

WAFWA GREATER-SAGE GROUSE COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION STRATEGY

ROLE FOR CSI?

September 7, 2006

Maintain & enhance sage-grouse & their habitats

Greater sage-grouse
Conservation
Assessment
- Informs

Implementation

WGA
Sagebrush
Conservation
Council
- Supports

Range-wide Comprehensive Conservation Strategy

Framework Team coordinating for WAFWA

Sub-strategies

- Funding
- Communication/Outreach
- Implementation Monitoring
- Conservation
- Effectiveness Monitoring
- Adaptive Management
- Research & Technology

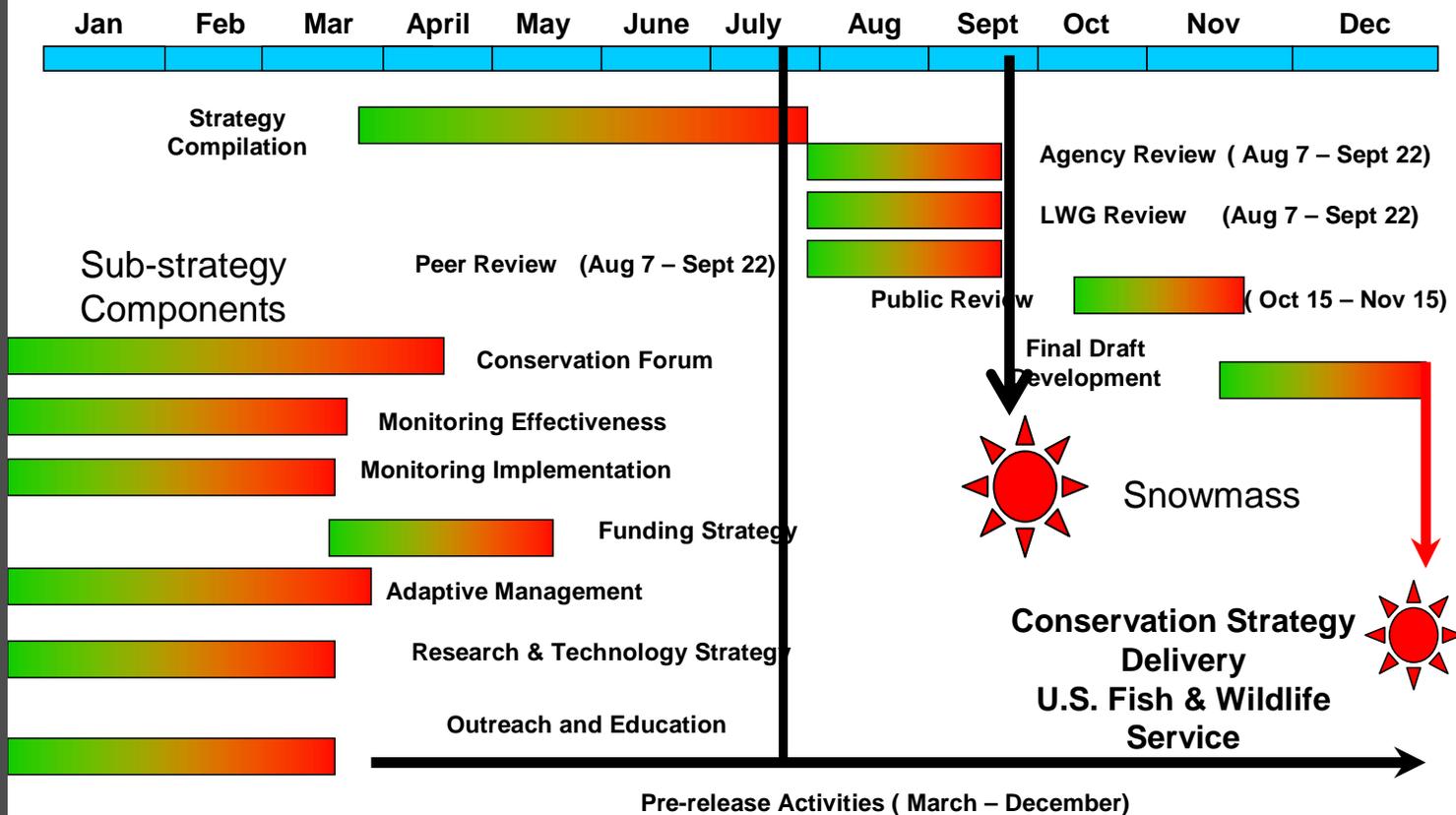
Local Working Group Plans
State & Provincial Plans
Tribal Plans
BLM Sage- grouse Strategy
Other Strategies
Range- wide Issues 

