

Bi-State Pinyon-Juniper Forum

February 25-26, 2015



Bi-State Sage-grouse Working Group

Varied stakeholders proactively meeting a conservation challenge with thoughtful, science-based planning and action for the benefit of a species, its habitats, communities and working landscapes



A Unique Partnership

- Local Area Working Groups
 - Landowners, permittees, citizens, NGOs, field agency folks
- Technical Advisory Team
 - Scientists
- Executive Oversight Committee
 - NDOW, CDFW, BLM, USFWS, USFS, NRCS, USGS managers



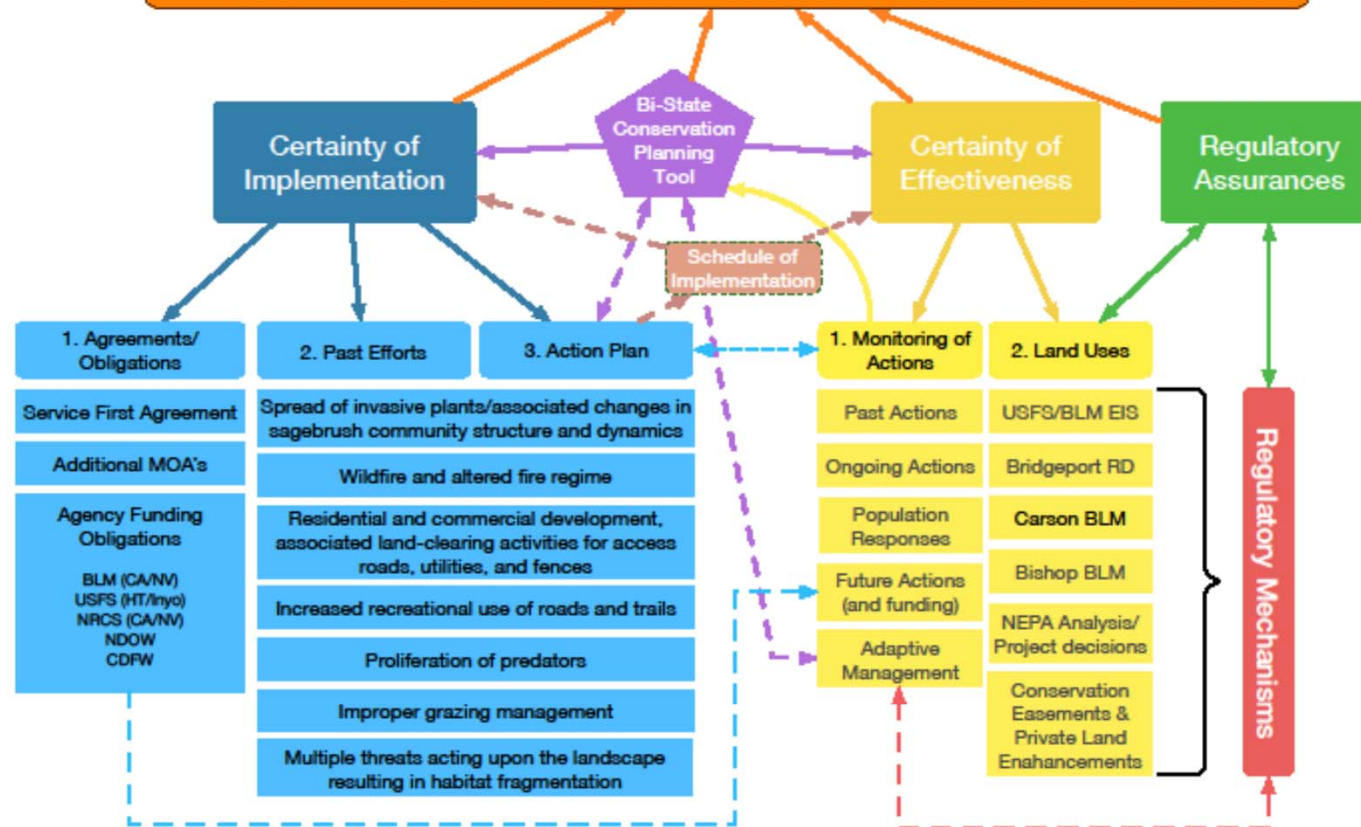
Conservation Planning

- 2012 Bi-State Action Plan
 - Project inventory, prioritization, monitoring, cost estimates
- Certainty of Effectiveness/Implementation Package
 - Documents track record, how threats are being addressed, scientific foundation, interagency collaboration and funding commitments (~\$46 million)
 - Informs FWS for listing determination (April 28, 2015)



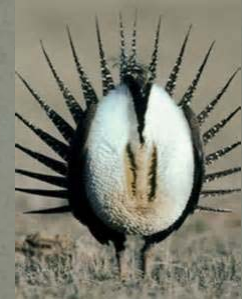
Bi-State Sage-grouse Conservation Strategy Flowchart

Goal: Habitat availability and suitability that will support stable to increasing populations of sage-grouse within the Bi-State DPS over the long-term



