

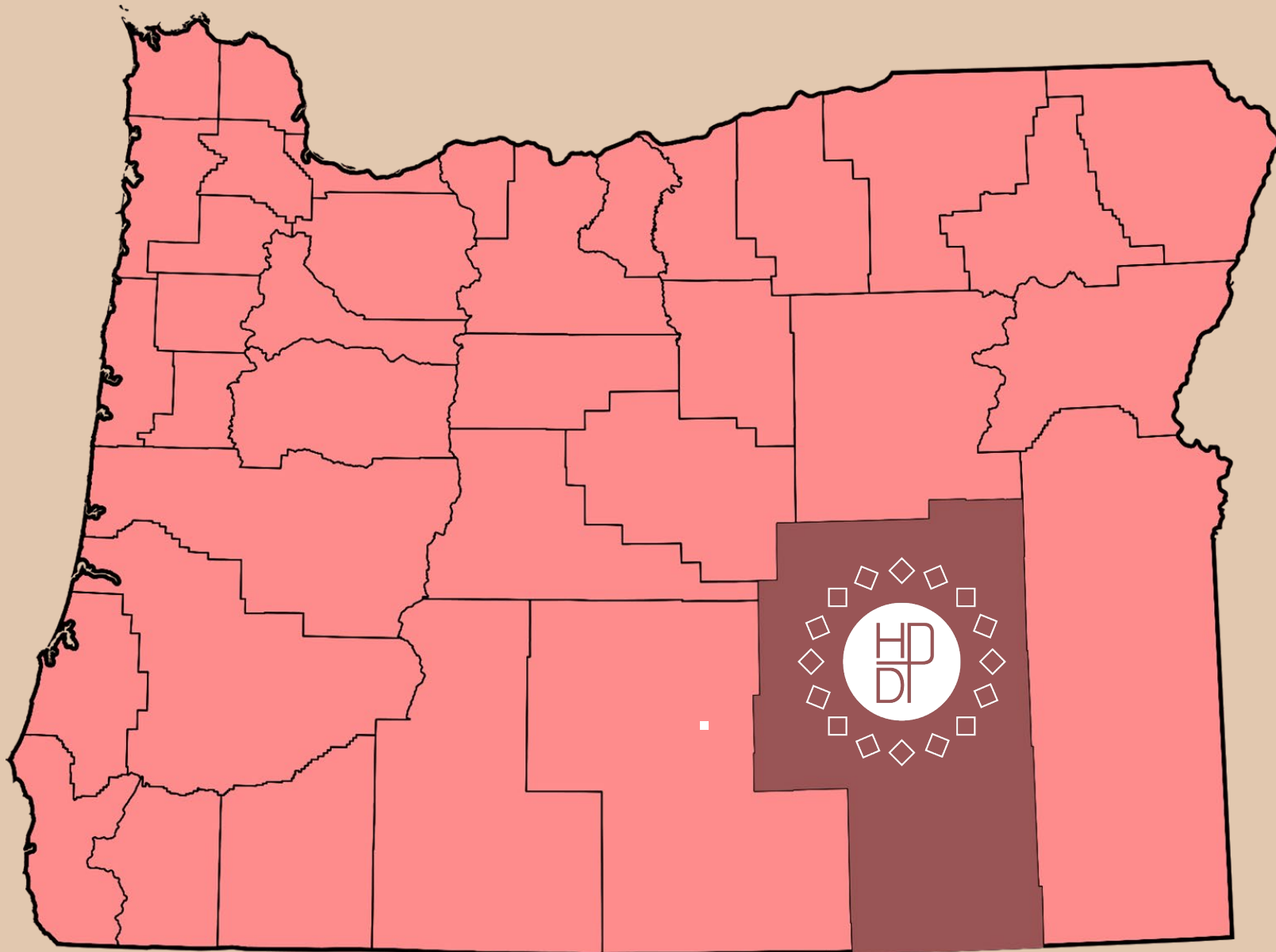
HIGH DESERT
Partnership

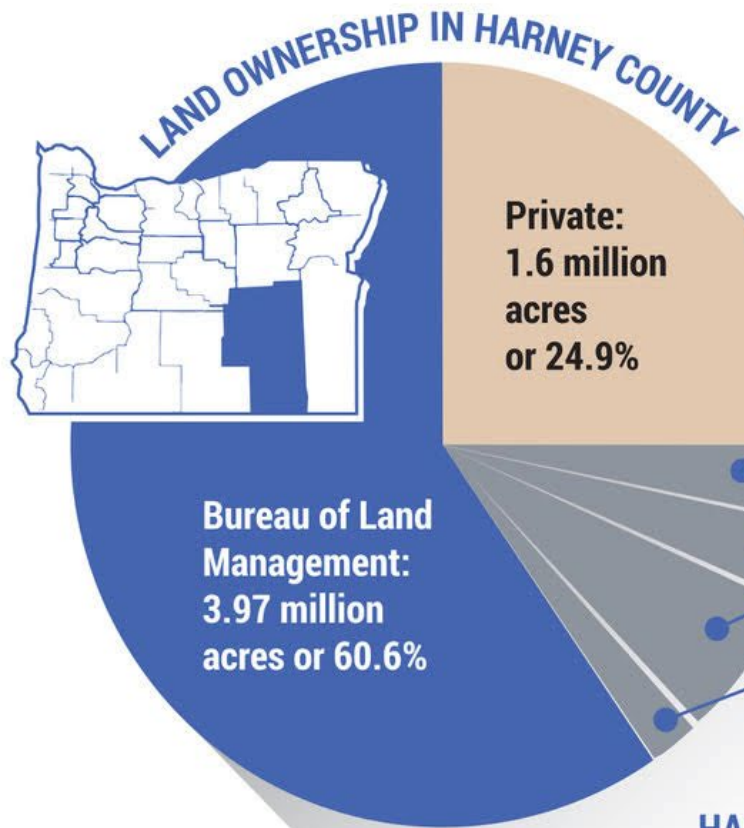
*Fostering a Culture of Collaboration
The Harney County Way*



*How I came to Harney County and
Collaborative Work*







At more than 6.5 million acres, Harney is the largest county in Oregon.

State: 197,417 acres or 3%

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: 188,160 acres or 2.9%

U.S. Forest Service: 523,071 acres or 8%

Other government*: 36,507 acres or 0.6%

*Indicates Bureau of Reclamation, Indian reservation and trust land, Northern Great Basin Experimental Range and other water bodies.

Sources: Harney county GIS; BLM, Burns District
Alan Kenaga/Capital Press

HARNEY COUNTY QUICK FACTS

10th

Largest county in the United States at 10,226 square miles.

75%

Land in Harney County that is public land managed by government agencies.

7,300

Population of Harney County, many whose livelihood is tied to the land.





Harney County is frontier rural



Our unique rural way of life endures today because we have learned to adapt to *economic, environmental, and community-based* challenges





CENTRAL
HOTEL

CHINESE
FOOD RESTAURANT

MBER

GENE
CLO

WOODS
RANGE

CAFE
PALACE



This used to be thriving timber country

Today, we rely on
ranching, agriculture,
and
entrepreneurship—all
of which have unique
challenges in a rural
environment





