



Idaho Sage-grouse Local Working Groups

Statewide Annual Report 2011

**Idaho Sage-grouse Advisory Committee
Technical Assistance Team**

May 1, 2012



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ABSTRACT

This report summarizes Idaho sage-grouse Local Working Groups (LWGs) and Sage-grouse Advisory Committee (SAC) accomplishments, and sage-grouse conservation efforts in 2011. Twelve LWGs held a total of 57 meetings with an average of 11.0 attendees per meeting. Overall 239 individuals attended 1 or more LWG meeting. Nine LWGs have completed plans and 2 others are in progress. The SAC met 2 times in 2011, with 24 and 35 attendees at the June and November meetings respectively. Biologists and volunteers surveyed 980 leks statewide. Of these, 283 leks were surveyed by helicopter and 462 leks were counted on 78 established lek routes. Statewide, 2011 male lek attendance was up slightly from 2010; overall, sage-grouse numbers have been gradually increasing since 2008. Statewide the average productivity was 1.2 chicks per hen in 2011, which was below the previous 5-year's average of 1.7. Productivity in 2011 was the 4th lowest productivity estimate since wing collections began in 1961. Hunters harvested an estimated 2,144 birds in 2011, which is the lowest harvest since estimates began in 1953. About 77,192 acres of key sage-grouse habitat burned in 2011. Since 2002, 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. To date, these grants have helped improve at least 36,638 acres of sage-grouse habitat in Idaho.

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 9 have completed plans (Table 1).

This statewide annual report is the 5th compilation of annual reports from each LWG. The purpose of this document is to summarize LWG and SAC accomplishments and sage-grouse conservation efforts in 2011.

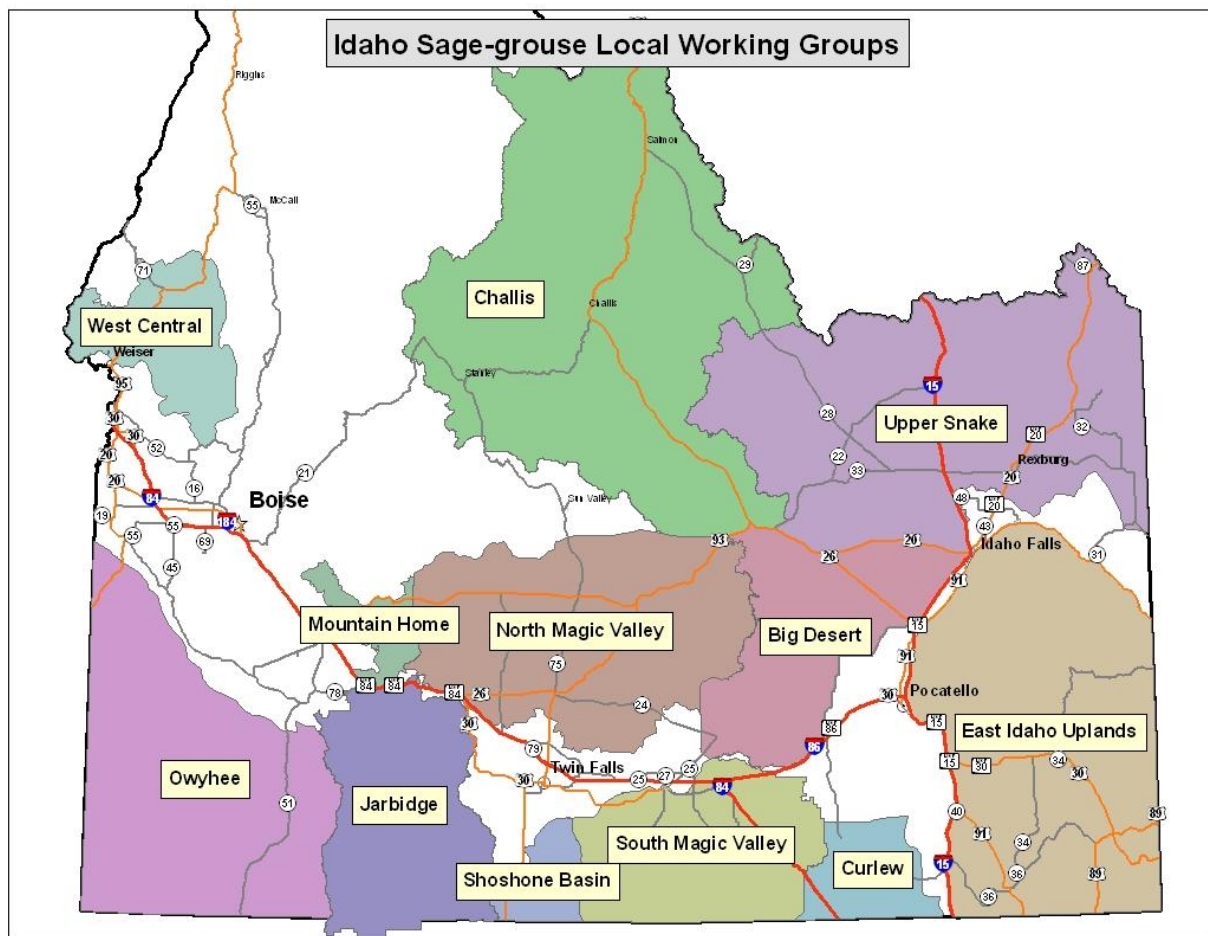


Figure 1. Idaho Sage-grouse Local Working Groups and associated Sage-grouse Planning Areas. Boundaries were updated by some groups in 2009.

Table 1. Status of Idaho sage-grouse Local Working Group plans in 2011.

Local Working Group	Status of Plan
Big Desert	Completed March 2010
Challis	Completed October 2007
East Idaho Uplands	Completed March 2011
Greater Curlew Valley	Completed June 2004
Jarbridge	Completed December 2007
Mountain Home	Not initiated
North Magic Valley	Draft plan completed
Owyhee	Completed August 2004; plan update in early 2012.
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 2011* and were asked to return the completed form by January 30, 2012. 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 57 meetings with an average of 11.0 attendees per meeting. The number of meetings in a year for a LWG ranged from 1 to 7. Overall 239 individuals attended 1 or more LWG meeting in 2011. Attendance at LWG meetings has been declining since 2007 when 345 individuals attended. Attendees reported a total of 30,433 miles travelled to attend meetings in 2011, for an average of 127 miles per person. Attendees were interested citizens and landowners, or represented various grazing associations, nongovernmental organizations, and state, county and federal agencies.

The SAC held 2 meetings in 2011; 24 people attended the June meeting and 35 attended the November meeting. The SAC TAT held a sage-grouse habitat assessment and vegetation monitoring workshop the 3rd day of the June SAC meeting. SAC 2011 meeting summaries can be found on the sage-grouse pages of the IDFG website at:

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

The SAC TAT met during the November SAC meeting to review their Chapter 6 tasks. Results of this meeting are summarized in the Chapter 6 updates in Appendix D. Mitigation Subcommittee efforts are also reported in Appendix D.

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 mid-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 2011, the number of lek routes in the area, and the average number of males per lek for leks on routes from 2006–2011. Biologists and volunteers surveyed 980 leks statewide in 2011. Of these, 283 leks were surveyed by helicopter and 462 leks were counted on 78 established lek routes (Table 2). The location and distribution of lek routes are 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 2006 to 2011. 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 2006

to 2011. 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 2011 male lek attendance was up slightly from 2010; overall, sage-grouse numbers have been gradually increasing since 2008 (Figure 3). Three SGPAs—the East Idaho Uplands, Shoshone Basin and West Central SGPAs—exhibited a decline in male lek attendance from 2010–2011 (Tables 3 and 4). Relatively small numbers of leks are monitored on routes in these areas; therefore, it is difficult to determine if the decline is truly different from the statewide trend. Despite an increase in 2010, the steady downward trend in the West Central SGPA is a concern due to its likely genetic isolation (Idaho Sage-grouse Advisory Committee 2006). Total number of males counted in the Jarbidge SGPA declined 2006–2010, but exhibited a slight increase in 2011. The Jarbidge SGPA includes the area impacted by the 2007 Murphy Complex Fire.

Table 2. Sage-grouse leks surveyed in each Sage-grouse Planning Area in Idaho, 2011.

Sage-grouse Planning Area	2011 Leks Surveys				
	Leks surveyed by air ^a	Individual leks ground surveyed ^a	Number of lek routes	Leks surveyed on routes ^a	Total leks surveyed
Big Desert	0	69	6	59	129
Challis	0	22	12	31	53
East Idaho Uplands	5	15	4	8	28
Greater Curlew Valley	0	16	4	15	33
Jarbidge	2	43	8	44	89
Mountain Home	0	7	5	6	14
North Magic Valley	0	45	9	100	145
Owyhee	172	1	8	37	204
Shoshone Basin	36	15	1	14	65
South Magic Valley	68	0	4	25	89
Upper Snake	0	2	13	111	113
West Central	0	6	4	12	18
Statewide	283	241	78	462	980