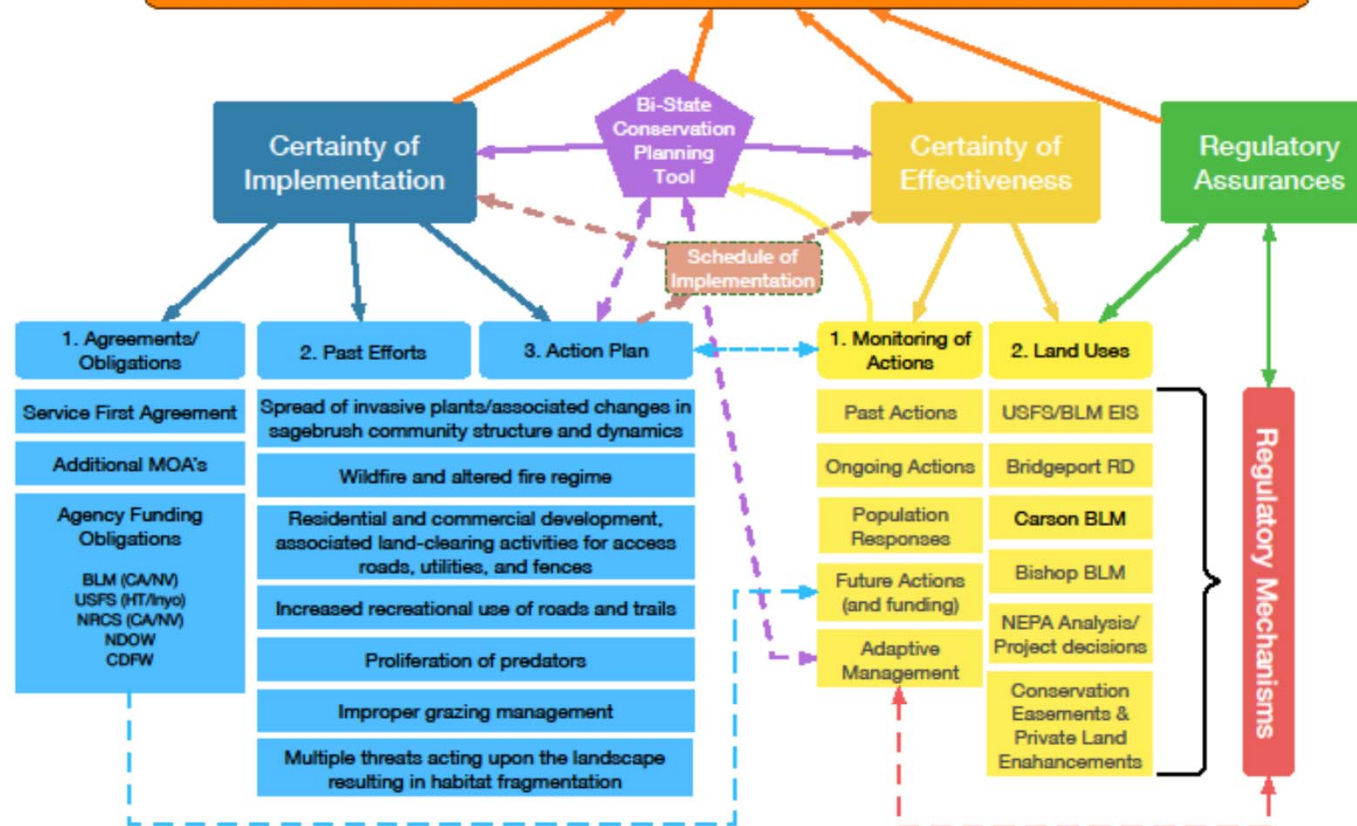
Regulatory Assurances

- FWS found that some existing resource management plans lacked sufficient regulatory mechanisms to conserve grouse habitat
- FS/BLM Bi-State Sage-grouse Plan Amendments
 - FEIS and Draft Record of Decision published 2/6
 - Plan Amendments would provide for more consistent application of sage-grouse conservation measures to all discretionary authorizations (avoid or mitigate)
 - 60-day objection/Governor's Consistency Review period
 - <http://www.fs.usda.gov/htnf/>



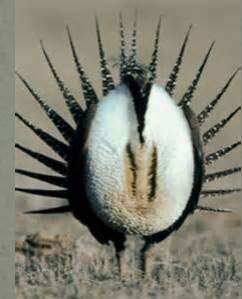
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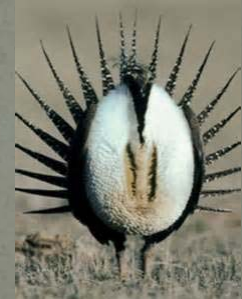
Implementation - Update

- Agencies Developing Individual Work Plans from Bi-State Action Plan
 - NEPA and on the ground work
 - Service First Agreement – sharing resources for efficiency and effectiveness
- Ongoing Monitoring and Adaptive Management
 - Evaluating effectiveness of actions and adapting treatments to reflect new science and lessons learned



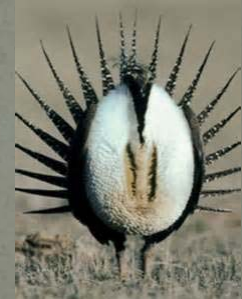
Forum Goals

- Increase understanding of causes and effects of pinyon-juniper expansion and treatments on sage-grouse habitats
- Recognize and understand the natural and cultural resource benefits of pinyon-juniper
 - Not all P-J is bad! 2 million acres phase I & II, 200K prop
- Learn from new science and other large-scale projects
 - Review existing Action Plan approaches to prioritizing and managing P-J expansion and revise as appropriate



Forum Goals

- Broaden perspectives on sage-grouse conservation efforts in general
- Continue to foster public/private partnerships
- Network and have fun!



Questions?

