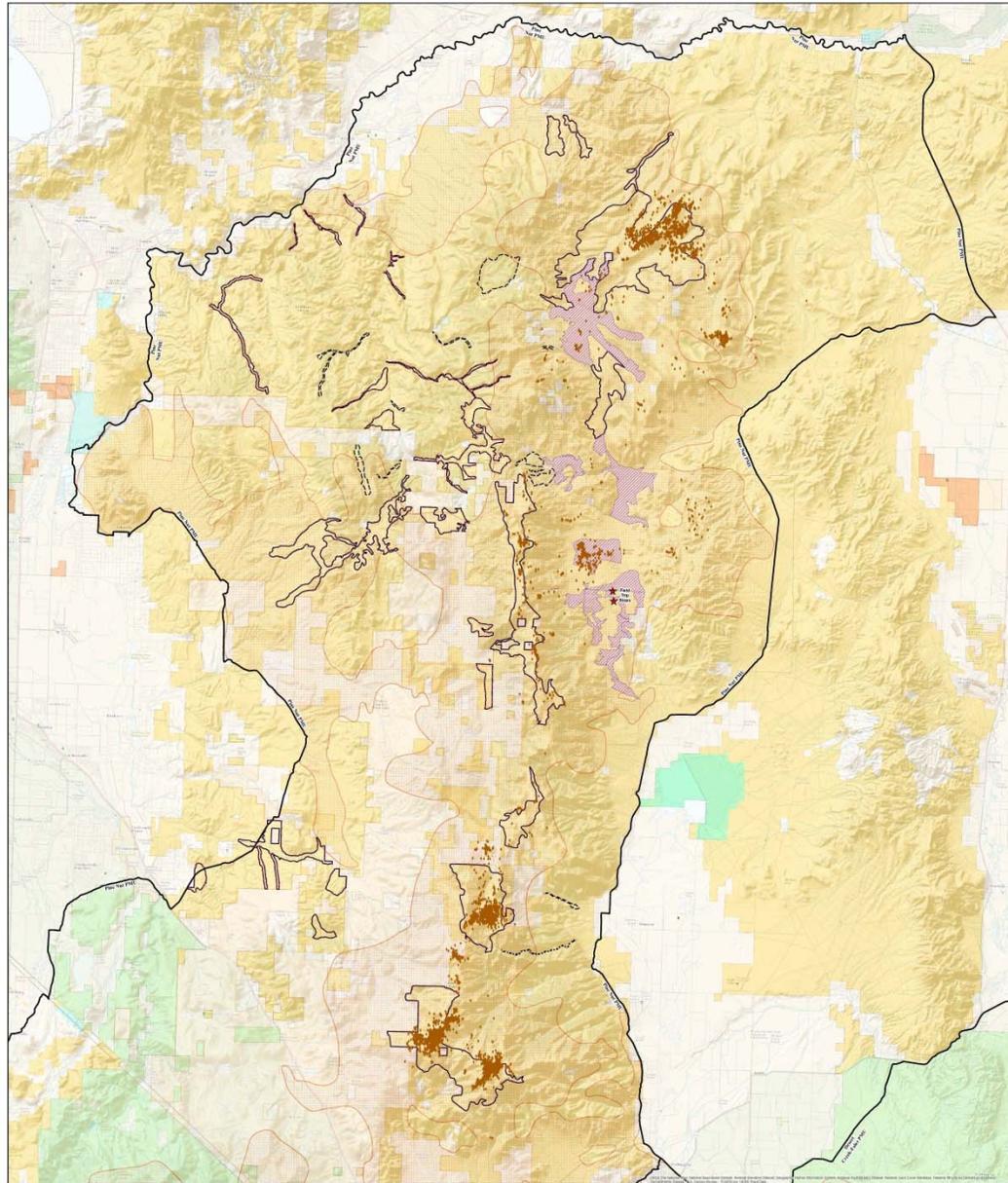




10 year plan
Broad polygons, not
every acre cut

PMU	Potential Conifer Treatment Areas
Pine Nuts	46,673
Mt. Grant	67,220
Desert Creek/Fales	25,903
Bodie	18,403
South Mono	18,033
White Mountain	26,994
Outside PMUs	120
Total	203,346

Habitat	Acres	Percent age
Not Pinyon-Juniper	2,058,146	45%
Pinyon-Juniper Cover Class 1 (1-10% Pinyon-Juniper Cover)	1,501,893	33%
Pinyon-Juniper Cover Class 2 (10%-20% Pinyon-Juniper Cover)	526,260	12%
Pinyon-Juniper Cover Class 3 (20%-30% Pinyon-Juniper Cover)	441,530	10%
All Pinyon-Juniper in Bi-State	2,469,683	55%



Pine Nut Land Health Project



Conifer Treatment Projects
 Completed Conifer Treatment

Potential Conifer Treatment Projects (CPT Rankings)

- Top Ranked
- Mid Ranked
- Lowest Ranked

Prepared for the Nevada Department of Conservation, Nevada Department of Wildlife, and the US Forest Service. Project: Pine Nut Land Health Project. Date: 12-05-2013.