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

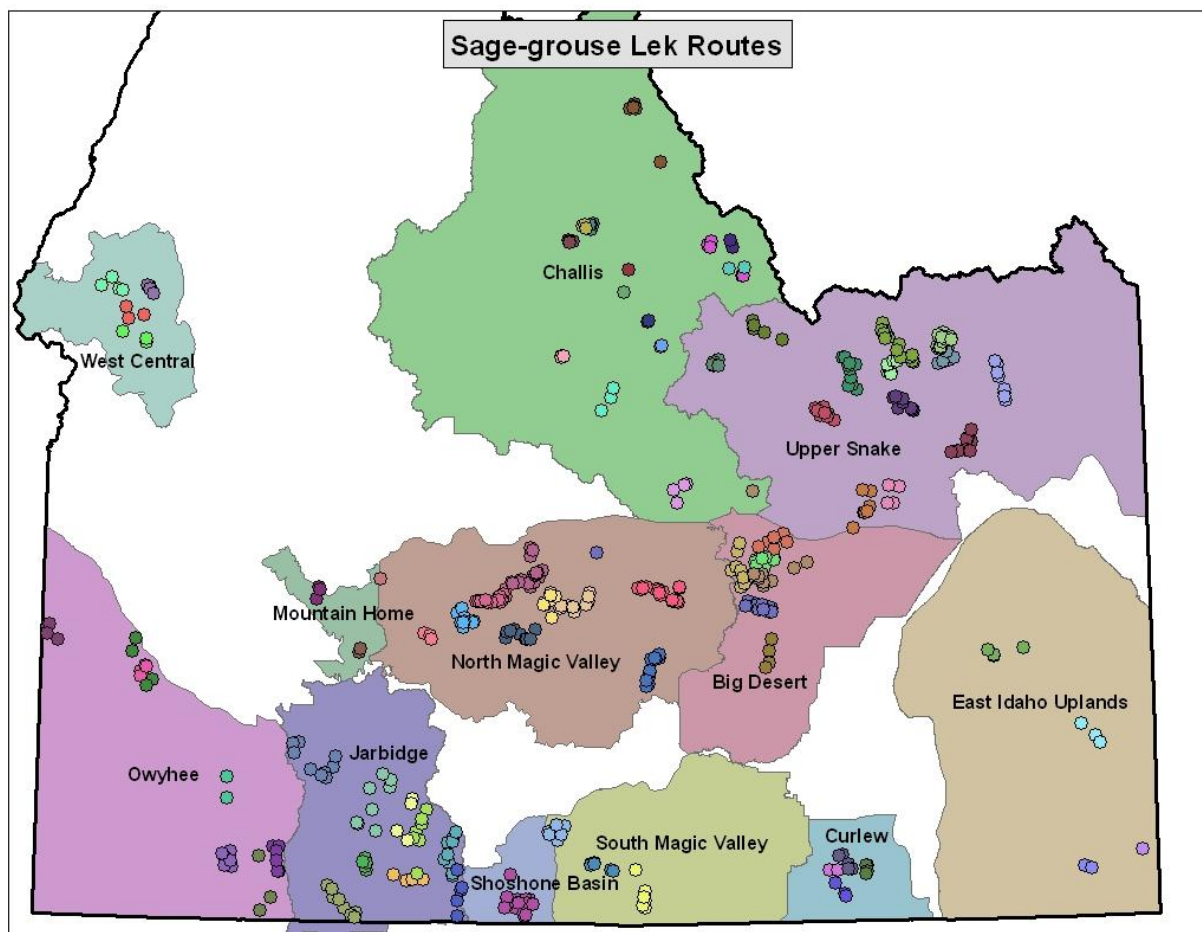


Figure 2. Location of sage-grouse lek routes by Sage-grouse Planning Area. Lek clusters with the same color encompass a lek route.

Table 3. Average number of males per lek for all lek routes in Idaho, 2006–2011.

Sage-grouse Planning Area	Average Number of Males per Lek											
	2006		2007		2008		2009		2010		2011	
	# leks	Avg	# leks	Avg	# leks	Avg	# leks	Avg	# leks	Avg	# leks	Avg
Big Desert	43	23	44	20	48	15	49	14	55	22	59	23
Challis	30	27	33	25	32	16	35	17	41	14	31	20
East Idaho Uplands	2	39	2	31	2	26	1	13	9	18	8	11
Greater Curlew Valley	14	17	14	15	13	13	14	11	14	12	15	16
Jarbridge	57	12	48	11	53	8	60	5	43	4	44	6
Mountain Home	4	10	3	12	4	5	3	6	4	7	6	9
North Magic Valley	78	15	56	7	76	7	98	6	92	7	100	9
Owyhee	25	28	27	20	30	13	30	14	29	18	37	20
Shoshone Basin	16	16	17	15	18	10	14	11	16	10	14	8
South Magic Valley	13	24	14	18	18	10	19	8	18	10	25	13
Upper Snake	98	24	112	24	113	19	123	15	119	15	111	18
West Central	14	25	14	10	14	8	14	8	14	11	12	7
Statewide	394	20	384	18	421	13	460	10	454	12	462	15

Table 4. Total number of males counted on leks routes that were counted each year in Idaho, 2006–2011.

Sage-grouse Planning Area	# of lek routes	Total Number of Males ^a					
		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Big Desert	6	1,041	895	707	712	1,215	1,335
Challis	11	745	715	477	581	546	620
East Idaho Uplands	2	77	61	52	65	129	67
Greater Curlew Valley	4	231	203	167	160	173	238
Jarbridge	8	636	479	369	288	232	249
Mountain Home	3	49	41	44	52	28	42
North Magic Valley	8	1,134	351	494	513	614	841
Owyhee	7	699	546	399	420	596	612
Shoshone Basin	1	260	256	184	147	165	109
South Magic Valley	3	340	298	188	186	196	255
Upper Snake	12	2,365	2,262	1,565	1,592	1,460	1,604
West Central	4	345	145	107	109	141	89
Statewide	69	7,922	6,252	4,753	4,825	5,495	6,061

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

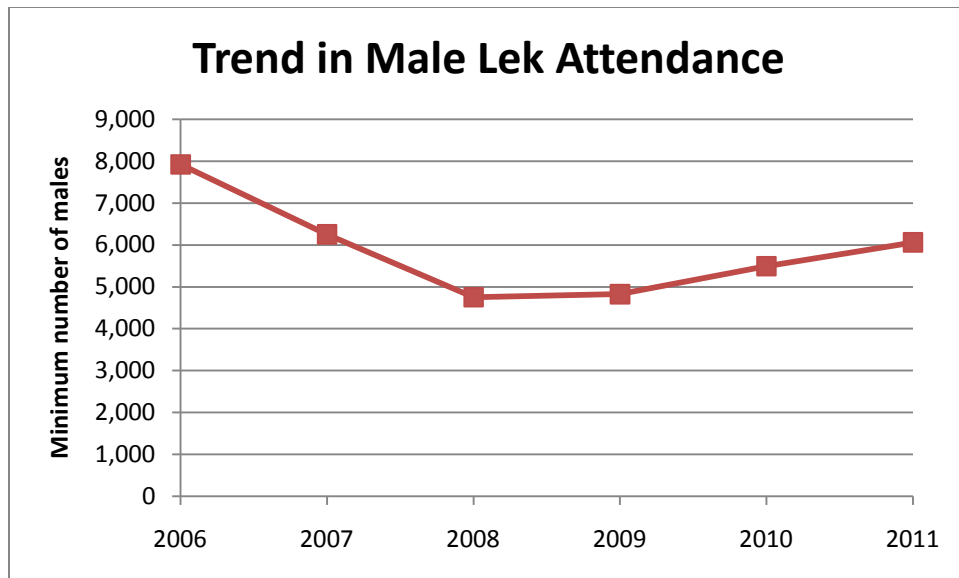


Figure 3. Idaho statewide trend in male lek attendance on 69 lek routes that were counted consistently 2006–2011.

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. In 2010 and 2011, IDFG expanded the wing envelope program and sent 2,000 wing envelopes to 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 ≥ 2.25 juveniles/hen in the fall should result in stable to increasing sage-grouse population. Statewide the average productivity was 1.2 chicks per hen in 2011, which was below the previous 5-year's average of 1.7. Productivity in 2011 was the 4th lowest productivity estimate since wing collections began in 1961, while productivity in 2007 was the lowest ever recorded (Table 5 and Figure 4). Sage-grouse productivity is highly influenced by weather (Idaho Sage-grouse Advisory Committee 2006).

Table 5. Sage-grouse productivity by Sage-grouse Planning Area, as determined by wing collections in Idaho, 2006–2011.

Sage-grouse Planning Area	2006		2007		2008	
	Total Wings	Chicks per Hen	Total Wings	Chicks per Hen	Total Wings	Chicks per Hen
Big Desert	189	2.3	81	0.9 ^a	126	1.6
Challis	208	1.6	169	1.1	160	1.0
East Idaho Uplands	23	5.7 ^a	2	--	Closed	--
Greater Curlew Valley	Closed ^b	--	Closed	--	2	--
Jarbridge	100	1.4	81	0.8 ^a	62	1.1
Mountain Home	40	3.0 ^a	0	--	0	--
North Magic Valley	673	2.3	54	1.1 ^a	60	1.8 ^a
Owyhee	Closed	--	242	0.5	365	1.1
Shoshone Basin	146	1.9	157	0.4	94	0.9 ^a
South Magic Valley	0	--	16	0.4 ^a	0	--
Upper Snake	427	2.7	396	1.2	998	1.8
West Central	Closed	--	Closed	--	Closed	--
Statewide	1,806	2.2	1,198	0.8	1,867	1.5

Sage-grouse Planning Area	2009		2010		2011	
	Total Wings	Chicks per Hen	Total Wings	Chicks per Hen	Total Wings	Chicks per Hen
Big Desert	72	3.5 ^a	141	2.8	30	0.9 ^a
Challis	62	1.9 ^a	76	1.3 ^a	61	1.5 ^a
East Idaho Uplands	Closed	--	Closed	--	Closed	--
Greater Curlew Valley	5	--	8	--	25	--
Jarbridge	83	0.8 ^a	Closed	--	Closed	--
Mountain Home	0	--	0	--	0	--
North Magic Valley	83	2.8 ^a	209	2.4	97	0.9 ^a
Owyhee	511	2.0	148	1.4	99	0.9 ^a
Shoshone Basin	83	0.7 ^a	143	1.5	103	0.8
South Magic Valley	51	2.67 ^a		see Shoshone Basin ^c		
Upper Snake	1,193	2.2	495	2.3	113	1.6
West Central	Closed	--	Closed	--	Closed	--
Statewide	2,143	2.0	1,240	2.1	753	1.2

^a Sample sizes too low for reliable productivity estimates. Results should be interpreted with caution.

