



Bi-State Forum

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United States Department of Agriculture

Sage Grouse Initiative



Launched in 2010 as mechanism to implement landscape conservation

Five years later- 6,000 mi² conserved , 1,129 ranches enrolled

\$424.5 M invested for sage grouse conservation





Improved grazing systems



Conservation easements

Primary SGI Conservation Actions



Removed encroached conifers

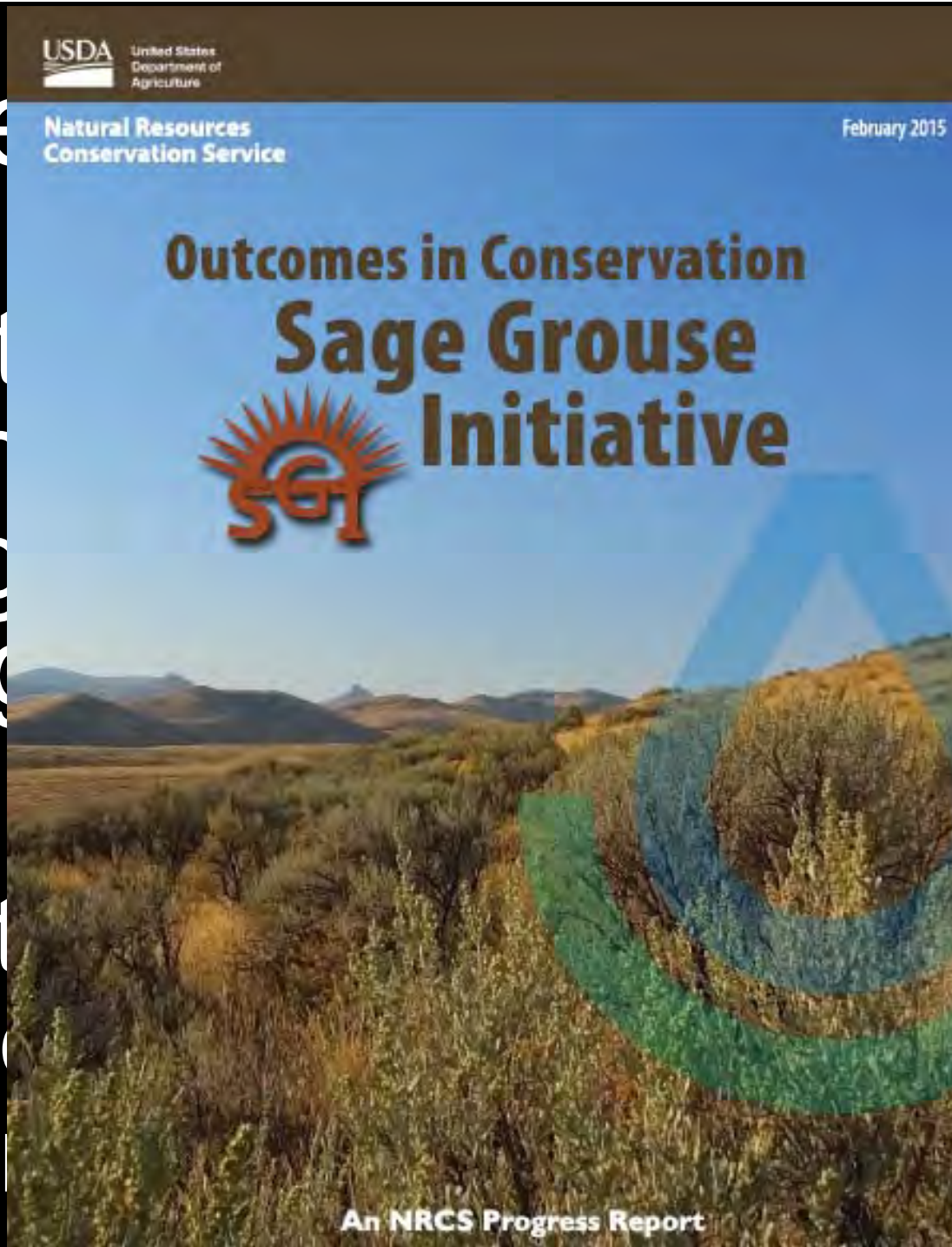


