



GREATER SAGE-GROUSE COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION STRATEGY

Presented by

San Stiver

Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Habitat Management in Sagebrush Ecosystems

Park City, Utah

23 October 2007

Photo- James Yule

Background

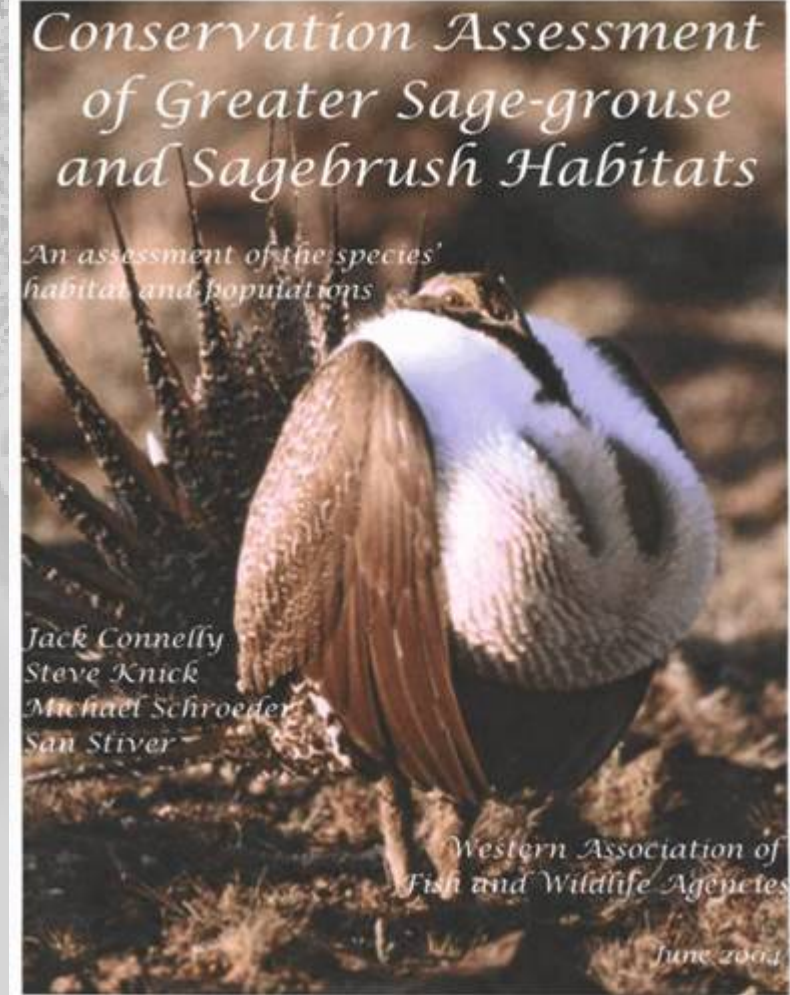


- The WAFWA “Sage-grouse Technical Committee” requested that the states and provinces begin significant management efforts in the sagebrush biome in 1994.
- Request presented to WAFWA Directors in January 1995. **The Directors acted by issuing the first of several MOUs that directed a conservation strategy for sage-grouse across the range of the species.**
- WAFWA formalized a partnership in 2000 with the USFS, BLM, and FWS to conserve and manage sage-grouse and sagebrush habitats. The MOU created the Interagency Sage-Grouse Conservation Planning Framework Team.

Background

WAFWA-USFWS CONTRACT

Phase I Conservation Assessment (2004)



Greater Sage-Grouse Comprehensive Conservation Strategy

Phase 2 Conservation Strategy

Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

GREATER SAGE-GROUSE COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION STRATEGY

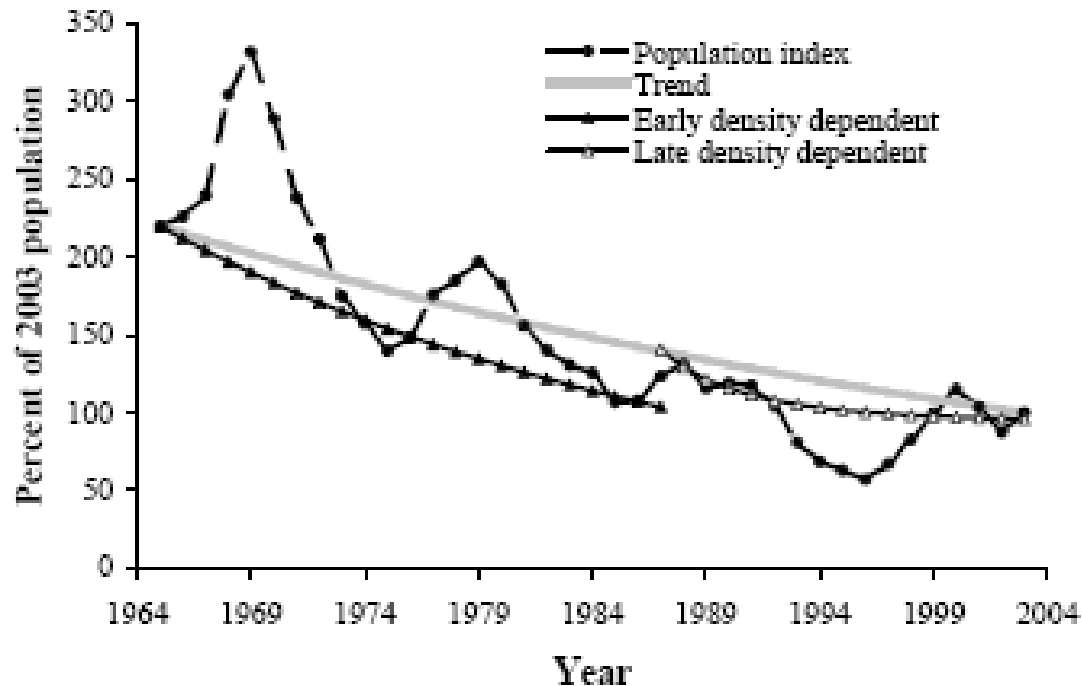


National Sage-grouse Conservation Planning Framework Team
December 2006



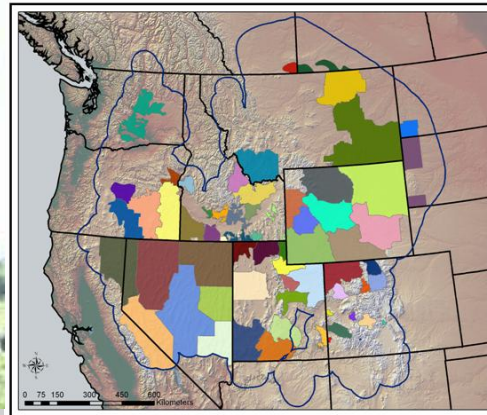
Greater Sage-Grouse Comprehensive Conservation Strategy

The overall goal of the Range-wide Strategy is to maintain and enhance populations and distribution of sage-grouse by protecting and improving sagebrush habitats and ecosystems that sustain these population.