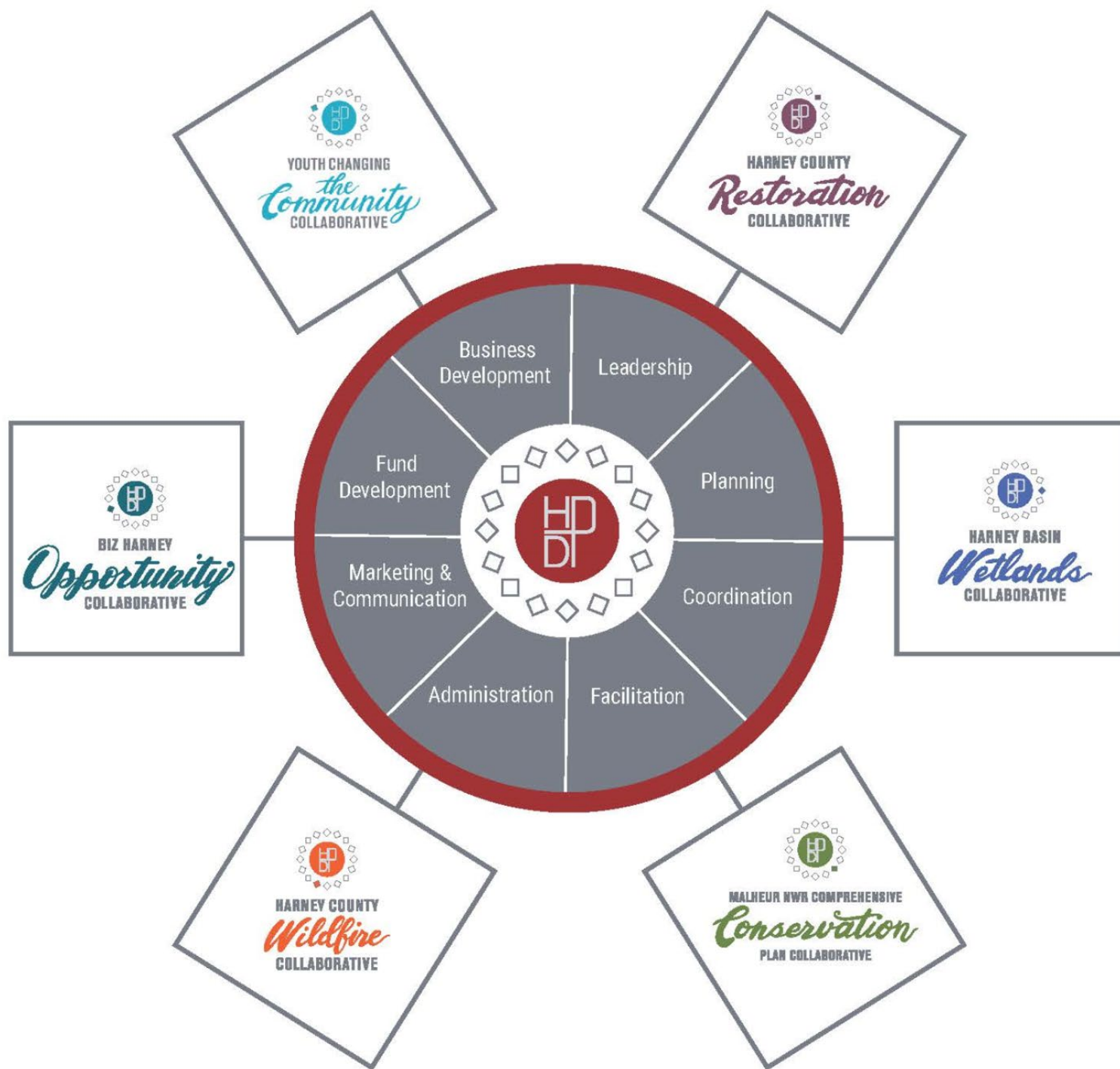
**We didn't
always work
together**

**For decades, the
management of the
Malheur National
Wildlife Refuge was
a heated point of
contention for many
in the community**



**15 years ago,
we pioneered a new way
to address problems in
our community**







**Collaboration
means everyone
is welcome at
the table**



**Foundational Truths -
Our process brings
groups together to
solve pressing issues
in our community**





Community*

*** Anyone who shares our love and concern for this amazing place**



Champions for common ground

**By working together, we've
found practical ways to tackle
some of our community's
hardest challenges:**

Restoring degraded forests

Revitalizing wetlands

Mitigating wildfire

Creating opportunities for youth

Growing local economy



Landscape Scale Management

This requires
landscape scale
management to
go beyond
jurisdictional
boundaries and
partner
cooperation



**Water is a
connector to
everything out
here**



Working together is the Harney County way

What we can achieve
together betters our
local communities
and sends a ripple of
positive change
stretching far beyond
the sagebrush





**The road ahead
isn't going to be
easy, but we're in
this for the long -haul**

Preserve healthy working lands

**Adapt for water scarcity and
climate change**

Spur economic opportunity

Promote youth engagement


Equitable cultural preservation



Process is everything in Collaboration

- **Help people understand what they can bring to a collaborative table**
- **Establish clearly defined roles (facilitator vs. participant)**
- **Importance of the Agenda & pre-work**
- **Establish ground rules**
- **Finding Common Ground - Values, goals, & objectives**
- **Interviews, questionnaires, background research**
- **Evaluation & follow-up**
- **Evening out participation**
 - **Go around the circle, breakout groups, silent brainstorming**
- **Interventions**
 - **Silence**
 - **Restructure Process**
 - **Re-focus Content / Reframe**
 - **Shift the Energy**
 - **Focus on the what is it we want, not how to get there**





**“In a nation staggering to find its center of gravity,
Harney County proved the power of a community
that knows how to work together.”**

Peter Walker, Sagebrush Collaboration



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=srdjQSftgRY&t=9s>