Marked or moved 'high risk' fences

Answers

What
when
design
listing

What
cons
cont

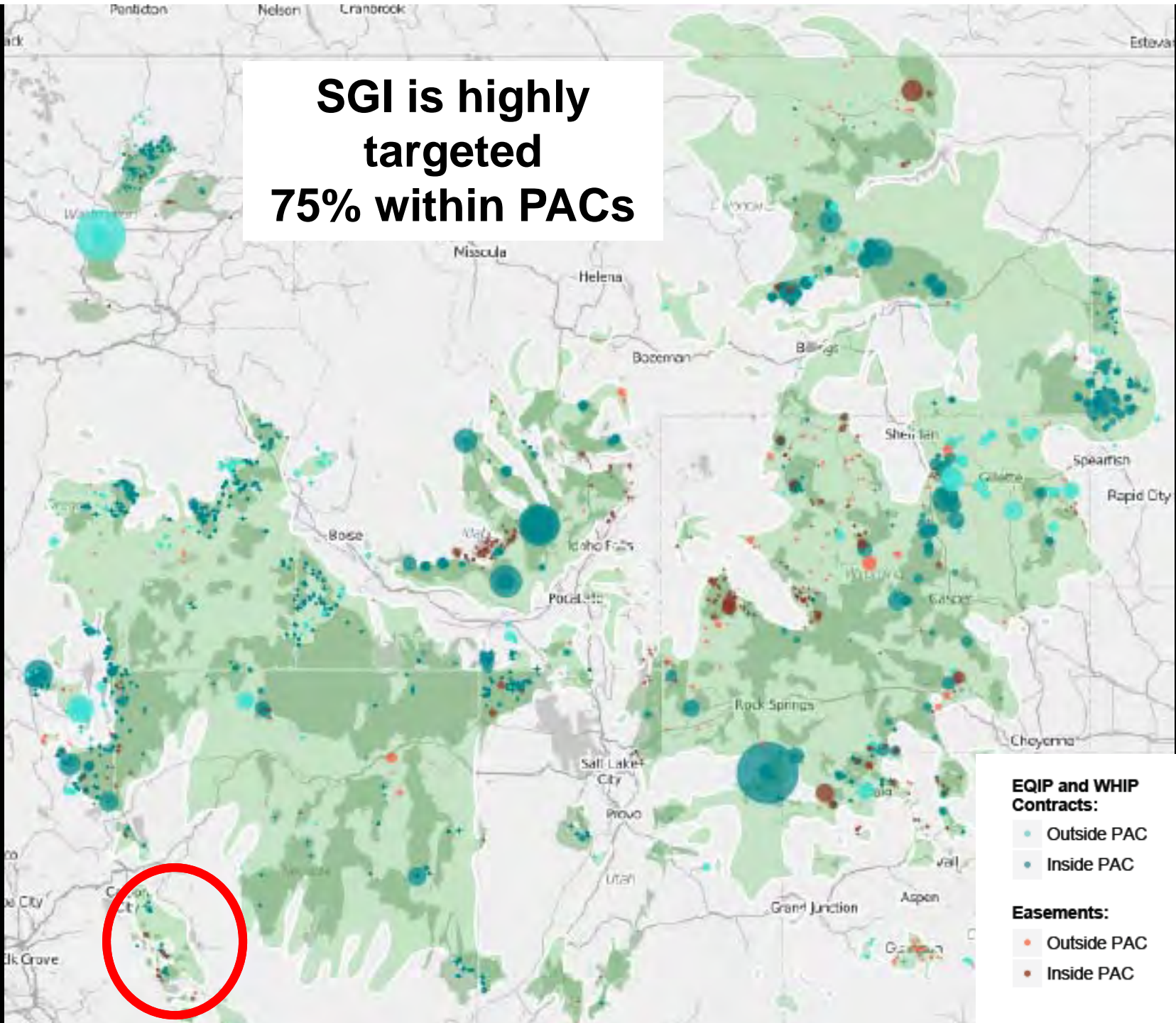


2010

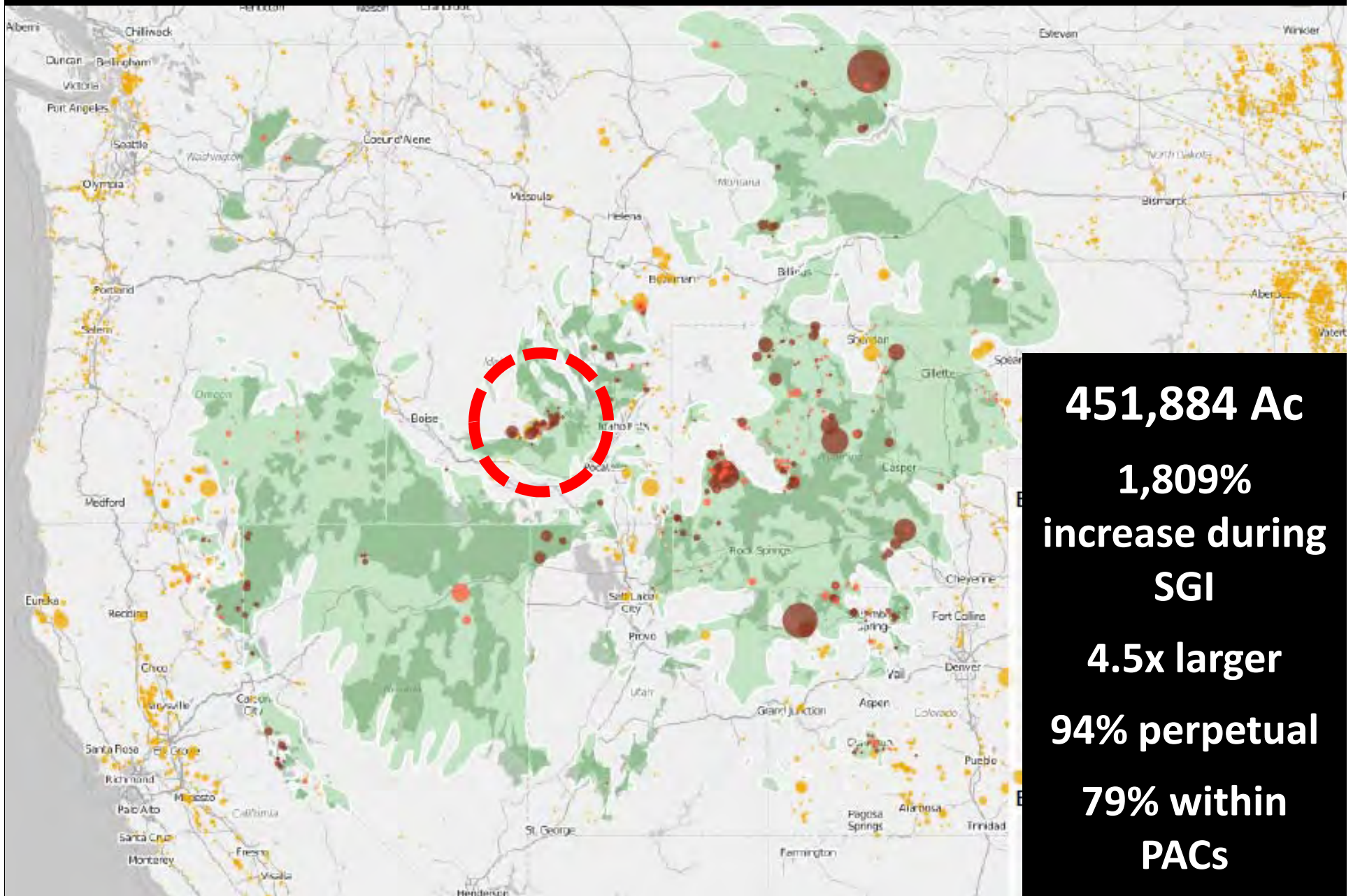
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t

