

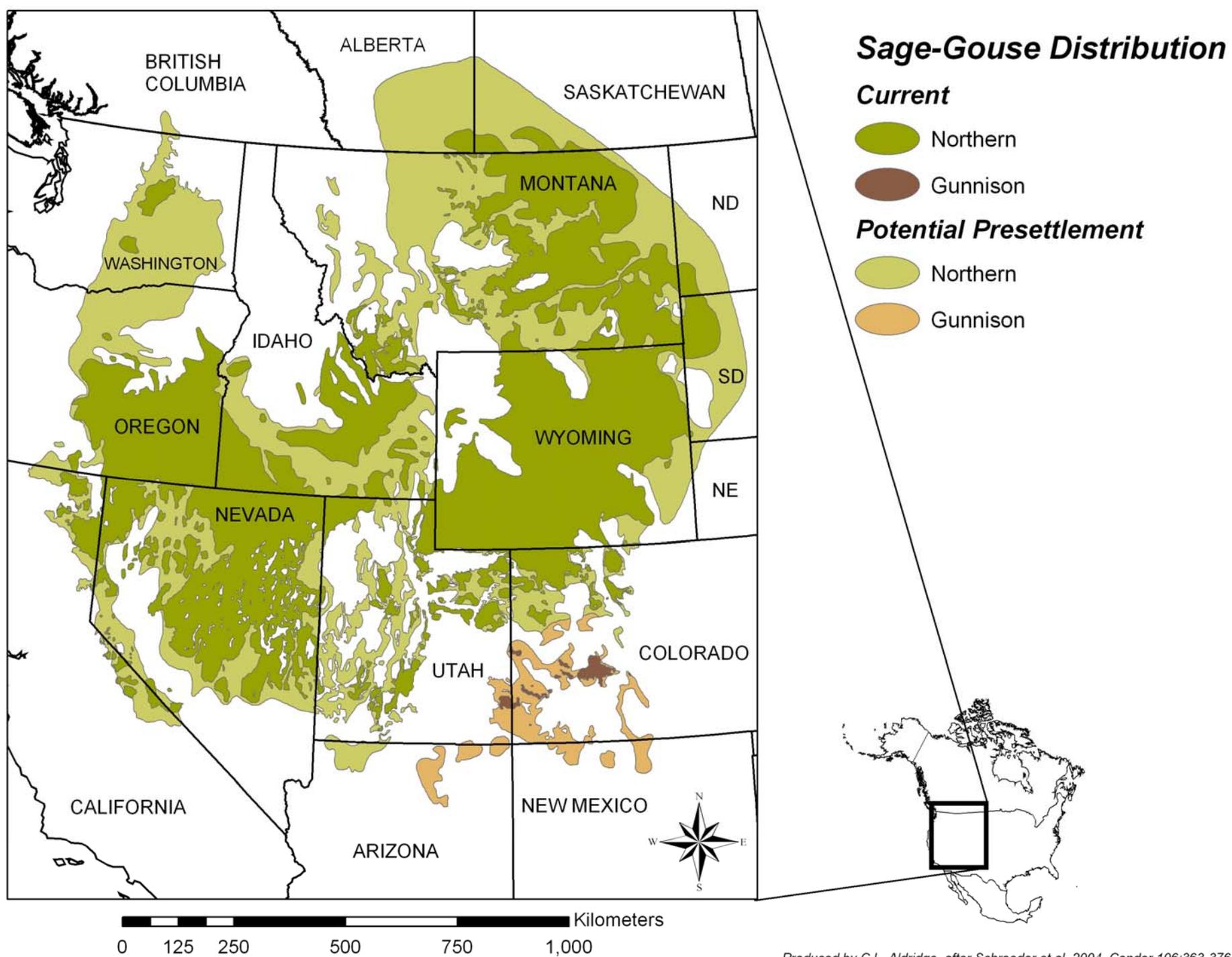
Bureau of Land Management and Sage- Grouse Habitat Conservation Efforts