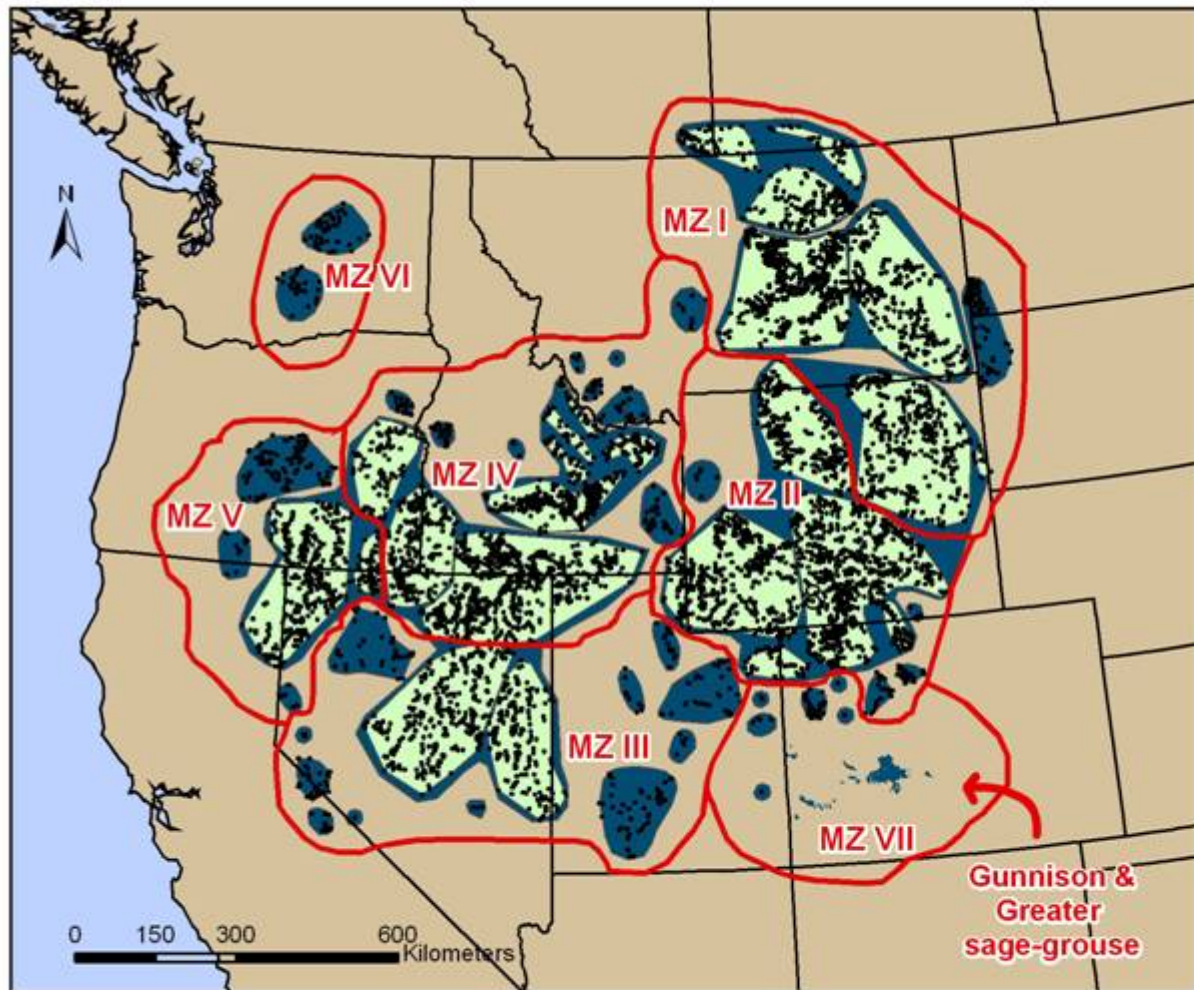


Greater Sage-Grouse Comprehensive Conservation Strategy

Management and conservation of greater sage-grouse requires partnerships to design and implement actions to support robust populations of sage-grouse and the landscapes and habitats on which they depend.



Greater Sage-Grouse Comprehensive Conservation Strategy



-  Sage-grouse Management Zones
-  Populations
-  Subpopulations
-  Leks
-  State / Province Boundaries