**SGI is highly targeted
75% within PACs**



Conservation Easements

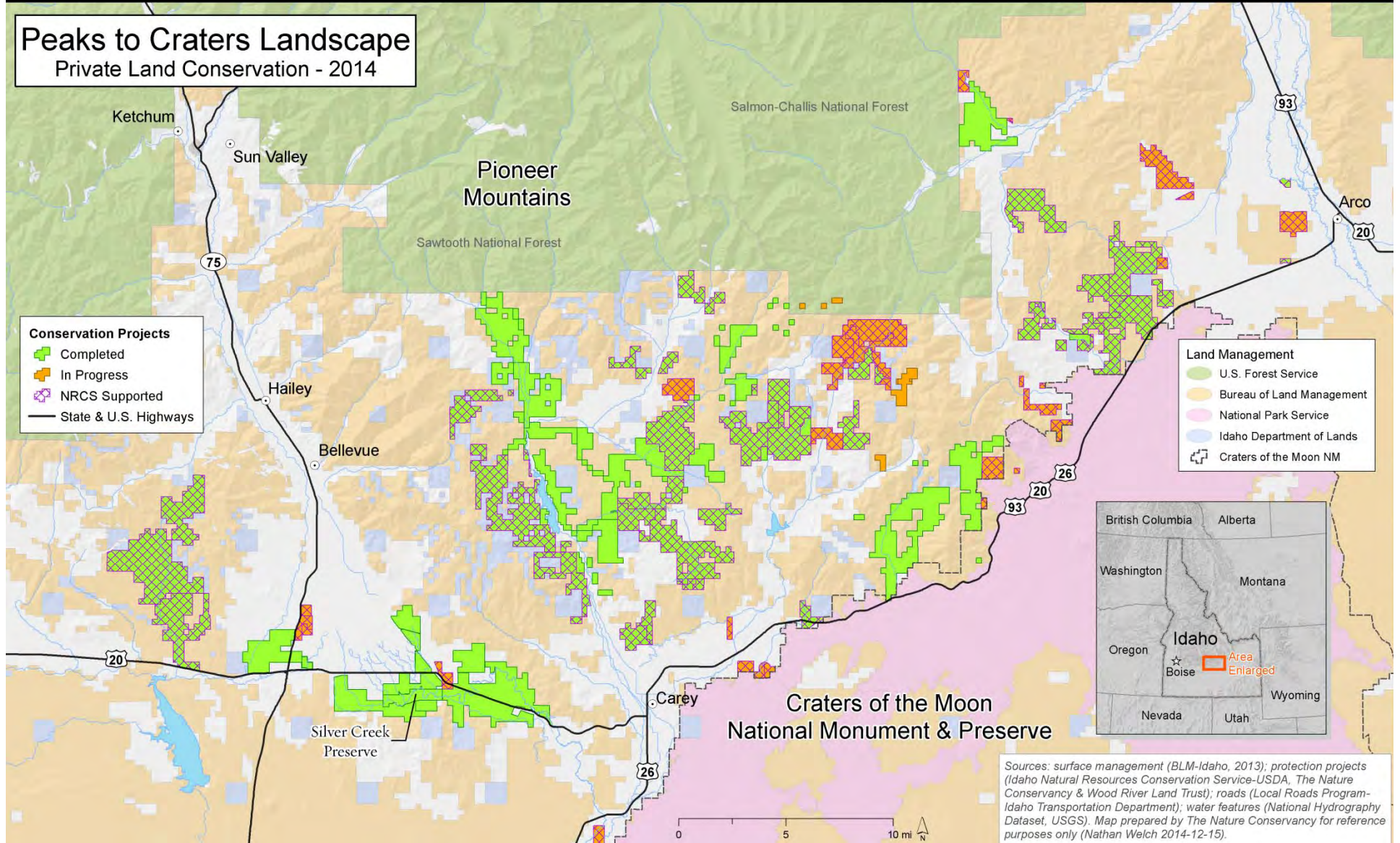


451,884 Ac
1,809%
increase during
SGI
4.5x larger
94% perpetual
79% within
PACs



Conservation Easements in Idaho

Peaks to Craters Landscape Private Land Conservation - 2014



Science to Solutions

Private Lands Vital to Conserving Wet Areas for Sage Grouse Summer Habitat



In Brief: In the arid West, life follows water. Habitats near water – streamsides, wet meadows and wetlands – support the greatest variety of animal and plant life, and attract wildlife during their daily and seasonal movements. In a water-scarce landscape, these lush habitats are also where people have naturally settled. A recent groundbreaking study reveals a strong link between wet sites, which are essential summer habitat for sage grouse to raise their broods, and the distribution of sage grouse breeding areas or leks. The authors found 85% of leks were clustered within 6 miles of these wet summer habitats. Moreover, although wet habitats cover less than 2% of the western landscape, more than 80% are located on private lands. This study makes it clear that successful sage grouse conservation will greatly depend on cooperative ventures with private landowners, ranchers and farmers to help sustain vital summer habitats.

