

Draft Meeting Minutes - Prineville Local Implementation Team Zoom Meeting
8 December 2021 from 9:00 – 11:00am

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

Attendance: Amanda Roberts (BLM), Andrew Shields (Roaring Springs Ranch), Andrew Walch (ODFW), Brie Porter (BLM), Cari Tayler (BLM), Chris Mundy (NRCS), Christian Hagen (OSU), Emma Zuber (Deschutes SWCD), Emily Weidner (USFWS), James Boggan (Simplot, ZX Ranch), Jeremy Austin (ONDA), Jim Greer (ECAS), Julie Unfried (LIT Coordinator), Larry Ashton (BLM), Lisa Clark (BLM), Mike Schmeiske (DSL), Rachael Davee (Crook SWCD), Randy Wiest (DSL), Robin Vora (Deschutes SWCD), Runinda McCormack (private landowner), Shelby Weigand (Pheasants Forever/NRCS), Skyler Vold (ODFW), Stephanie McKinney (BLM), Stu Garret (ECAS), **others?**

LIT Ground Rules: please note ground rules for participation in LIT meetings/events. These were pulled from the charter we crafter for the Prineville (revised July 2020)

- Members will present their own views and that of their constituents on the matters being discussed and be willing to engage in respectful, constructive dialogue with other members of the group.
- Communication: One person will speak at a time. Each person will express their own views rather than speaking for others at the table. Statements made will be to the issues at hand, not about personalities or past actions. Each person will maintain good humor, listen, and be open-minded.
- Members will act with respect toward everyone involved in the LIT process (e.g., other LIT members, coordinators, facilitators, guest speakers, etc.).
- Anyone who is unable to respect the ground rules, will be asked not to participate in LIT meetings.

Meeting Objective:

1. Learn about an upcoming sage-grouse research opportunity in the Prineville LIT area
2. Give all LIT partners an opportunity to collectively view the Draft Prineville Threats Reduction Plan (TRP)
3. Solicit big picture input from all LIT partners on status of the TRP

LIT progress:

Where were we?

- April – November 2021
 - a. LIT sub-group wrote draft Prineville Threats Reduction Plan
 - b. LIT members reviewed the draft document and provided comments and edits

Where are we now?

- Revising the current draft of the TRP
- Reaching out to LIT partners for additional information when needed

Where are we headed?

- Sub-group hopes to have the LIT TRP finalized by spring 2022

Introduction to Research in the Brothers and Paulina areas – Dr. Christian Hagen

- 30 GPS-PTT transmitters will be deployed (started March 2022) and sustained in the Brothers/N. Wagontire area and Paulina/12-Mile/Misery Flat area through 2024.
- General objectives of the study are to gather baseline vital rate data and movement/space use information in both areas, assess the impacts of human activity and development, drought impacts, and juniper treatments on sage-grouse vital rates and space use.

Post-It Note exercise gathering input from LIT: What issues or questions do you hope this research opportunity will consider?

Summary from the exercise:

- Impacts of human activity on GRSG vital rates and habitat use in the Brothers area, compared to Paulina/12-mile
- Dispersal into recently restored habitats; use of areas pre- and post-treatment
- High priority sites for habitat improvement
- Impacts on survival for all age classes; cause of mortality for hens

- Late brood-rearing habitat ID and assessment of condition; Mesic habitat restoration opportunities/priorities.
- Movement patterns and seasonal space use
- Connectivity to Tackman and 12-mile populations
- Use of grazed vs. ungrazed areas
- What are the chicks eating and when?

Overview of the status of the Prineville LIT Threats Reduction Plan and discuss major comments

Major comments/needed revisions:

- Finalize the work plan. This will help address the lack of prioritization for conservation actions currently within the plan. It will also address which action areas should be priority for focus.
- The narratives read like notes, revise. Make the document sound like one person wrote it.
- Need to be clearer about the goals and objectives for the TRP and associated work plans. Discuss how they connect to the State Action Plan.
- Executive summary needs work and should include more detail because many people might only read this section.
- Add an 'at-a-glance' table to highlight major threats for each action area.

Breakout Room discussions of the Threats Reduction Plan – Collecting input from LIT partners

Summary of main discussion points:

1. Overall organization and structure: when you read through (or skim) this document, how user friendly is it? If you could reformat this document to make it more useful, what would you change?
 - The general consensus was the document is laid out well, but there are some sections that should be rearranged (i.e., How to Use This Document, Purpose of the Document), some of the tables, figures, and maps should be moved to the appendix (and hyperlinked in the text), and some sections (i.e., Threats) could be condensed using summary tables or 'common to all' descriptions to minimize repetition.
2. Major themes and content: do you notice any major themes or sections that are missing from this document. Conversely, are there sections you think need to be removed? Please explain.
 - The group decided that the executive summary needs to be expanded, as it may be the only section many people will read. Add expected outcomes to the executive summary and introduction.
 - Expand upon the idea that this document will be a 'living document' and add some details for how often the document will be updated and partner responsibilities in this regard. Add a description of how the document will be used for planning in the long-term.
 - Better define the goals and objectives of the TRP. Like to the Oregon Sage-Grouse State Action Plan and Oregon Sage-Grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy.
3. Overall purpose: upon reading/skimming through this document, are you clear on what its purpose is? Is the reader able to gather how this document will be used to promote landscape-level collaboration across the Prineville LIT area?
 - General consensus was that the purpose of this document is clear to readers. The development of the work plan will be important for giving more details with each specific project for each action area.
 - The document is very useful to clarify the purpose of the LIT as well. There is inevitably turnover which can sometimes slow down progress, so the document will be useful for getting new partners to the LIT up to speed.
 - The document does a good job of describing present issues but needs to relate back to the State Action Plan and Conservation Assessment and Strategy.

Next Steps

- Revise the draft TRP based on partner feedback
- Develop the first draft of the work plan
- Present revisions at the January 12th meeting