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Greater Sage-Grouse Comprehensive Conservation Strategy

Greater Sage-Grouse Comprehensive Conservation Strategy

2006 TIMELINE



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Greater Sage-Grouse Comprehensive Conservation Strategy

	Setting	
WAFWA Set the Goal		
	“Maintain and Enhance Sage-Grouse Numbers and Distribution” 1995	

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Greater Sage-Grouse Comprehensive Conservation Strategy

	Setting	
	WAFWA, BLM, USFS & USFWS	
Guided the Conservation Effort Developed Conservation Partnerships		

	<h2>Challenges</h2>
<p>We have a lot to lose!</p> <p>"Some say the grouse could become the spotted owl of the Intermountain West," Norton told Western Governors at their 2004 annual meeting . "But the sage grouse occupies nearly 12 times as much land as the northern spotted owl."</p>	
<p>11 States 2 Provinces</p>	<p>In Fact</p> <p>Greater Sage-grouse occupy 258,000 square miles</p>

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Challenges

“However, we are not optimistic about the future of sage-grouse because of long-term population declines coupled with continued loss and degradation of habitat and other factors (including West Nile Virus).”

Conservation Assessment

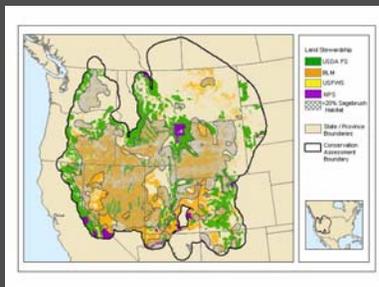
Greater Sage-grouse and Sagebrush Habitats (2004)

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Challenges

“This uncertainty about the future impact of the threats to sage-grouse may also be reflected in why some experts projected sage-grouse extinction risk at 60 years while others felt that beyond 200 years was more realistic.”



“Not Warranted” 12-Month Finding

US Fish and Wildlife Service

January 2005

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Fine Scale	Methods	Mid Scale
<p>Local Working Groups' strategies and actions <u>stay intact</u> and <u>are enhanced</u> by the strategy</p>		<p>State and Provincial strategies and actions <u>stay intact</u> and <u>are enhanced</u> by the strategy</p>

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Methods

Range-Wide Issues Forum

WAFWA contracted the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution for a report from a broad array of stakeholder experts.

The report identified issues at scale and strategies to enhance success of the sage-grouse conservation effort.

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**Highlighted
Strategies**

**The Range-wide Forum
Identified three critical needs
for success**

Funding

Leadership

**Organizational
Structure**

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**Range-wide Forum
Recommendations**

**Implementation
Strategies**

Leadership

Issue:

1. The conservation effort needs support from executive level agency personnel.
2. The executives need advice from stakeholders
3. The executives need to report progress

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**Range-wide Forum
Recommendations**

**Implementation
Strategies**

Leadership

Strategy:

1. Convene an executive council.
2. Establish a stakeholder forum.

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Range-wide Forum
Recommendations

Implementation
Strategies

Structure

Issue:

The conservation effort needs an appropriate structure to sustain coordination, information management, outreach and analysis

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**Range-wide Forum
Recommendations**

**Implementation
Strategies**

Structure

Strategy:

Develop the appropriate structure with the passage of the funding strategies.

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Range-wide Forum
Recommendations

Implementation
Strategies

Funding

Issues:

To be successful, the conservation effort needs increased capacity at all levels (LWGs, Agencies, NGOs *(all partners)*) Current staffing, funding and technical capacity are insufficient.