Tom Rinkes

Bureau of Land Management

Wyoming State Office





**Greater Sage-Grouse Populations in Major Oil and Gas Producing States
1965 – 2003
(5 year periods)**

State	Average males per lek	Overall population trend
Wyoming	49% Decline	Declining
Montana	21% Decline	Declining
Colorado	20% Decline	Stable to slightly increasing
Utah	41% Decline	Declining
North Dakota	38% Decline	Declining

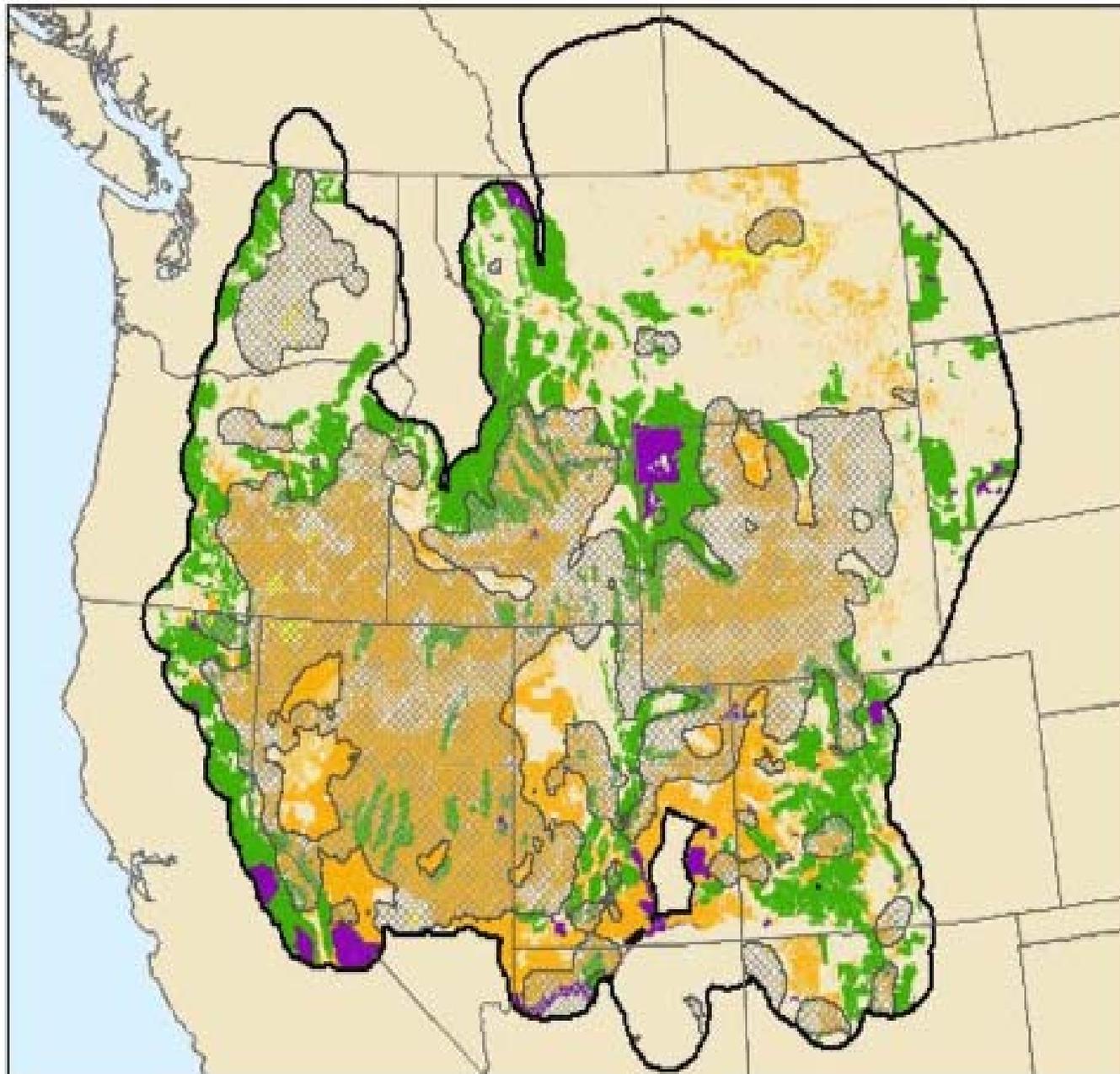
Conservation Assessment of Greater Sage-Grouse and Sagebrush Habitats (Connelly et al. 2004)

