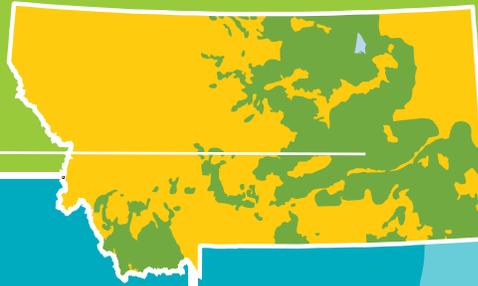


# On Target: Sage Grouse Initiative

**Montana** is the second most populous sage grouse state with **18%** percent of the range wide sage grouse population.



Conservation here requires cooperation with private land-owners as **2/3** of the habitat is on privately owned lands.

## Money to Montana



Montana's focus on conserving rangelands occupied by sage grouse increased the state's Environmental Quality Incentives Program cost-share funding by 26% in a two-year span, an increase of \$8.7 million!

Between 2010 and 2018, Montana received an **additional \$88 million** in EQIP and easement funding.

## What did that buy?



**1.2 million acres**

of rangeland and habitat improvements and land easement protection. That's an area larger than Glacier National Park.



## Rangeland benefits for everyone

### Grazing



Well-managed NRCS grazing systems are highly compatible with healthy sage-grouse populations and also result in a 13% greater prevalence of preferred insects eaten by grouse chicks in grazed versus idled rangelands.

### Mesic Habitats



Mesic restoration makes meadows 25% more productive and keeps water on the ranch in the fall when producers and wildlife need it most.

### Easements

More than 50% of all conservation easements ever funded in the state of Montana by NRCS were through Working Lands for Wildlife. Many are linked together and support the longest known sage grouse migration in the West.

### Conifer Removal



New satellite-mapping of expanding conifer trees into native rangelands helped target woodland management prescriptions that have been documented to boost sage grouse populations by 12% and restored water availability for ranchers.

## Focusing conservation provides big results –

conserved sage grouse habitat, increased rangeland productivity and sustainability, and resulted in **no** additional endangered species regulations.



## Wildlife Conservation Through Sustainable Ranching

Montana Natural Resources Conservation Service

[nrcs.usda.gov/](http://nrcs.usda.gov/)