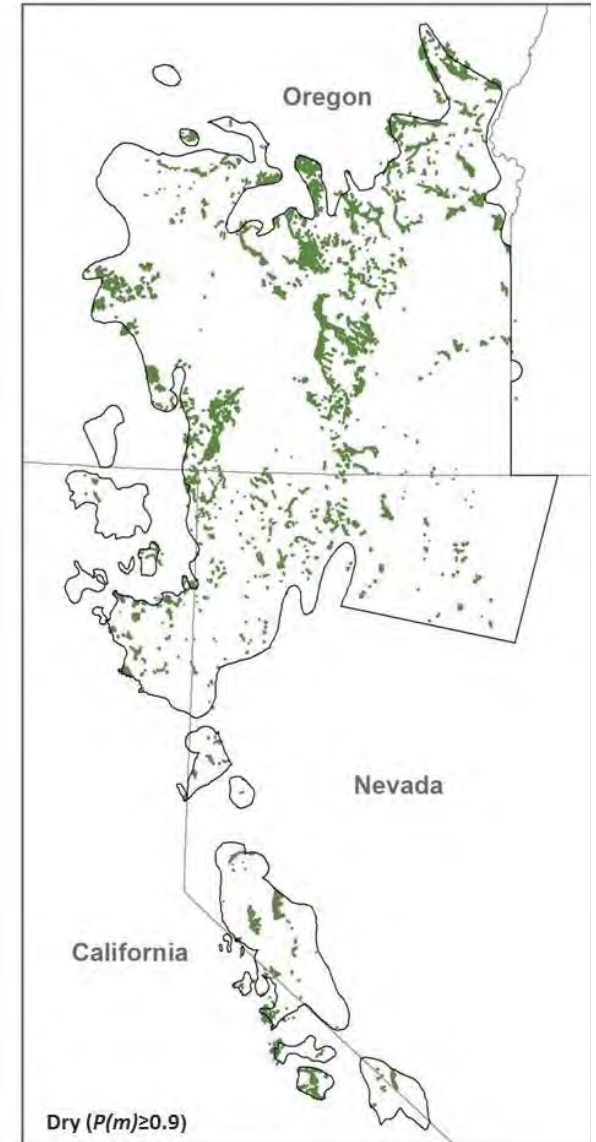
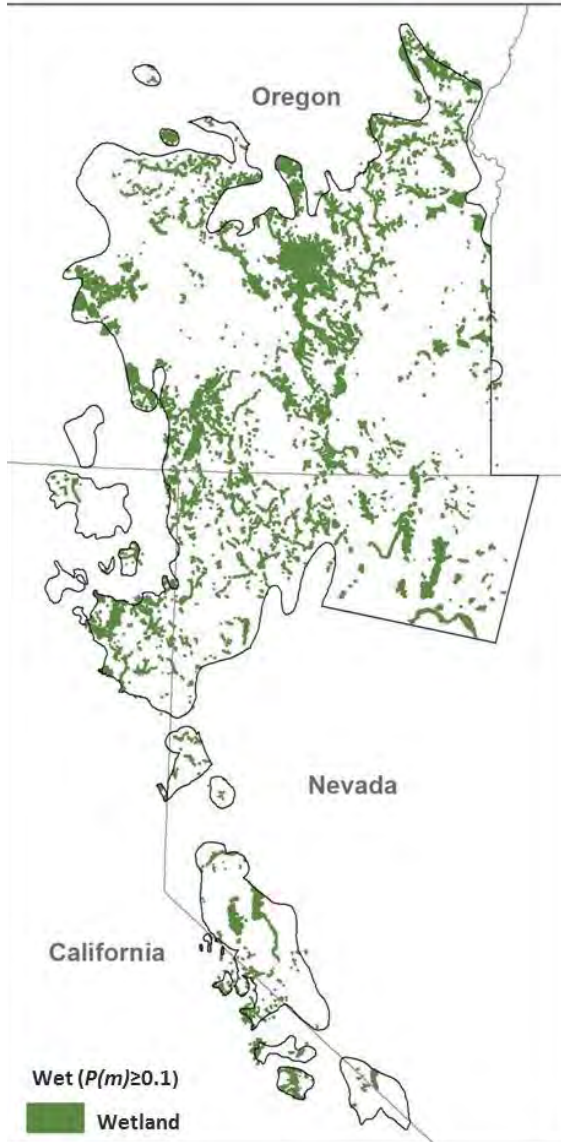
Green Magnets for Grouse

