

# Idaho Sage-grouse Local Working Groups

Statewide Annual Report 2012



Idaho Sage-grouse Advisory Committee  
Technical Assistance Team  
3/29/2013

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## ABSTRACT

This report documents Idaho sage-grouse Local Working Groups (LWGs) and Sage-grouse Advisory Committee (SAC) accomplishments in 2012; sage-grouse population and habitat trends; and sage-grouse conservation efforts. Twelve LWGs held a total of 42 meetings with an average of 11.3 attendees per meeting. Overall 237 individuals attended 1 or more LWG meeting. Ten LWGs have completed plans. The SAC met once in 2012, with 37 attendees. Biologists and volunteers surveyed 1,112 leks statewide in 2012. Of these, 317 leks were surveyed by helicopter and 462 leks were counted on 78 established lek routes. Statewide, 2012 male lek attendance was down 8% from 2011. Statewide the average productivity was 0.97 chicks per hen in 2012, which was below the previous 5-year's average of 1.5. Productivity in 2012 was the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest productivity estimate since wing collections began in 1961; productivity in 2007 was the lowest ever recorded. Hunters harvested an estimated 2,556 birds in 2012, which is up slightly from the 2,144 birds harvested in 2011. About 186,624 acres of key sage-grouse habitat burned in 2012. From 2002–2011, the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation has helped provide funding for 133 sage-grouse projects including 57 habitat projects and 55 inventory, monitoring, and research projects. These grants have helped improve at least 38,998 acres of sage-grouse habitat in Idaho. LWGs also reported on the status of threats to sage-grouse in their planning area.

## INTRODUCTION

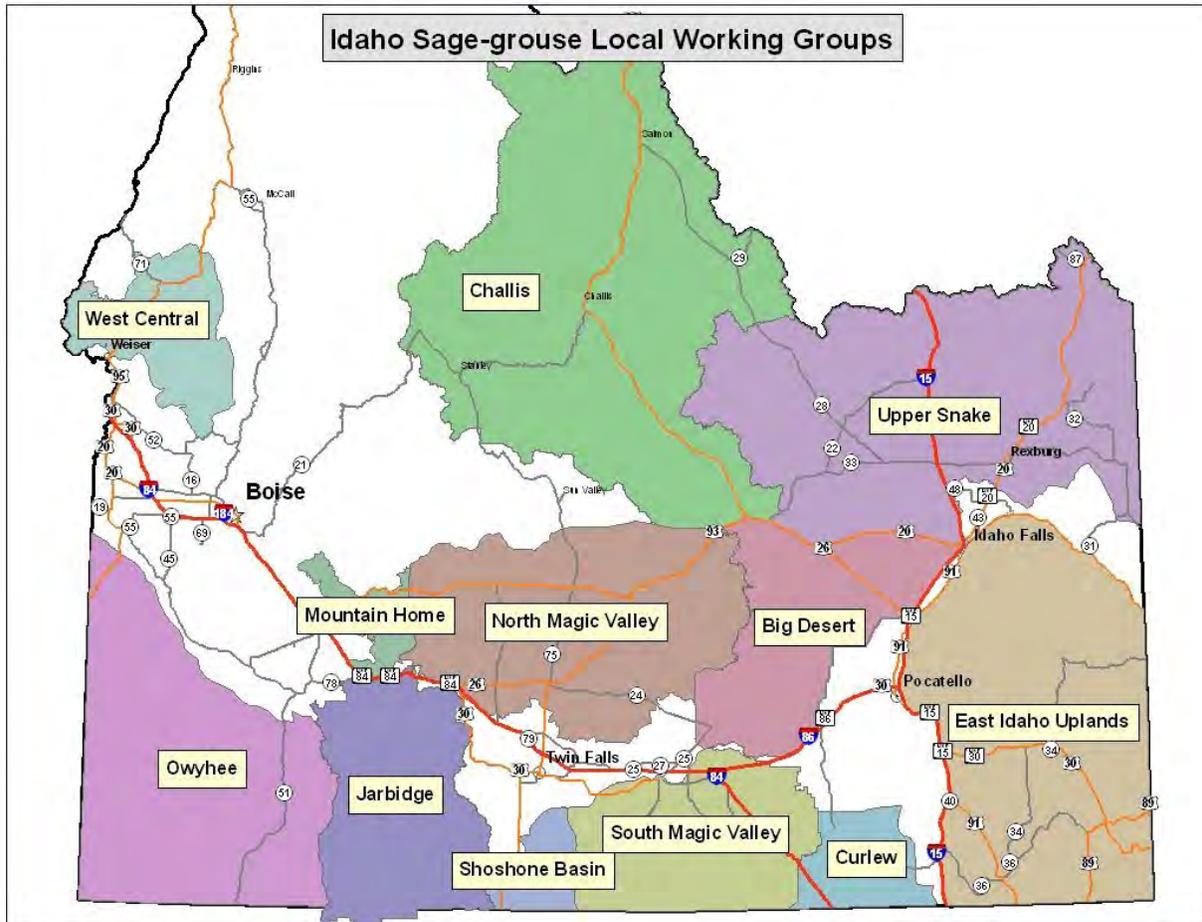
In 1997, the Idaho Sage-grouse Task Force, under direction of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission, completed the Idaho Sage-grouse Management Plan (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 1997). The 1997 Plan divided Idaho into sage-grouse management areas and called for the creation of LWGs that would develop sage-grouse management plans for each of Idaho's Sage-grouse Planning Areas (SGPA).

The SAC was formed in 2003, with members appointed by former Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG) Director Steve Huffaker. The main purpose of the SAC was described as, “. . . helping all Idahoans, and especially Local Working Groups, by making sure they have the funding, support, and information they need to put meaningful sage-grouse conservation on the ground.” In addition to representatives from key agencies, the SAC includes private citizens from agricultural and conservation groups and at least one member from each LWG. There are currently about 21 SAC members and 10 technical advisors (SAC Technical Assistance Team [TAT]).

In July 2006, the *Conservation Plan for the Greater Sage-grouse in Idaho* was completed and signed by a diverse group of cooperators (Idaho Sage-grouse Advisory Committee 2006). This updated plan provides the management framework for sage-grouse in Idaho and identifies LWGs as the heart of Idaho's sage-grouse conservation strategy. Prior to 2006, there were 5 established LWGs. The 2006 plan identified 13 SGPAs; since then 2 of the planning areas have merged into one (the West Magic Valley and East Magic Valley combined into the North Magic Valley LWG) (Figure 1). Several LWGs have since amended their planning area boundaries. Currently there are 12 active LWGs and 10 have completed plans (Table 1).

This statewide annual report is the 6<sup>th</sup> compilation of annual reports from each LWG. This report documents Idaho sage-grouse Local Working Groups (LWGs) and Sage-grouse Advisory

Committee (SAC) accomplishments in 2012; sage-grouse population and habitat trends; and sage-grouse conservation efforts.



**Figure 1. Idaho Sage-grouse Local Working Groups and associated Sage-grouse Planning Areas. Boundaries were updated by some groups in 2009.**

**Table 1. Status of Idaho sage-grouse Local Working Group plans in 2012.**

<b>Local Working Group</b>	<b>Status of Plan</b>
Big Desert	Completed March 2010
Challis	Completed October 2007
East Idaho Uplands	Completed March 2011
Greater Curlew Valley	Completed June 2004
Jarbidge	Completed December 2007
Mountain Home	Not initiated
North Magic Valley	Completed January 2011
Owyhee	Completed August 2004; plan revision expected 2013.
Shoshone Basin	Completed east side of planning area October 2008; early stages of planning for west side.
South Magic Valley	In progress
Upper Snake	Completed June 2004
West Central	Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA), signed February 12, 2010

## METHODS

In 2006, the SAC TAT developed a draft Local Working Group annual report form. Four LWGs completed and submitted a report in 2006. The form was revised in 2007, based on input from these 4 LWGs, and the first *Idaho Sage-grouse Local Working Groups Statewide Annual Report* was published March 27, 2008. The LWG annual report form was again revised in 2010 and 2011 to better track accomplishments towards tasks identified in the revised Implementation Chapter of the state plan (Idaho Sage-grouse Advisory Committee 2006; as amended in 2009). LWG facilitators and IDFG regional contacts received the *Local Working Group Annual Report Form 2012* and were asked to return the completed form by January 30, 2013. The SAC TAT chairman compiled the reports, produced the draft document, and then distributed to SAC TAT members for review prior to final publication.

## RESULTS

Twelve LWGs submitted an annual report. The following results are summarized by major category in the annual report form.

### LWG and SAC Meetings

Twelve LWGs held a total of 42 meetings with an average of 11.3 attendees per meeting. The number of meetings in a year for a LWG ranged from 1 to 10. Overall 237 individuals attended 1 or more LWG meeting in 2012. Attendance at LWG meetings has been declining since 2007 when 345 individuals attended. For 9 LWGs that recorded mileage that attendees travelled to meetings, they reported a total of 18,529 miles travelled, for an average of 70 miles per person. Attendees were interested citizens and landowners, or represented various grazing associations, nongovernmental organizations, and state, county and federal agencies. Recent budget constraints in the participating federal and state agencies have resulted in very limited use of

professional facilitators. Most LWGs are currently being facilitated by IDFG staff or by an appointed LWG member; this trend is likely to continue into the foreseeable future.

The SAC held 1 meeting in 2012 (December 17-18) with 37 people in attendance. SAC meeting summaries can be found on the sage-grouse pages of the IDFG website at:

<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/wildlife/sageGrouse/?getPage=174>

## **Idaho Governor's Office Sage-grouse Conservation Alternative**

In March 2012, Idaho Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter convened the Governor's Sage-grouse Task Force to provide recommendations on regulatory mechanisms that would address primary threats and some secondary threats to sage-grouse as identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2010 listing decision. The Task Force was composed of representatives from LWGs, conservation interests, county commissions, the state legislature, and industry. State agencies were technical assistance advisors to the Task Force. The Task Force submitted their recommendations to the Governor's Office in June 2012. The Governor's Office used the Task Force recommendations to write the *Idaho Governor's Office Sage-grouse Conservation Alternative*, which was submitted to the Secretary of Interior and Secretary of Agriculture for inclusion in the Idaho/southwest Montana EIS that would incorporate sage-grouse conservation regulatory mechanisms into federal land use plans. The Alternative addresses wildfire, invasive plants, large infrastructure development, recreation, West Nile virus, and livestock grazing management and associated small infrastructure. As of January 2013, the Alternative is not regulatory but the State is pursuing avenues to make the alternative's mechanisms regulatory on federal lands. The Governor's Alternative is available at:

<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/wildlife/?getPage=310>.

## **Sage-grouse Population Monitoring**

### **Leks**

Sage-grouse breeding populations are typically monitored by counts of males at leks each spring. A lek is a traditional display area. The area is normally located in a very open site in or adjacent to sagebrush-dominated habitats. The quality of lek data in Idaho varies greatly, ranging from 1 helicopter survey over an area every 5 years to annual standardized counts on established lek routes.

A lek route is a count of male sage-grouse on a group of leks that are relatively close and represent part or all of a single breeding population. The following summarizes the standardized procedures for lek routes (Connelly et al. 2003):

- All leks within a lek route should be counted on the same day within 1.5 hours.
- Lek routes should be run from 0.5 hours before sunrise to 1 hour after sunrise.
- Each route should be run 4 times during the spring lekking season (generally late March to late April, depending on elevation).
- Lek routes should not be conducted under poor weather conditions (rain or snow or winds >15 mph).

Lek route results are reported as the peak male attendance on one day for all leks in the route. Lek route data that have been correctly collected through time are the most appropriate data for assessing population trends.

We compiled lek data and survey effort for each planning area. Specifically we recorded the number of leks that were surveyed by air and ground in 2012, the number of lek routes in the area, and the average number of males per lek for leks on routes for the current year and compared to the past 5 years. Biologists and volunteers surveyed 1,112 leks statewide in 2012. Of these, 317 leks were surveyed by helicopter and 462 leks were counted on 78 established lek routes (Table 2). The location and distribution of lek routes is shown in Figure 2.

We reported lek data in 2 ways for this report: 1) Average males per lek for all leks counted on routes; and 2) Total males on lek routes that were visited each year from 2007 to 2012. Average males per lek allow comparisons within and among SGPAs (Table 3). The average is, however, influenced by the number of leks surveyed. The number of leks surveyed on routes was not consistent among years, and in most cases, the number of leks surveyed increased each year. To get a better picture of trends, the SAC TAT also reported the total number of males counted on lek routes within an SGPA, but only used those lek routes that were counted each year from 2007 to 2012. This method allows a more valid comparison among years within an SGPA and statewide (Table 4 and Figure 3). However, because there are a variable number of lek routes in each SGPA, total males cannot be compared among SGPAs.

In summary, statewide 2012 male lek attendance was down 8% from 2011 (Figure 3). Trends were mixed among SGPAs (Tables 3 and 4).

**Table 2. Sage-grouse leks surveyed in each Sage-grouse Planning Area in Idaho, 2012.**

Sage-grouse Planning Area	2012 Leks Surveys				
	Leks surveyed by air <sup>a</sup>	Individual leks ground surveyed <sup>a</sup>	Number of lek routes	Leks surveyed on routes <sup>a</sup>	Total leks surveyed
Big Desert	0	17	6	55	72
Challis	0	61	11	38	99
East Idaho Uplands	1	12	4	11	24
Greater Curlew Valley	0	23	4	10	33
Jarbidge	0	58	8	54	112
Mountain Home	0	11	3	5	16
North Magic Valley	0	126	9	95	221
Owyhee	228	12	8	37	237
Shoshone Basin	89	25	1	16	99
South Magic Valley	0	33	4	24	57
Upper Snake	0	4	13	123	127
West Central	0	2	4	13	15
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>1,112</b>

<sup>a</sup> Some leks were surveyed by air and on the ground, so numbers may not total across the columns.

