



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: June 25, 2025

SUBJECT: Presentation on Status of Greater Sage-Grouse in Deschutes County

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

State protections for Greater Sage-Grouse were adopted by the state Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) in 2015. The protections adopted by LCDC, OAR 660-023-0115, were a fundamental component of Oregon's efforts to demonstrate that listing the species under the federal Endangered Species Act was not warranted. The rule places restrictions on certain large-scale land uses within a certain radius of significant habitat in eastern Oregon counties. These requirements are mandatory and are administered through the County's Greater Sage-Grouse Combining Zone.

In early 2025, the state and subsequently the Board adopted updated habitat maps for Greater Sage-Grouse. The maps were produced by ODFW staff between 2022 and 2024, utilizing collaring data and updated modeling techniques. At the time of adoption, the Board requested a presentation from ODFW in order to better understand the status of Greater Sage-Grouse populations and habitat in Deschutes County and the effectiveness of the state protections.

The Board will receive a presentation from Skyler Vold, Sage-Grouse Conservation Coordinator, ODFW, and Dr. Christian Hagen, Associate Professor and Senior Researcher, Oregon State University.

ATTENDANCE:

Nicole Mardell, AICP, Senior Planner

Skyler Vold, Sage-Grouse Conservation Coordinator, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Dr. Christian Hagen, Associate Professor / Senior Researcher, Oregon State University