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Greater Sage-Grouse Comprehensive Conservation Strategy

	Implementation Strategies	
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Funding		
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Strategies:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Build short-term resource capacity by requesting dedicated funding in the next 3 federal budgets & solicit funding from non-government sources.2. Build long-term capacity through passage of the “North American Sagebrush Ecosystem Conservation Act” (NASECA)
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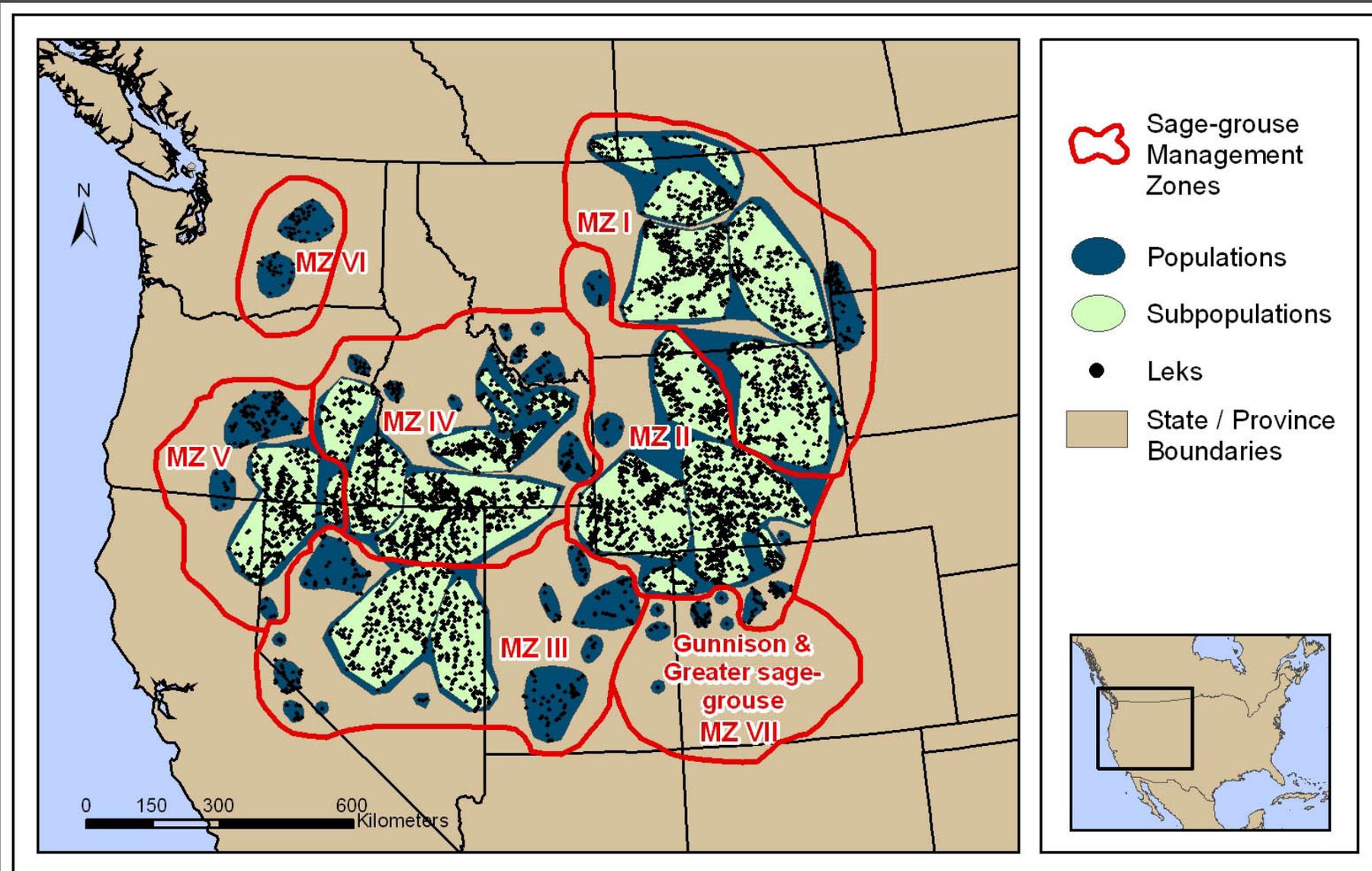
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**Management Zones:
A basis for measuring success**

Establish 7 Management Zones across the range of Sage-grouse based on Floristic Provinces as defined in the Conservation Assessment (Connelly et al. 2004)		

