Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission



Fish and Wildlife Commission Tour: Thursday, September 11, 2025, 8:00 AM Holiday Inn Express Ontario 212 SE 10th St. Ontario, OR 97314

Meeting: Friday September 12, 2025, 8:00 AM Four Rivers Cultural Center 767 SW 5th Ave. Ontario, OR 97314

Thursday September 11, 2025

All times are Mountain Daylight Time

MAXIMIZING RESILIENCY OF SAGE-STEPPE HABITAT IN THE FACE OF INCREASING FIRE FREQUENCY

The tour will focus on sage-steppe habitat and the primary habitat threats of fire and conversion to invasive annual grasses. The tour will include stops at intact sage steppe, sites recently impacted by fire but on a path for recovery and end at an older fire impacted site that has near complete conversion to non-native habitat. Staff and partners will discuss fire impacts to sage-grouse and other species and highlight efforts to prioritize post fire restoration actions.

Tour Map

8:00 - 8:25 AM WELCOME AND TOUR OVERVIEW

Tucker Freeman-District Wildlife Biologist

9:30 AM PRE-FIRE LANDSCAPE

Discussion of intact sage-steppe habitat and sage grouse, actions to maintain resilience, and use of remote sensed data to assess ecostates.

Skyler Vold, Sage Grouse Conservation Coordinator

10:00 AM POST FIRE RECOVERY- WORKING IN PRIORITY AREAS TO MAXIMIZE CONSERVATION OUTCOMES

Overview of the 2024 Cow Valley Durkee fire, its impacts in sage-steppe, restoration concepts and actions, and prioritization tools.

Dustin Johnson OSU Extension, Chales Clinger and Andrew Sheilds Terra West, Tom Segal-ODFW Regional Habitat Biologist, Kaly Adkins ODFW Regional Diversity Biologist, Nicole Sullivan-Malheur Rangeland Partnership

12:00 PM LUNCH 3-Creeks Ranch HQ

Training the next generation of biologists.

Dave Banks, District Fish Biologist Marcus Nichols, Treasure Valley Community College

Mitigation Banking Overview

Greg Jackle, District Wildlife Biologist Andrew Sheilds Terra West-

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2:30 POST FIRE-LOW RESISTANCE AND RESILIENCE LANDSCAPE

Fire impact in low R&R site, complete conversion to non-native habitat.

Skyler Vold-Sage Grouse Conservation Coordinator

3:00 End of Tour at Holiday Inn Express