^b See Table 7 for sage-grouse hunting season structure by year and SGPA.

^c Shoshone Basin and South Magic Valley wing estimates were combined in 2010 and 2011 with statewide wing envelope program.

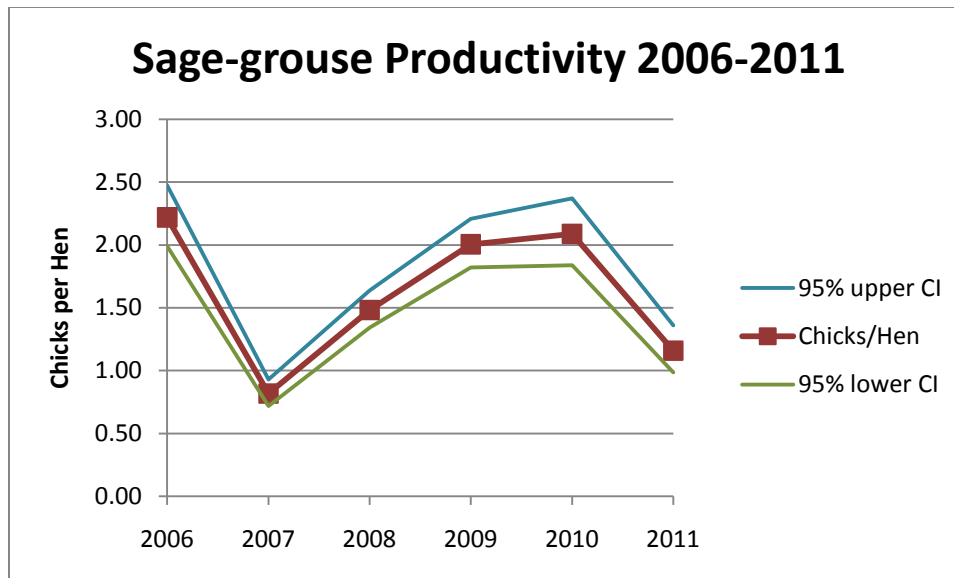


Figure 4. Idaho Sage-grouse productivity with 95% confidence intervals (CI; Hagen and Loughlin 2008), 2006–2011.

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 2011* leaflet (Appendix A). As per Commission action, opening day of the upland game bird hunting season, including sage-grouse, changed from the 3rd Saturday in September to October 1st. Season structure and bag limits were Restrictive (7 day season, 1 bird daily bag limit) statewide in 2010 and 2011.

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, 2009–2011 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 2,144 birds in 2011 (Table 7), which is the lowest harvest since estimates began in 1953.

Table 6. Idaho hunting season and bag-limit guidelines for sage-grouse populations.^a

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

^aFrom Idaho Sage-grouse Advisory Committee 2006; Table 4-14, page 4-122.

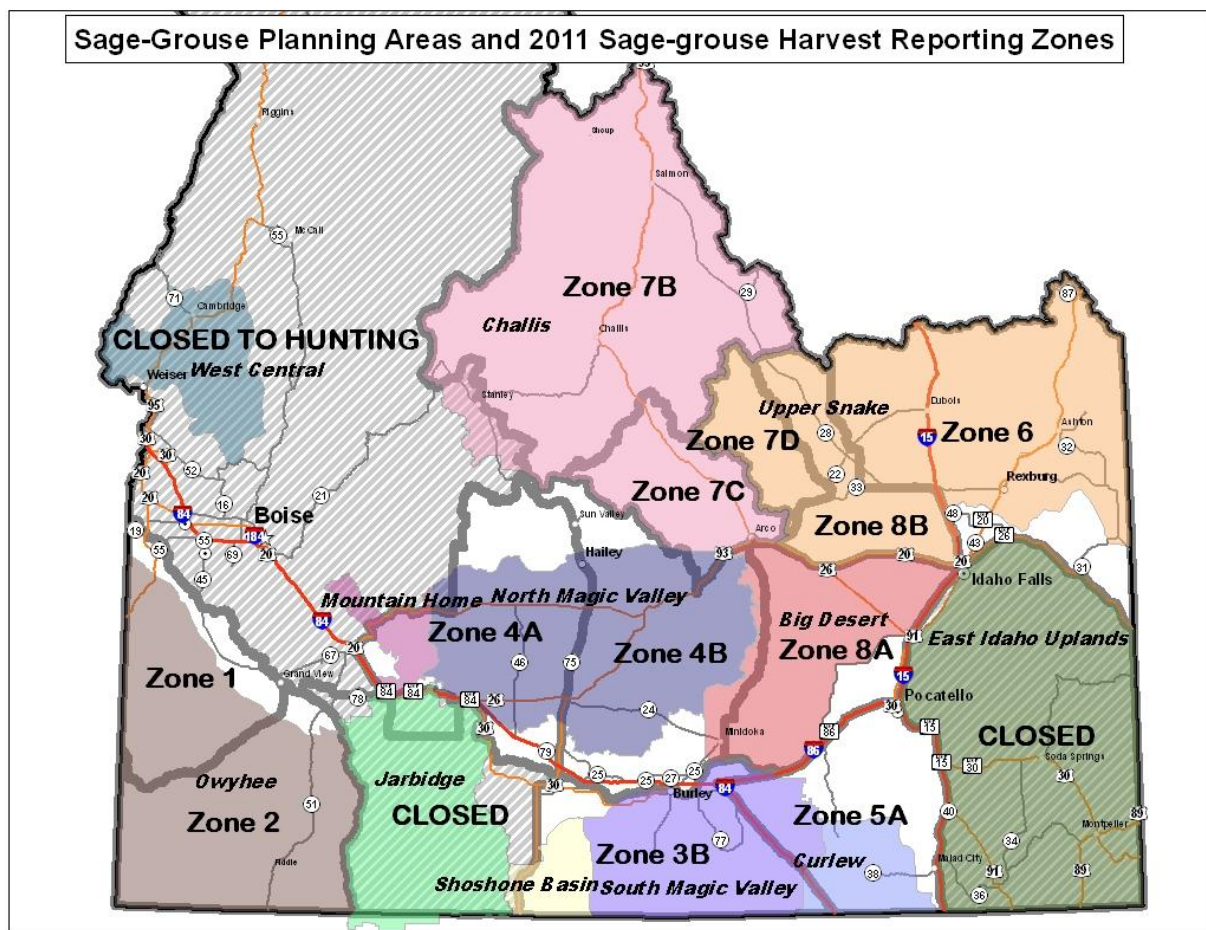


Figure 5. Sage-grouse Planning Areas and 2011 Sage-grouse Reporting Zones for harvest estimation.

Table 7. Estimated sage-grouse harvest and season structure by Sage-grouse Planning Area in Idaho, 2006–2011.

Sage-grouse Planning Area	2006		2007		2008	
	Estimated Harvest	Season Structure	Estimated Harvest	Season Structure	Estimated Harvest	Season Structure
Big Desert	1,111	Restrictive	363	Restrictive	641	Restrictive
Challis	1,024	Conservative	495	Conservative	487	Conservative
East Idaho Uplands	397	Restrictive	264	Restrictive	--	Closed
Greater Curlew Valley	--	Closed	--	Closed	209	Restrictive
Jarbridge	902	Restrictive	148	Restrictive ^c	70	Restrictive ^c
Mountain Home & North Magic Valley	4,389	Conservative	462	Restrictive	264	Restrictive
Owyhee	--	Closed ^c	610	Both ^b	897	Both ^b
Shoshone Basin & South Magic Valley	1,116	Restrictive	676	Restrictive	439	Restrictive
Upper Snake	3,561	Restrictive	1,917	Restrictive	4,698	Conservative
Unknown	9	NA	0	NA	19	NA
West Central	--	Closed	--	Closed	--	Closed
Statewide	12,509		4,935		7,724	

Sage-grouse Planning Area	2009		2010 ^f		2011	
	Estimated Harvest	Season Structure	Estimated Harvest	Season Structure	Estimated Harvest	Season Structure
Big Desert	292 ^c	Restrictive	583	Restrictive	86	Restrictive
Challis	357 ^c	Restrictive	361	Restrictive	110	Restrictive
East Idaho Uplands	--	Closed	--	Closed	--	Closed
Greater Curlew Valley	48	Restrictive	164	Restrictive	125	Restrictive
Jarbridge	210	Restrictive ^c	--	Closed	--	Closed
Mountain Home & North Magic Valley	343	Restrictive	579	Restrictive	356	Restrictive
Owyhee	1,000	Both ^b	386	Restrictive	232	Restrictive
Shoshone Basin & South Magic Valley	471	Restrictive	507	Restrictive	288	Restrictive
Upper Snake	4,475 ^c	Conservative	1,472	Restrictive	944	Restrictive
Unknown	0	NA	0	NA	3	NA
West Central	--	Closed	--	Closed	--	Closed
Statewide	7,196		4,052		2,144	

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

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

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

^d Western portion of the Jarbridge planning area (i.e., eastern Owyhee County) was closed due to the Murphy Complex Fire.

^e 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).

^f See Appendix A for 2011 hunting season and bag limit rules.

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 2011.

Sage-grouse Planning Area	# Birds	Purpose
Challis	31	Seasonal habitat delineation.
East Idaho Uplands	99	Vital rates, seasonal distribution, movements, and habitat use.
Jarbridge	39	Track behavioral responses to Murphy Complex burn and identify seasonal use areas for a population for which we have limited information.
Mountain Home	11	Movements, habitat use, survival.
Owyhee	20	West Nile virus monitoring, seasonal distribution.
West Central	11	Habitat use.

