\begin{quote}
I have always been fascinated by this dance and one day, early in the spring of 2019, I was privileged to see it in person. Thanks to the wonderful staff at NRCS, I was able to fulfill this dream. This artwork depicts the sage grouse dancing in early spring with the Stillwater Mountain Range in the background. I depicted a sea of sagebrush, the habitat of the sage grouse with the ghosts of tribal traditional dancers among them. For Nevada tribes, they provided tasty food and feathers for regalia and decoration. The sagebrush itself is used for many different things, including shelter, medicine, tea and spiritual cleansing. Nevada Natives are very concerned with the preservation and conservation of land and wildlife habitats, including the pine nut tree groves and water resources.
\end{quote}
The Tule Lake Basin in northeastern Oregon is one of the largest wetlands and most productive waterfowl habitat areas in the Pacific Northwest. For nearly a century, the Basin was a prime destination for wintering waterfowl. During this period, wetlands were highly productive, supporting a diversity of wildlife. Unfortunately, a combination of factors, including conversion to agriculture, over-harvesting, and pollution, led to the decline of the Basin’s wetlands. By the 1970s, wetland areas had decreased by more than 90%.

NRCS and the Tule Lake Basin Sustainability: Bridging Culture and Conservation

The Tule Lake Basin has come to be recognized as one of the last remaining undisturbed wetlands that have not been impacted by human activities. The Basin is home to a diverse array of wildlife, including waterfowl, shorebirds, and upland birds. The Basin’s wetlands provide critical habitat for a variety of species, including greater sage-grouse, a species of concern for conservation.

NRCS has worked with the Tule Lake Basin for nearly a decade to restore and sustain wetlands. NRCS has supported the implementation of conservation practices, such as wetland enhancement and restoration, to improve the Basin’s ecological health. NRCS has also supported the development of a sustainable management plan for the Basin, which will help ensure its long-term viability and the continued protection of its wildlife.

The Tule Lake Basin is a prime example of the importance of conservation in the Pacific Northwest. NRCS continues to work with local partners to restore and sustain the Basin’s wetlands, ensuring that it remains a valuable resource for generations to come.