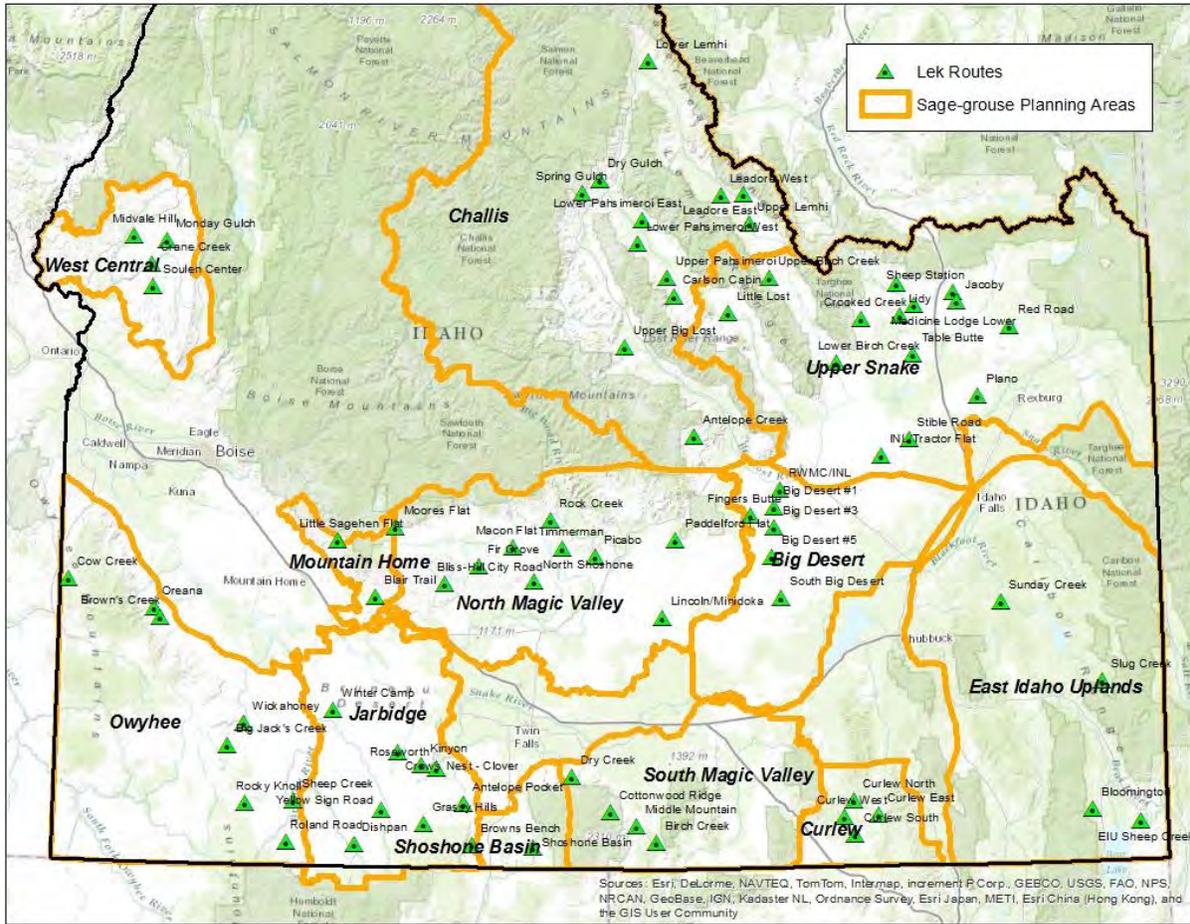


Figure 2. Location of sage-grouse lek routes by Sage-grouse Planning Area, 2012.

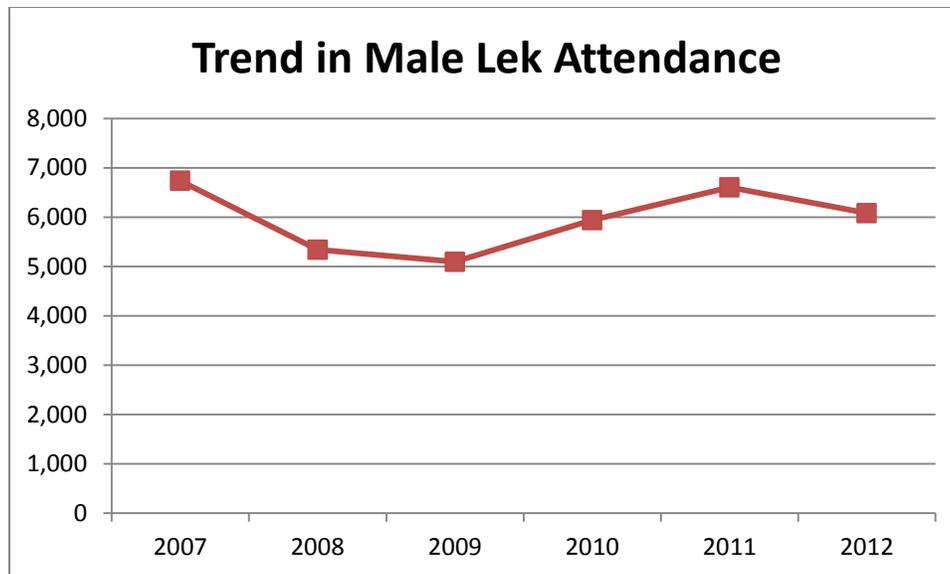
**Table 3. Average number of males per lek for all lek routes in Idaho, 2007–2012.**

Sage-grouse Planning Area	Average Number of Males per Lek											
	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	# leks	Avg	# leks	Avg	# leks	Avg	# leks	Avg	# leks	Avg	# leks	Avg
Big Desert	44	20	48	15	49	14	55	22	59	23	55	19
Challis	33	25	32	16	35	17	41	14	31	20	38	18
East Idaho Uplands	2	31	2	26	1	13	9	18	8	11	11	15
Greater Curlew Valley	14	15	13	13	14	11	14	12	15	16	17	10
Jarbidge	48	11	53	8	60	5	43	4	44	6	54	5
Mountain Home	3	12	4	5	3	6	4	7	6	9	5	10
North Magic Valley	56	7	76	7	98	6	92	7	100	9	95	9
Owyhee	27	20	30	13	30	14	29	18	37	20	38	17
Shoshone Basin	17	15	18	10	14	11	16	10	14	8	16	10
South Magic Valley	14	18	18	10	19	8	18	10	25	13	24	10
Upper Snake	112	24	113	19	123	15	119	15	111	18	123	16
West Central	14	10	14	8	14	8	14	11	12	7	13	7
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>13</b>

**Table 4. Total number of males counted on leks routes that were counted each year in Idaho, 2007–2012.**

Sage-grouse Planning Area	# of lek routes	Total Number of Males <sup>a</sup>					
		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Big Desert	6	895	707	712	1,215	1,348	1,055
Challis	11	715	477	581	546	620	661
East Idaho Uplands	2	125	52	65	159	120	152
Greater Curlew Valley	4	203	167	160	174	238	168
Jarbidge	8	479	369	288	232	249	266
Mountain Home	3	41	44	52	38	50	48
North Magic Valley	9	395	524	552	654	917	811
Owyhee	7	546	399	420	596	612	530
Shoshone Basin	1	256	184	147	165	109	158
South Magic Valley	3	254	175	156	186	268	168
Upper Snake	14	2,641	2,103	1,827	1,812	1,984	1,958
West Central	4	145	107	109	141	89	93
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>6,695</b>	<b>5,308</b>	<b>5,069</b>	<b>5,918</b>	<b>6,607</b>	<b>6,068</b>

<sup>a</sup> Numbers cannot be compared among planning areas because there are different numbers of routes and different numbers of leks per route.



**Figure 3. Idaho statewide trend in male lek attendance on 72 lek routes that were counted consistently 2007–2012.**

### Productivity

Sage-grouse productivity in an area can be estimated by examining wings left by hunters in wing barrels or at check stations. Since 2006, IDFG has gathered additional wings through a mail-in wing program. From 2006–2009, IDFG sent out 1,000 wing envelopes, specifically targeting areas in the state that usually had a small sample size of wings. Since 2010 IDFG has sent out wing envelopes to 2,000 known sage-grouse hunters.

By closely examining the shape, condition, length and color patterns on wing feathers, biologists are able to determine the bird's age, gender, and reproductive status of hens. However, it is important to note that statisticians recommend at least 100 females wings in an area to adequately assess productivity (Autenrieth et al. 1982); therefore, there are usually inadequate samples within each SGPA. Recent work in Oregon, however, demonstrated the number of wings needed is much larger, depending on the desired level of confidence and precision (Hagen and Loughin 2008). Over the past few years, few SGPAs have had a sufficient sample size of wings.

Productivity is reported as the number of chicks per hen. Sage-grouse hens lay an average of 6–7 eggs. Therefore, 'chicks per hen' represents the average number of chicks per hen alive during the hunting season in September and October. Connelly and Braun (1997) suggested that a ratio of  $\geq 2.25$  juveniles/hen in the fall should result in stable to increasing sage-grouse population. Statewide the average productivity was only 0.97 chicks per hen in 2012, which was below the previous 5-year's average of 1.5. Productivity in 2012 was the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest productivity estimate since wing collections began in 1961; productivity in 2007 was the lowest ever recorded (Table 5 and Figure 4). Low productivity is assumed to be related to drought conditions, but further investigation is needed.

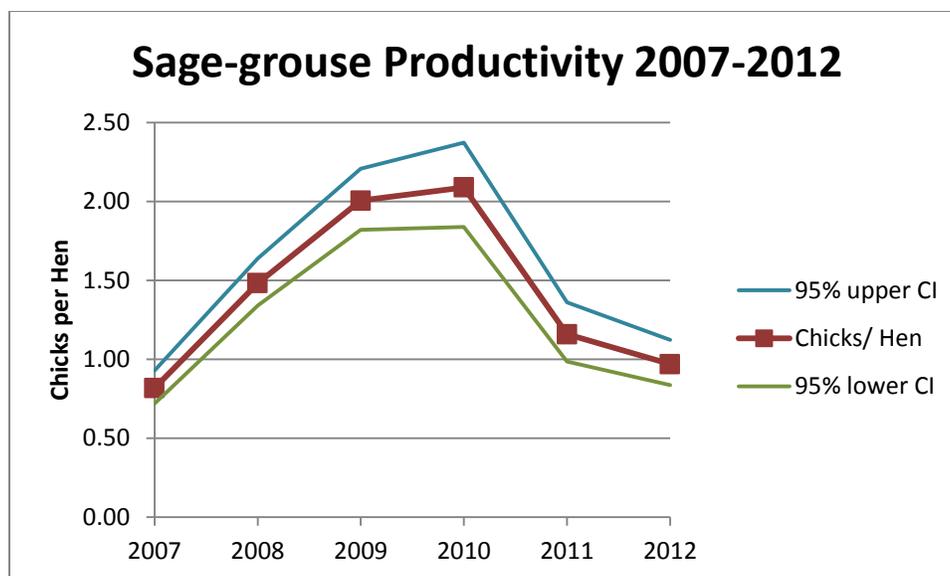
**Table 5. Sage-grouse productivity by Sage-grouse Planning Area, as determined by wing collections in Idaho, 2007–2012.**

Sage-grouse Planning Area	2007		2008		2009	
	Total Wings	Chicks per Hen	Total Wings	Chicks per Hen	Total Wings	Chicks per Hen
Big Desert	81	0.9 <sup>a</sup>	126	1.6	72	3.5 <sup>a</sup>
Challis	169	1.1	160	1.0	62	1.9 <sup>a</sup>
East Idaho Uplands	2	--	Closed	--	Closed	--
Greater Curlew Valley	Closed	--	2	--	5	--
Jarbidge	81	0.8 <sup>a</sup>	62	1.1	83	0.8 <sup>a</sup>
Mountain Home	0	--	0	--	0	--
North Magic Valley	54	1.1 <sup>a</sup>	60	1.8 <sup>a</sup>	83	2.8 <sup>a</sup>
Owyhee	242	0.5	365	1.1	511	2.0
Shoshone Basin	157	0.4	94	0.9 <sup>a</sup>	83	0.7 <sup>a</sup>
South Magic Valley	16	0.4 <sup>a</sup>	0	--	51	2.67 <sup>a</sup>
Upper Snake	396	1.2	998	1.8	1,193	2.2
West Central	Closed	--	Closed	--	Closed	--
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>1,198</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1,867</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2,143</b>	<b>2.0</b>
Sage-grouse Planning Area	2010		2011		2012	
	Total Wings	Chicks per Hen	Total Wings	Chicks per Hen	Total Wings	Chicks per Hen
Big Desert	141	2.8	30	0.9 <sup>a</sup>	67	0.5 <sup>a</sup>
Challis	76	1.3 <sup>a</sup>	61	1.5 <sup>a</sup>	54	1.4 <sup>a</sup>
East Idaho Uplands	Closed	--	Closed	--	Closed	--
Greater Curlew Valley	8	--	25	--	8	1.0 <sup>a</sup>
Jarbidge	Closed	--	Closed	--	Closed	--
Mountain Home	0	--	0	--	Closed	--
North Magic Valley	209	2.4	97	0.9 <sup>a</sup>	193	1.48
Owyhee	148	1.4	99	0.9 <sup>a</sup>	147	1.13 <sup>a</sup>
Shoshone Basin	143	1.5	103	0.8	122	0.75
South Magic Valley			see Shoshone Basin <sup>c</sup>			
Upper Snake	495	2.3	113	1.6	273	0.82 <sup>a</sup>
West Central	Closed	--	Closed	--	Closed	--
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>0.97</b>

<sup>a</sup> Sample sizes too low for reliable productivity estimates. Results should be interpreted with caution.

<sup>b</sup> See Table 7 for sage-grouse hunting season structure by year and SGPA.

<sup>c</sup> Shoshone Basin and South Magic Valley wing estimates were combined in 2010-2012 with statewide wing envelope program.



**Figure 4. Idaho Sage-grouse productivity with 95% confidence intervals (CI; Hagen and Loughlin 2008), 2007–2012.**

### Harvest

Since 2008, IDFG has followed the hunting season and bag-limit guidelines in the 2006 State Plan (Table 6). IDFG set the sage-grouse hunting season in August, instead of in the spring when other game bird regulations are set. This allowed biologists sufficient time to analyze lek data and information regarding the season's wildfires and West Nile virus (WNV) impacts. IDFG summarized lek route data by Sage-grouse Reporting Zone (Figure 5), compared data with the guidelines, and made appropriate recommendations for hunting seasons and bag limits. These data were provided to IDFG regional staff and LWGs, who commented on the recommendations. The recommendations were brought forward to the IDFG Commission, who set the season structure in August. IDFG then published and distributed the *Sage-grouse Seasons and Rules 2012* leaflet (Appendix A).

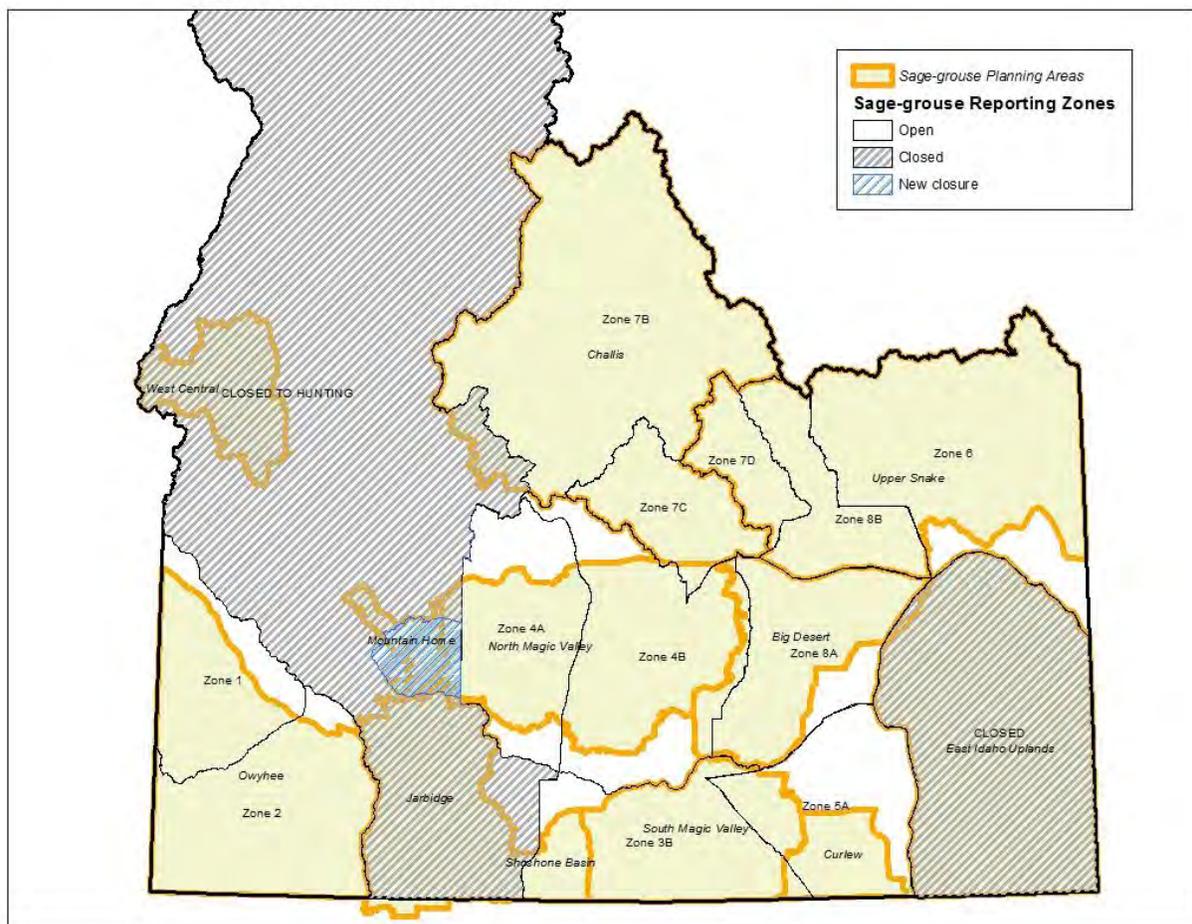
Following these guidelines, all of Elmore County was closed to sage-grouse hunting in 2012 due to 1) lack of information; 2) recent wildfires; and 3) no known active leks in the new closure area. In all other areas, the season structure and bag limits were Restrictive (7 day season, 1 bird daily bag limit). As per Commission action, opening day of the upland game bird hunting season in 2011, including sage-grouse, changed from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in September to October 1<sup>st</sup>. The Commission reversed this action in 2012 and opening day returned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in September.

