

**Project Summary**  
**Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

**Project Title: Ecological Modeling and Monitoring to Inform Avian Conservation in the Intermountain West**

**Type of Project:** Technical Assistance  
**Discipline:** Natural Resources  
**Funding Agency:** US Fish and Wildlife Service  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** University of Montana  
**Effective Dates:** 8/5/2014 - 6/30/2019  
**Funding Amount:** \$107,736 [FY15: \$37,736; FY14: \$70,000]

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:** Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV), the University of Montana -Avian Science Center and their partners seek to complete mapping and evaluation of long-term seasonal wetland productivity and landscape carrying capacity for migratory birds in SONEC (Figure 3). Availability of this data will eliminate an immense and long standing information gap that has hampered the broad scale decision support necessary to address migratory bird habitat needs. Wetland mapping already completed by the IWJV and SGI for sage-grouse (Donnelly et al *in review*) will facilitate easy assimilation of results by partners to promote overlapping (e.g. migratory bird and sage-grouse) conservation objectives. Associated objectives include:

1. Target and accelerate habitat protection and restoration in priority wetland landscapes
2. Maintain or expand available wetland habitats allowing migratory bird populations to be sustained at goal levels
3. Increase coordination of habitat conservation across public and private lands through enhanced decision support

**Outcomes with Completion Dates: June 30, 2019**

**Keywords:** avian conservation, ecological modeling and monitoring, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Intermountain West Joint Venture, University of Montana, The Avian Science Center