Sage-grouse Management Zones



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Short-term Funding Model A

Work with A Known Model

**Employ the Joint Venture(s) to administer the Sage-grouse Conservation Project
BUILD JV(s) CONSERVATION CAPACITY**

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Short-term Funding Model B

**Work with
A New
Model**

**Utilize a “NEW” Model
to administer the Sage-grouse Conservation Project
SCI?**

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Long-term Funding

**North American Sagebrush Ecosystem
Conservation Act (NASECA)**

	The Model NAWCA	
Why Reinvent the Wheel?		Russ George, Colorado DNR May 2006 “Absolutely Brilliant”

North American Sagebrush Ecosystem Conservation Act (NASECA)

December 2006

**Sage-Grouse
Comprehensive
Strategy**

July 2007

**DRAFT North American Sagebrush
Ecosystem Conservation Act (NASECA)**

Written and developed
by
WGA – SCC / WAFWA

**NASECA
Signed
Into Law**

**NASECA
Funding**

**Joint Venture Board?
SCI?**

Sage-grouse Funding Committee

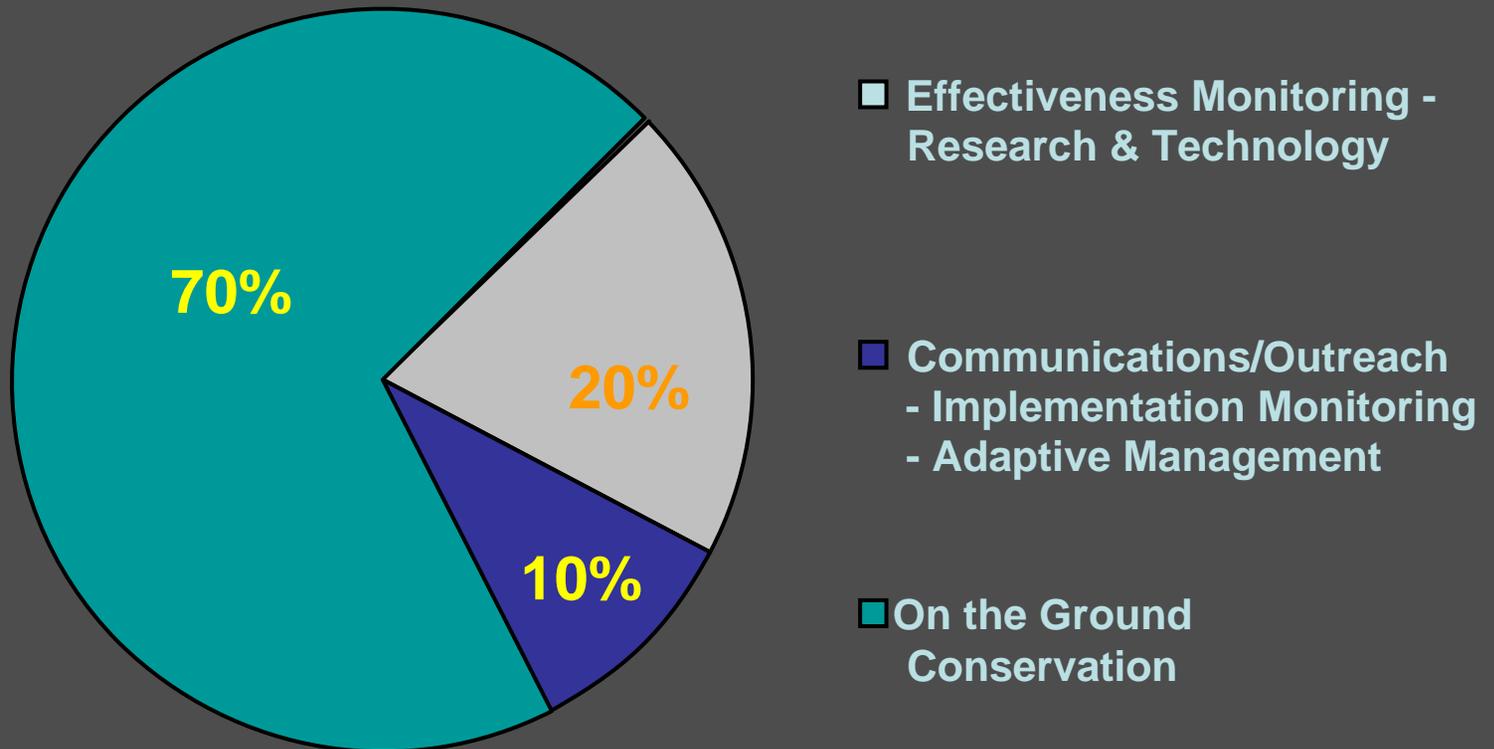
- WAFWA Directors
- WGA – SCC
- NABCI
- BLM
- NGO's
- Local Government Representative
- Others?