IDFG estimates sage-grouse harvest by utilizing survey sampling in a mail-in and telephone survey of hunters who purchased a sage/sharp-tailed grouse permit validation in that year. Harvest data are reported by Sage-grouse Reporting Zones. Prior to 2009, the reporting zone boundaries only roughly corresponded to SGPAs (with some areas combined). In 2009, with input from LWGs, IDFG split some zones to better reflect current SGPA boundaries (Figure 5). Therefore, 2009–2012 harvest estimates by SGPA are not directly comparable to previous years for the Big Desert, Challis, and Upper Snake planning areas. Statewide, hunters harvested an estimated 2,556 birds in 2012, which was up slightly from the 2,144 birds harvested in 2011 (Table 7).

**Table 6. Idaho hunting season and bag-limit guidelines for sage-grouse populations.<sup>a</sup>**

Option	3-year running average of lek counts	Days	Daily Bag
Closed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less than 100 males observed</li> <li>• Lek counts are less than 50% of 1996–2000 average counts</li> <li>• Lek data are not gathered for population</li> </ul>	0	0
Restrictive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lek counts are between 50% and 150% of the 1996–2000 average</li> </ul>	7	1
Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lek counts exceed 150% of the 1996–2000 average</li> </ul>	23	2

<sup>a</sup>From Idaho Sage-grouse Advisory Committee 2006; Table 4-14, page 4-122.



**Figure 5. Sage-grouse Planning Areas and 2012 Sage-grouse Reporting Zones for harvest estimation.**

**Table 7. Estimated sage-grouse harvest and season structure by Sage-grouse Planning Area in Idaho, 2007–2012.**

Sage-grouse Planning Area	2007		2008		2009	
	Estimated Harvest	Season Structure	Estimated Harvest	Season Structure	Estimated Harvest	Season Structure
Big Desert	363	Restrictive	641	Restrictive	292 <sup>e</sup>	Restrictive
Challis	495	Conservative	487	Conservative	357 <sup>e</sup>	Restrictive
East Idaho Uplands	264	Restrictive	--	Closed	--	Closed
Greater Curlew Valley	--	Closed	209	Restrictive	48	Restrictive
Jarbidge	148	Restrictive <sup>c</sup>	70	Restrictive <sup>c</sup>	210	Restrictive <sup>c</sup>
Mountain Home & North Magic Valley	462	Restrictive	264	Restrictive	343	Restrictive
Owyhee	610	Both <sup>b</sup>	897	Both <sup>b</sup>	1,000	Both <sup>b</sup>
Shoshone Basin & South Magic Valley	676	Restrictive	439	Restrictive	471	Restrictive
Upper Snake	1,917	Restrictive	4,698	Conservative	4,475 <sup>e</sup>	Conservative
Unknown	0	NA	19	NA	0	NA
West Central	--	Closed	--	Closed	--	Closed
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>4,935</b>		<b>7,724</b>		<b>7,196</b>	
Sage-grouse Planning Area	2010 <sup>f</sup>		2011		2012	
	Estimated Harvest	Season Structure	Estimated Harvest	Season Structure	Estimated Harvest	Season Structure
Big Desert	583	Restrictive	86	Restrictive	136	Restrictive
Challis	361	Restrictive	110	Restrictive	244	Restrictive
East Idaho Uplands	--	Closed	--	Closed	--	Closed
Greater Curlew Valley	164	Restrictive	125	Restrictive	140	Restrictive
Jarbidge	--	Closed	--	Closed	--	Closed
Mountain Home & North Magic Valley	579	Restrictive	356	Restrictive	335	Restrictive <sup>g</sup>
Owyhee	386	Restrictive	232	Restrictive	363	Restrictive
Shoshone Basin & South Magic Valley	507	Restrictive	288	Restrictive	300	Restrictive
Upper Snake	1,472	Restrictive	944	Restrictive	1,038	Restrictive
Unknown	0	NA	3	NA	0	NA
West Central	--	Closed	--	Closed	--	Closed
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>4,052</b>		<b>2,144</b>		<b>2,556</b>	

<sup>a</sup> Season structure: Restrictive = 7 day season, 1 bird daily bag limit; Conservative = 23 day season, 2 bird daily bag limit.

<sup>b</sup> The Owyhee SGPA has a restrictive season in the northwest and a conservative season elsewhere (see Figure 5).

<sup>c</sup> The 2006 sage-grouse hunting season was closed in western Owyhee County due to concerns of West Nile virus impacts on sage-grouse.

<sup>d</sup> Western portion of the Jarbidge planning area (i.e., eastern Owyhee County) was closed due to the Murphy Complex Fire; entire Jarbidge SGPA closed in 2010.

<sup>e</sup> 2009 harvest estimates may not be comparable to previous years because of changes to reporting zone boundaries. Current changes more accurately capture SGPA boundaries (see Figure 5).

<sup>f</sup> See Appendix A for 2012 hunting season and bag limit rules.

<sup>g</sup> Elmore County (Mountain Home SGPA) closed in 2012.

## Sage-grouse Radio-telemetry Monitoring

There are currently 6 radio-telemetry projects ongoing in 6 SGPAs (Table 8). These studies are being partially supported by grants from the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation (OSC). For many SGPAs, basic information on sage-grouse ecology, habitat use, and seasonal movements is lacking. Thus, LWGs and agency biologists are using radio-telemetry studies to gather such information. Resulting data will help LWGs develop and implement their conservation plan and guide future conservation actions.

**Table 8. Sage-grouse radio-telemetry studies by Sage-grouse Planning Area in Idaho in 2012.**

Sage-grouse Planning Area	# of Birds	Purpose
Challis	39	Habitat mapping, nest success and vegetation plots, survival, mortality sources, home-range, group size
East Idaho Uplands	83	Basic population monitoring and habitat use
Jarbridge/Shoshone Basin	45 <sup>a</sup>	Evaluate potential impact of proposed wind power project <sup>b</sup> ; survival and movements.
Mountain Home	17	Movements, seasonal use, survival, nest assessments.
North Magic Valley	42	Movements and seasonal use in relation to proposed airport expansion.
Owyhee	60 <sup>c</sup>	West Nile virus monitoring, seasonal distribution and movements.

<sup>a</sup> 9 of these birds were outfitted with ARGOS PTT transmitters.

<sup>b</sup> EIS deferral of wind power project by BLM Idaho State Director.

<sup>c</sup> 16 of these birds were outfitted with ARGOS PTT transmitters.

## Sage-grouse Habitat

### Wildfire

About 186,624 acres of key sage-grouse habitat burned in 2012 (Table 9, Figure 6)). Key habitat is defined as, "areas of generally intact sagebrush that provide sage-grouse habitat during some portion of the year including winter, spring, summer, late brood-rearing, fall transition sites from winter to spring, spring to summer, summer/fall to winter. Key habitat may or may not provide adequate nesting, early brood-rearing, and winter cover due to elevation, snow depth, lack of early season forbs, limited herbaceous cover, or small sagebrush patch size" (Idaho Sage-grouse Advisory Committee 2006). Burned areas occurring on public lands are often rehabilitated to sagebrush, grasses and/or forbs, as appropriate, and as funding allows. In addition, about 267,000 acres burned in R1/perennial grasslands; 81,280 in annual grasslands; and 46,226 acres in conifer encroachment areas (Figure 6).

In 2012, the Idaho BLM State Office completed modeling of preliminary priority habitat and preliminary general habitat, for use in the Idaho/Southwestern Montana subregional Resource Management Plan amendment process and as a base for interim policy implementation. The Idaho BLM State Office also drafted additional recommendations in 2012, to aid in fire suppression actions in sage-grouse habitat. These are being further refined for the 2013 fire season, including further orientation of fire resource advisors and fire personnel in the use of available spatial data.

**Table 9. Number of acres of wildfire in key sage-grouse habitat by sage-grouse planning area and land ownership in Idaho, 2012.**

<b>Sage-grouse Planning Area</b>	<b>Private</b>	<b>BLM<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>USFS<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
Big Desert	37	2,199	0	0	4,110	6,347
Challis	59	588	0	0	0	647
East Idaho Uplands	1,377	49	0	0	12,873	14,299
Greater Curlew Valley	0	0	0	0	3,630	0
Jarbidge	11	11,672	0	588	0	15,902
Mountain Home	53	2,379	0	190	108	2,622
North Magic Valley	53	26,787	0	650	0	27,599
Owyhee	779	51,208	0	2,260	0	54,247
Shoshone Basin	15	1,440	0	85	0	1,540
South Magic Valley	2,362	14,284	24,952	741	0	42,338
Upper Snake	425	121	0	1,375	0	1,921
West Central	1,424	296	0	0	0	1,721
Outside planning areas	26	13,112	0	674	3,630	17,441
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,621</b>	<b>124,135</b>	<b>24,952</b>	<b>6,563</b>	<b>24,351</b>	<b>186,624</b>

<sup>a</sup> Bureau of Land Management.

<sup>b</sup> United States Forest Service.

### Acres of Sagebrush Converted

One task identified in the revised Chapter 6 of the State Plan was to track acres of sagebrush converted to other uses within each SGPA. In 2009, we added this request for information to the LWG Annual Report. However, this has typically been difficult for LWGs to adequately answer. For the 2011 report, we modified the way we asked the question with the intent of tracking trends in sagebrush conversion. Significant increases in trends would be further investigated by the SAC TAT. We asked whether the amount of key habitat lost to urban/exurban development or agricultural expansion had shown: 1) a major increase; 2) a minor increase; 3) no change; or 4) the LWG did not know the answer. An optional narrative section was included so LWGs could provide details about the loss of key habitat. For 2012 the East Idaho Uplands LWG reported a minor increase in loss of sage-grouse habitat to urban/exurban development (Table 10). The Greater Curlew Valley LWG reported a major increase in sagebrush lost to agricultural conversion, primarily due to loss of CRP; 3 other LWGs reported a minor loss. Although acreage of CRP not re-enrolled can be calculated by county, it is usually not known if or how much includes key sage-grouse habitat.

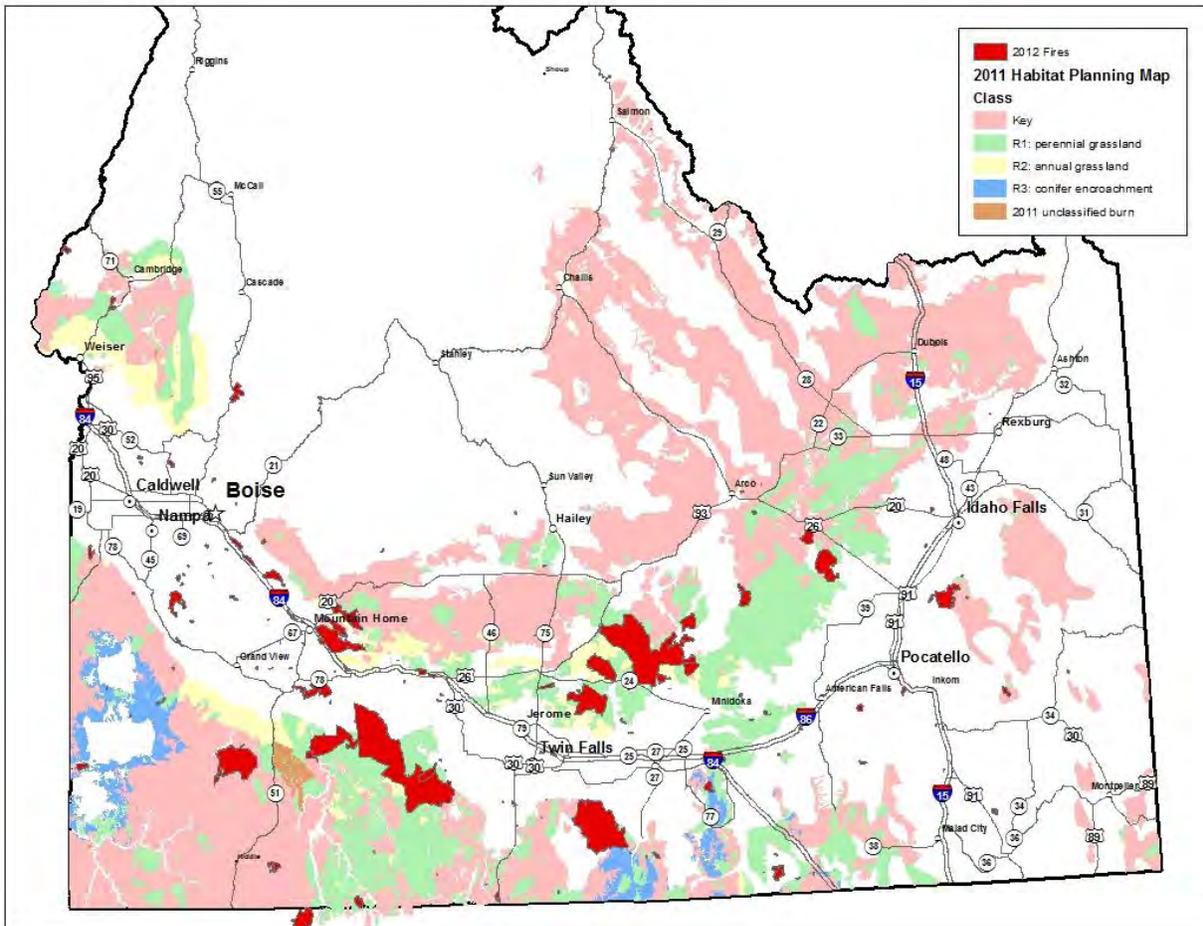


Figure 6. Sage-grouse Habitat Planning Map with 2012 fires in southern Idaho. Data courtesy of Idaho BLM State Office.