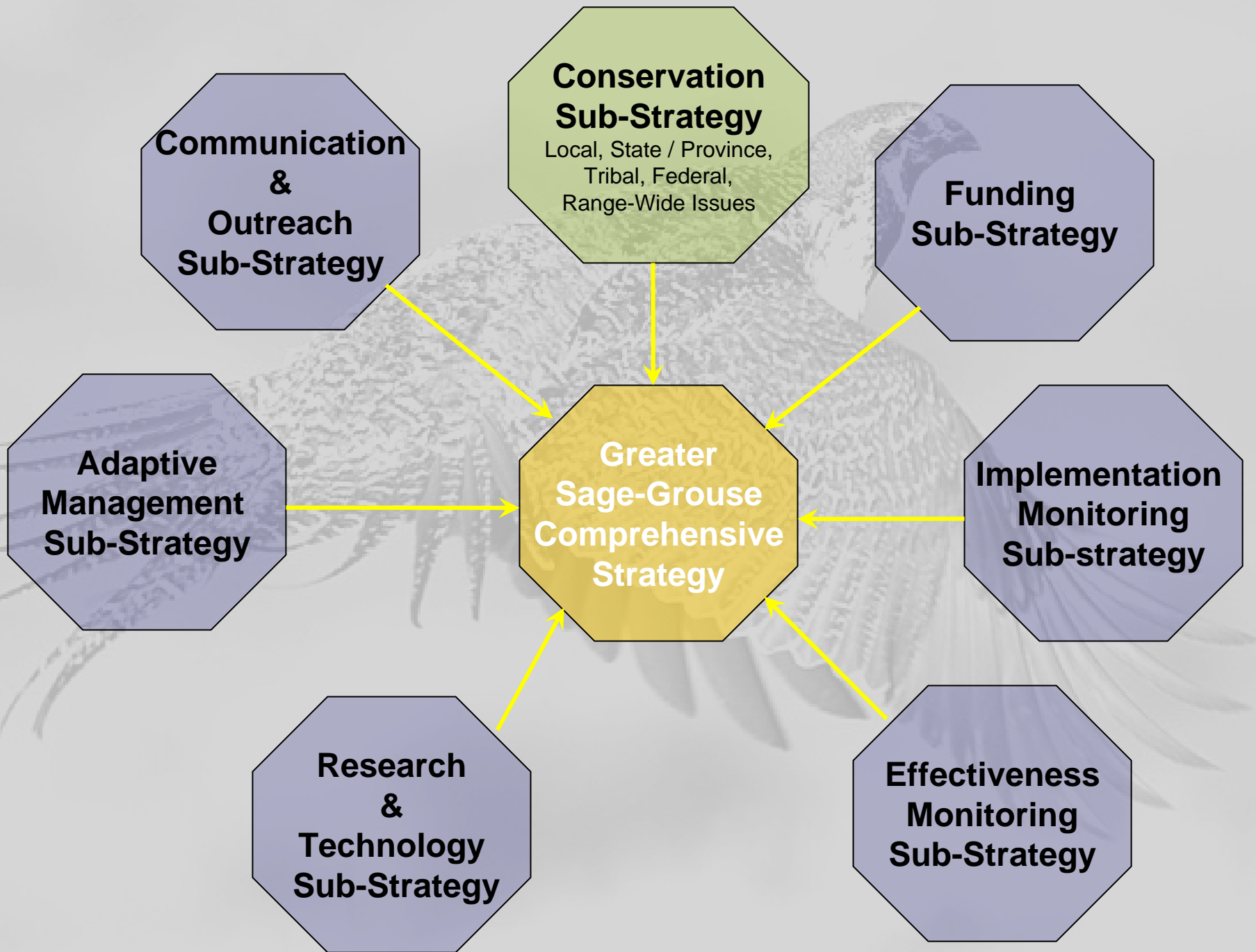


Gunnison & Greater sage-grouse

MZ I - Great Plains MZ
MZ II - Wyoming Basins MZ

MZ III - Southern Great Basin MZ
MZ IV - Snake River Plain MZ
MZ V - Northern Great Basin MZ

MZ VI - Columbia Basin MZ
MZ VII - Colorado Plateau MZ



Greater Sage-Grouse Comprehensive Conservation Strategy



LOCAL PLANS
are the
FOUNDATION OF THE STRATEGY

Gunnison Sage-Grouse
Range-wide Conservation Plan (CO & UT)
Local Working Groups -- 7

Greater Sage-Grouse
State Plans -10
Local Working Groups – >40

Range-wide Issues Forum



Greater Sage-Grouse Rangewide Issues Forum

Primary Issues Identified

- 1. Habitat Conservation and Land Use**
- 2. Habitat Restoration**
- 3. Science, Data Management, and Information**
- 4. Regulatory Mechanisms**
- 5. Integration and Coordination across Range
and Jurisdictions**



North American Sagebrush Ecosystem Conservation Act (NASECA)

December 2006

**Sage-Grouse
Comprehensive
Strategy**

July 2007

**DRAFT North American Sagebrush
Ecosystem Conservation Act (NASECA)**

**Written and developed
by
WGA – SCC / WAFWA**

**NASECA
Signed
Into Law**

**NASECA
Council**

NASECA Council (Possible Members) (Chair and 9 members)

- WAFWA President (Chair)
- WAFWA Directors
- WGA – SCC
- NABCI
- BLM
- NGO's
- Local Government Representative
- Others?

THE COOPERATIVE SAGEBRUSH INITIATIVE: A Call to Action



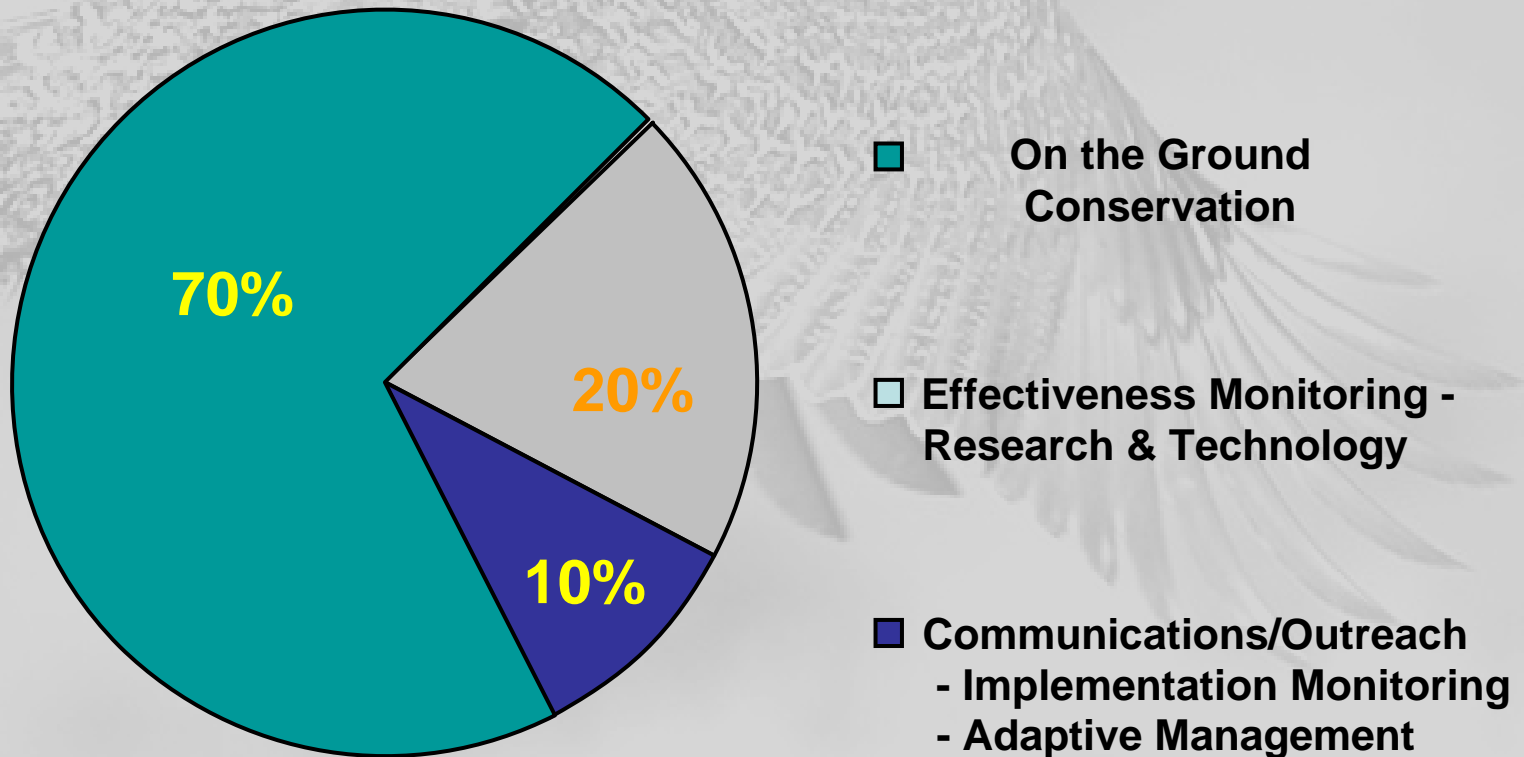
Mission:

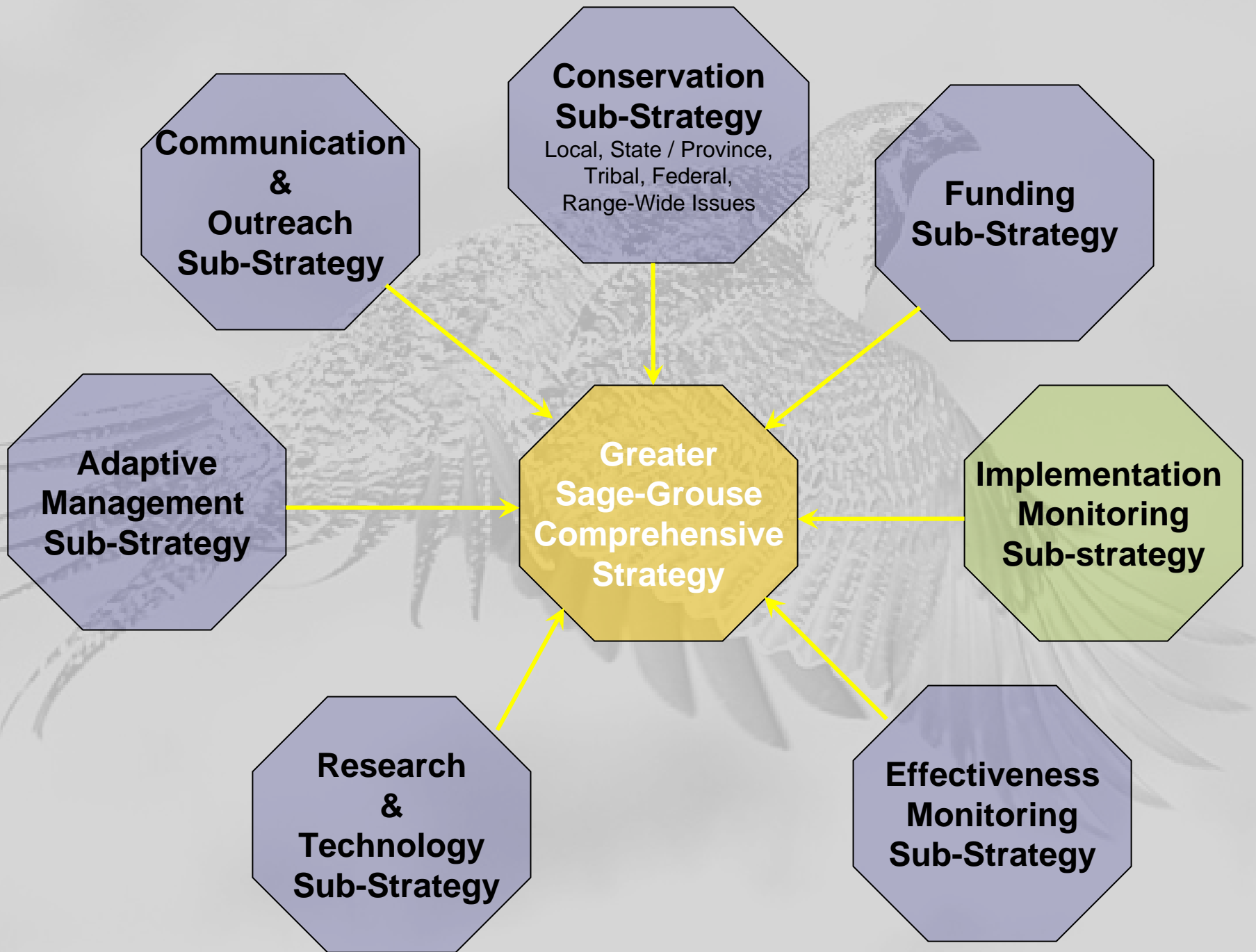
To sustain, restore & improve sagebrush-steppe habitat for sage-grouse and associated wildlife that depend on this ecosystem