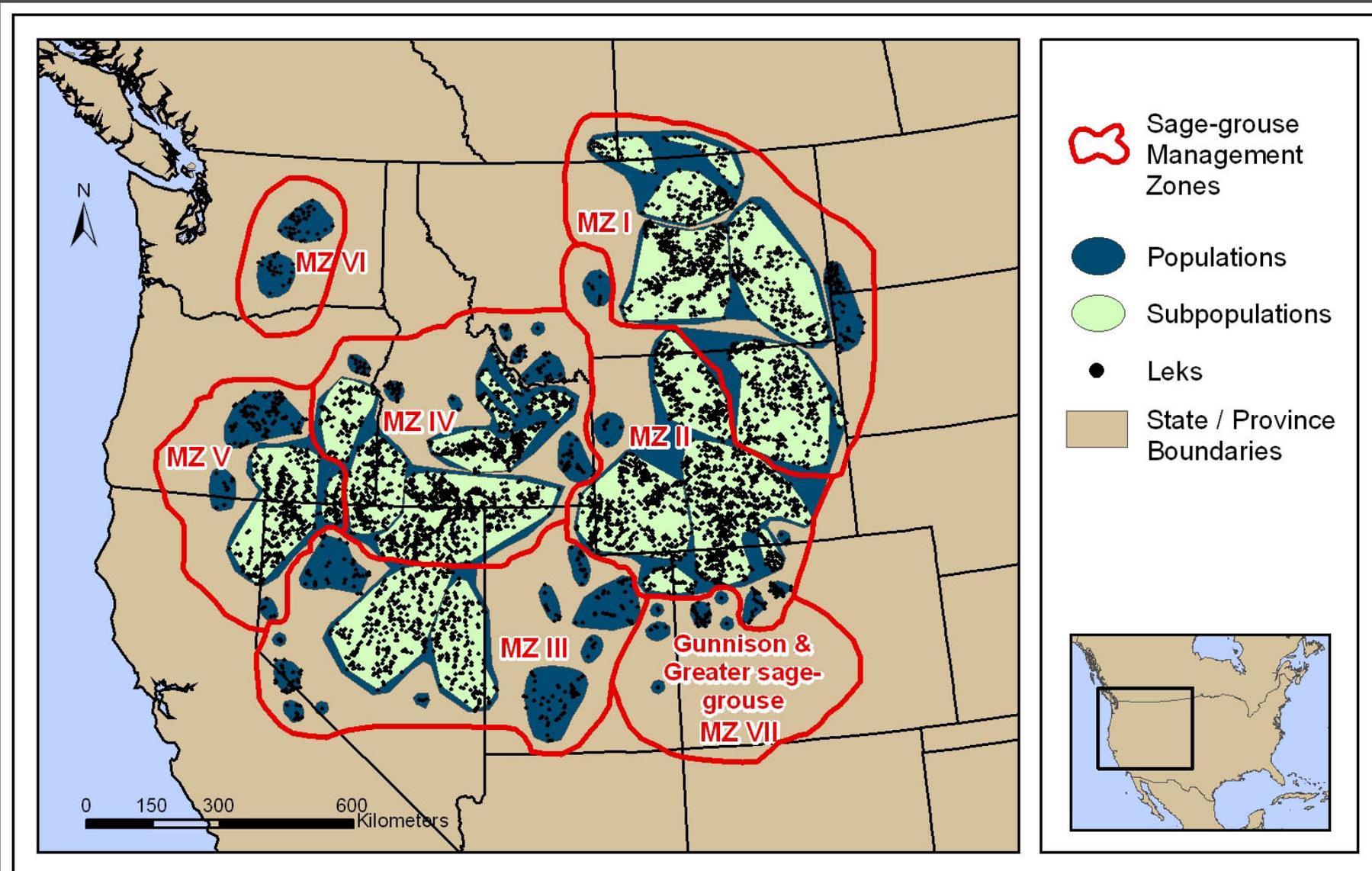
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Proposed Funding Distribution