Table 10. Estimated trend in loss of key sage-grouse habitat to urban/exurban development by Sage-grouse Planning Area in Idaho, 2012.

Sage-grouse Planning Area	Major increase	Minor increase	No change	Don't know
Big Desert			X	
Challis			X	
East Idaho Uplands		X		
Greater Curlew Valley			X	
Jarbidge			X	
Mountain Home			X	
North Magic Valley				X
Owyhee			X	
Shoshone Basin			X	
South Magic Valley			X	
Upper Snake			X	
West Central			X	

**Table 11. Estimated trend in loss of key sage-grouse habitat to agricultural expansion by Sage-grouse Planning Area in Idaho, 2012.**

<b>Sage-grouse Planning Area</b>	<b>Major increase</b>	<b>Minor increase</b>	<b>No change</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
Big Desert			X	
Challis			X	
East Idaho Uplands		X		
Greater Curlew Valley	X			
Jarbidge			X	
Mountain Home			X	
North Magic Valley		X		
Owyhee			X	
Shoshone Basin			X	
South Magic Valley			X	
Upper Snake			X	
West Central		X		

**Threats to Sage-grouse Habitat**

In 2011 and 2012, we asked the LWGs to evaluate the status of the threats to sage-grouse and sage-grouse habitat that they identified in their local plans. Specifically, we asked them to list each threat and determine whether that threat had changed on the landscape by: 1) a major increase; 2) minor increase; 3) decrease; 4) no change; or 5) the LWG did not know. Eight LWGs replied to this section in the annual report (Table 12).

LWGs also reported on new and significant threats to sage-grouse and sage-grouse habitat in their planning areas (Table 13). Several electrical transmission lines projects are still being proposed and developed in Idaho; many LWGs reported these as threats in previous years. These include Gateway West, Mountain States Intertie, and Southwest Intertie. The Mountain States Intertie project is currently on-hold.

**Table 12. Changes in threats identified by Local Working Groups in Idaho, 2012.**

<b>Sage-grouse Planning Area</b>	<b>Threat</b>	<b>Change</b>
Big Desert	Annual grasslands	Minor increase
	Sagebrush management	Minor increase
	Wildfire	Minor increase
	Human disturbance	No change
	Infrastructure development	No change
	Livestock impacts	No change
	Predation	Don't know
	Sport hunting	Decrease
	West Nile virus	No change
	Climate change	No change
	Insecticides	No change
	Seeded perennial grasslands	No change
	Mines, landfills, and gravel pits	No change
Challis	Habitat fragmentation	No change
	Invasive plants	Minor increase
	Improper livestock management	No change
	Fire	Minor increase
	Other natural causes	No change
	Excessive predation	Minor increase
	Human disturbance	No change
	Health risks	No change
	Overharvest	No change
Successional vegetation changes in brood-rearing habitat	No change	
East Idaho Uplands	CRP	No change
	Human disturbance	No change
	Isolated population/lack of data	Decrease
	Livestock impacts	Minor increase
	Mines, landfills, and gravel pits	Minor increase
	Predation	Don't know
	Sagebrush control	Don't know
	West Nile virus	No change
	Annual grasslands	No change
	Climate change	Don't know
	Conifer encroachment	No change
	Insecticides	No change
	Seeded perennial grasslands	No change
Sport hunting	No change	
Wildfire	Minor increase	
Mountain Home	Predation	Minor increase
	Threats outside SGPA boundary	Minor increase
	Hunting	Decrease

**Table 12. Continued.**

<b>Sage-grouse Planning Area</b>	<b>Threat</b>	<b>Change</b>
Shoshone Basin	Wildfire Invasive plants Infrastructure Livestock grazing West Nile virus Hunting Predation Coordination and communication	Minor increase Minor increase Minor increase No change No change No change No change No change
South Magic Valley	Wildfire Urban/exurban development Juniper encroachment CRP Infrastructure West Nile virus Hunting Predation Coordination and communication Livestock grazing	Major increase No change Decrease No change No change No change No change No change No change No change
Upper Snake	Infrastructure development Sport hunting Fence strikes Raven predation	Decrease Don't know Decrease No change
West Central	All threats	Don't know

**Table 13. New threats to sage-grouse habitat in Idaho, as reported by Local Working Groups in 2012.**

<b>Sage-grouse Planning Area</b>	<b>New Threat</b>	<b>Area Affected</b>
East Idaho Uplands	Lack of funding, especially for LWG facilitator	NA
Upper Snake	Lack of funding for facilitator	NA
Upper Snake	Lack of funding for projects	NA
West Central	Natural gas exploration in neighboring Payette County	Unknown

## Public Outreach and Field Tours

Several LWGs conducted public outreach, educational events, or field trips. These efforts are summarized in Table 14.

**Table 14. Public outreach and field tours by sage-grouse Local Working Groups in Idaho in 2012.**

Local Working Group	Public Outreach	Field Tours
Big Desert		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LWG members and IDFG personnel provided lek tours to scout groups and other interested members of the public</li> <li>LWG members toured the Plant Materials Center in Aberdeen, ID.</li> </ul>
Challis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Challis Experimental Stewardship Summer Forum panel discussion</li> <li>Lemhi County Resources Advisory Committee presentation/discussion.</li> </ul>	Challis Experimental Stewardship Summer Forum Tour to Antelope Flats.
East Idaho Uplands	Wendy Pratt and Jack Connelly gave sage-grouse presentations to local grazing association. There were about 28 ranchers in attendance. Dr. Connelly showed slides and they discussed habitat requirements and ESA implications.	
North Magic Valley	Took school groups from Carey, Camas County, and Gooding schools on lek-viewing field trips, in cooperation with USFWS.	
Owyhee	Lek tours for Eagle, Rimrock, and Borah high schools.	Viewed aerial spray of cheatgrass on Air Force Range in Owyhee County.
Shoshone Basin		Several LWG members attended the Idaho Woolgrowers annual field tour in Shoshone Basin on 7/24/12 and were able to share information about management strategies and successes.
Upper Snake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dubois Grouse Days was held on April 27 and 28, 2012. 61 attendees (62% of attendees new to event)</li> <li>9 college students were given a tour of sage-grouse leks as part of their Wildlife Society activities</li> <li>6 citizens accompanied biologists on lek routes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CARE group toured Camas NWR and discussed sage-grouse management</li> <li>11 individuals—contractor and DOE managers and/or members of the INL Land Use Committee—accompanied biologist on lek surveys</li> <li>Laurel Sayer (Natural Resources/INL Director at U.S. House of Representatives – Mike Simpson) was escorted on a lek visit.</li> </ul>
West Central		LWG, in cooperation with USFWS and others, conducted field trips for high school students from Payette and Emmett. Students visited a lek to observe sage-grouse before meeting a local landowner to flag new fences.

## Status of OSC Grant Projects

From 2002–2006, 2008, and 2010 the OSC received funding from a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service appropriation for sage-grouse conservation in Idaho. This money has been used to fund SAC meetings, development of the 2006 plan, LWG facilitators, and most importantly, on-the-ground projects for sage-grouse. Grant money was available via an annual competitive grants program. LWGs and other interested parties or agencies were eligible to apply for funds. The SAC reviewed and scored the proposals, following a grant review criteria. The SAC made recommendations for funding to the IDFG Director and OSC Administrator, who had final approval. We have not received additional funding since 2010; therefore, there were no new projects in 2012.

With the past funding, 133 projects were funded (Tables 15, Appendix B). Most projects were for habitat improvement or inventory and monitoring. Inventory and monitoring projects included habitat inventory and mapping, sage-grouse lek surveys, and sage-grouse radio-telemetry projects. Projects in the “other” category included a landowner survey in Owyhee County, a buried power line, a lek mitigation project, and fence-marking projects (Appendix B). Fourteen project proponents submitted project reports in 2012 (Appendix C).

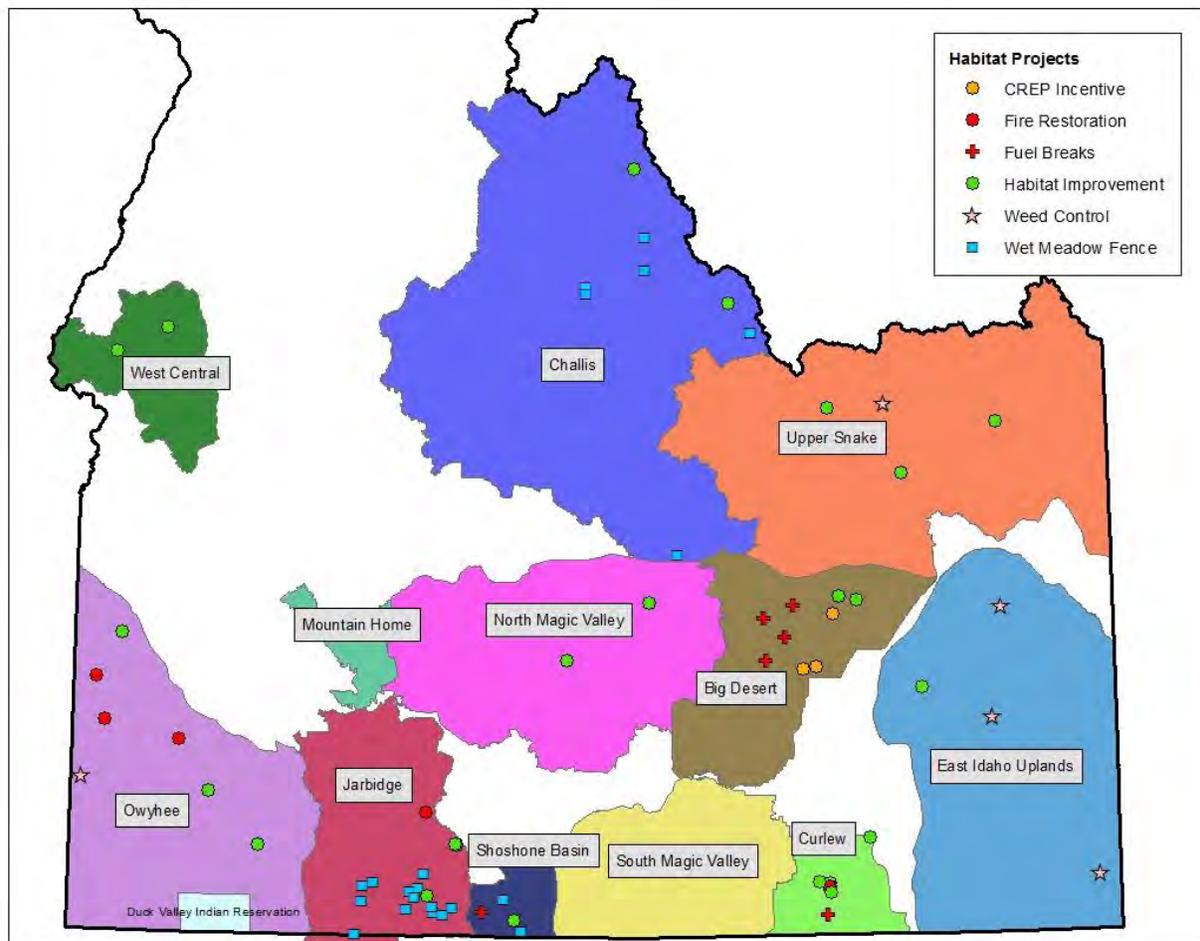
**Table 15. Summary of types of projects funded through the Idaho Governor’s Office of Species Conservation, 2002–2011.**

<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Number</b>
Education	4
Equipment	2
Habitat	57
Inventory, monitoring, and research	55
Other	8
Cancelled	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>133</b>

These grants have helped fund 57 sage-grouse habitat projects, potentially improving up to 38,998 acres for sage-grouse (Figure 7, Tables 16 and 17). The types of habitat improvement projects included fire restoration; habitat improvements, including re-seeding with native grasses and forbs; sagebrush seedling planting; control of invasive plant species and noxious weeds; fuel breaks; and spring and wet meadow fencing to protect late brood-rearing habitat. This year we reviewed past projects and reported whether or not habitat projects were effective or had met objectives that were documented in project proposals (Table 17).

Five OSC projects were for marking fences to minimize collision risk for sage-grouse (Appendix B). These projects were in the Big Desert, Greater Curlew Valley, Jarbidge, and Upper Snake (2 projects) SGPAs. Although the problem was previously recognized in local areas, the issue came to wide attention following Bryan Stevens’ work in Idaho (Stevens et al. 2012a, b; in press). From 2010–2012 these 5 projects marked 44.3 miles of fence adjacent to leks and in

areas with known collisions. Additional fence marking projects, funded by other sources, are reported in Appendix D.



**Figure 7. Location and types of sage-grouse habitat projects funded through the Idaho Governor’s Office of Species Conservation, 2002–2011.**

**Table 16. Summary of completed sage-grouse habitat projects funded through the Idaho Governor’s Office of Species Conservation, 2002–2011.**

Project Type	Number of Individual Projects <sup>a</sup>	Total Treatment Acres
CREP Incentive <sup>b</sup>	3	758
Fire restoration	6	3,439
Fuel breaks	6	7,906
Habitat improvement	24	16,128
Juniper control	2+	1,310
Spring/wet meadow fencing	19	161
Weed control	Many	9,296
<b>Total</b>	<b>60+</b>	<b>38,998</b>

<sup>a</sup> May include >1 individual project per OSC Grant (e.g., wet meadow fences and North American Grouse Partnership projects).

<sup>b</sup> Conservation Reserve and Enhancement Program (CREP) incentive to seed sagebrush.

