

# 2016 IRC

## Workshop

### Monitoring rangeland condition and forecasting the future: Sage-grouse and the sagebrush-steppe ecosystem of western North America

July 17, 2016

Gallery B, TCU Place, Saskatoon, SK

*Organized by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)*

#### Overview

Land management agencies in western North America face the challenge of conserving and improving rangeland condition in remaining areas of native sagebrush-steppe shrubland, as well



Greater sage-grouse | Photo credit: Tatiana Gettelman/USGS

as restoring and rehabilitating areas altered by wildfire, invasive annual grasses, and woodland expansion. Use of best available science and application of new technologies can provide managers with the tools they need to increase success of these actions. This workshop will explore how researchers and managers are working together to improve the knowledge of the sagebrush steppe ecosystem that will provide managers new tools and principles upon which they

can implement actions to improve habitat conditions for wildlife, such as the greater sage-grouse. Presentations and panel discussions will provide workshop participants with insights on new methods for (1) monitoring habitat conditions and wildlife populations, (2) assessing landscape level degradation and restoration using geospatial technologies, and (3) managing the sagebrush steppe landscape in the context of fire, invasive species, and changing climate.

# Agenda

Gallery B, TCU Place, Saskatoon, SK

8:30 a.m.	Welcome, Introductions, and Session Overview	David Pyke, U.S. Geological Survey
<b>Habitat monitoring – Satellites and ground-based measurements</b>		
8:45 a.m.	Monitoring rangeland condition in the Great Basin	David Pyke
9:15 a.m.	Use of remote sensing to detect gradual change in rangeland condition	Collin Homer, U.S. Geological Survey
9:45 a.m.	Bureau of Land Management Assessment, Inventory and Monitoring Program - Scaling	Karen Prentice, Bureau of Land Management
10:00 a.m.	Panel	
10:25 a.m.	Break	
<b>Wildlife population monitoring and population modeling</b>		
10:45 a.m.	Using public grazing records to evaluate trend in sage-grouse populations	Adrian Monroe, U.S. Geological Survey and Colorado State University
11:15 a.m.	Using sage-grouse population models when assessing habitats and making management decisions in sage-grouse habitats: the case for interagency coordination to implement the BLM's 2015 land use plans	Karen Prentice
11:30 a.m.	Panel	
11:45 a.m.	Lunch	
<b>Using geospatial technologies to improve success of management actions</b>		
12:45 p.m.	Tracking the drivers of success in sagebrush-steppe restoration and rehabilitation	David Pilliod, U.S. Geological Survey
1:15 p.m.	Identifying both reference and current status condition with remote sensing	Collin Homer
1:45 p.m.	Science Framework for the Conservation and Restoration Strategy for Department of the Interior Secretarial Order 3336	Karen Prentice
2:15 p.m.	Panel	
2:45 p.m.	Break	
<b>Managing sagebrush habitats in a changing climate</b>		
3:00 p.m.	Climate change impacts on sagebrush ecosystems: an ecohydrological perspective	John Bradford, U.S. Geological Survey
3:30 p.m.	Climate adaptation in big sagebrush: research insights and management challenges and opportunities	Matt Germino, U.S. Geological Survey
4:00 p.m.	Panel	
4:20 p.m.	Concluding Remarks	David Pyke
4:30 p.m.	Adjourn	

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