A CASE EXAMPLE OF CO-PRODUCING CONSERVATION-BASED OUTCOMES ON WORKING LANDS IN THE GREAT BASIN

RESULTS-ORIENTED GRAZING FOR ECOLOGICAL RESILIENCE

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ROGER: A CASE EXAMPLE OF COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION

OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Components for Successful Large-scale Collaborative Conservation
- What is ROGER?
- The ROGER Example Explored
- Conclusion

Photo: John Tull
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LARGE-SCALE COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION

Successful LSCC requires:

- Participation across decision-making hierarchies*
- Development of trust and friendships to create community*
- Emphasis on local participation to achieve community and ecological sustainability without resorting to regulatory approaches*
- Enabling policies*/political will

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PURPOSE: COLLABORATE AMONG RANCHERS AND AGENCIES TO ACHIEVE LAND MANAGEMENT OUTCOMES THAT CONSERVE SAGEBRUSH ECOSYSTEMS AND SUPPORT RANCHING.
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PARTNERS

- Grazing Permittees
- Bureau of Land Management
- Great Basin Landscape Conservation Cooperative
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Nevada Collaborative Conservation Network
- Nevada Department of Agriculture
- Nevada Department of Wildlife
- U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
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ROGER: DESIRED OUTCOMES

- Develop a shared vision of on-the-ground vegetation conditions
- Create a common understanding of what it will take to achieve those outcomes
- Identify ways to provide ranchers needed flexibility (take action)
- Document and share successes, failures, and lessons learned with this group and others.
- Use the BLM’s Outcome-based Grazing Demonstration program to develop flexible grazing permits – but still needed tools to define and assess outcomes
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CONCEPT EXPLORATION

- Simple classification of ecological states
- Adopted from Oregon model
- Effective in Oregon, but could not gain group buy-in in Nevada
- Competing concepts (e.g., simplified versus detailed State and Transition Models for sites)

Graphic: Chad Boyd/NRCS
CO-PRODUCING TOOLS WITH ROGER

- It was apparent we were not going to be able to adopt the Oregon approach.

- The Winecup-Gamble Ranch and James Rogers volunteered to use his operation and the Outcome-based Grazing pilot to develop new tools.

- Needed to build trusts in the science community as well to merge concepts from the fields of wildlife and rangeland ecology.
STM Objectives Overview

1. Database
   - Veg data
   - BLM
   - NDFW
   - USGS
   - UNR
   - Private

2. Remote Sensing
   - Ground
   - DRG Cover Units

3. Characterize
   - Condition of DRGs
   - "State-and-transition model"

4. Outcome
   - Decision Tool
   - Simulates mgt actions based on #3

5. Targeted Monitoring
   - for Sage Grouse habitat
   - micro habitat
   - Grazing triggers
   - Long-term response
   - Outcomes user defined
   - wildlife, grazing, fuels, economics...
SPATIALLY EXPLICIT STATE-AND-TRANSITION MODELING FOR RANGELAND CONSERVATION PLANNING: APPLICATION TO OUTCOME BASED GRAZING AND SAGE-GROUSE HABITAT MONITORING

- Comprehensive vegetation database of transect data for the region
- Produce LANDSAT based vegetation classification maps using ground-based transect data and state-and-transition models (STMs)
- Spatially explicit (GIS) maps of STMs for the region
- Create a sage-grouse focused, STM-based Conservation Planning Tool
- Link results-based grazing actions to sage-grouse habitat assessments
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CONCLUSION

- Successful collaboration
  - Takes time and patience
  - Requires having the right people in the room
  - Should have clearly defined purpose and objectives
  - Is always a work in progress

Photo: National Cattlemen’s Beef Association
THE CORNERSTONE TO ACHIEVING CONSERVATION OUTCOMES IS DEVELOPING TRUST AND RELATIONSHIPS AMONG THE PARTNERS AND INTERESTS
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