**Table 17. Sage-grouse habitat projects funded through the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation, 2002–2011<sup>a</sup>.**

Grant Number	Project title	Sage-grouse Planning Area	Brief project description	Treatment acres	Land ownership	Effectiveness of project/Objectives met
2002-03 <sup>b</sup>	Basin Cutoff and Rayburn Springs	Shoshone Basin	Habitat improvement, reseed	250	BLM	Yes
2002-03 <sup>b</sup>	Rayburn Springs	Shoshone Basin	Spring/wet meadow fencing	8	BLM	Yes
2002-04	Jarbidge Fence Projects	Jarbidge	Spring/wet meadow fencing	see 2005-21 <sup>c</sup>	BLM, private	Yes
2002-05	Flint Creek Habitat Rehab	Owyhee	Reseed following fire	500	Private	Yes
2002-07	Horse Springs Fence	Jarbidge	Spring/wet meadow fencing	see 2005-21 <sup>c</sup>	BLM	Yes
2003-02	Grouse Habitat Restoration Fund	Any	Provide native seed for private lands	see 2004-20	Private	Yes
2003-04	Antelope Pocket Habitat	Jarbidge	Dixie harrow, reseed	320	State	Yes
2003-05	Crooked Creek Ranch Riparian	Upper Snake	Riparian and wet meadow restoration	10	TNC	No
2004-02	Bluebird Mine	Owyhee	Reseed following fire	10	Private	Yes
2004-03	Crab Creek Meadow	Owyhee	Riparian and wet meadow restoration	see 2005-03	Private	Yes
2004-04	IDL E. Idaho, Old Farm & Tilden	Upper Snake	Habitat improvement, reseed	630	State	No
2004-06	Nalder CRP Habitat Project	Curlew	Habitat improvement, reseed	53	Private	Yes
2004-07	Spencer Weed Initiative #1	Upper Snake	Control of leafy spurge and spotted knapweed	see 2005-08	Various	Yes
2004-09	Highland CWMA	East Idaho Uplands	Weed control	810	Various	Yes
2004-10	Ryegrass Habitat Project	Challis	Spring/wet meadow fencing	4.4	State	Yes
2004-14	Continuation of habitat projects	Jarbidge	Spring/wet meadow fencing	see 2005-21 <sup>c</sup>	BLM, private	Yes
2004-20	Grouse Habitat Restoration Fund	Any	Provide native seed for private lands	1,020 to date	Private	Yes
2005-03	Crab Creek Meadow #2	Owyhee	Riparian and wet meadow restoration	40	Private	Yes
2005-05	Reynolds Creek Habitat	Owyhee	Experimental medusahead control	7	Private	Yes
2005-06	Jordan Valley CWMA	Owyhee	Control of whitetop and leafy spurge	see 2006-15	Private	Yes
2005-07	Hammond Canyon Project	Upper Snake	Spring/wet meadow fencing	10	BLM	Yes
2005-08	Spencer Weed Initiative #2	Upper Snake	Weed control	3,479	Various	Yes
2005-10	Clear Hixon Project	Challis	Spring/wet meadow fencing	9	BLM, state	Yes
2005-15	Lava Lakes Riparian	North Magic Valley	Riparian and upland restoration	268	Private	Yes
2005-17	IDL Clover Fire Restoration	Jarbidge	Reseed following fire	640	State	Yes, but most of section burned again in 2007.
2005-21	Jarbidge Habitat Improvement	Jarbidge	Spring/wet meadow fencing	113.5 <sup>c</sup>	BLM, private	Yes
2006-01	Sands HMA Treatments	Upper Snake	Thin stands of over-dense mountain big sagebrush with prescribed fire and chemical control of ceanothus	650	Various	Unknown; project not monitored.
2006-04	Chubby Spain	Owyhee	Reseed following fire	2,174	Private	Yes
2006-06	Nalder Fire Restoration	Curlew	Reseed following fire	75	Private	Yes

Table 17. Continued.

Grant Number	Project title	Sage-grouse Planning Area	Brief project description	Treatment acres	Land ownership	Effectiveness of project/Objectives met
2006-07	Curlew Green Strips	Curlew	Plant forage kochia for fuel breaks	22	USFS	Kochia did not germinate, but now managed as brown strip.
2006-08	CREP Incentive	Big Desert	Habitat improvement, reseed sage	758	Private	Unknown
2006-10	Devil Creek Ranch	Jarbridge	Riparian and wet meadow restoration	35	Private	Yes
2006-15	Whitetop Control/CWMA	Owyhee	Control of whitetop and other weeds	5,000	Private	Yes
2007-06	Owyhee Juniper Mastication	Owyhee	Juniper control	300	Private	Yes
2007-07	Camas NWR Habitat Restoration	Upper Snake	Habitat improvement; education	20	USFWS	Yes
2007-08	Thousand Springs Ranch	West Central	Habitat improvement, reseed	25	Private	No, but reseedling was successful
2007-09	Magpie and Larkspur Enclosures	Challis	Spring/wet meadow fencing	1.5	BLM	Yes
2007-10	Curlew Experimental Plantings	Curlew	Habitat improvement, seedlings	25	USFS	Yes
2007-11	Cottonwood Pasture	Challis	Habitat improvement, fencing	1,200	BLM	Yes
2007-12	Leadville Allotment Rehab	Challis	Habitat improvement, reseed	2,620	Various	Unknown
2008-01	Big Desert Fuel Breaks	Big Desert	Mowing and road grading for fuel breaks	2,150	BLM, private	Yes
2008-03	Big Desert Sagebrush Seedlings	Big Desert	Habitat improvement, seedlings	5,000	BLM	Yes
2008-06	South Baldy Riparian Enclosure	Challis	Spring/wet meadow fencing	7	BLM	Yes
2008-10	South Magic Fire Restoration	South Magic Valley	Reseed following fire	480	Private	Unknown
2008-12	SS Cattle Company Brush Mgmt.	West Central	Remove over-dense sagebrush with Lawson aerator, reseed	96.5	Private	Yes
2008-21	Lava Lakes Riparian	North Magic	Riparian and upland restoration	see 2005-15	Private	Yes
2009-07	Big Desert Fuel Breaks II	Big Desert	Mowing and road grading for fuel breaks	2,003	BLM, Private	Yes
2009-13	Table Butte Habitat Rehab	Upper Snake	12,000 sagebrush seedlings 2011; 15,000 in 2012.	1,200	BLM	7-10% survival of 2011 seedlings
2010-01	Big Desert Fuel Breaks III	Big Desert	Mowing and road grading for fuel breaks	1,459	BLM	Yes
2010-02	Rock Corral Sagebrush Seedlings	Big Desert	Habitat improvement, seedlings	2,000	BLM	Yes
2010-07	Antelope Pocket II	Jarbridge	Habitat improvement, reseed	320	IDL	Unknown; no monitoring in 2012
2010-11	Owyhee Juniper Mastication II	Owyhee	Juniper control	1,010	Private	Yes
2010-12	Twin Spr./3 Mile Spr. Fuel Break	Shoshone Basin	Fuel break maintenance	272	Various	Yes
2010-13	Rabbit Springs Riparian Improve.	Shoshone Basin	Spring/riparian fencing	5	BLM	Yes

**Table 17. Continued.**

<b>Grant Number</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>Sage-grouse Planning Area</b>	<b>Brief project description</b>	<b>Treatment acres</b>	<b>Land ownership</b>	<b>Effectiveness of project/Objectives met</b>
2011-02	Big Desert Fuel Breaks IV	Big Desert	Mowing and road grading for fuel breaks	2,000	BLM, private	Yes
2011-11	Jacks Creek Wet Meadow Restor.	Owyhee	Riparian and wet meadow restoration	320	Private	Yes
2011-12	Jefferson Fire Sagebrush Seedling	Upper Snake	Plant 12,000 sagebrush seedlings	40	IDL	Unknown; no monitoring in 2012

<sup>a</sup> Table acronyms: BLM = Bureau of Land Management; CREP = Conservation Reserve and Enhancement Program; CRP = Conservation Reserve Program; CWMA = Cooperative Weed Management Area; IDL = Idaho Department of Lands; NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; TNC = The Nature Conservancy; USFS = U.S. Forest Service; USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

<sup>b</sup> Same grant captured 2 different projects.

<sup>c</sup> 11 springs and wet meadows were fenced under 4 grants to the Jarbidge Local Working Group, for a total of 113.5 acres.

## **Other Sage-grouse Projects**

LWGs reported on 104 other projects in their planning areas that may benefit or were targeted to benefit sage-grouse and sage-grouse habitat (Appendix D). Although this list may not be complete, it represents a significant level of sage-grouse conservation in Idaho.

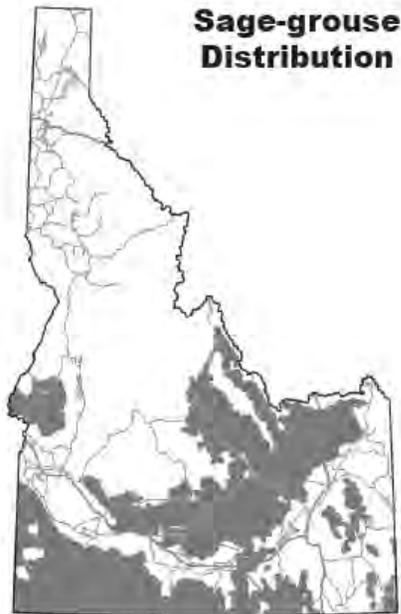
## **Progress on State Plan Implementation Tasks**

The SAC approved a revised Implementation Chapter (Chapter 6) of the *Conservation Plan for Greater Sage-grouse in Idaho* in October 2009. The revised Chapter 6 is a 5-year implementation plan that outlines specific tasks and responsible parties, past accomplishments towards those tasks, and target deadlines. Task 6.2.5 specifies that the LWG Annual Report also track Chapter 6 accomplishments. Accomplishments towards these tasks in 2012 are reported in Appendix E.

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## APPENDIX A: Outside of Sage-Grouse Seasons and Rules 2012 Leaflet.



**Sage-grouse  
Distribution**

### **Sage-grouse**

This native grouse is widely distributed in areas with large blocks of sagebrush habitat throughout southern Idaho. Sagebrush is a crucial winter food for sage-grouse and also provides them with nesting and roosting cover during the rest of the year. Wet places, including agricultural lands, are important feeding areas for hens with chicks and are heavily used by sage-grouse during the fall in dry years.

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## **Sage-grouse Seasons and Rules**

### **2012**

**Sage-grouse season open  
September 15 through September 21**

**September 15 through September 21, one-bird daily limit, two in possession:**  
Statewide in sage-grouse range **except** designated closed areas.

#### **Closed:**

- Eastern Owyhee County and western Twin Falls County
- Southeastern part of the state, east of Interstate 15 and south of U.S. Highway 26
- Washington County and Adams County
- Elmore County

**Sage/Sharp-tailed Grouse Permit Validation:** Any person hunting sage- or sharp-tailed grouse must have in possession a valid hunting license with a sage/ sharp-tailed grouse permit validation at \$4.75.

#### **Identify Your Target! Is it a Sage-grouse or a Sharp-tailed Grouse?**

Sharp-tailed grouse occur in low numbers in the following areas that are closed to sharptail hunting: southeastern Owyhee County, Twin Falls County, most of Cassia County, Minidoka County, and Power and Bingham counties north of Interstate 86.

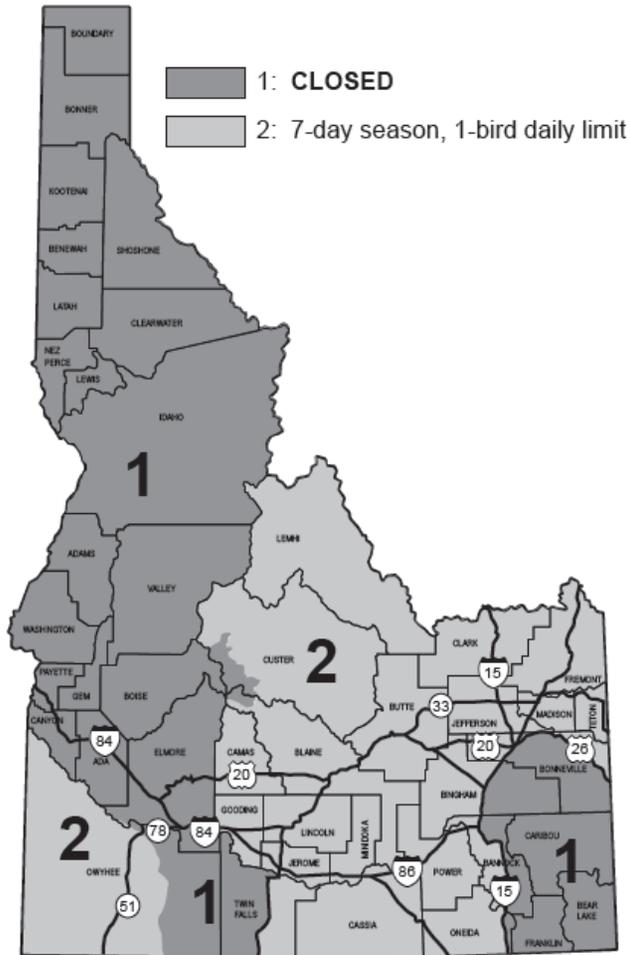
#### **Be sure of your target!**

See inside for details.

Refer to the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 Upland Game, Furbearer and Turkey Seasons and Rules for general upland gamebird rules, license and permit information.



Appendix A, Continued: Inside of *Sage-Grouse Seasons and Rules 2012* Leaflet.



1: **CLOSED**  
 2: 7-day season, 1-bird daily limit

**Area Boundary Descriptions**

**Area 1**

- All parts of the state **not** included in Area 2; **closed**.

**Area 2**

**2012 Season: September 15 through September 21**

**Daily Bag Limit: 1**

**Possession Limit: 2**

- Butte, Camas, Cassia, Clark, Fremont, Gooding, Jefferson, Jerome, Lemhi, Lincoln, Madison, Minidoka, Power and Teton counties
- Bannock County west of Interstate 15
- Bingham County west of Interstate 15
- Blaine County, **except** within the Salmon River drainage
- Bonneville County west of Interstate 15 and north of U.S. Highway 26
- Custer County, **except** within the Salmon River drainage upstream from and including Valley Creek
- Oneida County west of Interstate 15
- Owyhee County west of the Bruneau River
- Twin Falls County east of U.S. Highway 93

**Wings collected from harvested birds provide important biological data. If you see a wing barrel, please deposit one wing from each bird you harvest. We also collect wings at check stations and through a mail-in wing survey. If you would like to participate in our wing envelope program, call 208 334-2920.**

**APPENDIX B: Sage-grouse grants from the Idaho Governor’s Office of Species Conservation, 2002–2011<sup>a</sup>.**

Grant #	Project Title	Submitting Organization	Project Type
2002-01	Upper Snake Habitat Mapping	NAGP	Inventory & monitoring
2002-02	Crooked Creek Ranch	NAGP	Inventory & monitoring
2002-03	Rayburn Springs and Basin Cutoff	Shoshone Basin LWG	Habitat
2002-04	Jarbidge Fence Projects	Jarbidge LWG	Habitat
2002-05	Flint Creek Habitat rehab	Owyhee LWG	Habitat
2002-07	Horse Springs Fence	Jarbidge LWG	Habitat
2002-08	Landowner Survey	Owyhee LWG	Other
2002-09	Dubois Grouse Days	Upper Snake LWG	Education
2002-10	Jarbidge Winter Range Survey	Jarbidge LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2003-01	Lek Surveys	Shoshone Paiute Tribes	Inventory & monitoring
2003-02	Reserve Seed Bank	NAGP	Habitat
2003-03	Upper Snake Habitat Mapping	NAGP	Inventory & monitoring
2003-04	Antelope Pocket Habitat	Jarbidge LWG	Habitat
2003-05	Crooked Creek Ranch Riparian	NAGP	Habitat
2003-06	Challis Data Compilation	Challis LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2003-07	Curlew Telemetry	Curlew LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2003-08	Jarbidge Lek Survey	Jarbidge LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2003-09	Owyhee Telemetry	Owyhee LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2003-10	Jarbidge Winter Range Survey	Jarbidge LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2004-01	Dubois Grouse Days	Upper Snake LWG	Education
2004-02	Bluebird Mine	Owyhee LWG	Habitat
2004-03	Crab Creek Meadow	Owyhee LWG	Habitat
2004-04	IDL E. Idaho	Idaho Dept of Lands	Habitat
2004-05	Upper Snake Seed Drill	Upper Snake LWG	Equipment
2004-06	Nalder CRP Habitat Project	Curlew LWG	Habitat
2004-07	Spencer Weed Control	Upper Snake LWG	Habitat
2004-08	Shoshone Basin Mapping	Shoshone Basin LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2004-09	Highland CWMA	Caribou National Forest	Habitat
2004-10	Ryegrass Habitat Project	Challis LWG	Habitat
2004-11	Pahsimeroi Telemetry	Challis LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2004-12	West Central Telemetry	West Central LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2004-13	Clover Crossing	Jarbidge LWG	CANCELLED
2004-14	Continuation of Habitat projects	Jarbidge LWG	Habitat
2004-15	Owyhee Lek Surveys	Owyhee LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2004-16	IDL bird ladders	Owyhee LWG	CANCELLED
2004-17	Jack's Creek Telemetry	Owyhee LWG	Inventory & monitoring