Sage-grouse Habitat

Wildfire

About 77,192 acres of key sage-grouse habitat burned in 2011 (Table 9). In 2010 and 2011, the 2 largest fires occurred on the Idaho National Laboratory and adjacent BLM lands; 63,901 and 30,897 acres of key habitat burned in 2010 and 2011 respectively. 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.

Table 9. Number of acres of wildfire in key sage-grouse habitat by sage-grouse planning area and land ownership in Idaho, 2011.

Sage-grouse Planning Area	Private	BLM ^a	USFS ^b	State	Other	Total
Big Desert	60	116	0	0	0	176
Challis	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Idaho Uplands	4	0	0	0	0	4
Greater Curlew Valley	0	231	0	0	0	231
Jarbidge	40	1,798	0	52	81	1,971
Mountain Home	0	56	0	0	0	56
North Magic Valley	490	18,370	0	1,184	0	20,044
Owyhee	112	20,280	0	1,380	0	21,772
Shoshone Basin	0	982	0	0	0	982
South Magic Valley	0	75	50	105	0	229
Upper Snake	0	130	0	0	30,767 ^c	30,897
West Central	830	0	0	0	0	830
Total	1,536	42,038	50	2,721	30,848	77,192

^a Bureau of Land Management.

^b United States Forest Service.

^c Acreage burned on Idaho National Laboratory, Department of Energy land.

Acres of Sagebrush Converted

One task identified in the revised Chapter 6 of the State Plan was to begin 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. One LWG (West Central) did not answer these questions. Three LWGs reported a minor increase in loss of sage-grouse habitat to urban/exurban development (Table 10). Four LWGs reported a minor increase in sagebrush lost to agricultural conversion. Of these, 2 LWGs identified the loss as CRP that was not re-enrolled, but acreage estimates are not available.

Table 10. Estimated trend in loss of key sage-grouse habitat to urban/exurban development by Sage-grouse Planning Area in Idaho, 2011.

Sage-grouse Planning Area	Major increase	Minor increase	No change	Don't know
Big Desert			X	
Challis		X (new housing development)		
East Idaho Uplands		X (wind farms on private land)		
Greater Curlew Valley			X	
Jarbridge			X	
Mountain Home			X	
North Magic Valley				X
Owyhee			X	
Shoshone Basin			X	
South Magic Valley			X	
Upper Snake		X (180 acres, landfill and gravel pit)		

Table 11. Estimated trend in loss of key sage-grouse habitat to agricultural expansion by Sage-grouse Planning Area in Idaho, 2011.

Sage-grouse Planning Area	Major increase	Minor increase	No change	Don't know
Big Desert			X	
Challis			X	
East Idaho Uplands		X (loss of CRP)		
Greater Curlew Valley		X (200 acres)		
Jarbridge			X	
Mountain Home			X	
North Magic Valley		X (loss of CRP)		
Owyhee			X	
Shoshone Basin			X	
South Magic Valley			X	
Upper Snake		X (600 acres)		

Threats to Sage-grouse Habitat

In 2011, 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. Seven 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. Proposed wind energy developments, particularly on private land, appear to be on the rise and are concerns to several SGPAs. The proposed China Mountain wind project in Twin Falls County, with an estimated 170 wind turbines, could impact 586 acres of key habitat. Most LWGs and agency personnel are tracking potential projects in their area. Many LWGs said they would review and comment, if appropriate, on projects that are required to go through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

Three LWGs (Big Desert, Challis, and Upper Snake) identified rush skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*) as a new invader to their planning area. Jointed goatgrass (*Aegilops cylindrica*) continues to be a major concern in the West Central planning area.

Table 12. Changes in threats identified in Local Working Group plans in Idaho, 2011

Sage-grouse Planning Area	Threat	Change
Big Desert	Annual grasslands	Minor increase
	Sagebrush management	Decrease
	Wildfire	No change
	Human disturbance	Decrease
	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	Decrease
	Invasives	Minor increase
	Inappropriate management strategies	Decrease
	Improper livestock management	Decrease
	Fire	No change
	Other natural causes	Minor increase
	Excessive predation	Don't know
	Human disturbance	Decrease
	Health risks	No change
	Overharvest	Decrease
	Successional vegetation changes in brood-rearing habitat	Decrease
	Public education	Decrease
East Idaho Uplands	CRP	Minor increase
	Human disturbance	Minor increase
	Isolated population/lack of data	Decrease
	Livestock impacts	No change
	Mines, landfills, and gravel pits	Don't know
	Predation	Don't know
	Sagebrush control	No change
	West Nile virus	No change

Sage-grouse Planning Area	Threat	Change
	Annual grasslands Climate change Conifer encroachment Insecticides Seed perennial grasslands Sport hunting Wildfire	Don't know Don't know Don't know Don't know Decrease No change No change
Greater Curlew Valley	Predation	Increase
Jarbridge	Fire Noxious weeds/invasive annuals Predators Hunting Livestock grazing OHV	Minor increase Minor increase Don't know No change Decrease Minor increase
South Magic Valley	Wildfire Conifer encroachment Infrastructure Human disturbance Predation Annual grasslands Livestock impacts Sagebrush control Seeded perennial grass Agricultural expansion	Minor increase Decrease No change No change No change No change No change Don't know No change No change
Upper Snake	Predation Hunting Wildfire Habitat loss Energy development Noxious weeds Grazing	Don't know Don't know Major increase Major increase No change Minor increase Decrease

Table 13. New threats to sage-grouse habitat in Idaho, as reported by Local Working Groups in 2011.

Sage-grouse Planning Area	New Threat	Area Affected
Greater Curlew Valley	Highway 37 re-alignment will potentially impact 1 lek that will be 0.3 miles from the new highway segment. Environmental documentation in progress with construction expected in 2015.	2.5 miles of road and ROW
North Magic Valley	Proposed relocation of Friedman Memorial Airport	Unknown
North Magic Valley	Proposed renewal and expansion of an operating permit for the School of Urban and Wilderness Survival.	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 2011.

Local Working Group	Public Outreach	Field Tours
Big Desert	Quinn Shurtliff of Wildlife Conservation Society provided a demonstration of radio-telemetry for a school class.	LWG members and IDFG personnel have conducted a few ride-along during lek counting efforts.
Challis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BLM's presentation for University of Idaho students at Discovery Hill addressed sage-grouse on April 23, 2011 NRCS's April 15, 2011 (Earth Day) presentation addressed sage-grouse – for University of Idaho students in the rangeland ecology department IDFG "From the Field" radio show addressing sage-grouse (local) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tour (BLM state, district and field office staff, no public) of Leadville project (previously funded by OSC) on September 8, 2011 Experimental Stewardship Program (~25 people) tour discussed sage-grouse assessment process on July 26, 2011 BLM/IDFG/permittee field tour of range re-habilitation field trial plots in the Upper Pahsimeroi River basin
East Idaho Uplands	Map posted in snowmobile hut to invite users to document information about sage-grouse sightings and enhance winter habitat use knowledge	
Greater Curlew Valley		Audubon Society (8) and BYU Idaho (4) went out on lek routes (separately) in April.
Jarbridge		Annual tour to review previous projects, June 2011.
North Magic Valley	Draft LWG plan was posted on IDFG website for public comment in August 2011. News releases informed the public of its availability. Comment period remained open for 30 days.	
Owyhee		Several site visits to juniper mastication sites for current and past projects.
Shoshone Basin		August 4 th tour of grazing allotments in the western portion of the planning area that are the focus of current planning efforts.
South Magic Valley	Laura Lundquist began the year	Jerome Hansen and Rob Lonsinger led

Local Working Group	Public Outreach	Field Tours
	tracking the SMV LWG and assisting with media coverage. Laura has left her position and has been replaced by Kimberlee Kruesi. Ms. Kruesi has continued to cover the SMV LWG and printed one article on the group. Mike Remming has been working with landowners in the SMV LWG planning area and has encouraged landowners to participate. Don Johnson's short involvement was a result of Mike's efforts.	a field tour of the SMV LWG area for the IDFG Operations Team Meeting in December 2012. Discussions related to sage-grouse included the Cotterel Mountain Wind project and geothermal energy developments
Upper Snake	Dubois Grouse Days – approximately 55 attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eight hours of field tours in conjunction with Dubois Grouse Days. • Eight members of the public went on ride-alongs during spring lek counts.
West Central	Annual summer barbecue held July 11, 2011 at Midvale park. Public announcements in area papers invited people to learn about sage-grouse and the LWG. Twenty people attended.	In cooperation with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Idaho Fish & Game, the LWG conducted a lek tour for 24 students from Cambridge and Council schools. After viewing birds, students planted 300 sagebrush and bitterbrush seedlings on private land near known leks.

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 is available via an annual competitive grants program. LWGs and other interested parties or agencies are eligible to apply for funds. The SAC reviews and scores the proposals, following a grant review criteria. The SAC makes recommendations for funding to the IDFG Director and OSC Administrator, who have final approval.

To date, 133 projects have been funded, including 11 projects approved in 2011, which will be funded with the 2010 appropriation (Tables 15 and 16, 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). Project proponents cancelled 7 projects, usually due to lack of additional or matching funding needed to implement the project. Three LWGs (Big Desert, East Idaho Uplands, and Owyhee) included

project reports with their 2011 LWG annual report; the West Central LWG submitted a project report earlier. These reports are attached as Appendix D.