Greater Sage-Grouse Comprehensive Conservation Strategy

Funding Distribution

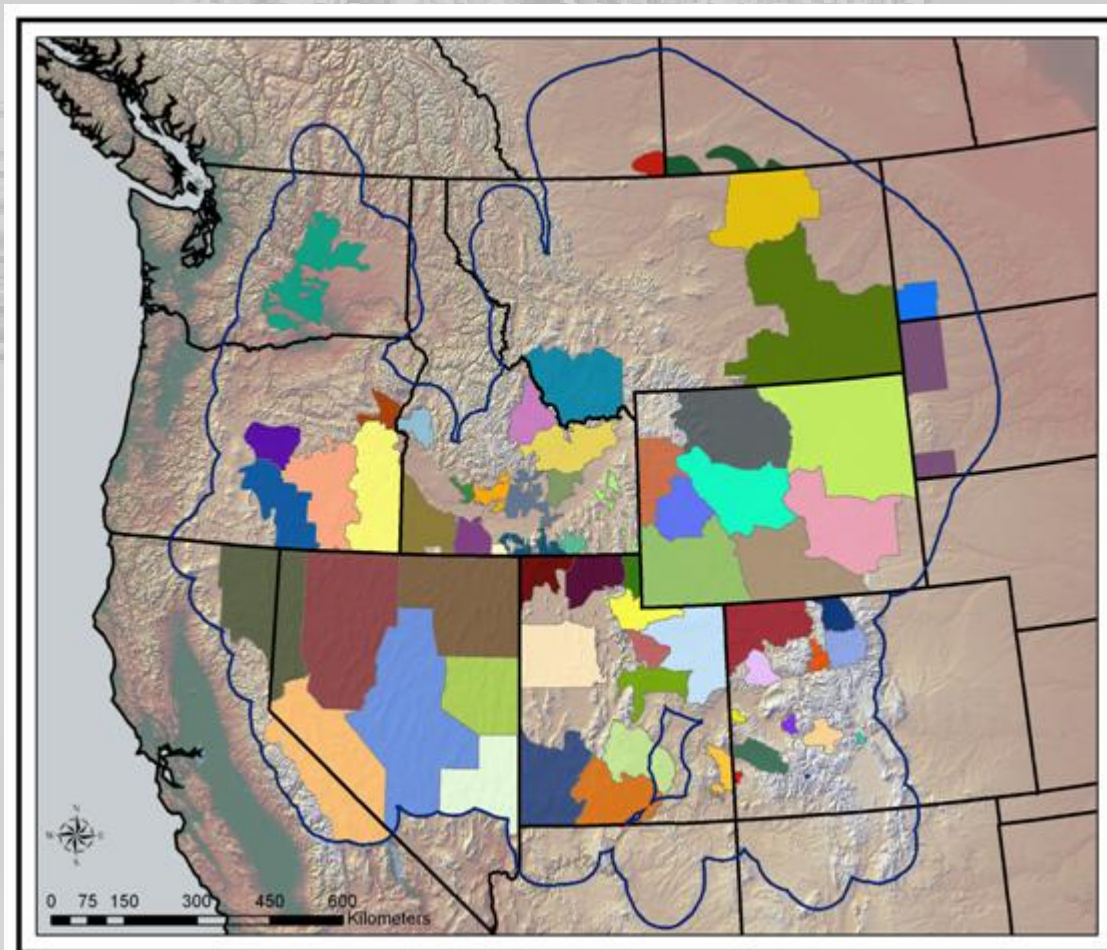
\$425,600,000/5 years

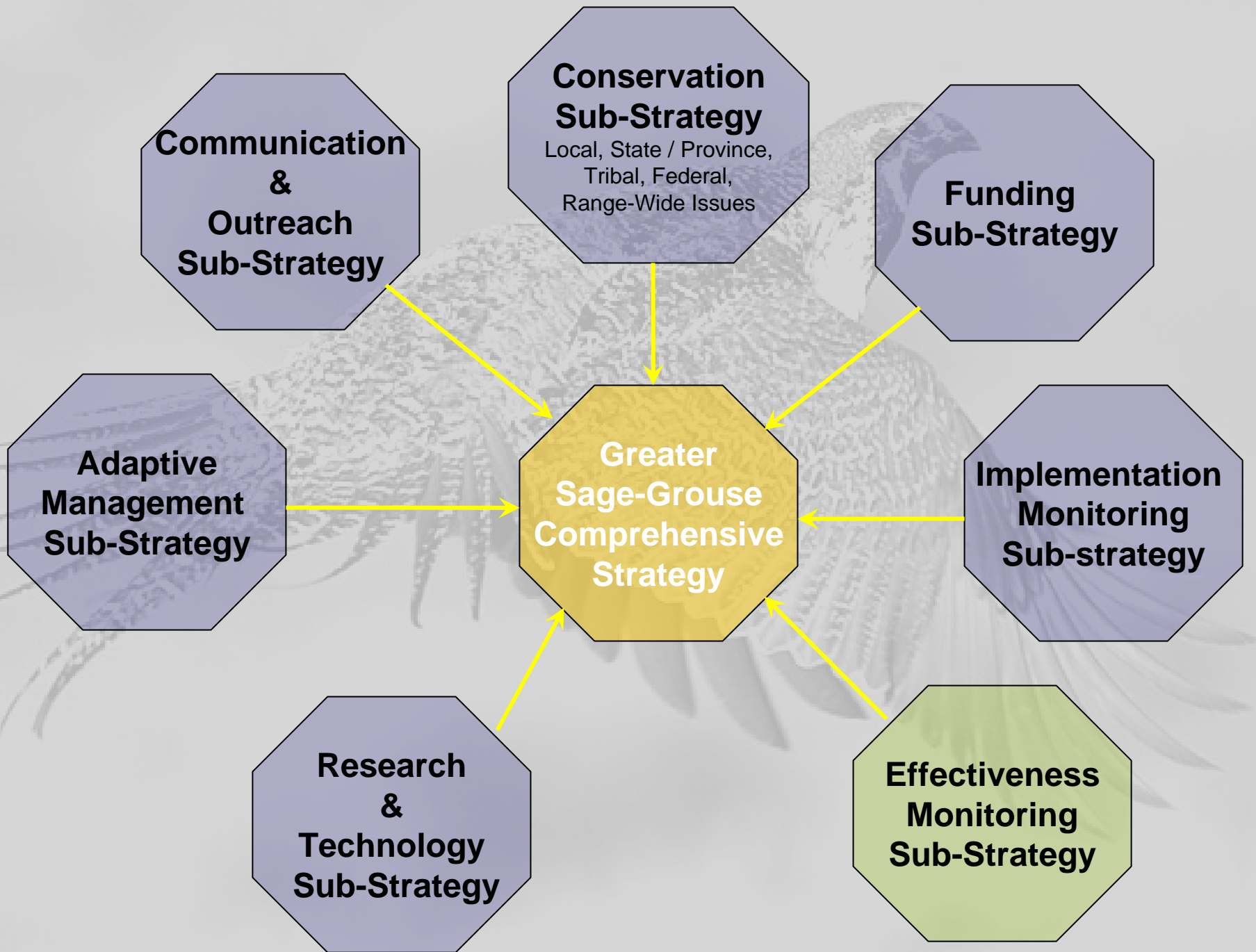




Greater Sage-Grouse Comprehensive Conservation Strategy

Local Working Group Locator

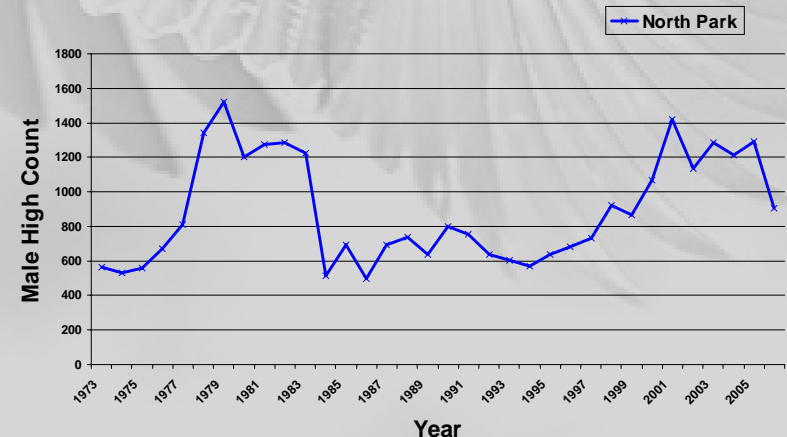
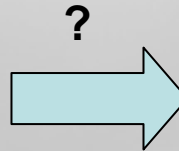




Greater Sage-Grouse Comprehensive Conservation Strategy

“Although the North American Waterfowl Plan (NAWMP) has marked 20 years of conservation...the NAWMP needs improved techniques in tracking...the metrics to connect habitat activities with the response in waterfowl populations.”