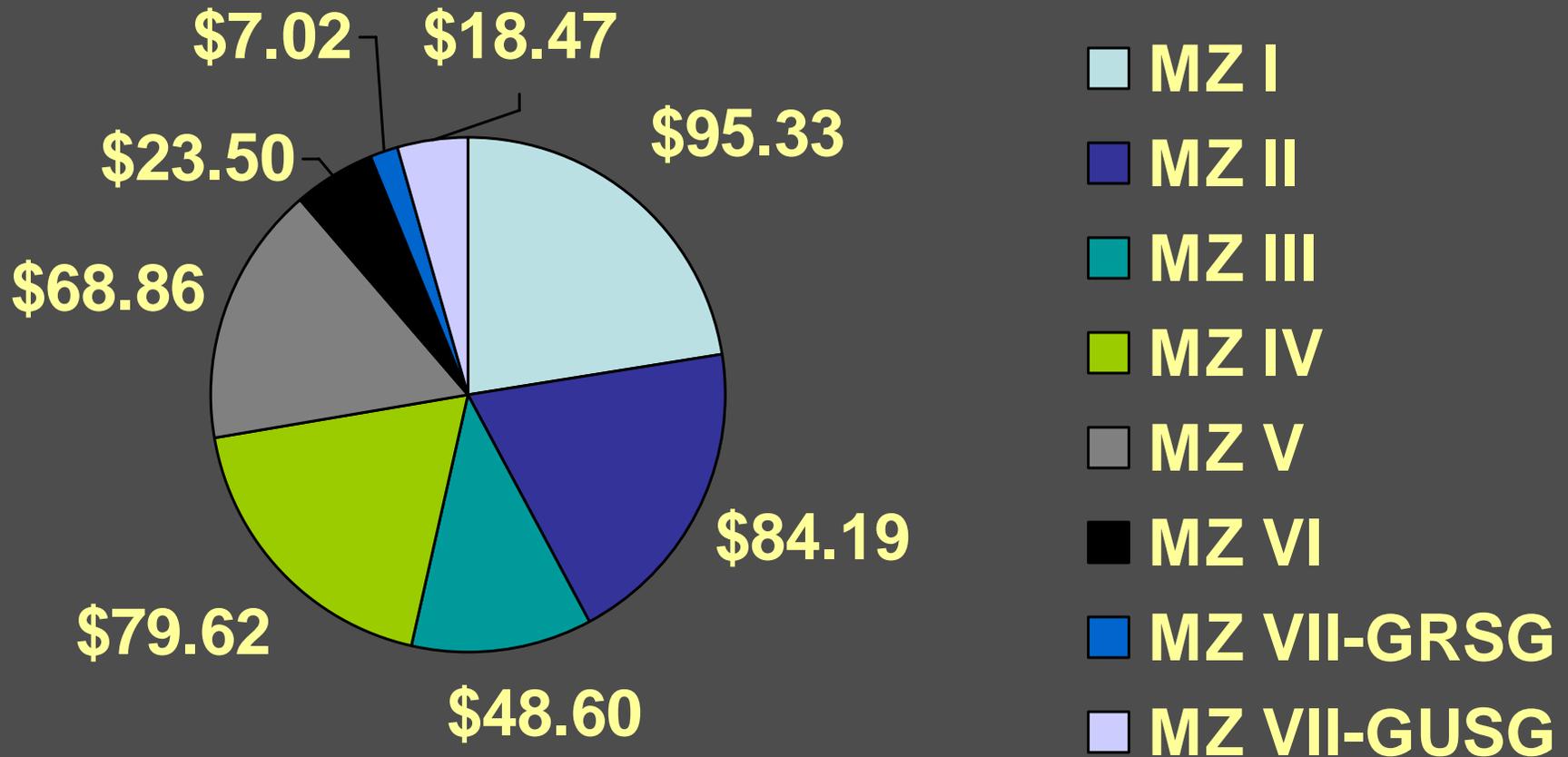


Sage-grouse Management Zones



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Greater Sage-Grouse Comprehensive Conservation Strategy Proposed NASECA Funding Distribution



