

# SageCon Mitigation Sub-team

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# What is a mitigation program?

- Program goals, governance, adaptive management
- Mitigation program protocols or “operating manual”
- Implementation procedures/systems/templates
- Adaptive landscape assessment tools and maps



# Key components

1. Program goals and objectives
2. Covered activities
3. Avoiding and minimizing impacts
4. Eligibility criteria for compensatory mitigation projects
5. Methods to quantify debits and credits
6. Issuing, tracking, and selling credits
7. Program governance and adaptive management



# Mitigation program components

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# Proposed program goals

Derived from:

- SageCon principles
  - ODFW mitigation policy & GSG plan
  - BLM amendments and draft regional mitigation strategy
  - FWS draft guidance

# Proposed program goals

- Net benefit to sage grouse
- Predictable and transparent
- Equitable and science-based
- Consistent and complimentary across scales and ownership
- Quantitatively link debiting and crediting actions
- Long-term goal: Address other regulated resources
- Implementable regardless of listing decision



# Proposed eligibility criteria

- Projects targeted to maximize benefit to sage grouse
- Equitable treatment of public and private lands
- Service area should be biologically relevant & within state
- Participation in CCA(A), if available, before crediting
- Credit for avoided loss:
  - Discounted according to likelihood of loss
  - Must include enhancement actions



# Approach to program governance

- Collaborative
- Coordinated across agencies & land ownership types
- Permitting agency retains final decision
- Interagency & stakeholder group to advise, guide
- Suggest 3-agency MOU/MOA





# Next up

- Baseline/additionality
- Relationship with other incentives and assurances
- Durability
- Predicting and measuring outcomes
- Concerns specific to sage-grouse habitat:
  - Probability of success
  - Time-to-benefit
  - Evaluating likely rates of loss without action



# Questions?