The sage grouse's life history is intimately linked to sagebrush shrubsteppe uplands. Yet in late summer, as the uplands dry out, hens seek out emerald islands in the sagebrush sea: riparian edges, wet meadows, seasonal wetlands, and irrigated fields – remaining spots of green where they can still find moist forbs and plenty of insects for their growing chicks. These scattered wet habitat sites are critical for brood survival and recruitment.

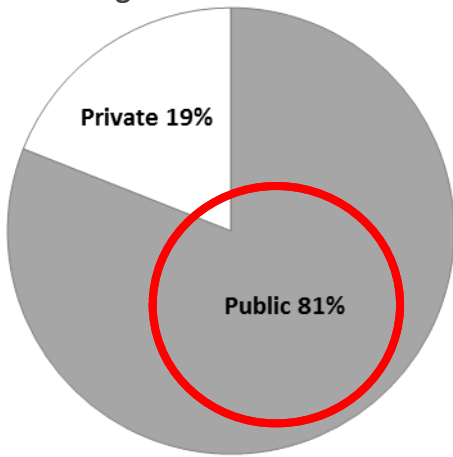


***Lek locations
are dependent
on summer
habitat
distribution***

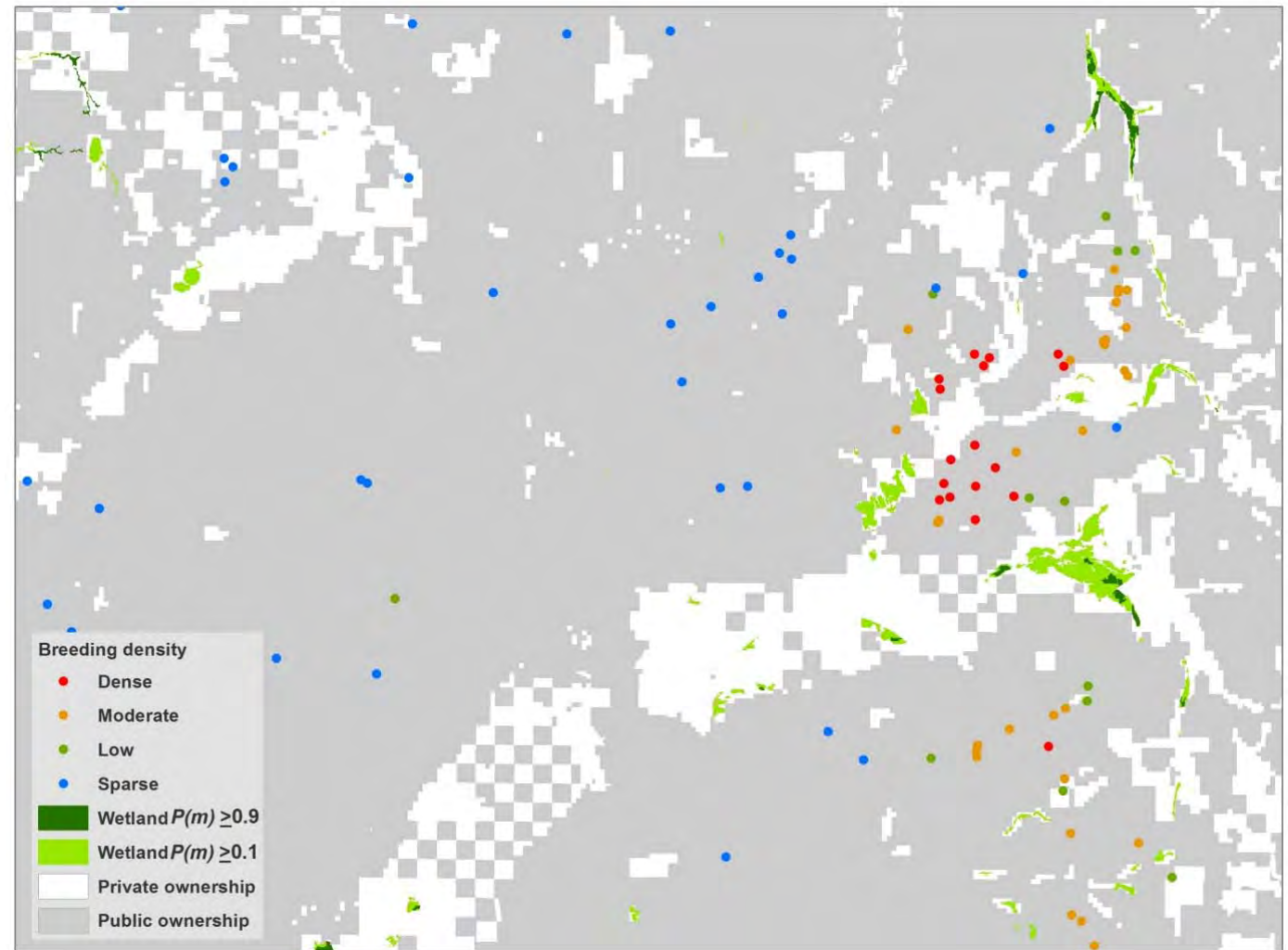
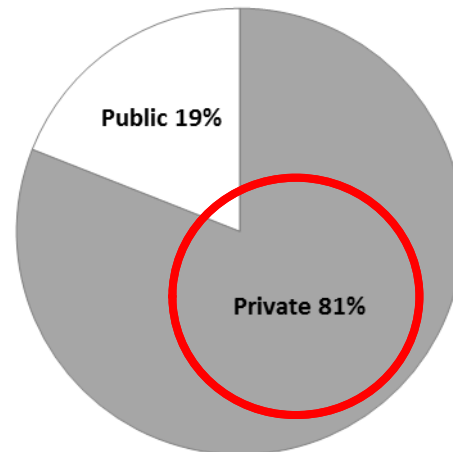
Lek clustering
within 6 miles
around
wetlands
contain 85% of
all leks



Breeding Habitat



Summer Habitat



Public lands and private waters: Summer habitats structure sage-grouse distributions