Bi-State Sage-grouse Management

Bird Locations - Telemetry Data (2004-2013)

Proposed Critical Habitat

Land Ownership

Bureau of Indian Affairs	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Land Management	State
Bureau of Reclamation	Private/Other
US Forest Service	

Refine priorities

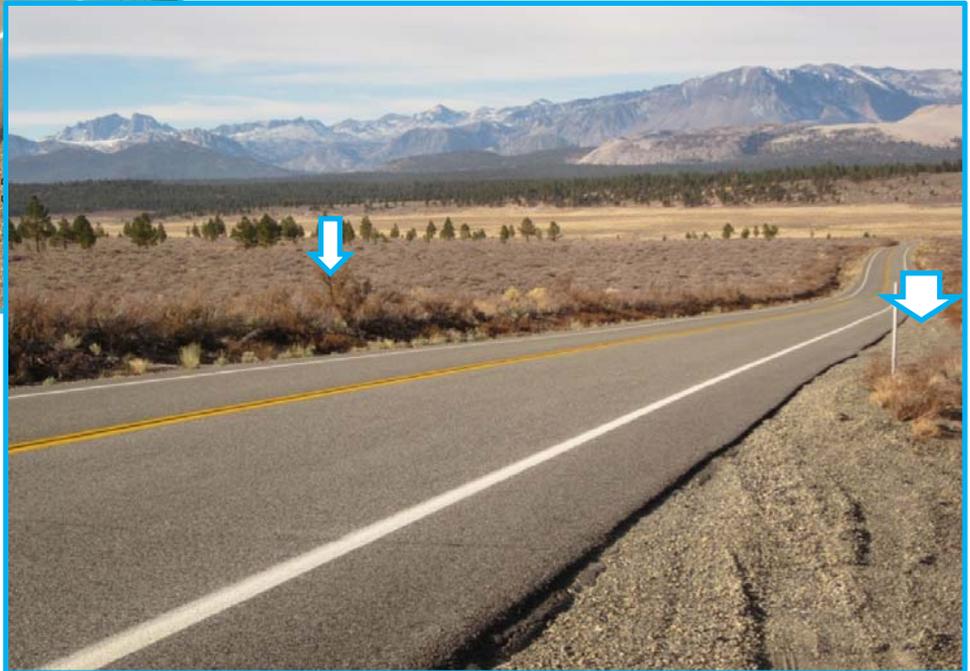
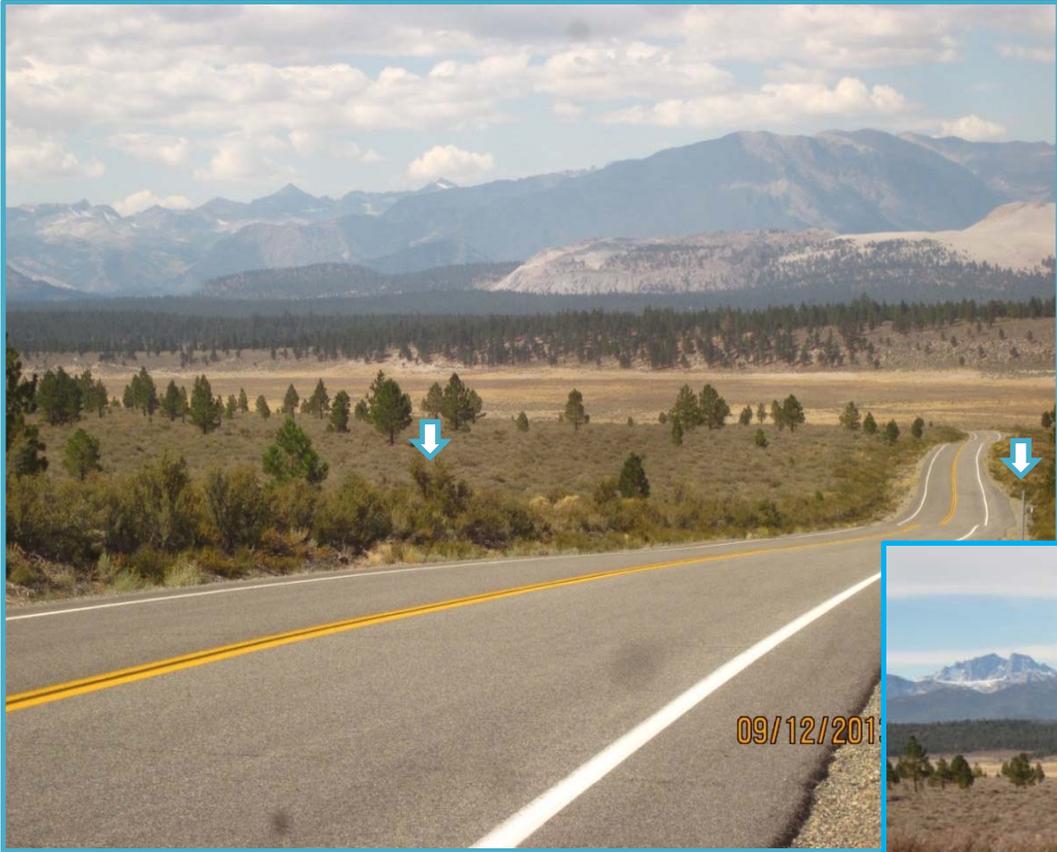
- **Go to the field and assess**
 - Age trees, look at understory
- **Incorporate other resources**
 - Wildlife
 - Plants
 - Cultural
- **Determine site specific treatment type**
 - Lop and scatter
 - Cut, pile and burn