<b>Grant #</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Submitting Organization</b>	<b>Project Type</b>
2004-18	Big Springs Telemetry	Owyhee LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2004-19	Curlew Telemetry	Curlew LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2004-20	Reserve Seed Bank	NAGP	Habitat
2004-21	2005 Dubois Grouse Days	NAGP	Education
2005-02	Duck Valley Telemetry	Shoshone-Paiute Tribes	Inventory & monitoring
2005-03	Crab Creek Meadow #2	Owyhee LWG	Habitat
2005-04	West Central Telemetry #2	West Central LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2005-05	Reynolds Creek Habitat	Owyhee LWG	Habitat
2005-06	Jordan Valley CWMA	Owyhee LWG	Habitat
2005-07	Hammond Canyon Project	BLM, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife	Habitat
2005-08	Spencer Weed Initiative #2	Upper Snake LWG	Habitat
2005-09	2006 Dubois Grouse Days	NAGP	Education
2005-10	Clear Hixon Project	Challis LWG	Habitat
2005-11	Medicine Lodge Habitat	Upper Snake LWG	CANCELLED
2005-12	Bell Rapids Transects	IDFG, BLM	Inventory & monitoring
2005-13	Pahsimeroi Telemetry #2	Challis LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2005-14	Curlew Telemetry #2	Curlew LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2005-15	Lava Lakes Riparian	Lava Lake Land & Livestock	Habitat
2005-16	S. Magic Valley Telemetry	IDFG	Inventory & monitoring
2005-17	IDL Clover Fire Restoration	IDL, Jarbidge LWG	Habitat
2005-18	Magic Valley SG Technician	Jarbidge LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2005-19	Shoshone Basin Habitat Mapping	Shoshone Basin LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2005-20	Owyhee County Lek surveys	Owyhee LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2005-21	Jarbidge Habitat Improvement	Jarbidge LWG	Habitat
2006-01	Sands HMA Treatments	BLM	Habitat
2006-02	Berry Creek Burn	USFS	CANCELLED
2006-03	Sorensen	Birch Creek Ranch	CANCELLED
2006-04	Chubby Spain	Owyhee LWG	Habitat
2006-05	WNv Monitoring	Owyhee LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2006-06	Nalder Fire Restoration	Curlew LWG	Habitat
2006-07	Green Strips	Curlew LWG	Habitat
2006-08	CREP Incentive	IDFG	Habitat
2006-09	Jarbidge Dixie Harrow	Jarbidge LWG	Equipment
2006-10	Devil Creek Ranch	Jarbidge LWG	Habitat
2006-11	Duck Valley Lek Survey	Shoshone-Paiute Tribes	Inventory & monitoring
2006-12	Jarbidge Artificial Wetland	Jarbidge LWG	CANCELLED
2006-13	West Central Telemetry	West Central LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2006-15	Big Springs Whitetop Control	Owyhee LWG	Habitat

<b>Grant #</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Submitting Organization</b>	<b>Project Type</b>
2006-16	Small, ID Buried Powerline	Upper Snake LWG	Other
2007-02	West Central Studies	West Central LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2007-03	DVIR WNv Monitoring	Shoshone-Paiute Tribes	Inventory & monitoring
2007-04	Owyhee County WNv Monitoring	Owyhee LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2007-05	Curlew Aerial Habitat Mapping	Curlew LWG and USFS	Inventory & monitoring
2007-06	Owyhee Juniper Mastication	Owyhee LWG	Habitat
2007-07	Camas NWR Habitat Restoration	Upper Snake LWG	Habitat
2007-08	Thousand Springs Ranch Habitat Restoration	Thousand Springs Ranch	Habitat
2007-09	Magpie and Larkspur Exclosures	Challis LWG	Habitat
2007-10	Curlew Experimental Plantings	Curlew LWG	Habitat
2007-11	Cottonwood Pasture Habitat Improvement Fence	Challis LWG	Habitat
2007-12	Leadville Allotment Rehabilitation	Challis LWG	Habitat
2007-13	Camas Co. Fence Marking	North Magic Valley LWG	NOT FUNDED
2008-01	Big Desert Fuel Breaks	Big Desert LWG	Habitat
2008-02	Big Desert Lek Search	Big Desert LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2008-03	Big Desert Sagebrush Seedling Plantings	Big Desert LWG	Habitat
2008-06	South Baldy Riparian Exclosure	Challis LWG	Habitat
2008-07	East Idaho Uplands Sage-grouse Telemetry	East Idaho Uplands LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2008-08	Lek Search and Documentation	East Idaho Uplands LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2008-09	Curlew Fence Flagging Project	Curlew LWG	Other
2008-10	South Magic Post-fire Restoration	South Magic LWG	FUNDED WITH OTHER SOURCES
2008-11	Seasonal Movements and Distribution of Sage-grouse	South Magic LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2008-12	SS Cattle Company Brush Management	SS Cattle Co/West Central LWG	Habitat
2008-13	Upper Snake Fence Marking	Upper Snake LWG/BLM	Other
2008-15	A2 Highway Lek Identification and Mitigation	Upper Snake LWG	Other
2008-16	Sage-grouse Brood Habitat Study	West Central LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2008-17	Square Lake Fencing Project	Wood River Land Trust	CANCELLED
2008-18	Reimbursement for Private Vehicle Use by Lek Survey Volunteers	North Magic Valley LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2008-19	Post Murphy Fire Sage-grouse Investigations	Owyhee LWG	Inventory & monitoring

<b>Grant #</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Submitting Organization</b>	<b>Project Type</b>
2008-21	Lower Copper Creek Riparian and Upland Restoration	Lava Lake Land & Livestock	Habitat
2009-02	Habitat Use and Quality of Winter Sage-grouse Diets	West Central LWG and Boise State University	Inventory & monitoring
2009-04	Impacts of WNV on Sage-grouse in Owyhee County	Owyhee LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2009-05	Mileage Reimbursement for Lek Survey Volunteers	North Magic Valley LWG and IDFG	Inventory & monitoring
2009-07	Big Desert Road Grading and Fuel Breaks	Big Desert LWG	Habitat
2009-09	Big Desert Lek Search and Surveys	Big Desert LWG	Habitat
2009-11	Raven Population Management in Relation to Anthropogenic Resource Subsidies in Southeastern Idaho	Curlew LWG and U.S. Geological Survey	Inventory & monitoring
2009-12	Sage-grouse Movements and Home Range Delineation in East Idaho Uplands Planning Area	East Idaho Uplands LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2009-13	Sage-grouse Habitat Rehabilitation at Table Butte	Upper Snake LWG	Habitat
2010-01	Big Desert Fuel Breaks III	Big Desert LWG & BLM	Habitat
2010-02	Rock Corral Allotment Sagebrush Seedling Plantings	Big Desert LWG & BLM	Habitat
2010-06	Aerial surveys for Sage-grouse Leaks in the Gray's Lake Outlet in Bonneville and Bingham Counties	East Idaho Uplands LWG & IDFG	Inventory & monitoring
2010-07	Antelope Pocket Dixie Harrow Part 2	Jarbidge LWG, IDFG, IDL	Habitat
2010-09	Mileage Reimbursement for Lek Survey Volunteers	North Magic Valley LWG, IDFG	Inventory & monitoring
2010-11	Owyhee Uplands Sage-grouse Habitat Enhancement: Controlling Western Juniper Encroachment in Brood Rearing Habitat	Owyhee LWG	Habitat
2010-12	Twin Spring/Three Mile Spring Fuel Break Maintenance	Shoshone Basin LWG, BLM	Habitat
2010-13	Rabbit Springs Riparian Improvement Project	Shoshone Basin LWG, BLM	Habitat
2010-15	Upper Snake Wing Barrel Kiosks	Upper Snake LWG, IDFG	Inventory & monitoring
2010-18	Sage-grouse Habitat Use and Movements in the Mountain Home SGPA	IDFG, Mountain Home LWG	Inventory & monitoring

<b>Grant #</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Submitting Organization</b>	<b>Project Type</b>
2010-20	Assessing the Dietary Quality of Sagebrush in Sage-grouse Winter and Breeding Habitats	BSU, IDFG, North Magic Valley LWG	Inventory & monitoring (research)
2010-22	WCLWG Sage-grouse Investigations	West Central LWG, IDFG	Inventory & monitoring
2011-01	Big Desert Fence Marking	Big Desert LWG, BLM	Fence marking
2011-02	Big Desert Road Grading and Fuel Breaks	Big Desert LWG, BLM	Habitat
2011-04	Seasonal Habitat, Migration Corridor Delineation and Nesting Habitat Assessments	Challis LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2011-06	Lek Search and Documentation in Less Studied Portions of the East Idaho Uplands	East Idaho Uplands LWG, IDFG	Inventory & monitoring
2011-07	Lower House Creek Pond Jack Fence Project	Aslett Ranches	Habitat
2011-08	Jarbridge Field Office Fence Marking	Jarbridge LWG, IDFG	Fence marking
2011-09	Measuring Habitat Quality in the Mountain Home Sage-grouse Planning Area	Mountain Home LWG	Inventory & monitoring (habitat)
2011-10	Monitoring Sage-grouse Movements near Proposed Friedman Memorial Airport Site	North Magic Valley LWG, IDFG	Inventory & monitoring
2011-11	Urquidi-Jacks Creek Basin Brood Rearing Wet Meadow Restoration	Owyhee LWG	Habitat
2011-12	Jefferson Fire Sagebrush Seeding on Idaho Department of Lands	Upper Snake LWG, IDFG	Habitat
2011-13	Small Fence Strike Reduction	Upper Snake LWG, IDFG	Fence marking

<sup>a</sup> Table acronyms: BLM = Bureau of Land Management; CREP = Conservation Reserve and Enhancement Program; CRP = Conservation Reserve Program; CWMA = Cooperative Weed Management Area; DVIR = Duck Valley Indian Reservation; IDFG = Idaho Department of Fish and Game; IDL = Idaho Department of Lands; LWG = Local Working Group; NAGP = North American Grouse Partnership; NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; USFS = U.S. Forest Service; WNV = West Nile virus.

## **APPENDIX C: OSC Project Reports.**

This Appendix is filed as a separate document.

**APPENDIX D. Other sage-grouse projects not funded through the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation, as reported by Local Working Groups in 2012<sup>a</sup>.**

Planning Area	Project Name	Type of Project	Brief Description	Funding Mechanism	Acres Affected	Land Ownership	Start Date	End Date
Big Desert	Fall Creek	Improved grazing management	Implementing improved grazing management with emphasis on improving herbaceous vegetation in riparian area, including removing livestock access to riparian area	NRCS/Private	1,000	Private	2007	2012
Big Desert	Lake Channel	Improved grazing management	Developing improved grazing management system to improve rangeland vegetation composition	NRCS/Private	1,500	Private/State	2010	2013
Big Desert	Cox's Well Seeding	Fire Rehabilitation	Recent fire reseeded	BLM	2500	BLM	2012	2012
Big Desert	Quaking Aspen Allotment	Water Development	Pipeline and trough sets installed. Reduce road traffic from waterhaul truck. Provide good water source to reduce wildfires in order to protect sage grouse habitat	NRCS/permitt ee	8 miles of pipeline and 6 trough sets	BLM/Permitt ee	2012	2012
Big Desert	Big Desert Eagle Scout Fence Marking Project	Fencing project	Fence Marking in Quaking Aspen, Sunset, Cedar Butte, Cinder Cone, and Rock Corral Allotments	BLM	5 miles of fence marked	BLM	2012	2012
Big Desert	Smith Fence Removal	Fencing project	Removed existing fence in close proximity to active lek # 10B117	BLM	2 miles of fence removed	BLM	2012	2012
Challis	Upper Pahsimeroi	Fencing project	Easement/Fence Marking	SGI / NRCS/TNC	9,340 feet of fence marked	BLM/Tom Page	May 2012	Sept 2012
Challis	Morgan Creek	Fencing project	Riparian Jack Fence	BLM/NRCS	2-miles	BLM	May 2012	Sept 2012
Challis	Oxbow Ranch (Lower 18-mile)	Fencing project	Fence Marking	BLM/NRCS	1.75 miles	Wilson Ranch/BLM	May 2012	Sept 2012
Challis	Bear Valley Riparian Enclosure	Fencing project	YCC crew maintenance on Bear Valley Riparian Enclosure in Hayden Creek Drainage	Central Idaho RAC	30 acres	USFS	June 6, 2012	June 9, 2012

<b>Planning Area</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Type of Project</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>	<b>Funding Mechanism</b>	<b>Acres Affected</b>	<b>Land Ownership</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
Challis	Bear Valley Drift Fence	Fencing project	YCC crew maintained integrity of Bear Valley Drift Fence in Hayden Creek Drainage	Central Idaho RAC	30 acres	USFS	June 20, 2012	June 21, 2012
Challis	Lake Creek Meadow Exclosure	Fencing project	YCC crew maintenance on Lake Creek Meadow Exclosure in Hayden Creek Drainage	Central Idaho RAC	15 acres	USFS	June 13, 2012	June 16, 2012
Challis	Irish Boy Springs Exclosure	Fencing project	YCC crew maintenance on Irish Boy Springs Exclosure in Hayden Creek Drainage	Central Idaho RAC	1 acres	USFS	June 13, 2012	June 16, 2012
Challis	Big Eightmile Riparian Fence	Fencing project	YCC crew maintenance on Big Eightmile Riparian Fence	Central Idaho RAC	300 feet	USFS	June 13, 2012	June 16, 2012
Challis	USFS South Zone Habitat Assessments	Habitat Assessment	Completed Habitat Assessments on six allotments	USFS	~100,000 acres	USFS	June 2012	October 2012
Challis	USFS North Zone Habitat Assessments	Habitat Assessment	Completed Habitat Assessments on eight allotments	USFS	~80,000 acres	USFS	June 2012	October 2012
Challis	BLM Salmon FO Habitat Assessments	Habitat Assessment	Completed assessments on six allotments	BLM	5700 acres	BLM	May 2012	June 2012
Challis	BLM Challis FO - Habitat Assessments	Habitat Assessment	Completed assessments on five allotments	BLM	221,852 acres	BLM	May 2012	June 2012
East Idaho Uplands	MDI Mountain Shrub Seedling Planting	Sagebrush seeding	Planted 39,500 Mt. Big Sagebrush - Antelope Bitterbrush Seedlings in CRP and Public Land	IDFG- license and PR	105 acres	BLM and private	Spring 2012	Spring 2012
East Idaho Uplands	CRP	Plant permanent cover to benefit wildlife	Planting mixed native grass and forbs into prepared plots.	NRCS-FSA	673 acres	Private	2012	On-going through calendar year 2012
East Idaho Uplands	CRP	Plant permanent cover to benefit wildlife	Planting mixed introduced grass and forbs into prepared plots.	NRCS-FSA	1785 acres	Private	2012	On-going through calendar year 2012
East Idaho Uplands	CRP	Plant permanent cover to benefit wildlife	Planting wildlife friendly mix, native grasses, forbs and brush	NRCS-FSA	44 acres	Private	2012	On-going through calendar year 2012