Targeted easement acquisition & restoration

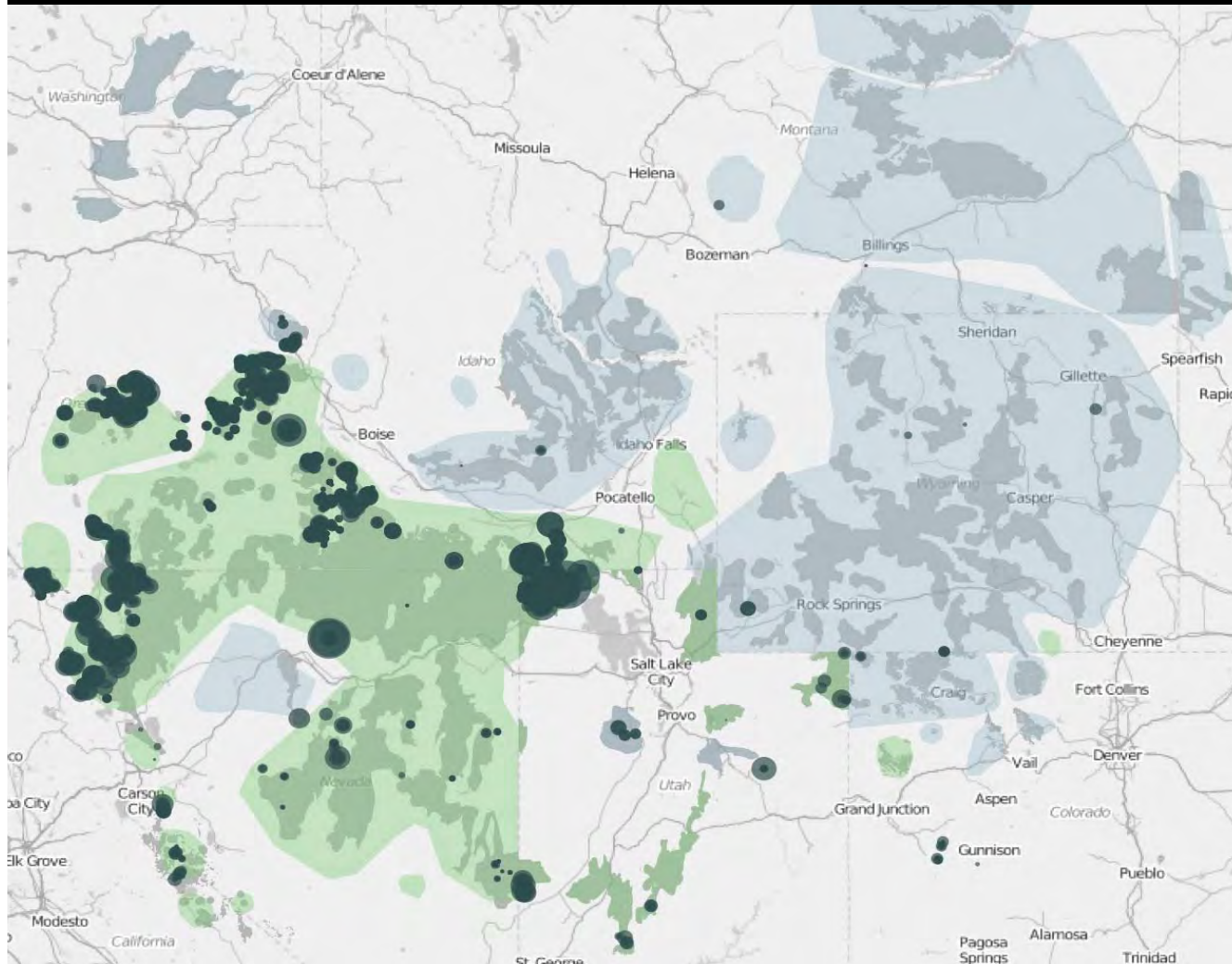


Smoke Creek easement
in Nevada



Increase benefits by
removing nearby conifers

Conifer Removal



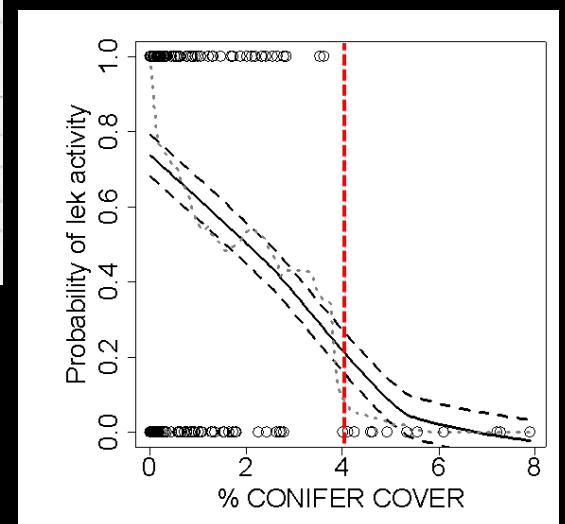
405,241 Acres

**Highly targeted to COT prioritized population, 81% in PAC.
Focus on early succession to maximize benefits (Phase I and II)**

Phase I (early)



Phase II (mid)



Conifer Removal in Oregon



SGI Conifer Removal inside Oregon PACs

Population	Ownership	Acres Early Successional Conifer ¹	Acres Cut Inside PACs ^{2,3}	% Threat Reduced in PACs
Central Oregon	Private	80,387	67,955	85%
Northern Great Basin	Private	97,367	65,052	67%
Western Great Basin	Private	39,085	20,412	52%
Baker, Oregon	Private	19,005	7,864	41%
TOTAL	Private	235,844	161,283	68%

Red & pink PACs equal higher invaded acreage



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Questions?

