U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service:
Agency Overview for the Western States Federal Agency Support Team (WestFAST)

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Talk Outline:

- Agency Overview & Conservation Priorities
  (Andrew)
- Relevance of Water to Agency Mission
  (Mike)
- Greater Sage-Grouse—Conservation Example Pertinent to 11 Western States
  (Andrew)
The **U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service** is a conservation legacy that for 125 years has **worked with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people**.
USFWS: National Map / Eight Regions
Agency Priorities:

- **National Wildlife Refuge System:** Conserving Our Lands and Resources
- **Landscape Conservation:** Working With Others
- **Migratory Birds:** Conservation and Management
Agency Priorities: (continued)

- **Threatened and Endangered Species:** Achieving Recovery and Preventing Extinction
- **Aquatic Species:** National Fish Habitat Action Plan & Trust Species
- **Connecting People With Nature:** Ensuring the Future of Conservation
Water in the USFWS

FWS Mission:
Work with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people
Water in USFWS Programs

- Fisheries and Aquatic Conservation
- Ecological Services/Endangered Species
- Partners for Fish and Wildlife
- Wildlife & Sport Fish Fish Restoration Program
- National Wildlife Refuge System
Fisheries and Aquatic Conservation

- National Fish Hatchery System
- Fish Passage Initiative
- National Fish Habitat Partnership
Ecological Services/Endangered Species

- Listing
- Critical habitat
- Consultations
- Recovery
Partners for Fish and Wildlife

- Works with willing private landowners to restore fish and wildlife habitat
- Non-regulatory
- 100% voluntary
- Habitat restored:
  - 1 million acres of wetlands
  - 3 million acres of uplands
  - 9000 miles of stream habitat
Water Resources in the National Wildlife Refuge System

Monitoring

Inventory and Assessment

Water Rights Protection

For Wildlife

For People

Water Management
National Wildlife Refuge System

- Goal for water resource management
  - Adequate supplies of clean water are available to support functional ecosystems
- Initiatives
  - Water quantity and quality monitoring
  - Centralized data management
  - Water Resource Inventory and Assessment
Water Resource Inventory & Assessment (WRIA) Effort

- Addresses the critical need for reliable information on water resources for refuges and hatcheries
- Identifies needs and threats to water resources and what they mean to mgt.
- Allows us to develop priorities for addressing problems at local, regional and national levels
WRIA Effort

• Database Application (Inventory)
  – Stores information on water features, monitoring sites, surveys, water quality, threats & needs
  – Inter-linked with other NWRS applications

• Narrative Assessments
  – Describe what these issues mean for refuge management and what we can do about them

• Follow-up
  – Prioritization, resolving issues
Water in the FWS: Summary

• The FWS mission recognizes the importance of working with others in wildlife and habitat conservation.
• Maintaining adequate supplies of clean water is critical to the success of the Service mission.
• Water is an integral element in most Service programs.
Greater sage-grouse and Conservation
Greater Sage-Grouse

- Largest, native grouse species in North America
- Declines from historic range
  - Development
  - Fire and Invasives
Unprecedented Conservation

Many Partners with a common Goal

- Private Landowners and Conservation organizations
- 10 states within the range of sage-grouse create plans
- BLM, USFS, NRCS planned and implemented conservation
Sage-grouse and Sagebrush
Finally......Why we do it

Conserve the Nature of America

Commitment – a commitment shared by thousands of men and women ranging from biologists, wildlife managers, engineers, realty specialists, law enforcement agents and others working to assure that future generations of Americans will be able to enjoy nature’s beauty and bounty.
Questions