

Draft Meeting Minutes
Prineville Local Implementation Team Zoom Meeting

6 January 2021 from 9:00 – 11:00am

LIT Webpage: <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/sagegrouse/lit/prineville.asp>

Attendance: Julie Unfried (LIT Coordinator), Skyler Vold (ODFW – LIT Convener), Megan Creutzburg (SageCon – LIT technical support), Dallas Hall Defrees (Baker LIT), Emily Weidner (USFWS), Greg Jackle (ODFW), Lauri Turner (USFS), Andrew Walch (ODFW), Corey Heath (ODFW), Jeremy Austin (ONDA), Randy Weist (DSL), Chris Mundy (NRCS), Stu Garrett (ECAS), Robin Vora (Deschutes SWCD), Jon Dinkins (OSU), Amanda Roberts (BLM), Cari Taylor (BLM), Erin Kilcullen (Deschutes SWCD), Larry Ashton (BLM), Michael O’Casey (TRCP), Mike Schmeiske (DSL), Runinda McCormack (private landowner), Jeff Kitchens (BLM), Rachael Davee (Crook SCWD), Anya Tyson (TNC), Stephanie Mckinney (BLM), Monty Gregg (USFS), Tim Deboodt (Crook County), Debbie Wood (Crooked River WMA), **others?**

Meeting Objectives:

1. Sub-group to provide update on how/why the LIT Action Areas were modified and an overview of threats prioritized for each Action Area
2. Use the LIT Working Group and consensus process to finalize the 2021 Action Area Map
3. Determine how we’re going use the information we’ve already compiled for plan development and prioritizing efforts moving forward.

Context Setting:

- LIT progress update:
 - i. *Where have we been?* During the November meeting, partners identified four broad components needed to assemble the LIT Strategic Action Plan, 1) modify the 2012 Action Area boundaries to meet current conditions; 2) identify threats remaining in each action area; 3) identify relevant conservation efforts that have already occurred in each action area; 4) direct future actions to address threat in each area. In December, Emily Weidner facilitated a sub-group meeting to address components one and two.
 - ii. *Where are we now?* During this meeting, we utilized the consensus process to finalize the 2021 Action Area map and associated threats.
 - iii. *Where are we headed?* Assemble another sub-team to develop a table of contents for the LIT Strategic Action Plan and draft narratives to for each action area.
- Landowner engagement update: based on conversations with BLM and SWCD staff, Julie developed a letter to send to landowners via email and snail mail. The letter consisted of six questions; an update on what we’ve done with the LIT to date; a map with the updated action areas and associated threats developed by the subgroup; and a pre-stamped envelope (for snail mail letters). 75 surveys were sent via snail mail to Crook County landowners and a link to a Google Form of the survey was shared twice on the Crook County Extension listserv and once on the Deschutes County listserv. Deschutes SWCD is also working on developing a mailing list which will be shared with Julie for future outreach efforts. As of 1/8/2021, five responses have been returned.

2021 Action Area Discussion

Emily provided an update from a meeting she facilitated for a sub-group of the LIT (ODFW, BLM, DSL, USFWS, USFS, NRCS, SWCD, Deschutes SWCD, ECAS). The purpose was to modify the 2012 Action Area boundaries to address current conditions and then identify priority threats for the LIT within each action area.

- Opportunity for Q&A/discussion
 - i. Questions from a handful of partners centered on whether to modify the proposal in the following ways, 1) expand the 2021 Action Areas to include additional locations where partners are currently or planning to implement conservation treatments (e.g., juniper cuts between N. Wagontire and Misery Flats; juniper cutes and wet meadow restoration adjacent to Misery Flats); 2) include additional threats to one or more action areas that were not identified by the sub-group (e.g., wet meadow work in Misery Flats).
 - ii. Other partners noted the following in support of maintaining the current proposal, 1) 2012 Action Area boundaries were developed based on sage-grouse biology and current range; 2) establishing action areas and list of primary threats to address will not preclude the LIT from working beyond those parameters; 3) if everything is a priority, nothing is a priority.

- LIT working group/consensus
 - Although several partners suggested modifying the current proposal, we convened the LIT working group to come to consensus on the proposal as it was presented (i.e., without modifying based on suggestions mentioned during the discussion) with the intention to address further concerns if the results of consensus demonstrated lack of partner support. Results below demonstrate partner support.

Prompt: adopt the 2021 Action Areas as management units for the Prineville LIT					
	1 - I like it	2 - Basically, I like it	3 - I can live with it	*4 - I want my disagreement noted in writing, but I'll support it	*5 - I won't support it
BLM (Larry or Amanda)		x			
USFS (Laurie or Monty)	x				
Brothers Landowner (Jade)					
Paulina Landowner (Greg)					
DSL (Randy or Michael)			x		
ODFW (Greg or Corey)	x				
USFWS (Emily)	x				
Conservation Group (Stu or Michael)			x		
Crook County (Tim)					
Deschutes County (open)					
NRCS (Chris or Shelby)	x				
SWCD (Andy or Rachael)	x				

Prompt: The threats and issues identified within the 2021 Action Areas will prioritize future efforts within the Prineville Strategic Action Plan					
	1 - I like it	2 - Basically, I like it	3 - I can live with it	*4 - I want my disagreement noted in writing, but I'll support it	*5 - I won't support it
BLM (Larry or Amanda)	x				
USFS (Laurie or Monty)	x				
Brothers Landowner (Jade)					
Paulina Landowner (Greg)					
DSL (Randy or Michael)			x		
ODFW (Greg or Corey)	x				
USFWS (Emily)	x				
Conservation Group (Stu or Michael)	x				
Crook County (Tim)					
Deschutes County (open)					
NRCS (Chris or Shelby)	x				
SWCD (Andy or Rachael)	x				

View CED Data: The Conservation Efforts Database (CED), which we've discussed in previous meetings (see past meeting minutes) is a single database where completed public and private land conversation efforts can be reported across sagebrush systems in the West. The database was recently updated to include treatments that occurred as recent as 2019. The LIT may want to utilize this resource for various reasons – e.g., upload future treatment efforts; prioritize future implementation efforts. Maps of current public and private land treatments were presented at this meeting and will be posted to the LIT webpage (note: private land treatments are obscured in the CED to protect landowner privacy).

Putting the Pieces Together

- Action Area narrative example: based on previously compiled information (e.g., threats assessments, action area sub-group discussion) Julie used the 12-mile Action Area to create an example narrative outlining the most relevant information with regard to how the LIT might prioritize future implementation efforts. A similar narrative could be developed for each action area and included in the LIT Strategic Action Plan.
- Sub-group to develop the Prineville LIT Strategic Action Plan: this group will start by drafting a table of contents for the plan. They will also review draft action area narratives and provide input. The sub-group currently

consists of the following individuals: Rachael Davee (Crook SWCD), Greg Jackle (ODFW), Emily Weidner (USFWS), Stu Garrett (ECAS), Larry Ashton (BLM). The sub-group will meet in February and report out to/solicit input from everyone during the March LIT meeting.

Next steps/action items prior to March LIT meeting

- Julie will draft initial narratives for all LIT Action Areas
- Sub-group meeting in January or February to develop table of contents for LIT Plan and review draft narratives

Links/attachments (attachments and meeting minutes posted to the LIT webpage)

- 2021 Action Area map and associated threats with consensus results appended
- Three CED maps: 1) public land treatments; 2) private land treatments; 3) example map showing conifer treatments overlaid with 2019 conifer encroachment condition with the Prineville area.
- Sample document: 12-mile Action Area narrative