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

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

Of the 57 habitat projects 52 are completed or in progress and the remaining 5 are planned for 2012 (Figure 5, Tables 17 and 18). OSC grants have helped improve at least 36,638 acres for sage-grouse in Idaho. Another 5,990 acres of habitat improvement and protection are planned for 2012. 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. The success of several of the fire restoration and habitat improvement projects are currently being monitored.

Table 16. 2011 approved projects funded through the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation.

Grant #	Project Name	Applicant(s)	Summary
2011-01	Big Desert Fence Marking	Big Desert LWG, BLM	Improve visibility of fences to sage-grouse by adding markers between t-posts along 17 miles of fences that are within 1000 meters of active leks.
2011-02	Big Desert Road Grading and Fuel Breaks	Big Desert LWG, BLM	Develop fuel-breaks by improving existing roads and roto-mowing the brush 150 foot on each side of the road in order to reduce the size of wildfires in the Big Desert.
2011-04	Seasonal Habitat, Migration Corridor Delineation and Nesting Habitat Assessments	Challis LWG	Trap and radio-collar sage-grouse to further knowledge of movements and use of habitat within the Challis SGPA.
2011-06	Lek Search and Documentation in Less Studied Portions of the East Idaho Uplands	East Idaho Uplands LWG, IDFG	Utilize helicopter and ground surveys for a 2-year investigation to determine sage-grouse lek location in less studied portions of the planning area.
2011-07	Lower House Creek Pond Jack Fence Project	Aslett Ranches	Complete construction of jack fence around a pond that was reconditioned in 2010 to improve water quality and storage for livestock and wildlife.
2011-08	Jarbridge Field Office Fence Marking	Jarbridge LWG, IDFG	Mark 14.2 miles of fences that are within 2 km of active leks.
2011-09	Measuring Habitat Quality in the Mountain Home Sage-grouse Planning Area	Mountain Home LWG	Measure the range and extent of habitat quality for sage-grouse, primarily on private and state lands.
2011-10	Monitoring Sage-grouse Movements near Proposed Friedman Memorial Airport Site	North Magic Valley LWG, IDFG	Radio-collar and monitor 40 sage-grouse at an important wintering site that is proposed for a new airport.
2011-11	Urquidi-Jacks Creek Basin Brood Rearing Wet Meadow Restoration	Owyhee LWG	Increase brood rearing habitat for sage-grouse, waterfowl and other nesting birds along Little Jacks Creek basin by restoring a wet meadow to its natural function.
2011-12	Jefferson Fire Sagebrush Seeding on Idaho Department of Lands	Upper Snake LWG, IDFG	Establish a number of sagebrush stands by hand-planting 12,000 seedlings in areas where the 2010 Jefferson fire burned across IDL lands.
2011-13	Small Fence Strike Reduction	Upper Snake LWG, IDFG	Increase visibility of fence lines within 1000 meters of 3 known leks to reduce sage-grouse strikes.

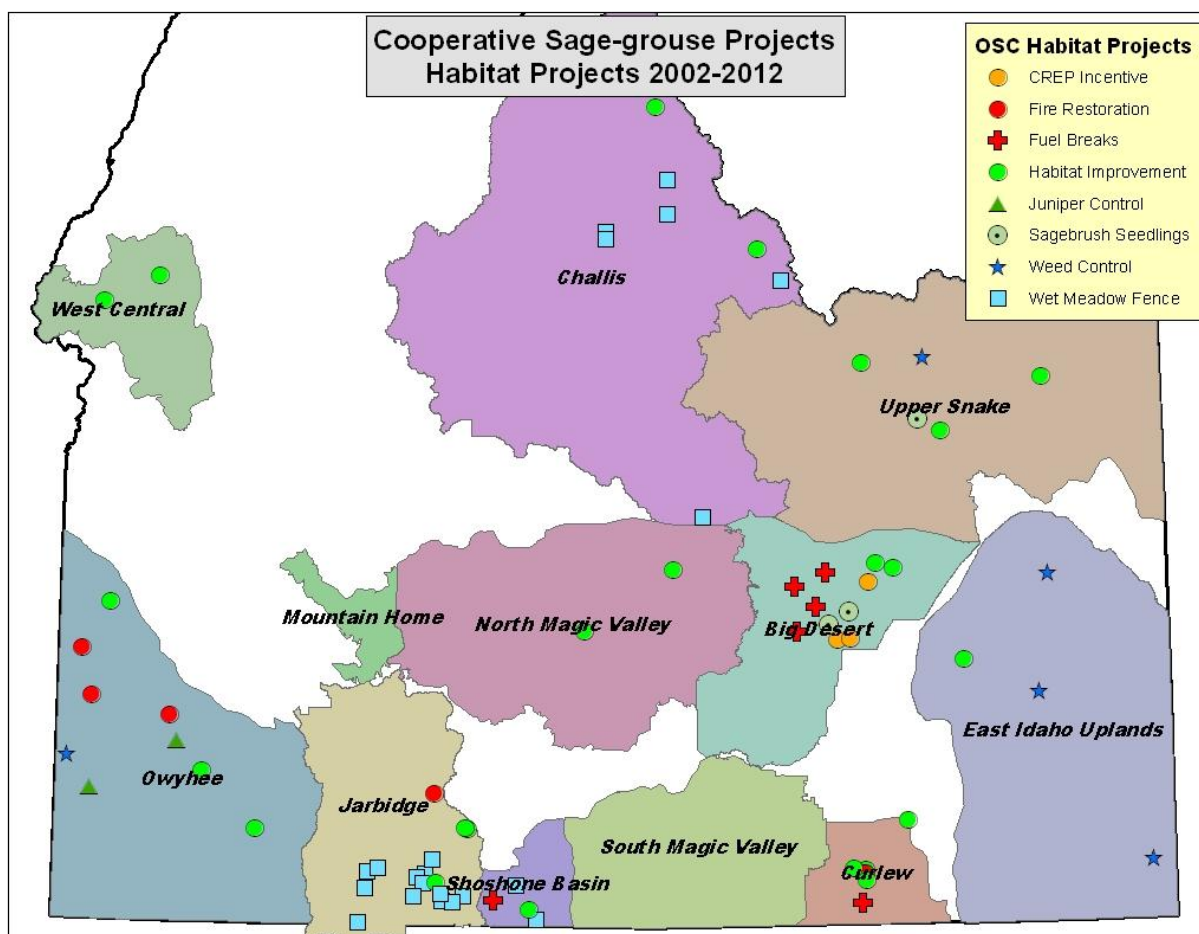


Figure 5. Location and types of sage-grouse habitat projects funded through the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation, 2002–2011. Includes projects scheduled for 2012.

Table 17. Summary of completed, in progress, and planned sage-grouse habitat projects funded through the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation, 2002–2012.

Project Type	Completed/in progress		Planned for 2012	
	Number of Individual Projects ^a	Total Treatment Acres	Number of Individual Projects	Planned Treatment Acres
CREP Incentive ^b	3	758	0	0
Fire restoration	5	3,399	1	40
Fuel breaks	5	5,906	1	2,000
Habitat improvement	23	15,808	1	320
Juniper control	2+	1,310	1+	3,630
Spring/wet meadow fencing	19	161	0	0
Weed control	Many	9,296	0	0
Total	57+	36,638	4+	5,990

^a May include >1 individual project per OSC Grant (e.g., wet meadow fences and NAGP projects).

^b Conservation Reserve and Enhancement Program (CREP) incentive to seed sagebrush.

Table 18. Sage-grouse habitat projects funded through the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation, 2002–2011. Includes projects scheduled to begin in 2012^a.

Grant Number	Project Title	Sage-grouse Planning Area	Type of Project	Treatment Acres	Land Ownership	Sage-grouse Seasonal Habitat
2002-03 ^b	Basin Cutoff and Rayburn Springs	Shoshone Basin	Habitat improvement, reseed	250	BLM	Nesting & early brood
2002-03 ^b	Rayburn Springs	Shoshone Basin	Spring/wet meadow fencing	8	BLM	Late summer brood
2002-04	Jarbidge Fence Projects	Jarbidge	Spring/wet meadow fencing	see 2005-21 ^c	BLM, private	Late summer brood
2002-05	Flint Creek Habitat Rehab	Owyhee	Reseed following fire	500	Private	Nesting & early brood
2002-07	Horse Springs Fence	Jarbidge	Spring/wet meadow fencing	see 2005-21 ^c	BLM	Late summer brood
2003-02	Grouse Habitat Restoration Fund	Any	Provide seed	see 2004-20	Private	All
2003-04	Antelope Pocket Habitat	Jarbidge	Habitat improvement, reseed	320	State	Nesting & early brood
2003-05	Crooked Creek Ranch Riparian	Upper Snake	Riparian and wet meadow restoration	10	TNC	Late summer brood
2004-02	Bluebird Mine	Owyhee	Reseed following fire	10	Private	Nesting & early brood
2004-03	Crab Creek Meadow	Owyhee	Riparian and wet meadow restoration	see 2005-03	Private	Late summer brood
2004-04	IDL E. Idaho, Old Farm & Tilden	Upper Snake	Habitat improvement, reseed	630	State	All
2004-06	Nalder CRP Habitat Project	Curlew	Habitat improvement, reseed	53	Private	Nesting & early brood
2004-07	Spencer Weed Initiative #1	Upper Snake	Weed control	see 2005-08	Various	All
2004-09	Highland CWMA	East Idaho Uplands	Weed control	810	Various	All
2004-10	Ryegrass Habitat Project	Challis	Spring/wet meadow fencing	4.4	State	Late summer brood
2004-14	Continuation of habitat projects	Jarbidge	Spring/wet meadow fencing	see 2005-21 ^c	BLM, private	All
2004-20	Grouse Habitat Restoration Fund	Any	Provide seed	1,020 to date	Private	All
2005-03	Crab Creek Meadow #2	Owyhee	Riparian and wet meadow restoration	40	Private	Late summer brood
2005-05	Reynolds Creek Habitat	Owyhee	Weed control	7	Private	Nesting & early brood
2005-06	Jordan Valley CWMA	Owyhee	Weed control	see 2006-15	Private	All
2005-07	Hammond Canyon Project	Upper Snake	Spring/wet meadow fencing	10	BLM	Late summer brood
2005-08	Spencer Weed Initiative #2	Upper Snake	Weed control	3,479	Various	All
2005-10	Clear Hixon Project	Challis	Spring/wet meadow fencing	9	BLM, state	Late summer brood
2005-15	Lava Lakes Riparian	North Magic Valley	Riparian and upland restoration	268	Private	Brood
2005-17	IDL Clover Fire Restoration	Jarbidge	Reseed following fire	640	State	Nesting & early brood
2005-21	Jarbidge Habitat Improvement	Jarbidge	Spring/wet meadow fencing	113.5 ^c	BLM, private	Late summer brood
2006-01	Sands HMA Treatments	Upper Snake	Prescribed fire and chemical control	650	Various	All
2006-04	Chubby Spain	Owyhee	Reseed following fire	2,174	Private	All
2006-06	Nalder Fire Restoration	Curlew	Reseed following fire	75	Private	All
2006-07	Curlew Green Strips	Curlew	Fuel breaks	22	USFS	All
2006-08	CREP Incentive	Big Desert	Habitat improvement, reseed	758	Private	All