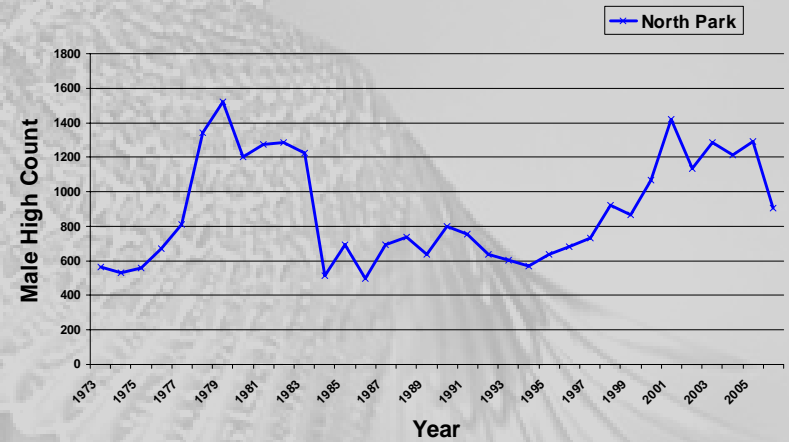
--The Assessment Steering Committee (2006)



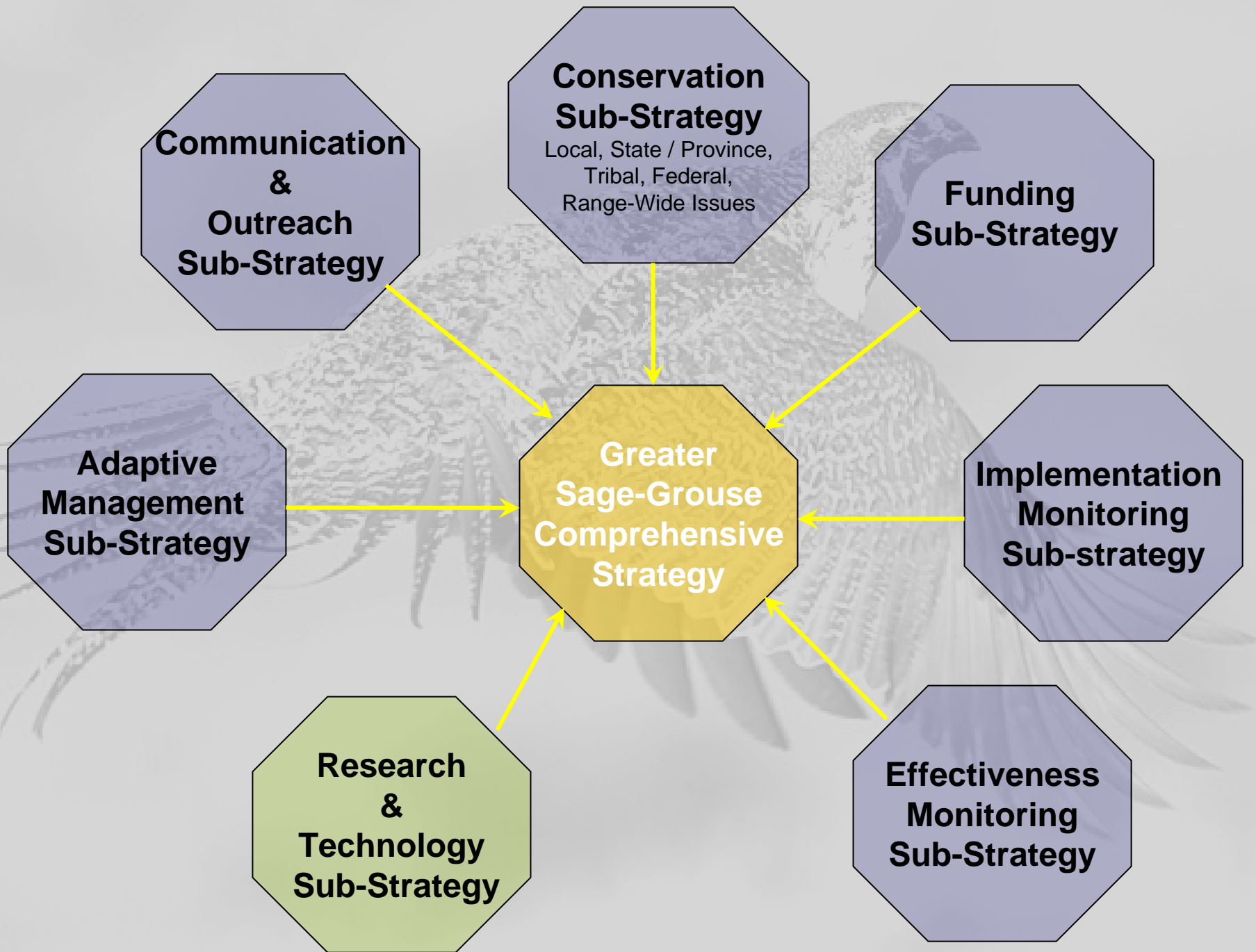
Greater Sage-Grouse Comprehensive Conservation Strategy