Sagebrush Habitats

- **119 million acres**
 - **Wyoming & Utah**
- **14 states and 3 provinces**
 - **Wyoming - 21 %**
 - **Nevada - 23 %**
 - **Idaho and Oregon - 12 %**

Sagebrush Stewardship

- **State Agencies – about 5 %**
- **Privately Owned – about 30 %**
- **Federal Agencies – 66 %**
 - **BLM - 50 %**



Land Stewardship

- USDA FS
- BLM
- USFWS
- NPS
- >20% Sagebrush Habitat
- State / Province Boundaries
- Conservation Assessment Boundary



Dominant Factors in Sagebrush Habitats

- **Habitat conversion to agriculture**
- **Livestock grazing influence**
- **Invasive exotic species, e.g., cheatgrass**
 - **Increased fire frequency**

Dominant Factors in Sagebrush Habitats (cont.)

- **Expansion of juniper and pinyon**
- **Human expansion**
 - **Urban areas, roads, power lines, etc.**
- **Energy development**

Bureau of Land Management

- **50 % of the sagebrush habitats**
- **57 million acres (about the size of Wyoming)**



Current BLM Sage-Grouse Conservation Activities

- **Participating in State Sage-Grouse Conservation Plans**
- **Participating in local sage-grouse planning efforts**

Current BLM Sage-Grouse Conservation Activities

- **BLM Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy**
- **BLM State Level Strategies**

BLM Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy

- **Consistent, effective, and coordinated management framework**
- **Understand resource conditions**
- **Expand partnerships**
- **Ensure leadership and resources are adequate**

Current BLM Sage-Grouse Conservation Activities

- Developing management guidance for sage-grouse conservation at the national level



Current BLM Sage-Grouse Conservation Activities

- **National Planning Guidance**
 - **H-1610-1 Handbook**
 - **Supplemental Guidance on addressing sagebrush habitats and sage-grouse**

Current BLM Sage-Grouse Conservation Activities

- **Developing Best Management Practices for Oil and Gas Activities**



Current BLM Sage-Grouse Conservation Activities

- **Developing a technical sage-grouse support group**
 - **Interdisciplinary**
 - **WAFWA or BLM**

Current BLM Sage-Grouse Conservation Activities

- Engaging BLM personnel /publics
- Director Listening Sessions
- Internal BLM teams/External teams



Current BLM Sage-Grouse Activities

- **Report to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Response to the Notice of 90-Day Petition Finding for the Greater Sage-Grouse**

Current BLM Sage-Grouse Conservation Activities

In cooperation with state wildlife agencies:

- **Inventory/Monitoring Efforts**
 - **Lek surveys and counts**
 - **Habitat assessments**
 - **Idaho and Wyoming**

Current BLM Sage-Grouse Conservation Activities

- **Improved Sagebrush Habitat Maps**
 - **Broad, Mid, and Fine Scales**
- **Seasonal Habitat Mapping**
- **Habitat Improvement Projects**

Current BLM Sage-Grouse Conservation Activities

- **Research**
 - **General Ecology**
 - **Grazing**
 - **Fire**
 - **Predators**
 - **Energy Development**

Current BLM Sage-Grouse Conservation Activities

Research cont.

- **Oil and Gas**
 - **Upper Green Basin**
 - Potential impacts of natural gas development
 - **Powder River Basin**
 - Potential impacts of CBM development

West Nile Virus



- **Monitoring and Research**

WNV Monitoring and Research Partnership

- **University of Montana**
- **University of Wyoming**
- **Montana State University**
- **University of Alberta**
- **Wyoming Game and Fish Department**
- **Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory**
- **Wyoming Department of Health**
- **USDA-ARS, Arthropod-Borne Animal Disease Research Laboratory**
- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**
- **U.S. Geological Survey**
- **BLM Wyoming and Montana**

WNV Monitoring and Research Funding

- **Previous Partners**
- **Department of Energy**
- **Petroleum Association of Wyoming**
- **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation**
- **Private Organizations**