Table 15. Continued.

Grant Number	Project Title	Sage-grouse Planning Area	Type of Project	Treatment Acres	Land Ownership	Sage-grouse Seasonal Habitat
2006-10	Devil Creek Ranch	Jarbridge	Riparian and wet meadow restoration	35	Private	Late summer brood
2006-15	Whitetop Control/CWMA	Owyhee	Weed control	5,000	Private	All
2007-06	Owyhee Juniper Mastication	Owyhee	Juniper control	300	Private	All
2007-07	Camas NWR Habitat Restoration	Upper Snake	Habitat improvement; education	20	USFWS	Nesting & early brood
2007-08	Thousand Springs Ranch	West Central	Habitat improvement, reseed	25	Private	Nesting & early brood
2007-09	Magpie and Larkspur Exclosures	Challis	Spring/wet meadow fencing	1.5	BLM	Late summer brood
2007-10	Curlew Experimental Plantings	Curlew	Habitat improvement, seedlings	25	USFS	Nesting & early brood
2007-11	Cottonwood Pasture	Challis	Habitat improvement, fencing	1,200	BLM	All
2007-12	Leadville Allotment Rehab	Challis	Habitat improvement, reseed	2,620	Various	All
2008-01	Big Desert Fuel Breaks	Big Desert	Fuel breaks	2,150	BLM, private	All
2008-03	Big Desert Sagebrush Seedlings	Big Desert	Habitat improvement, seedlings	5,000	BLM	All
2008-06	South Baldy Riparian Exclosure	Challis	Spring/wet meadow fencing	7	BLM	Late summer brood
2008-10	South Magic Fire Restoration	South Magic Valley	Reseed following fire	480	Private	Nesting & early brood
2008-12	SS Cattle Company Brush Mgmt.	West Central	Habitat improvement, reseed	96.5	Private	Nesting & early brood
2008-21	Lava Lakes Riparian	North Magic	Riparian and upland restoration	see 2005-15	Private	Brood
2009-07	Big Desert Fuel Breaks II	Big Desert	Fuel breaks	2,003	BLM, Private	All
2009-13 ^d	Table Butte Habitat Rehab	Upper Snake	Habitat improvement, seedlings	1,200	BLM	Winter, breeding
2010-01	Big Desert Fuel Breaks III	Big Desert	Fuel breaks	1,459	BLM	All
2010-02	Rock Corral Sagebrush Seedlings	Big Desert	Habitat improvement, seedlings	2,000	BLM	All
2010-07	Antelope Pocket II	Jarbridge	Habitat improvement, reseed	320	IDL	Nesting & early brood
2010-11 ^d	Owyhee Juniper Mastication II	Owyhee	Juniper control	1,010 to date	Private	Nesting & brood
2010-12	Twin Spr./3 Mile Spr. Fuel Break	Shoshone Basin	Fuel break	272	Various	All
2010-13	Rabbit Springs Riparian Improve.	Shoshone Basin	Spring/Riparian fencing	5	BLM	Late summer brood
2011-02 ^d	Big Desert Fuel Breaks IV	Big Desert	Fuel breaks	2,000	BLM, private	All
2011-07	Lower House Cr. Pond Jack Fence	Jarbridge	Fencing; protect wet meadow	5	Private	Late summer brood
2011-11 ^d	Jacks Creek Wet Meadow Restor.	Owyhee	Riparian and wet meadow restoration	320	Private	Late summer brood
2011-12 ^d	Jefferson Fire Sagebrush Seedling	Upper Snake	Fire restoration, seedlings	40	IDL	All

^a 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.

^b Same grant captured 2 different projects.

^c 11 springs and wet meadows were fenced under 4 grants to the Jarbridge Local Working Group, for a total of 113.5 acres.

^d Projects scheduled to begin or continue in 2012.

Other Sage-grouse Projects

LWGs reported on 143 other projects in their planning areas that may benefit or were targeted to benefit sage-grouse and sage-grouse habitat (Appendix C). Although we do not believe this list is complete or precise, it does represent a significant level of sage-grouse conservation in Idaho.

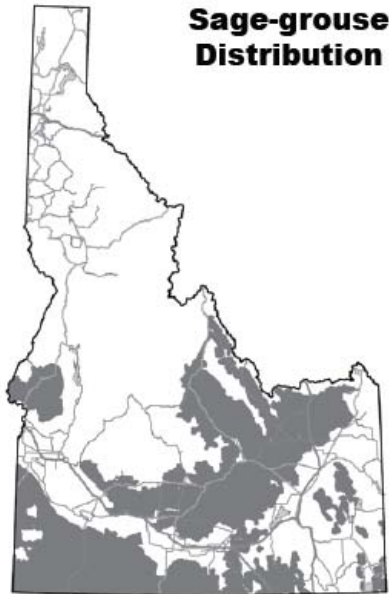
Progress on State Plan Implementation Tasks

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 from 2009–2011 are reported in Appendix E.

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- Hagen, C. A., and T. M. Loughin. 2008. Productivity estimates from upland bird harvests: estimating variance and necessary sample sizes. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 72(6):1369-1375.
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- Idaho Sage-grouse Advisory Committee. 2006. Conservation plan for the greater sage-grouse in Idaho. July 2006.

APPENDIX A: Outside of *Sage-Grouse Seasons and Rules 2011* Leaflet.



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 2011

Sage-grouse season open
October 1 through October 7

October 1 through October 7, one-bird limit:
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 north of Interstate 84 and U.S. Highway 20

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.

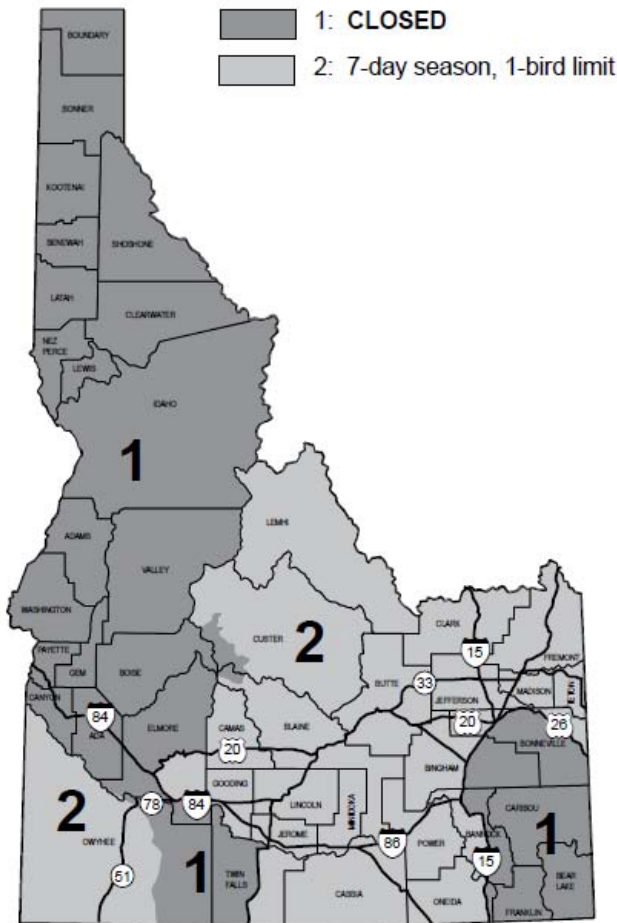
Be sure of your target!

See inside for details.

Refer to the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 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 2011* Leaflet.



Motorized Hunting Rule applies for Sage-grouse hunting in the following Game Management Units within Area 2: 29, 30, 30A, 36A, 37, 37A, 45, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 56, 58, 59, 59A, 70, and 73. Please refer to the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 Upland Game, Furbearer and Turkey Seasons and Rules for more information.

Area Boundary Descriptions

Area 1

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

Area 2

2011 Season: October 1 through October 7

Daily Bag Limit: 1

Possession Limit After First Day of Season: 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
- Elmore County south and east of U.S. Highway 20 and north of Interstate 84
- 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^a.