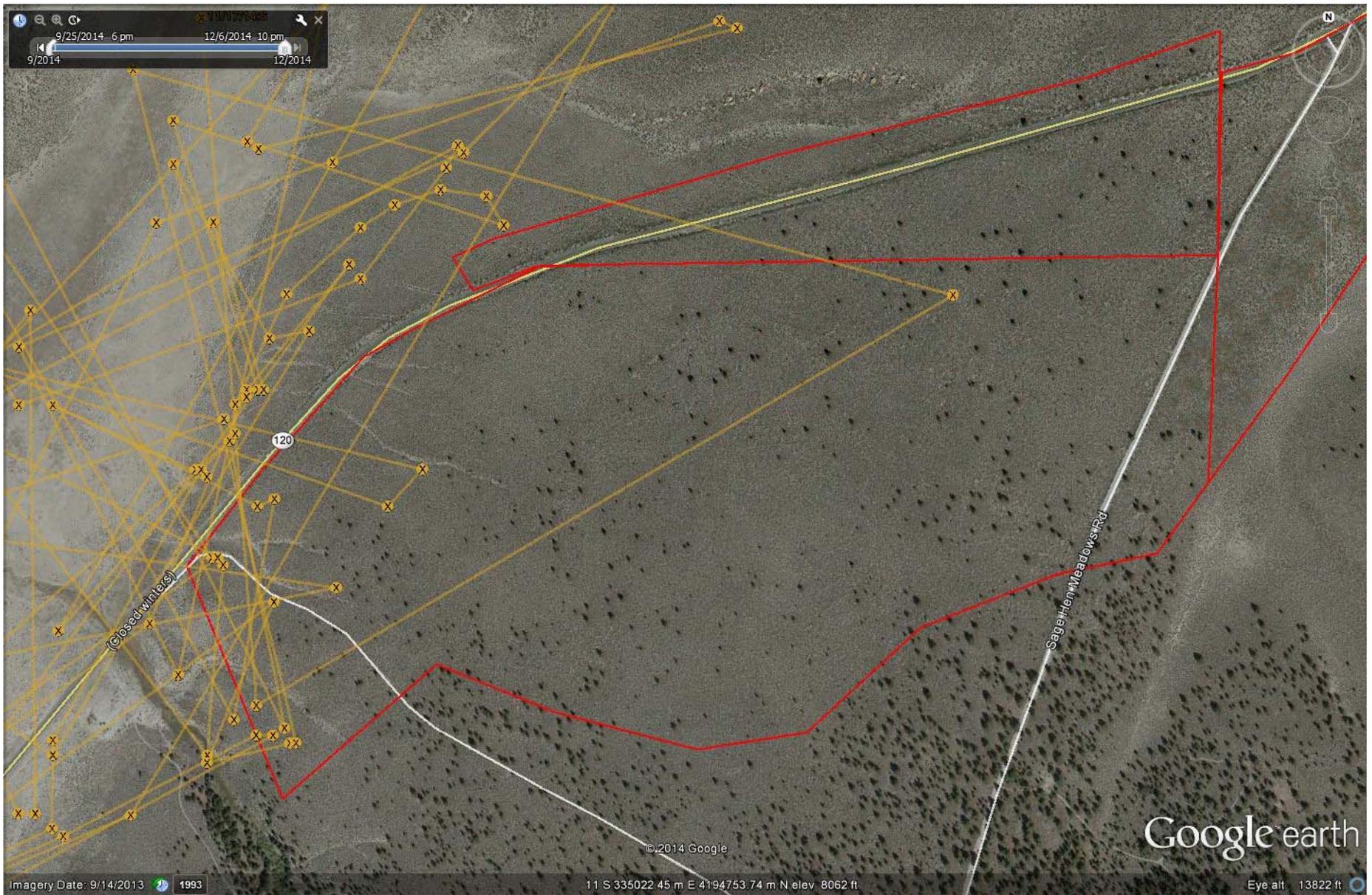




Project Prioritization

- USDA/BLM committed to completing projects with the highest priority for grouse first
- Use science based approach (CPT) as a guide for prioritization
- Refine priorities with local knowledge and incorporate benefits or reduce impacts to other resources
- Adapt as we learn more
