

The Role of Cow-Calf Enterprise Budgets in Evaluating the Economic Impact of Sage-Grouse Conservation on Rangeland Ranching Operations

Holly Dyer, UW Research Assistant, hsdyer@gmail.com

Principal Investigators: Dr. Kristie Maczko, Dr. John Ritten, Dr. John Tanaka

Post-Doctoral Researchers: Anna Maher and Dr. Nicolas Quintana

Research Assistants: Holly Dyer, Tom Hilken, Holly Kirkpatrick, Kendall Roberts

What we know:

- ❑ Sage-grouse habitat conservation on private land expected to reach 8 million acres by 2018 (USDA-NRCS, 2015)
- ❑ Conservation efforts can be mutually beneficial to wildlife and ranchers
 - Reduce threats to the sage-grouse
 - Improve grazing and livestock water supplies

What we do *not* know:

- ❑ What are the economic impacts of sage-grouse conservation on ranching operations?
- ❑ How are those impacts measured?
- ❑ Does the old adage, "What is good for the bird is good for the herd" stand true?

"...but what is an enterprise budget?"

Tools we have: Enterprise Budgets!

Enterprise budgets document all resources necessary for ranching production along with the rates of use and costs. Budgets help producers benchmark their operation's production and economic performance while providing estimates to business decision outcomes.



Photo Credit: USDA-NRCS.



Photo by Rick McEwan, Sage-Grouse Initiative's Photo Gallery.

Model baseline cow-calf operation without sage-grouse conservation practices

- Cover majority of sage-grouse habitats**
- 11 MLRAs in sage-grouse core area: 8, 10, 12, 23, 25, 28B, 32, 34A, 52, 58A, 58B
 - Covering parts of CO, ID, MT, NV, OR, and WY.
- Types of representative ranches:**
- Small-herd, private-land only
 - Small-herd, public & private land
 - Large-herd, private-land only
 - Large-herd, public & private land