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	Jarbridge Fence Projects	Jarbridge LWG	Habitat
2002-05	Flint Creek Habitat rehab	Owyhee LWG	Habitat
2002-07	Horse Springs Fence	Jarbridge LWG	Habitat
2002-08	Landowner Survey	Owyhee LWG	Other
2002-09	Dubois Grouse Days	Upper Snake LWG	Education
2002-10	Jarbridge Winter Range Survey	Jarbridge 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	Jarbridge 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	Jarbridge Lek Survey	Jarbridge LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2003-09	Owyhee Telemetry	Owyhee LWG	Inventory & monitoring
2003-10	Jarbridge Winter Range Survey	Jarbridge 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	Jarbridge LWG	CANCELLED
2004-14	Continuation of Habitat projects	Jarbridge 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

Grant #	Project Title	Submitting Organization	Project Type
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

Grant #	Project Title	Submitting Organization	Project Type
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

Grant #	Project Title	Submitting Organization	Project Type
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 Leks 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

Grant #	Project Title	Submitting Organization	Project Type
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

^a 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. Other sage-grouse projects not funded through the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation, as reported by Local Working Groups in 2011^a.

Planning Area	Project Name	Type of Project	Brief Description	Funding Mechanism	Acres Affected	Land Ownership	Start Date	End Date
Big Desert	Baldy Knoll	Improved grazing management	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation.	NRCS/Private	70	Private	2006	
Big Desert	BLM weed treatments	Chemical treatment	Musk thistle, Russian knapweed Canada thistle, black henbane	BLM	5,649	BLM	March 2011	
Big Desert	CRP	Herbaceous seeding	Planting mixed grass and forbs to into prepared plots.	FSA-NRCS/Private	218	Private	2010	
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	
Big Desert	Lake Channel	Improved grazing management	Developing improved grazing management system to improve rangeland vegetation composition	NRCS/Private	1,500	Private, State	2010	
Big Desert	Minidoka Fuel Break	Habitat improvement	Planed forage kochia (fire resistant) to serve as fuel break	BLM Fuels	75	BLM	1/15/2011	
Big Desert	North Minidoka	Sagebrush seeding	Sagebrush seed was flown on a recently drill seeded vegetation treatment project	IDFG Idaho Watershed Initiative Fund	12,115	BLM	12/1/2010	
Big Desert	North Minidoka	Sagebrush seeding	Bareroot Wyoming sagebrush seedlings handplanted on rangeland	BLM Fuels	3,000	BLM	3/1/2011	
Big Desert	Rock Corral	Fire rehabilitation	Planted 10,000 seedlings of basin & Wyoming big sagebrush	BLM - ESR	1,876	BLM	November 2011	
Big Desert	Springfield Allotment Pipeline Extension	Habitat improvement, water development	Extended 2010 NRCS Sage Grouse Funded Project. Reduce road traffic from waterhaul truck. Provide good water source to reduce wildfires in order to protect sage grouse habitat	BLM, Permittee	1.4 miles	BLM	September 2011	
Big Desert	Tabor Fire	Fire rehabilitation, sagebrush seeding	1,000 plugs of basin & Wyoming big sagebrush	BLM - ESR	10,000	BLM	November 2011	

Planning Area	Project Name	Type of Project	Brief Description	Funding Mechanism	Acres Affected	Land Ownership	Start Date	End Date
Big Desert	Tabor Fire	Fire rehabilitation, herbaceous seeding	Crested and Bozoisky seedings	BLM - ESR	70	BLM	November 2011	
Big Desert	US Department of Energy weed treatments	Chemical treatment	Knapweed, Kochia, Musk Thistle, Russian Thistle, Bull Thistle, Canada Thistle, Halogeten	DOE	96	DOE	Ongoing	
Challis	BLM Challis Field Office – Bird Ramps	Other	117 bird ramps replaced in existing water troughs with the BLM Challis Field Office	BLM	1,800	BLM	May 2011	October 2011
Challis	BLM Challis Field Office – Fence Marking	Fence marking	Installed fence markers around leks within the Challis Field Office	BLM	4.1 miles	BLM	April 2011	May 2011
Challis	BLM Challis Field Office - Population monitoring	Sage-grouse monitoring	Seasonal Habitat, Migration Corridor Delineation and Nesting Habitat Assessments	BLM	Entire Challis Field Office	BLM, USFS, State, private	March 2011	Dec 2011
Challis	BLM Challis Field Office - Weeds	Biological treatment	Spotted knapweed	BLM	1	BLM	May 2011	October 2011
Challis	BLM Challis Field Office – Weeds	Chemical treatment	Herbicide treatment for spotted knapweed (13 acres), black henbane (1), whitetop, and leafy spurge 1)	BLM	16	BLM	May 2011	October 2011
Challis	BLM Challis Field Office – Weeds	Mechanical treatment	Spotted knapweed	BLM	1	BLM	May 2011	October 2011
Challis	BLM Salmon Field Office - Sage Grouse Nesting Habitat Assessments	Habitat Assessment	Completed assessments on two allotments	BLM	16,100	BLM	May 2011	June 2011
Challis	BLM Salmon Field Office (North Half) Travel Management	Travel Management	Signed decision implementing Travel Plan on the North Half of the Salmon Field Office area and signed all designated roads	BLM	70,000	BLM	May 2011	October 2011
Challis	Integrated Annual Biological Grazing Plan for the Goldburg Allotment	Grazing system improvement along, habitat monitoring	Plan integrates management on private, state and BLM land contained within the allotment boundaries. The project includes photo-monitoring sites and monitoring data to be compared against baseline data on veg and	Private (in partnership with in-kind support from IDL, BLM, and NRCS)	1,923 acres private, 2,360 acres BLM, 7,069	Private, State, and BLM	April 2011	Ongoing (BLM has yet to approve EA for BLM portion); Pasture

Planning Area	Project Name	Type of Project	Brief Description	Funding Mechanism	Acres Affected	Land Ownership	Start Date	End Date
			birds. Plan includes range improvements and rest rotation grazing system		acres IDL			configuration and other on-the-ground projects will occur this spring
Challis	Lemhi County Cooperative Weed Management Area	Chemical and Biological Treatment	Spray truck spraying of roadside weeds, targeted spraying of cheatgrass (6230 acres), Dalmatian toadflax (274) houndstongue (678 ac), leafy spurge (8,654), rush skeletonweed (373), Russian knapweed (15), Scotch thistle (296), spotted knapweed (40 bio and 2,195 chemical) and whitetop (1,932)	Lemhi County, IDOT, BLM, ISDA, USFS, Private	24,334	BLM, Private, USFS, IDOT, Lemhi County, State	April 2011	October 2011
Challis	USFS – Custer County	Chemical	Leafy spurge	USFS	266.6	USFS	May 2011	October 2011
Challis	USFS Bear Valley Drift Fence	Habitat improvement	Maintained integrity of enclosure to restrict livestock use along Bear Valley Creek; work completed by YCC crews	Central Idaho RAC	150 yards, protecting 30 acres	USFS	June 2011	June 2011
Challis	USFS Bear Valley Riparian Exclosure	Habitat improvement	Maintained integrity of enclosure to restrict livestock use along Bear Valley Creek; work completed by YCC crews	Central Idaho RAC	30	USFS	June 2011	June 2011
Challis	USFS Kadletz Riparian Exclosure	Habitat improvement	Maintained integrity of enclosure to restrict livestock use along Kadletz Creek; work completed by YCC crews	Central Idaho RAC	15	USFS	June 2011	June 2011
East Idaho Uplands	MDI Forb Planting	Herbaceous seeding	Planting mixed forbs and grass into prepared plots in CRP	IDFG	195	Private CRP and State Lands	Spring 2011	Fall 2011
East Idaho Uplands	MDI Mountain Shrub Seedling Planting	Sagebrush seeding	Planted 44,000 Mt. Big Sagebrush - Antelope Bitterbrush Seedlings in CRP and Public Land	IDFG	180	BLM, IDFG, and Private	Spring 2011	Spring 2011

Planning Area	Project Name	Type of Project	Brief Description	Funding Mechanism	Acres Affected	Land Ownership	Start Date	End Date
East Idaho Uplands	CCRP SAFE	Herbaceous seeding	Planting mixed native grass and forbs into prepared plots.	NRCS-FSA	9,816	Private	2011	On-going through calendar year 2011
East Idaho Uplands	CRP	Herbaceous seeding	Planting mixed native grass and forbs into prepared plots.	NRCS-FSA	2,279	Private	2011	On-going through calendar year 2011
East Idaho Uplands	CRP	Herbaceous seeding	Planting mixed introduced grass and forbs into prepared plots.	NRCS-FSA	247	Private	2011	On-going through calendar year 2011
East Idaho Uplands	CRP	Herbaceous seeding	Retain established stands of grass, some forbs, and brush species.	NRCS-FSA	2,934	Private	2011	On-going through calendar year 2011
East Idaho Uplands	NRCS	Chemical treatment	Weed control to benefit wildlife habitat	NRCS-FSA	460	Private	Spring 2011	Fall 2011
East Idaho Uplands	EQIP	Changes in grazing management	Grazing plans to improve rangeland vegetation with water developments	NRCS-FSA	314	Private	Spring 2011	Fall 2011
East Idaho Uplands	EQIP	Changes in grazing management	Grazing plans to improve rangeland vegetation	NRCS-FSA	1,230	Private	Spring 2011	Fall 2011
Greater Curlew Valley	BLM weed treatments	Chemical treatment	Spot treatments on infestation of Diffuse Knapweed, Spotted knapweed, Hounds tongue, Musk thistle, Scotch thistle, Canada thistle, Black Henbane, Field bindweed and Leafy spurge	BLM	200	BLM	May 2011	October 2011
Greater Curlew Valley	Forest Service weed treatments	Chemical treatment	leafy spurge, Canada thistle, musk thistle, hounds tongue, and black henbane	USFS	15	USFS	May 2011	August 2011