<b>Planning Area</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Type of Project</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>	<b>Funding Mechanism</b>	<b>Acres Affected</b>	<b>Land Ownership</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
East Idaho Uplands	CCRP SAFE	Plant permanent cover to benefit Sharp-tail grouse and other wildlife	Planting mixed native grass and forbs into prepared plots.	NRCS-FSA	4397 acres	Private	2012	On-going through calendar year 2012
East Idaho Uplands	CRP	Protect permanent cover to benefit wildlife	Retain established stands of grass, some forbs, and brush species.	NRCS-FSA	27389 acres	Private	2012	On-going through calendar year 2012
East Idaho Uplands	Fencing of Blackfoot River	Riparian protection	BLM land along the Blackfoot River will be fenced to exclude livestock	BLM	5 miles	BLM	2012	Fall 2012
Greater Curlew Valley	W. Elkhorn Canyon	Herbaceous seeding		USDA-CRP	205	Private	2012	2022
Greater Curlew Valley	Point Canyon	Herbaceous seeding		USDA-CRP	43	Private	2012	2022
Greater Curlew Valley	S. E. Juniper Area	Herbaceous seeding		USDA-CRP	129	Private	2012	2022
Greater Curlew Valley	North Canyon	Herbaceous seeding		USDA-CRP	57	Private	2012	2022
Greater Curlew Valley	Roy/Saliers Area	Herbaceous seeding		USDA-CRP	122	Private	2012	2022
Greater Curlew Valley	Upper Poc Valley	Herbaceous seeding		USDA-CRP	343	Private	2012	2022
Greater Curlew Valley	Juniper Area	Herbaceous seeding		USDA-CRP	216	Private	2012	2022
Greater Curlew Valley	N. Poc. Valley	Herbaceous seeding		USDA-CRP	91	Private	2012	2022
Greater Curlew Valley	N. Poc. Valley	Herbaceous seeding		USDA-CRP	300	Private	2012	2022

<b>Planning Area</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Type of Project</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>	<b>Funding Mechanism</b>	<b>Acres Affected</b>	<b>Land Ownership</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
Greater Curlew Valley	Curlew Sagebrush Protection Project	Fire break	Mow sagebrush fire lines.	USFS	258	Federal	2012	2012
Jarbidge	Eagle Scout Fence Marking Project	Fence Marking	Marked fence between Poison Creek West and Huggins allotments	IDFG-Private	1.5 miles of fence	BLM	24 November 2012	25 November 2012
Jarbidge	Saylor Creek Kinyon Rd. Post-Fire Rehabilitation	Post-fire Rehabilitation	900 acres reseeded following Kinyon Road fire	USAF	900 acres	USAF	17 November 2012	25 November 2012
Jarbidge	Saylor Creek Aerial Seed Sagebrush	Sagebrush Seeding/Post-fire Rehabilitation	Helicopter seeding of sagebrush	USAF	16,000 acres	USAF/IDL	28 December 2012	31 December 2012
Jarbidge	Sagebrush seedling planting	Sagebrush seedling planting	Planted sagebrush seedlings in areas affected by fire	HLI	4,100	BLM	March 2012	April 2012
Mountain Home	Little Camas 1	Prescribed grazing	Pasture rotation	Sage Grouse Initiative	17,953.0	Private	9/2012	
Mountain Home	Little Camas 2	Prescribed grazing	Pasture rotation	Sage Grouse Initiative	3014.0	Private	9/2012	
Mountain Home	Danskin	Sage Grouse Ecology	Range Seeding	Sage Grouse Initiative	80.0	Private	3/2012	
Mountain Home	Stout Fire ESR	Fire rehabilitation	Aerial broadcast seeding; drill seeding; seedling plantings	BLM IDFG for IDL state lands	5,000	BLM IDFG	Fall 2012	
Mountain Home	Benwalk Fire	Fire rehabilitation	Aerial broadcast seeding; drill seeding; seedling planting	BLM	6,400	BLM	Fall 2012	
Mountain Home	Measuring habitat quality in the Mountain Home SGPA	Habitat assessment	Data collection for NEPA analysis concerning grazing permit renewals in the Mtn. Home SGPA	BLM	Completed surveys in six grazing allotments	BLM	May 2012	

<b>Planning Area</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Type of Project</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>	<b>Funding Mechanism</b>	<b>Acres Affected</b>	<b>Land Ownership</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
Mountain Home	Helicopter Lek Surveys	Sage-grouse population monitoring	Aerial monitoring of leks and search for new leks in Mtn. Home SGPA	BLM	Surveyed 6 leks	BLM/Private/State	April 2012 (1 day effort)	
North Magic Valley	SGI (NRCS)	Grazing Management	Rested from grazing	Sage Grouse Initiative	6150	Private	Jan 1, 2012	Dec 31, 2012
North Magic Valley	SGI (NRCS)	Other	Fitted Stock watering facilities with escape mechanisms	Sage Grouse Initiative	Unknown	Unknown	Jan 1, 2012	Dec 31, 2012
North Magic Valley	Fence marking	Fence marking	Fence marking		23.6 miles			
North Magic Valley	Blair Fire Rehab	Sagebrush seedling	Planted sagebrush seedlings in areas affected by the 2011 Blair Fire.	BLM IDFG	6,000	BLM	April 4, 2012	April 26, 2012
Shoshone Basin	Burley FO Fence Marking	Fence marking	Marking fence to prevent collisions by sage-grouse	BLM	24 miles	BLM	3/15/2012	8/15/2012
Shoshone Basin	Shoshone Basin Mosquito Abatement	Mosquito abatement	Application of biological larvacide in livestock watering troughs and ponds to abate mosquitos for possible West Nile Virus outbreaks.	Donated	Unknown	BLM, private	6/15/2012	8/15/2012
South Magic Valley	NE Cassia Project	Habitat improvement of management	Threat – Conifer Encroachment Mechanical juniper removal	USFS Fuels and Wildlife	185	USFS	July 1, 2012	October 31, 2012
South Magic Valley	Jim Sage SGI	Habitat improvement and management	Juniper removal/fence marking	NRCS Sage-Grouse Initiative \$900,000	≈6 miles	BLM/Private	October 2012	September 2017
South Magic Valley	Goose Creek Area Projects	Habitat improvement and management	Juniper removal	NRCS, BLM, Private	5,822	BLM	2011	2014
South Magic Valley	Raft River Radio Telemetry Study	Sage-grouse monitoring	Radio-telemetry project to document seasonal movements/habitat use, survival, and nesting.	BLM, IDFG \$150,000		BLM, Private, IDL	October 2012	September 2013

<b>Planning Area</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Type of Project</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>	<b>Funding Mechanism</b>	<b>Acres Affected</b>	<b>Land Ownership</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
South Magic Valley	Minidoka District Invasive Species	Invasive species removal	Chemical treatment of Canada thistle, hounds tongue, etc.	USFS	800	USFS	May 1, 2012	September 30, 2012
South Magic Valley	Fencing marking	Fencing marking	Fence marking to reduce strikes by sage-grouse	BLM	3.5 miles	BLM	March 2012	September 2012
South Magic Valley	Clear Creek Area Project	Habitat Improvement and Management	Disc and drill seed restoration treatment; Implement improved grazing management; Install protection fences around vegetation treatment areas	Private, BLM, NRCS	1,200 acres	Private	2007	2013
Owyhee	Bruneau Riv 1	Juniper removal	Mechanical	Sage Grouse Initiative	1041.8	Private	9/2012	9/2016
Owyhee	Bruneau Riv 2	Juniper removal	Mechanical	Sage Grouse Initiative	500	Private & State	9/2012	9/2016
Owyhee	Bruneau Riv 3	Juniper removal	mechanical	Sage Grouse Initiative	1520.8	Private	3/2012	6/2012
Owyhee	Bruneau Riv 4	Juniper removal	mechanical	Sage Grouse Initiative	354.2	Private	1/2012	9/2012
Owyhee	Bruneau Riv 5	Juniper removal	mechanical	Sage Grouse Initiative	415.0	Private	1/2012	9/2012
Owyhee	Bruneau Riv 6,7,8,9 & 10	Juniper removal	mechanical	Sage Grouse Initiative	750.7	Private & State	1/2012	9/2012
Owyhee	Upper Castle Creek	Juniper removal	Mechanical	BLM	6200	BLM	4/2012	9/2012
Owyhee	Jacks Fire ESR	Shrub Seeding	Aerial Seeding	BLM	14,570	BLM	9/2012	1/2013
Owyhee	Jacks Fire ESR	Grass/forb seeding	Aerial Seeding	BLM	474	BLM	9/2012	1/2013
Owyhee	Tindall Fire ESR	Shrub Seeding	Aerial Seeding	BLM	2,597	BLM	9/2012	1/2013
Owyhee	Tindall Fire ESR	Grass/forb seeding	Aerial Seeding	BLM	878	BLM	9/2012	1/2013
Owyhee	Mustang Fire ESR	Shrub Seeding	Aerial Seeding	BLM	3,311	BLM	9/2012	1/2013

<b>Planning Area</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Type of Project</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>	<b>Funding Mechanism</b>	<b>Acres Affected</b>	<b>Land Ownership</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
Owyhee	East Rock Fire ESR	Shrub/Grass/Forb Seeding	Aerial Seeding	BLM	600	BLM	9/2012	1/2013
Owyhee	East Rock Fire ESR	Grass/Forb Seeding	Drill Seeding	BLM	1800	BLM	9/2012	1/2013
Upper Snake	Grouse Canyon Water Development	Other	Piping water out of the creek to 2 upland livestock troughs, shifting cattle concentration from high-quality sage-grouse habitat in the creek bottom to low-quality sage-grouse habitat in the low sagebrush uplands.	50% Forest Service/50% permittee of the Grouse Canyon C&H allotment	1200 acres of improved livestock distribution	Forest Service	October 2012	May 2013
Upper Snake	Table Butte	Fence Project	Net Wire Replacement	BLM	6 Miles	BLM	June 2012	2015
Upper Snake	Lost River District (Forest Service) weed treatments	Chemical treatment	Treatment of Canada thistle, spotted knap weed and leafy spurge in the Little Lost drainage	FS in partnership with the Butte County Weed District	30	FS	2012	September 30, 2012
Upper Snake	Upper Snake Field Office (BLM) annual, on-going noxious weed treatments	Chemical (Herbicide) Treatments	Leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, Russian knapweed, musk thistle, Canada thistle	BLM	12,550	BLM	March 2012	November 2012
Upper Snake	Upper Snake Field Office (BLM) annual, on-going noxious weed treatments	Biological Treatments	Spotted knapweed, leafy spurge, Canada thistle	BLM	125	BLM	July 2012	September 2012
Upper Snake	Upper Snake Field Office (BLM) annual, on-going noxious weed treatments	Mechanical Treatments	Musk thistle, purple loosestrife, puncture vine	BLM	15	BLM	July 2012	November 2012
Upper Snake	Weed Control	Herbicide and mechanical treatments of sagebrush habitats for noxious weeds	Sprayed or mowed various noxious weeds throughout Clark and Jefferson Counties	CWMA	2286 herbicide 110 mechanical	Various	May 2012	August 2012

<b>Planning Area</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Type of Project</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>	<b>Funding Mechanism</b>	<b>Acres Affected</b>	<b>Land Ownership</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
Upper Snake	Fence Removal	Fence	Removed 1.5 miles of fence	IDFG	At 1 acre width on each side of fence, approximately 75 acres	Private	May 2012	June 2012
Upper Snake	Fence Marking	Fence	Marked 3.0 miles of fence near leks and riparian areas	TNC/Sierra Club	At 1 acre width on each side of fence, approximately 150 acres	TNC	June 2012	September 2012
Upper Snake	NA	Chemical treatment	Knapweed leafy spurge Canada thistle musk thistle	county weed	220	county right of way	Ongoing	Ongoing
Upper Snake	Spring Creek area	Other (range improvement)	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation.	NRCS/Private	1800	Private	2011	2014
Upper Snake	Camas Creek	Other (range improvement)	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation.	NRCS/Private	600	Private	2008	2014
Upper Snake	West of Kilgore	Other (range improvement)	Permanent easement (from development) with improved grazing management.	NRCS/Private	1200	Private	2011	Perpetual
Upper Snake	Icehouse Creek	Other (range improvement)	Permanent easement (from development) with improved grazing management.	NRCS/Private	350	Private	2010	Perpetual
Upper Snake	Area west of Ashton	Other (range improvement)	Permanent easement (from development) with improved grazing management.	NRCS/Private	320	Private	2005	Perpetual

<b>Planning Area</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Type of Project</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>	<b>Funding Mechanism</b>	<b>Acres Affected</b>	<b>Land Ownership</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
Upper Snake	Area West of Ashton	Other (range improvement)	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation.	NRCS/Private	425	Private	2009	2013
Upper Snake	Rattlesnake Creek	Other (range improvement)	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation. Weed control	NRCS-FSA/Private	2460	Private	2009	2014
Upper Snake	Davis Creek Area	Other (range improvement)	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation.	NRCS-FSA/Private	2244	Private	2010	2014
Upper Snake	Split Butte Area	Other (range improvement)	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation.	NRCS/Private	3200	Private/State	2011	2015
Upper Snake	Kettle Butte Area	Other (range improvement)	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation. Fencing project	NRCS/Private	305	Private	2012	2014
Upper Snake	Kettle Butte Area	Other (range improvement)	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation.	NRCS-FSA/Private	2648	Private	2010	2015
Upper Snake	Rainy Creek CRP	Other (range improvement)	All grazing removed after herbaceous seeding.	NRCS-FSA/Private	205	Private	2011	2021
Upper Snake	Antelope Flats CRP	Other (range improvement)	All grazing removed after herbaceous seeding.	NRCS-FSA/Private	210	Private	2011	2021
Upper Snake	Pine Creek CRP	Other (range improvement)	All grazing removed after herbaceous seeding.	NRCS-FSA/Private	69	Private	2011	2021
Upper Snake	Pine Creek2 CRP	Other (range improvement)	All grazing removed after herbaceous seeding.	NRCS-FSA/Private	675	Private	2011	2021

<b>Planning Area</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Type of Project</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>	<b>Funding Mechanism</b>	<b>Acres Affected</b>	<b>Land Ownership</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
Upper Snake	Cave Falls CRP-SAFE	Other (range improvement)	All grazing removed after herbaceous seeding.	NRCS-FSA/Private	31	Private	2011	2021
Upper Snake	Sand Creek Area CRP-SAFE	Other (range improvement)	All grazing removed after herbaceous seeding.	NRCS-FSA/Private	103	Private	2011	2021
Upper Snake	Hog Hollow Area CRP-SAFE	Other (range improvement)	All grazing removed after herbaceous seeding.	NRCS-FSA/Private	376	Private	2011	2021
Upper Snake	DOE Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Site weed treatments	Chemical treatment	Knapweed, Kochia, Musk Thistle, Russian Thistle, Bull Thistle, Canada Thistle, Halogeten	INL	524	DOE	Ongoing	Ongoing
Upper Snake	Dubois Eagle Scout Fence Marking Project	Fence Project	Fence marking	BLM	2 miles of fence marked	BLM	2012	2012
West Central		Fencing	Cross fencing	SIG	1089	Private		

<sup>a</sup> Acronyms used in this table: BLM = Bureau of Land Management; CCRP SAFE = Continuous Conservation Reserve Program State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement; CRP = Conservation Reserve Program; CWMA = Coordinated Weed Management Area; DOE = Department of Energy; ESR = Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation; EQIP = Environmental Quality Incentives Program; FSA = Farm Service Agency; GRP = Grassland Reserve Program; HLI = Healthy Lands Initiative; IDFG = Idaho Department of Fish and Game; IDL = Idaho Department of Lands; IDOT = Idaho Department of Transportation; ISDA = Idaho State Department of Agriculture; MDI = Mule Deer Initiative; NRCS = Natural Resources Conservation Service; PR = Pitman Robertson; RAC = Resource Advisory Committee; SGI = Sage-grouse Initiative; USAF = U.S. Air Force; USDA = U.S. Department of Agriculture; USFS = U.S. Forest Service; WHIP = Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program.