Habitat Monitoring



Population Monitoring

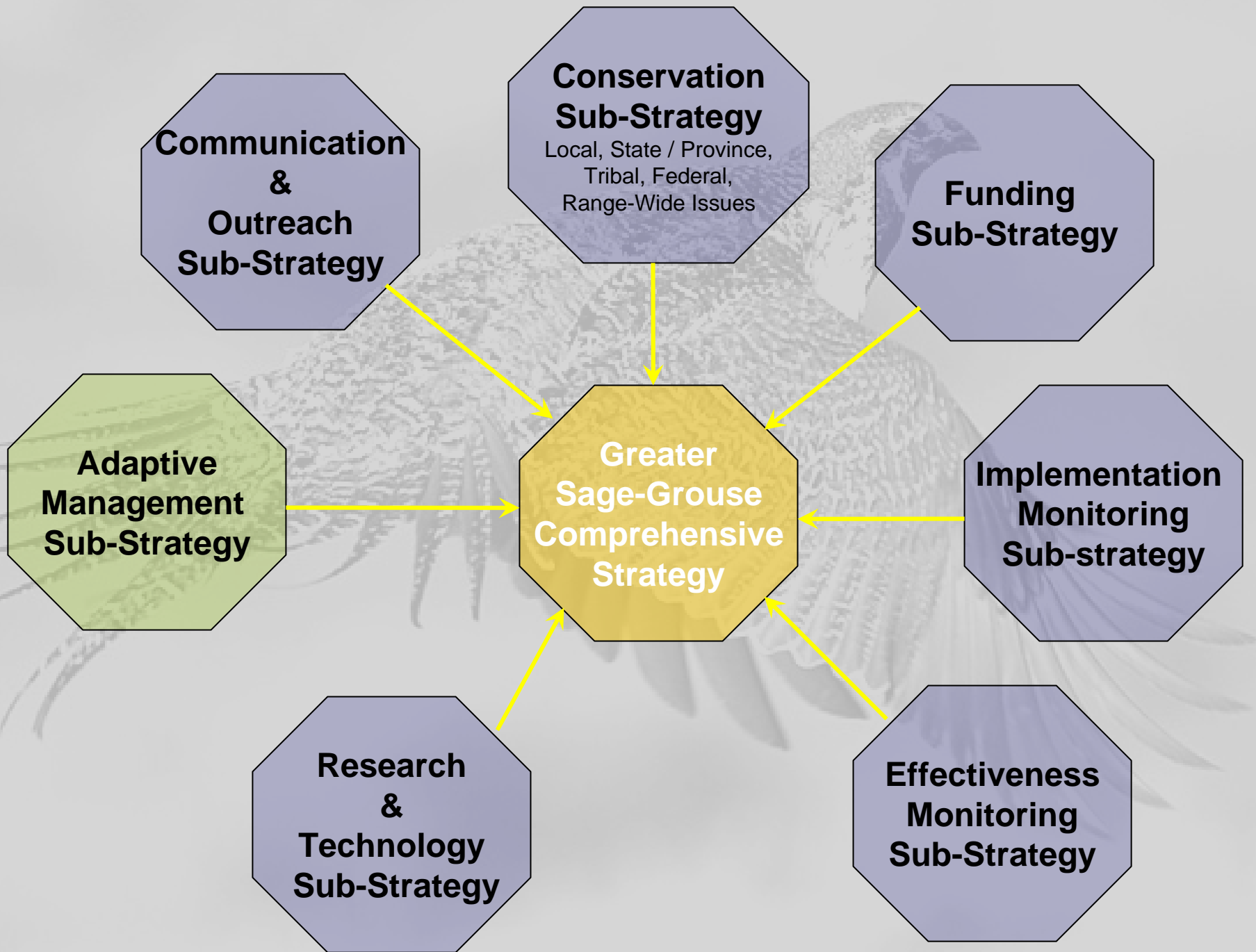


Greater Sage-Grouse Comprehensive Conservation Strategy



Strategy will provide consistent range-wide sage-grouse research priorities and a standardized research protocol.





**Reevaluate the Need
Evaluate the Treatments
Redesign Treatments**



**Determine Needs
Design Treatments**



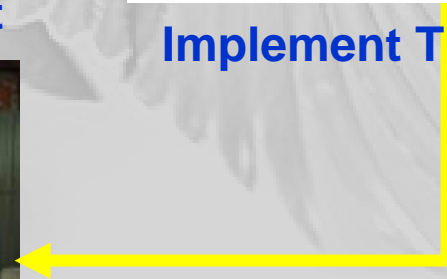
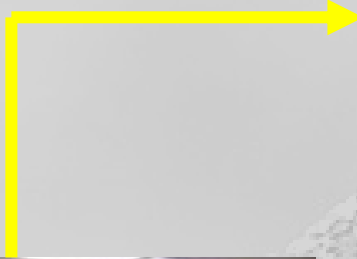
“... all adaptive management models need significant commitment and rigorous application of technique so managers can “learn by doing” at each conservation scale.”