Total = \$425.6 M (Jan 2009 – December 2013)

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**North American Sagebrush Ecosystem
Conservation Act (NASECA)**

NASECA Funding:

An Investment in Conservation

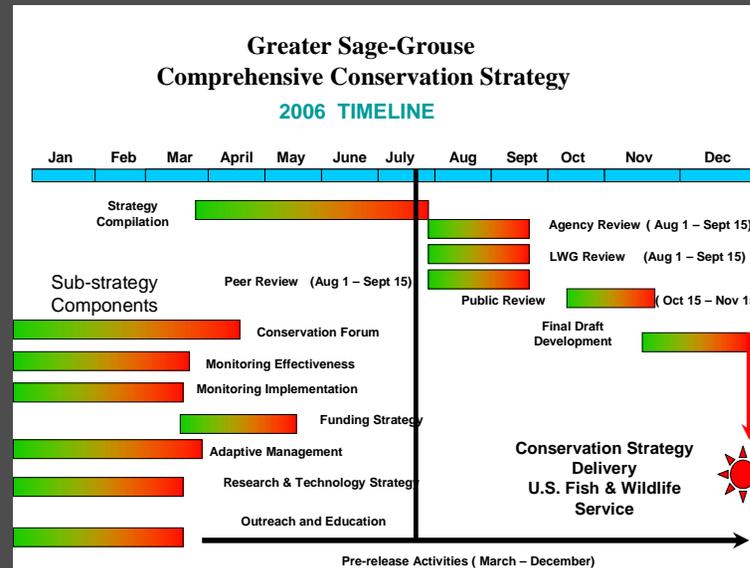
	\$0.52/acre/year	
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Greater Sage-Grouse Comprehensive Conservation Strategy

Schedule

No Reason
To Believe
That
We Will Not
Meet Our
Adopted
Schedule



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Greater Sage-Grouse Comprehensive Conservation Strategy

Schedule

**Draft out 7 August
Comment back by 22 September**

Draft Strategy Delivery

1. Each Partner to receive two drafts.
Director
Technical staff
2. States to distribute to LWGs & non-federal partners
3. State comments and LWG comments to be consolidated by the states.
4. Federal and other partner comments to be filed by respective partner.

Cooperative Sagebrush Initiative

- Leadership
 - Structure
 - Funding

Cooperative Sagebrush Initiative

- **Appealing:**
 - Rangewide
 - All partners involved
 - Incentive based
 - Clear need for new model
 - Timing is everything

So why is now the time?

“Stars are aligned”

Industry needs

- Predictability
- Standardization across states
- Cost savings (rig movements, etc)
- Known vs. unknown steps, SO requirements
- “Credit” for good work
- Ability to plan ahead

Agencies, NGO's, Public needs:

- On the ground results
- Good scientific data
- “We did our job”
- Certainty for the species
- Assured long term security
- Legal scrutiny confidence
- A seat at the table

Wildlife (sage grouse) need:

- Long Term population security & viability on range wide basis
 - As opposed to an individual group of birds

“Sage grouse” is “ripe”

- Rangewide assesment done, rangewide strategy done Dec 2006
- 11 states, 2 provinces
- ESA “threat”
 - Cripple energy development
 - \$, litigation, etc

- Ecosystem, multiple species
- Know: what we have, what we need, how much it costs to get there
- Infrastructure partially in place (LWGs)
- Lots of partners poised to act (already are)
- Private sector (industry) is motivated, financially capable

