

## Terms of Reference for the Sage-grouse Partnership

Participants in the Sage Grouse Partnership (SGP) believe that engagement and support of all stakeholders is vital to the success of Sage-grouse recovery efforts. These terms of reference have been prepared to help guide the work of the SGP.

### Vision of the Sage-grouse Partnership

To identify habitat and recover Canada's Sage-grouse populations while also benefitting other prairie wildlife through positive working relationships between environmental non-government organizations, ranchers, industry and government agencies.

### Principles

The Sage-grouse Partnership is founded on the following principles:

1. We recognize that the remaining Sage-grouse habitat exists because this natural grassland provides economic benefits and significant ecosystem services<sup>1</sup> when responsibly grazed by livestock producers.
2. We agree to honour existing rights and commitments associated with property and land use.

**Strategy:** Establish a working advisory committee comprised of key partners co-chaired by representatives of the Alberta Wilderness Association (AWA) and directly affected ranchers. The responsibility of the committee will include:

1. Determining appropriate voluntary activities on ranchlands aimed at improving habitat for Sage-grouse.
2. Advising, on efforts to reintroduce Sage-grouse.
3. Sharing information and learnings relevant to Sage-grouse (e.g., behaviour and habitat requirements of Sage-grouse; programs being implemented elsewhere; relevant policy and legislative changes).

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<sup>1</sup> Ecosystem services are the many benefits people derive from ecosystems. These include provisioning, regulating, and cultural services that directly affect people and the supporting services needed to maintain these services. Beef production is an example of a provisioning service – a consumable product. Examples of regulating services include water purification and climate regulation through carbon sequestration. Biodiversity is a supporting service that is necessary to provide such services as pollination, pharmaceuticals, genetic resources and recreation. In the case of the Sage-grouse Partnership, the ecosystem we are referring to includes the natural habitats in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Montana that are essential for Greater Sage-grouse survival.

4. Sharing information on issues and activities and developing mutually agreeable solutions.
5. Preparing joint communications with stakeholder groups and others when appropriate.
6. Advocating for effective tools for landowners/leaseholders for managing public access on lands that are critical for Sage-grouse recovery.
7. Advocating for economic incentives that will assist landowners who are supporting Sage-grouse recovery.
8. Engaging the petroleum and utility industries and government in Sage-grouse initiatives.

**Governance:**

The working advisory committee will work by consensus. Meeting notes will be recorded and made available to participants by email in a timely manner. Communication will be open and will occur on a regular basis. While most shared information will be publicly available, if information is sensitive, confidentiality will be respected.

**Resources:**

Meeting logistics such as room rentals and coffee or snacks will be paid for by the AWA.

Subject to available funding, the project will provide mileage reimbursement to those individuals who do not represent organizations able to pay for their representative's transportation cost.

## Steering Committee Contact Information

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