

# 2020 Transboundary Grassland Partnership Workshop

## Montana Jurisdictional Update

Kevin Ellison World Wildlife Fund-US



## 8 groups responded to Montana TGP survey:

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

NRCS Sage Grouse Initiative/Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana

US Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

World Wildlife Fund-US

Ranchers Stewardship Alliance

National Wildlife Federation

The Nature Conservancy-Montana



## Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

### **Programs:**

Working Grasslands Initiative

Upland Grassland Bird Enhancement Program

Migration Corridors/Connectivity

### **Achievements:**

Increased delivery of 30 yr leases; seeding and range infrastructure cost shares (many with RSA)

**Find TGP useful?** Yes

**New developments?** None mentioned - CWD



# NRCS Sage Grouse Initiative/Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana

**Programs:** NRCS Programs

**Achievements:**

Greatest acres of crop seeded to grass in any year (many with RSA)

**Find TGP useful?** Yes

**New developments?** None mentioned



US Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

**Partners Landowner Programs-**

Habitat restoration and enhancement, primarily wetlands and grasslands

**Achievements:**

Increased grassland restoration and enhancement projects (many with RSA)

“Virtual fence” project underway in Malta (with Leo of RSA)

**Find TGP useful?** Yes

**New developments?** M.Sc. study, Montana State Univ., McCown’s Longspur use of crop fields vs. range

Ph.D. study Univ. of Montana, assessing grassland bird declines past 30 years (seeking veg, bird, spatial data)



World Wildlife Fund-US

**Programs:** Sustainable Ranching Initiative, Sustainable Tribal Financing, Bison, Black-footed Ferret, Plowprint

**Achievements:**

Greatest acres of crop seeded to grass in any year

**Find TGP useful?** Yes

**New developments?** Obtaining significant corporate funding for restoration with ranchers, including carbon monitoring of new practices



Ranchers Stewardship Alliance

**Programs:** Seeding crop to grass, grazing infrastructure on retiring CRP (grass program), crested wheat control

**Achievements:**

3<sup>rd</sup> NFWF grant, Big Game Corridors grant

At 9,000ac seeded and CRP enhancement; 3,000ac of crested wheat treated; 11,000ac grazing systems for winter range for ungulates

**Find TGP useful?** Yes

**New developments?** Hiring and Executive Director and Admin Assistant; proposal out to fund Project Coord.



National Wildlife Federation

**Programs:** Migration connectivity, Water retention projects, Pronghorn Xing

**Achievements:**

Big game connectivity grant funded (with RSA)

Funding for water retention projects –Montana Beaver Working Group has a Beaver Restn. Assessment Tool

**Find TGP useful?** Yes

**New developments?** None mentioned





## The Nature Conservancy-Montana

### **Programs:**

Maintain Matador grass bank

Crested wheat and sage responses to fire

Drone monitoring of vegetation and sage grouse

Restoration work with RSA

Candidate Conservation Agreements and Easements

**Achievements:** more CCAA participants

**Find TGP useful?** Yes

**New developments?** Working on grass bank/ grazing association arrangement in Petroleum County



Montana to host 2021 TGPW...



# Kevin Ellison World Wildlife Fund-US