## APPENDIX E: Progress on State Plan Implementation Tasks

Below we report on 2012 accomplishments towards the implementation tasks identified in the revised Chapter 6 of the State Plan (Idaho Sage-grouse Advisory Committee 2006). Please see the revised Chapter 6 of the State Plan for the full list of tasks and the *Idaho Sage-grouse Local Working Groups Statewide Annual Report 2011* for 2009-2011 accomplishments.

### 6.2 Sage-grouse Advisory Committee Milestones

Task	Responsible Party	2012 Accomplishments
6.2.4. Develop proposal for a mitigation and crediting program for sagebrush steppe habitats in Idaho and develop recommendations for policy consideration.	SAC Mitigation Subcommittee, in cooperation with OSC, SAC TAT	The mitigation framework that was developed by the SAC Mitigation Subcommittee has been carried forward in the Idaho Governor's Office Sage-grouse Conservation Alternative.

### 6.4 Conservation Measures Milestones

#### 6.4.1 Wildfire

Task	Responsible Party	2012 Accomplishments
6.4.1.4. Incorporate training in sage-grouse conservation and suppression priorities during annual agency firefighter training; include Rural Fire Districts when possible.	BLM, FS, IDL	<p>The State of Idaho Legislature passed legislation that would give Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) the authority to order resources for structural suppression assistance to a county, city or fire department and pay for this assistance out of deficiency warrant authority.</p> <p>The State of Idaho Legislature passed legislation providing for the creation of Rangeland Fire Protection Associations.</p> <p>Mountain Home Rangeland Fire Protection Association formed in 2012 under Idaho Statutes, Title 38, Chapter 1.</p>
6.4.1.10. Identify, prioritize, and implement fuel breaks (e.g., mowing, herbicide application, strictly managed grazed strips or green strips, etc.) to aid in controlling wildfire should wildfire occur near key sage-grouse habitats. Location of fuel breaks should be based on 1) areas of high fire risk; 2) protection of intact sagebrush habitats; 3) protection of important sage-grouse nesting, brood-rearing, and wintering areas; and 4) utilize existing roads where possible.	BLM, FS, IDL, IDFG, NRCS, working with LWGs	BLM identified and implemented fuel breaks on the Big Desert in 2007-2012.

## 6.4.2 Infrastructure

Task	Responsible Party	2012 Accomplishments
6.4.2.11. Work with utilities (energy and communications) to site new infrastructure projects away from occupied leks and identified important seasonal habitats, in accordance with section 4.3.2.3 (pages 4-42 to 4-46).	LWGs, BLM, FS, IDFG, and IDL, in coordination with utilities.	<p>Washington County approved an ordinance in 2012 regulating oil and gas well development (ordinance 71): “The exploration and/or development of gas and oil wells, or other drilling or productions activity of any kind, may be permitted within environmentally sensitive areas in Washington County only after special consideration has been given under the special use permitting process. Certain areas that contain critical wildlife habitat are protected from development in Washington County. Specifically, there shall be no gas and oil development and/or production in the essential habitat and buffer areas that support species of special concern such as the greater sage grouse after such special consideration has been given.”</p> <p>The Owyhee LWG will address the threat of the Gateway West Transmission Line Project segment proposed in Owyhee County in their revised LWG plan.</p>
6.4.2.2. Develop proposal for a mitigation and crediting program for sagebrush steppe habitats in Idaho with on-site mitigation as the primary priority and develop recommendations for policy consideration.	SAC Mitigation Subcommittee, in cooperation with OSC, SAC TAT	The mitigation framework that was developed by the SAC Mitigation Subcommittee has been carried forward in the Idaho Governor’s Office Sage-grouse Conservation Alternative.
6.4.2.4. Develop a collision risk assessment process to be used by land management agencies, IDFG, NRCS, DOE, and landowners (volunteer basis) when placing new fences or other tall structures (e.g., wind towers, communication towers, MET towers, transmission lines) in sage-grouse habitat. Utilize conservation measures in section 4.3.2.3 (page 4-42) and 4.3.4.3. (page 4-63) until completed.	BLM, IDFG	<p>Stevens et al. (2012 a, b) studied the potential impact of fence collisions on sage-grouse, evaluated the effectiveness of fence markers to reduce collisions, and modeled topographical and environmental factors that influenced collisions. As a result, they created the Fence Collision Risk Tool that identifies areas near leks with a high risk for collision (NRCS 2012, Stevens et al. in press).</p> <p>The Fence Collision Risk Tool could be applied as guidance for placement of other tall structures in sage-grouse habitat.</p>
6.4.2.5. Upon completion of University of Idaho tall structures study, SAC (Chapter 6 Subcommittee) will reconvene to consider how to use collision risk assessment and recommended actions on planned and existing structures.	SAC	<p>Stevens et al. (2012 a, b) studied the potential impact of fence collisions on sage-grouse, evaluated the effectiveness of fence markers to reduce collisions, and modeled topographical and environmental factors that influenced collisions. As a result, they created the Fence Collision Risk Tool that identifies areas near leks with a high risk for collision (NRCS 2012, Stevens et al. in press).</p> <p>The SAC TAT discussed the Fence Collision Risk Tool at the December SAC meeting and</p>

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>2012 Accomplishments</b>
		agreed to support its use and application. They also approved the NRCS's guidance on installation and types of fence markers (NRCS 2011).  Approximately 54.5 miles of fences were marked in Idaho in 2012.

### **6.4.3 Annual Grassland**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>2012 Accomplishments</b>
6.4.3.7. Establish fuel breaks to limit the growth and size of annual grassland (See also 6.4.1.8.).	BLM, FS, NRCS, in coordination with Great Basin Initiative	BLM identified and implemented fuel breaks on the Big Desert in 2007-2012.

### **6.4.4 Livestock Impacts**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>2012 Accomplishments</b>
6.4.4.1. Identify areas where livestock management-related activities are repeatedly displacing sage-grouse on active leks and work with livestock managers to avoid problem areas during the lekking season (see page 4-61 and 4-62 for specific dates).	LWGs, with support from BLM, FS, IDL, SAC TAT	Big Desert and Challis LWG reported that maps of lek locations were provided to all permittees to avoid impacts during the breeding season.
6.4.4.2. Provide livestock managers with maps of lek locations to address 6.4.4.1.	IDFG, BLM, FS, IDL, in coordination with LWGs	Big Desert and Challis LWG reported that maps of lek locations were provided to all permittees to avoid impacts during the breeding season.
6.4.4.9. Develop a collision risk assessment process to be used by land management agencies, IDFG, NRCS, and landowners (volunteer basis) when placing new fences in sage-grouse habitat. Utilize conservation measures on pages 4-63 and 4-64 until assessment and review is completed.	BLM, IDFG	Stevens et al. (2012 a, b) studied the potential impact of fence collisions on sage-grouse, evaluated the effectiveness of fence markers to reduce collisions, and modeled topographical and environmental factors that influenced collisions. As a result, they created the Fence Collision Risk Tool that identifies areas near leks with a high risk for collision (NRCS 2012, Stevens et al. in press).  The Fence Collision Risk Tool could be applied as guidance for placement of other tall structures in sage-grouse habitat.
6.4.4.10. Upon completion of University of Idaho tall structures study, SAC (Chapter 6 Subcommittee) will reconvene to consider how to use collision risk assessment and recommended actions on temporary, planned, and existing fences.	SAC	Stevens et al. (2012 a, b) studied the potential impact of fence collisions on sage-grouse, evaluated the effectiveness of fence markers to reduce collisions, and modeled topographical and environmental factors that influenced collisions. As a result, they created the Fence Collision Risk Tool that identifies areas near leks with a high risk for collision (NRCS 2012,

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>2012 Accomplishments</b>
		<p>Stevens et al. in press).</p> <p>The SAC TAT discussed the Fence Collision Risk Tool at the December SAC meeting and agreed to support its use and application. They also approved the NRCS's guidance on installation and types of fence markers (NRCS 2011).</p> <p>Approximately 54.5 miles of fences were marked in Idaho in 2012.</p>

### **6.4.8 Seeded Perennial Grassland**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>2012 Accomplishments</b>
6.4.8.1. Encourage establishment of sagebrush and desirable forbs and grasses into seeded perennial grasslands.	LWGs, NRCS, IDFG, land management agencies, private landowners	Several LWGs reported progress on seeding or re-seeding CRP with native grasses and forbs (see Appendix D).

### **6.4.10 Conifer Encroachment**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>2012 Accomplishments</b>
6.4.10.2. Evaluate and disseminate information on the effectiveness, economic and technical feasibility, and lessons learned from various conifer removal treatments.	LWGs, SAC TAT, land management agencies, USGS, and FS Research Stations.	<p>The Owyhee LWG reported in 2012 that 4,583 acres of juniper were removed near sage-grouse leks in Owyhee County.</p> <p>The South Magic Valley SGPA received a \$900,000 SGI grant for juniper management in the Jim Sage area. They also received \$150,000 from BLM to monitor sage-grouse with radio-telemetry in that area.</p>

### **6.4.11 Isolated Populations**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>2012 Accomplishments</b>
6.4.11.1. Refine criteria for and revisit populations identified as isolated (see page 4-99) and identify populations at risk of becoming isolated.	IDFG, in cooperation with LWGs	IDFG collected 286 feather samples from leks across the state as part of a range-wide genetic connectivity study.

### **6.4.12 Predation**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>2012 Accomplishments</b>
6.4.12.2. Identify areas where excessive predation may occur. If excessive predation is documented to be limiting a sage-grouse population, follow detailed procedures	IDFG, APHIS-WS, LWGs	The Upper Snake LWG has created a draft raven management plan.

outlined in State Plan (see section 4.3.12.2.1, page 4-105 to 4-108).		
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### **6.4.13 Urban/Exurban**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>2012 Accomplishments</b>
6.4.13.1. Identify sage-grouse habitat most vulnerable to conversion to urban/exurban development.	LWGs	The East Idaho Uplands LWG has completed an analysis of residential development patterns in Bonneville County.
6.4.13.7. Develop proposal for a mitigation and crediting program for sagebrush steppe habitats in Idaho and develop recommendations for policy consideration.	SAC Mitigation Subcommittee, in cooperation with OSC, SAC TAT	The mitigation framework that was developed by the SAC Mitigation Subcommittee has been carried forward in the Idaho Governor's Office Sage-grouse Conservation Alternative.
6.4.13.8. Document and report sagebrush acreage converted to urban/exurban development annually by county.	SAC TAT, in cooperation with LWGs	The East Idaho Uplands LWG reported a minor increase in key sage-grouse habitat lost to urban/exurban development in 2012.  Ten LWGs reported no change in urban/exurban development in sage-grouse habitat. One LWG reported they did not know the status of urban/exurban development.

### **6.4.15 Insecticides**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>2012 Accomplishments</b>
6.4.15.2. Continue to collaborate closely to ensure annual control efforts for Mormon crickets and grasshoppers, focus on key problem areas, better delineate treatment avoidance areas, determine the treatment of least risk to sage-grouse and monitor results.	BLM, FS, ISDA, IDFG, APHIS, LWGs	East Idaho Uplands LWG contacted APHIS about proposed treatments for 2012. There were none in 2012.

### **6.4.16 Agricultural Expansion**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>2012 Accomplishments</b>
6.4.16.2. Document and report sagebrush acreage converted to agriculture annually by county.	SAC TAT, NRCS, in cooperation with LWGs	The Greater Curlew Valley LWG reported a major increase in loss of key sage-grouse habitat due to agricultural expansion in 2012.  The East Idaho Uplands, North Magic Valley and West Central LWGs reported a minor increase in loss of key sage-grouse habitat due to agricultural expansion.  Eight LWGs reported no change in agricultural expansion.

## 6.4.17 Sport Hunting

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>2012 Accomplishments</b>
6.4.17.2. Utilize the Hunting Season and Bag-limit Guidelines, as provided in the State Plan (Table 4-14, page 4-122), to guide hunting season recommendations by SGPA or other population units that may be appropriate or needed (e.g., isolated populations). In cases of catastrophic events or other unique circumstances, the IDFG Director can issue an Emergency Closure in an area on short notice.	IDFG, in coordination with LWGs	For the 2008-2012 season, IDFG used the Hunting Season and Bag-limit Guidelines as provided in the State Plan (Table 4-14, page 4-122).  Following these guidelines, all of Elmore County was closed to sage-grouse hunting in 2012 due to 1) lack of information; 2) recent wildfires; and 3) no known active leks in the new closure area.
6.4.17.6. Explore opportunities to collect more wings from harvested sage-grouse (e.g., statewide mail-in wing survey, additional wing barrels, etc.).	IDFG, in coordination with LWGs	IDFG sent out 2,000 mail-in wing envelopes to known sage-grouse hunters in 2010-2012.  The Upper Snake added kiosks to wing barrels to increase their visibility and educate hunters on the importance of submitting wings.

## 6.4.18 Mines, Landfills, and Gravel Pits

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>2009-2011 Accomplishments</b>
6.4.18.2. Develop proposal for a mitigation and crediting program for sagebrush steppe habitats in Idaho and develop recommendations for policy consideration.	SAC Mitigation Subcommittee, in cooperation with OSC, SAC TAT	The mitigation framework that was developed by the SAC Mitigation Subcommittee has been carried forward in the Idaho Governor's Office Sage-grouse Conservation Alternative.

## 6.5 Monitoring Milestones

### 6.5.2 Habitat Monitoring

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>2009-2011 Accomplishments</b>
6.5.2.1. Review and encourage the use of the national Sage-grouse Habitat Assessment Framework when available.	SAC TAT	Several BLM Field Offices and one Forest Service District have utilized the Habitat Assessment Framework in 2012.  The Mountain Home LWG utilized the Habitat Assessment Framework to assess private and Forest Service land in their planning area.
6.5.2.4. Develop and implement long-term habitat and threats monitoring programs, with the focus on: areas of priority to LWGs; habitats associated with priority lek routes; areas where land uses or threats have changed; or unique areas of local or regional importance.	SAC TAT, in cooperation with IDFG, BLM, FS, DOE, and LWGs	Eight LWGs evaluated the status of the threats to sage-grouse and sage-grouse habitat that they identified in their local plans. See Table 12.

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>2009-2011 Accomplishments</b>
6.5.2.7. Require effectiveness monitoring (pre- and post project, where possible) and reporting for SAC-sponsored (e.g., OSC grants) habitat restoration efforts	SAC	Several LWGs provided annual or final reports on their OSC projects. These are provided in Appendix C.

## 6.6 Habitat Restoration Milestones

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>2009-2011 Accomplishments</b>
6.6.3. Require effectiveness monitoring (pre- and post project, where possible) and reporting for SAC-sponsored (e.g., OSC grants) habitat restoration efforts	SAC	Several LWGs provided annual or final reports on their OSC projects. These are provided in Appendix C.