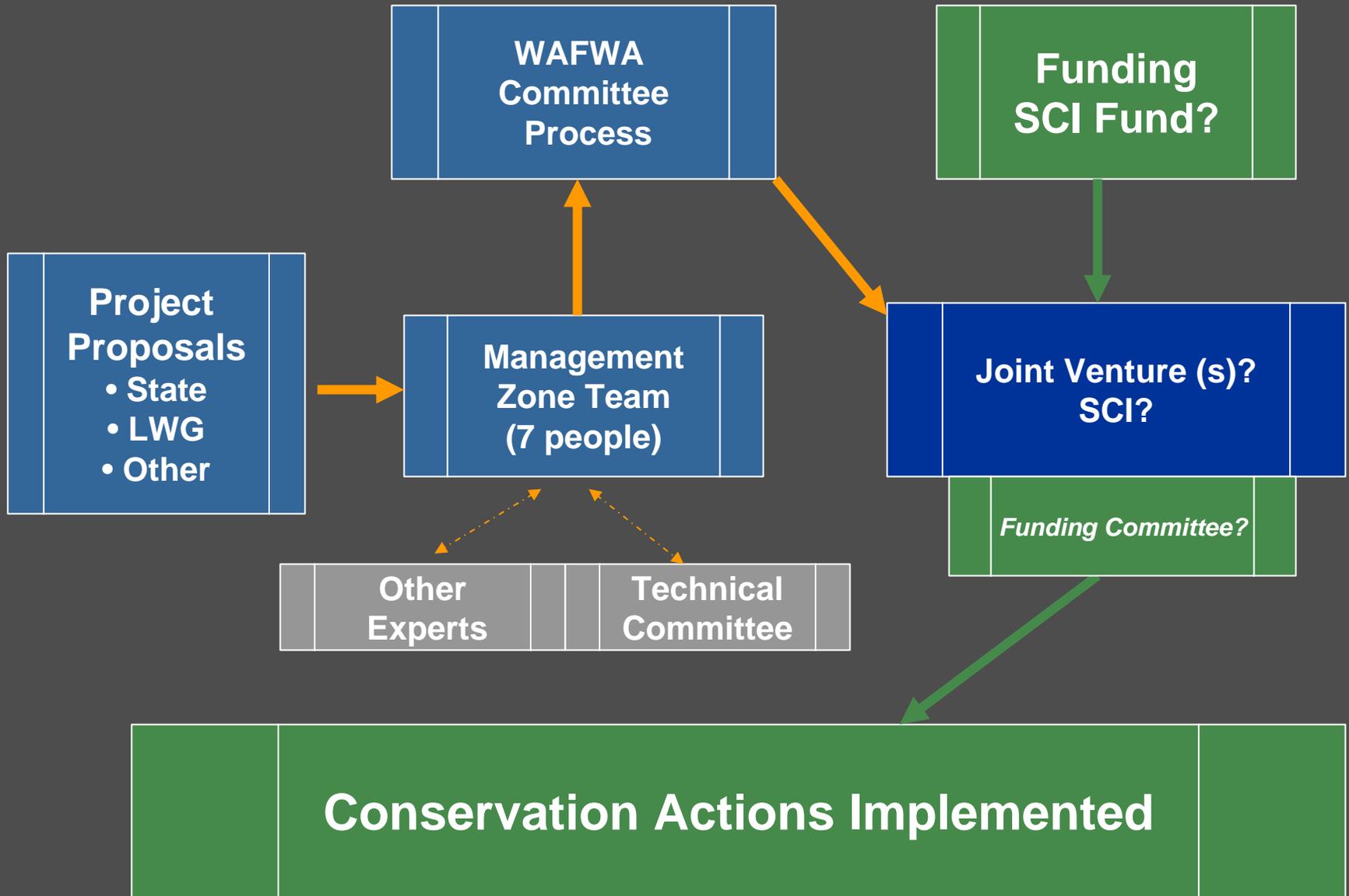
Obstacles

- New thinking outside comfort zone
- States must think outside their boundaries
- Look rangewide (will be “sacrifices”)
- Multiple Leaders may threaten some
- Creative Structures may challenge status quo
- New Funding brings new “constituents”
- Delivery mechanism (capacity) is inadequate

Time for Leadership!

- Alternatives look lousy
- New approach is primed for success
- Public expects our maturation
- Wildlife deserves our very best

Short-Term Implementation Model (1 – 5 Years)



Potential Roles for Sporting Conservation Council

1. Consider supporting long term federal funding mechanism for sagegrouse (NAWCA style)
2. Consider recommending new model for state managed species on rangewide basis (management zones?)
3. Investigate the potential for JV's to be value-added in a much larger role than currently exists
4. Consider endorsing and helping develop the Cooperative Sagebrush Initiative

Early stages

- March 2006 beginnings
- Several meetings/calls
- June 2006: DOI support
- September 2006: Inaugural mtg to launch