- Not targeting old growth or true woodland sites
- Overall a small percentage of existing conifer would be removed





Does it work?

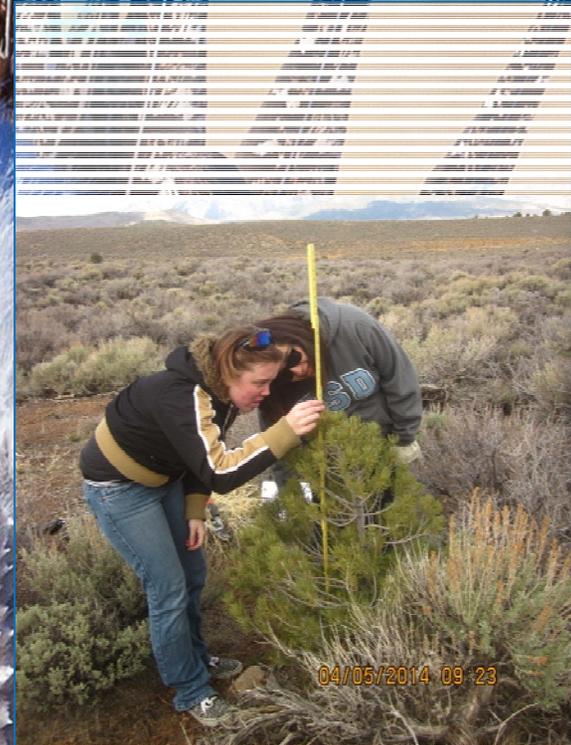
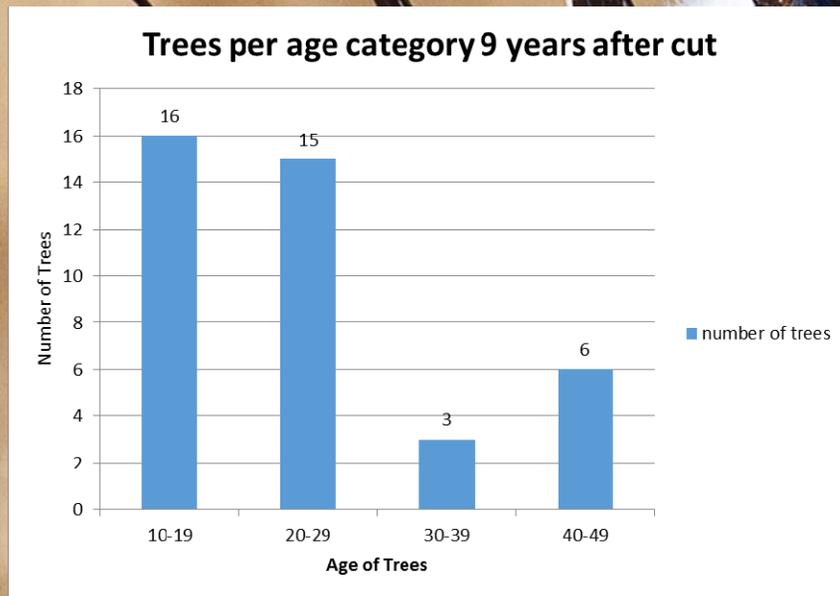








Monitoring



Is it a never ending process?





You will make
mistakes...but learn
from them

<http://www.sagegrouseinitiative.com>

