

North Central LAWG

Purpose

- To have a good understanding of federal requirements, decisions, and policy,
- To assume a higher voice that is one of equal influence,
- To develop connections and consistency between local, state, and federal programs and communications,
- From this foundation of being more informed and involved, work in partnership to reduce the loss and/or significant decline of the critical habitat needed to sustain robust sage-grouse populations.

Scope

- NC_LAWG includes Priority Habitat Management Areas (PHMA); grazing allotments; Black Rock, Pine Forest, Jackson, Lone Mountain, Santa Rosa, Sonoma, and Massacre PMUs. NC_LAWG area also encompasses Share Stewardship Priority Areas and NDF Priority Area.
- Coverage area includes Pershing, Humboldt, and Churchill Counties

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Service Area



NC LAWG is still planning on meeting in summer of 2021 but is still in need of a Facilitator to manage the group.

Significant Achievements

2002-2010

- Completed PMU risk assessments in planning area

2016-2017

- Created Ranking Criteria and Project Selection within coverage area

2018-2019

- Met as group to discuss projects on the books and to identify any areas in need of immediate project assistance.
- 2 Successful Horse removal efforts completed in Sage grouse high priority areas across the McDermitt Tribal lands and USFS.

2019-2022

- Met with SETT to review the Adaptive Management Response.
- Martin fire responses (fence removal, flagging, repairs, and seeding) implemented on USFS, BLM and private lands.
- 3 active Sage grouse projects through NRCS funding

2021

- Developed language for the new Rock Dam projects to be submitted to the BLM for NEPA/EA review. This will allow work across the entire district and better cooperation and habitat connectivity across private and public lands.



Activities To Date

Project Description

1. Reviewed PMU Assessments to determine if risks
2. Project Review and Ranking by group 2015-ongoing
3. Dooley Field Range Improvement 2016-2017
4. House Spring Fence Marking 2018
5. 1 Mile fence removal in Priority habitat 2017
6. 6+ miles of fence marking within Santa Rosa District 2016
7. Noxious Weed Treatments across all jurisdictions-Paradise Valley 2015-ongoing
8. Working with USFS & ARS on treatment plots for Medusahead mapping/removal 2018
9. Beaver Dam Analog Project on North Fork of Humboldt River 2018-2019 ongoing?
10. Partner on NV Native Seed Partnership in outreach, coordination & development 2018-ongoing
11. 2 Successful Horse removal efforts by Tribe and USFS 2018-2019
12. Hosted and provided replies at Adaptive Management Response meeting 2020
13. Developed Low-Tech Rock dam language to be covered under the BLM District wide EA 2020-ongoing

Post-Fire Rehab



Beaver Dam Analogs



Future Goals

Projects

Coordination:

- Allocate a facilitator to manage LAWG and be point of contact for LAWG projects and outreach efforts.

Rangeland Improvement Projects:

- Collaborative Noxious Weed Treatments- Paradise Valley & Quinn River.
- Medusahead mapping and EDRR maps for landscape wide approach to containment and control with USF, BLM, UNR, NDOW and Partners.
- Incorporate Rangeland monitoring protocol/training opportunities into all rangeland production plans.

Post Fire Efforts:

- Develop and utilize fire risk maps
- USFS and Partners would like to implement plots to remove fine fuels and decadent sagebrush through different removal methods to determine the most effective treatment for the region. This will address wildlife concerns, soil degradation, wildlife diversity, plant diversity and ecosystem reliance.

Habitat Projects:

- Continue Beaver Dam Analog Project on North Fork of Humboldt River and other nearby reaches
- Install Rock dam in degraded meadows to restore water holding capacities and bolster native species



-Manage Medusahead for habitat restoration, fire reduction, grazing productivity and ecological function-

-Continued Restoration Activities/ Low-Tech Low Cost HIGH Value across all landownership-

Resource Needs

- Facilitator/ Project liaison
- Shortened Implementation Timelines by Federal partners
- Consistency in Agency Approach to NEPA
- Availability of time from LAWG members
- Dedicated Funding and People
- Cooperation from agencies at the field office/district level and recognition of LAWG projects and importance
- Develop outreach strategies for consistent, collaborative and correct information distribution across all LAWGs
- Inclusion in cooperative agreements and MOUs across all agencies to ensure coordination
- Mapping of Statewide projects on private lands and public lands to create connectivity in projects and collaboration across all parties