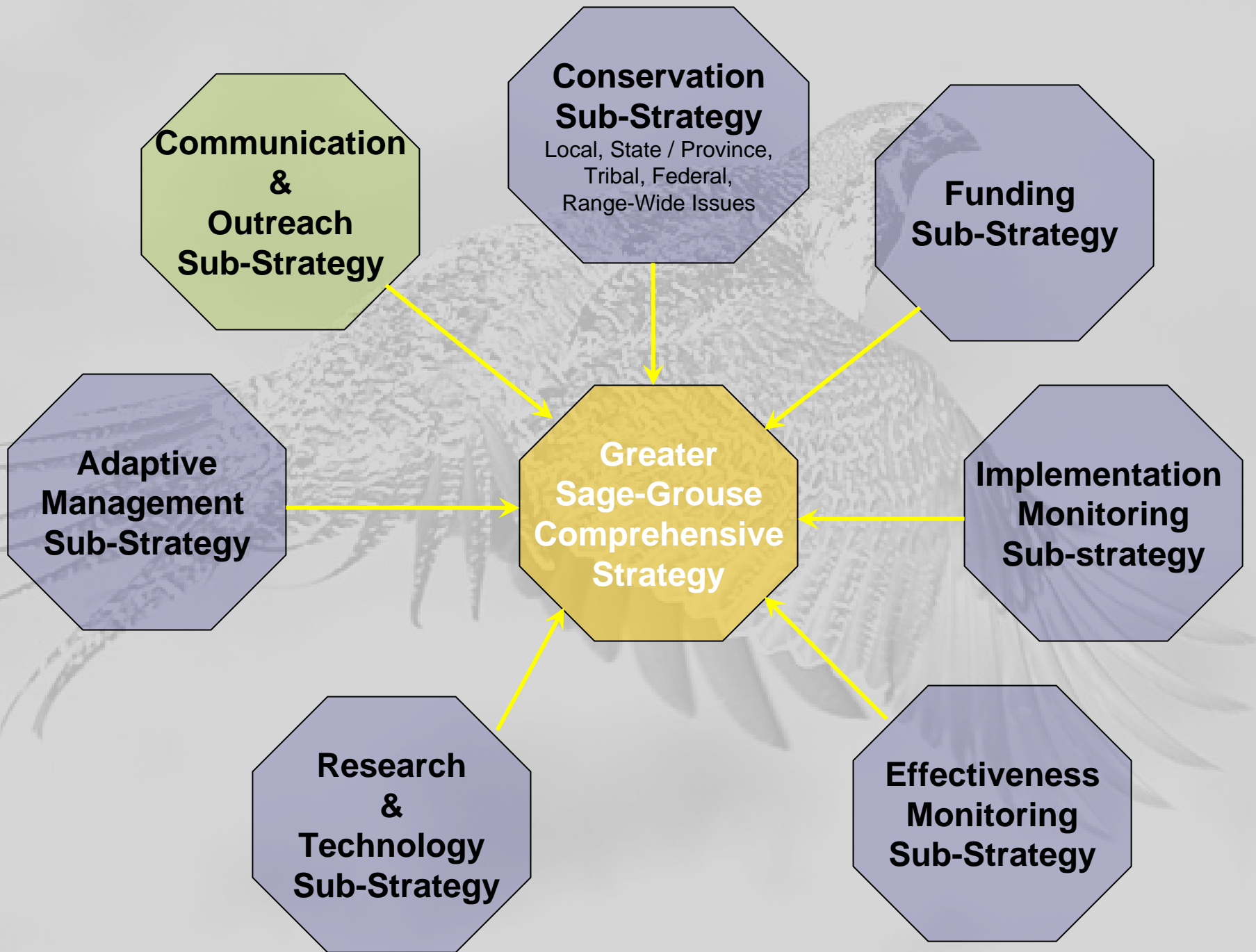


Monitor the Treatment

Implement Treatments

**Evaluate the Effectiveness
of the Treatments**





Greater Sage-Grouse Comprehensive Conservation Strategy



- **Sage-grouse Information Network (SGIN, Sun Valley, ID 2004)**
 - Provides the basis for interstate and interagency coordination and cooperation in communications and outreach.
- **WAFWA's website has been expanded and can now host SGIN.**
- **Message**

Conservation of greater sage-grouse and sagebrush habitats is important and the Strategy is a roadmap for long-term conservation of the sagebrush biome.

Greater Sage-Grouse Rangewide Issues Forum

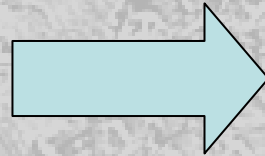


The Forum identified **3 critical elements** needed to move the conservation effort forward

- 1. Funding**
- 2. Leadership committed to organizing, supporting and guiding a long-term effort**
- 3. The appropriate organizational structure to sustain it**

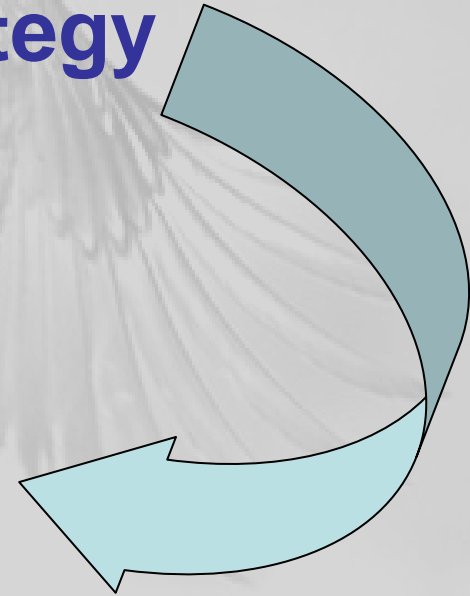
Greater Sage-Grouse Comprehensive Conservation Strategy

**Phase 1
Assessment**



**Phase 2
Comprehensive
Strategy**

**Phase 3
Implementation**



Where From Here?

WAFWA ACTION PLAN (2007)

- **Provide short term (1-3 years) administrative structure (Implementation Team) for Strategy implementation on a Management Zone basis.**
- **Maintain and increase critical partnerships between federal and state agencies through a revised MOU.**

Where From Here?

WAFWA ACTION PLAN,

- **Generate short-term (2007-2010) funding for implementation and monitoring.**
- **Increase long-term, sustained Conservation Capacity.**
 - **Work with the Western Governors' Association, individual Governors, Congress, agency leadership, and the public to pass NASECA.**

Where From Here?

WAFWA ACTION PLAN

- **Continue to support Local Working Groups.**
- **Increase conservation capacity through partnerships, grants, NASECA, in-state funding, increased use of federal and state farm bill programs.**
- **Build public support for sage-grouse and sagebrush conservation**

Where From Here?

WAFWA ACTION PLAN

- **Work with BLM to complete recommended livestock grazing practices in sage-grouse habitats.**
- **Complete and begin implementing the Sage-grouse Habitat Assessment Framework.**
- **Complete a peer reviewed Population Monitoring Protocol.**

Where From Here?

WAFWA ACTION PLAN

- **Continue on-the-ground sage-grouse and sagebrush conservation projects and monitoring activities.**
- **Develop new conservation projects consistent with the goal of the Conservation Strategy.**

The Plans are in Place

Now its time to...

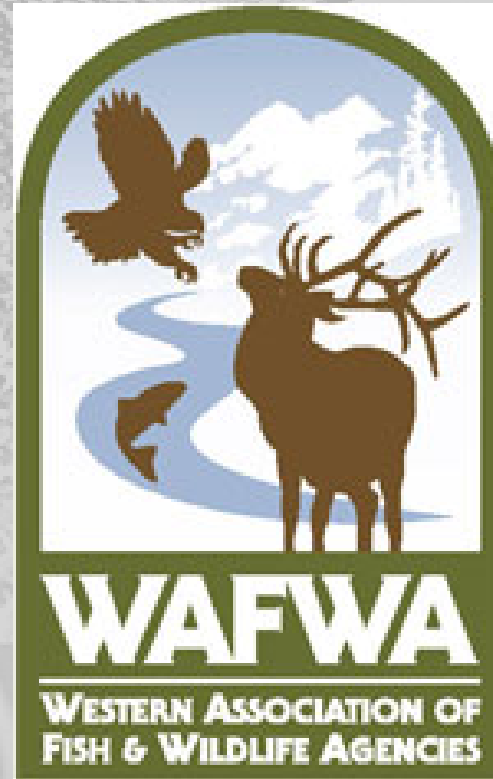
Implement

Monitor

Adapt

Implement...Monitor...Adapt...Implement...

Monitor...Adapt...





Thank You