Planning Area	Project Name	Type of Project	Brief Description	Funding Mechanism	Acres Affected	Land Ownership	Start Date	End Date
Greater Curlew Valley	Fuel Breaks	Mechanical treatment	Mastication of brush and mowing of grass 30-60 foot wide strips for fire control	USFS Fuels	15,000	USFS	October, 2011	March 2012
Greater Curlew Valley	Lookout Mountain	Habitat improvement	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation.	NRCS/Private	500	Private	2009	2019
Greater Curlew Valley	Northern Oneida County	Habitat improvement	Planned implementation of improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation	NRCS/Private	883.9	Private	2012	2014
Greater Curlew Valley	Oneida County Conservation Reserve Program	Habitat Improvement	Improve permanent cover by planting mixed forbs, grasses, and shrubs to benefit wildlife.	FSA-NRCS/Private	6263.9	Private	2011	2021
Greater Curlew Valley	Oneida County weed treatments	Chemical treatment	leafy spurge, Canada thistle, musk thistle, hounds tongue, and black henbane	Oneida County	14	USFS	May 2011	August 2011
Greater Curlew Valley	South Arbon Valley area	Habitat improvement	Implementing improved grazing management with marking fences and installing perch deterrents.	NRCS/Private	323	Private	2010	2013
Greater Curlew Valley	South West Oneida County	Habitat improvement	Improved current stockwater system and implementing improved grazing system in 2012.	NRCS/Private	91	Private	2011	2012
Greater Curlew Valley	Sublette Canyon area	Habitat improvement	New permanent easement (from development) with improved grazing management.	NRCS/Private	2,500	Private	2010	Permanent
Jarbidge	Browns Bench area	Habitat improvement	Additional range plantings with altered grazing management to improve vegetation and habitat. Significant improvement to several wet meadows by installing off-site stock water systems and fence installation to exclude grazing.	NRCS/Private	8,200	Private, BLM	2009	2013

Planning Area	Project Name	Type of Project	Brief Description	Funding Mechanism	Acres Affected	Land Ownership	Start Date	End Date
Jarbidge	House Creek	Habitat improvement and management	Implementing improved grazing management through fence installation to reduce grazing pressure on riparian. Fence markers and perch deterrents installed.		2,720	Private	2010	2010
Jarbidge	Little House Creek	Habitat improvement and management	Altered grazing management to improve vegetation and habitat.	NRCS/Private	3,020	Private, BLM	2009	2013
Jarbidge	17 Mile Road area	Habitat improvement and management	Implementing improved grazing management through fence installation and expanding current stock water system.	NRCS/Private	1,700	Private, BLM	2007	2011
Mountain Home	Sage-grouse N or I 84	Habitat Improvement	Fence, water dev. & range seeding	NRCS-EQIP SGI	5,000	Private	2011	2018
Mountain Home	Sage-grouse N or I 84	Habitat Improvement	Water dev. & range seeding	NRCS-EQIP SGI	1,453	Private	2011	2015
Mountain Home	Sage-grouse N or I 84	Habitat Improvement	Critical area seeding and fence	NRCS-EQIP SGI	1,000	Private & Public	2011	2015
North Magic Valley	CRP	Habitat improvement and management	Planting mixed native grass and forbs to into prepared plots.	FSA-NRCS/Private	900	Private	2011	2011
North Magic Valley	CRP on Camas Prairie	Habitat improvement and management	Enrolled 13 new Conservation Reserve Program contracts which include with planting seedings including sagebrush.	FSA-NRCS/Private	2,055	Private	2010	2021
North Magic Valley	Flattop Mountain area	Habitat improvement and management	Continued implementation of grazing management plan (rest rotation or deferred) to improve rangeland vegetation.	NRCS/Private	51,464	Private	2010	2013

Planning Area	Project Name	Type of Project	Brief Description	Funding Mechanism	Acres Affected	Land Ownership	Start Date	End Date
North Magic Valley	Permanent Easement	habitat improvement and protection	Permanent easement (from development) and implementation of improved grazing management. Decreased risk of habitat fragmentation and improvement in vegetation condition.	NRCS/Private	3,300	Private	2010	Permanent
North Magic Valley	Permanent Easement	habitat improvement and protection	New permanent easement (from development) and implementation of improved grazing management. Decreased risk of habitat fragmentation and improvement in vegetation condition.	NRCS/private	18,788	Private	2011	permanent
North Magic Valley	Lava Lakes area	Habitat improvement and management	Continued implementation of grazing management plan (rest rotation or deferred) to improve rangeland vegetation.	NRCS/Private	4,115	Private	2010	2013
North Magic Valley	Camas Prairie area	Habitat improvement and management	Implementing improved grazing management (rest rotation or deferred) to improve rangeland vegetation including installation of wildlife friendly fence with fence markers and riparian exclusions.	NRCS/Private	37,000	Private	2011	2014
North Magic Valley	West Camas Prairie	Habitat improvement and management	Implement improved grazing management.	NRCS/Private	5,000	Private	2011	2016
North Magic Valley	Gannet area	Habitat improvement and management	Continued implementation of grazing management plan (rest rotation or deferred) to improve rangeland vegetation plus spring improvements and protection.	NRCS/Private	320	Private	2011	2014
North Magic Valley	Square Lake area	Habitat improvement and management	Continued implementation of grazing management plan (rest rotation or deferred) to improve rangeland vegetation plus brush management and reseeding.	NRCS/Private	320	Private	2010	2013

Planning Area	Project Name	Type of Project	Brief Description	Funding Mechanism	Acres Affected	Land Ownership	Start Date	End Date
North Magic Valley	North Richfield	Habitat improvement and management	Continued non-grazing with range improvements (brush management) and fence modification with fence markers.	NRCS/Private	700	Private	2010	2012
North Magic Valley	Senter area	Habitat improvement and management	Range management improvements involving addition of wildlife friendly livestock water facilities	NRCS/Private	320	Private	2010	2012
Owyhee	Juniper control	Cutting juniper	Lop and Lay, on small scattered juniper	NRCS-SGI	5,000 approx.	Private	March 2011	Dec 2012
Shoshone Basin	Point Ranch Fence Removal	Fence Removal	BLM and Point Ranch permittees removed approximately one mile of old range fence in the West Shoshone Basin planning area	BLM: Centrally Funded/Point Ranch permittees	undetermined	BLM	November 2011	November 2011
South Magic Valley	NE Cassia Project	Mechanical treatment, Prescribed fire treatment	Threat – Conifer Encroachment Project – Juniper removal	USFS Fuels and wildlife dollars	1,563	USFS	April 1, 2011	November 30, 2011
South Magic Valley	Clear Creek Area project	Habitat improvement and management	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation.	Private, BLM, NRCS	1,200	Private	2007	2013
South Magic Valley	Mill Creek area project	Habitat improvement and management	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation.	Private, BLM, NRCS	1,693	Private	2008	2014
South Magic Valley	Round Mountain Creek area project	Habitat improvement and management	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation and fencing to protect spring area.	Private, BLM, NRCS	5,120	Private	2006	2012
South Magic Valley	Goose Creek Area project	Habitat improvement and management	Removal of juniper by chainsaws and mastication will improve rangeland vegetation	NRCS, BLM, Private	5,822	BLM	2011	2014

Planning Area	Project Name	Type of Project	Brief Description	Funding Mechanism	Acres Affected	Land Ownership	Start Date	End Date
South Magic Valley	The Basin area 1 project	Habitat improvement and management	Implementing altered grazing management to improve vegetation and habitat.	NRCS/Private	2,142	USFS, private	2005	2012
South Magic Valley	Middle Cassia Creek Watershed project	Habitat improvement and management	Installation of birdramps to improve safety of water sources	NRCS/Private	3,094	Private	2011	2016
South Magic Valley	Edwards Creek Watershed project	Habitat improvement and management	Installation of birdramps to improve safety of water sources	NRCS/Private	3,454	Private	2011	2016
South Magic Valley	Goose Creek Area project	Habitat improvement and management	Installation of birdramps to improve safety of water sources	NRCS/Private	1,577	Private	2011	2016
South Magic Valley	Birch Creek Area project	Habitat improvement and management	Removal of juniper by chainsaws and mastication will improve rangeland vegetation	NRCS, BLM, Private	745	BLM	2011	2014
South Magic Valley	CRP project	Habitat improvement and management	All 15,000 acres of CRP will be maintained in permanent vegetation for the contract period of 10 years. All contracts have permanent Wildlife Habitat Pollinators that have a mixed stand of 9 pollinator friendly shrubs, legumes and wildflowers, including at least 3 species in bloom during each season of summer, and fall.	FSA-NRCS/Private	15,000	Private	2010	2021
South Magic Valley	CRP project	Habitat improvement and management	An additional 21584 acres will be maintained in permanent vegetation for the 10 year contract period. This includes 2857 ac of new native grass planting, 706 ac of pollinator habitat, and 2857 ac of wildlife plantings.	FSA-NRCS/Private	21,584	Private	2011	2022

Planning Area	Project Name	Type of Project	Brief Description	Funding Mechanism	Acres Affected	Land Ownership	Start Date	End Date
South Magic Valley	Cottrell Area	Habitat improvement and management	Removal of juniper trees by chainsaws and mastication will improve rangeland vegetation	NRCS, BLM, Private	11,988	BLM	2011	2014
South Magic Valley	Stanrod Creek area	Habitat Management	Chemical spraying of sagebrush only in areas identified as having very high cover to improve understory forbs and grass quantity and quality.	NRCS/Private	196	private	2008	2014
South Magic Valley	Warr Pickett	Juniper management	Maintenance of existing treatment	BLM Fuels	1,000	BLM	1/1/2011	3/1/2011
South Magic Valley	Red Rock	Juniper management	Aerial seeding, juniper mastication and handcutting	BLM Fuels	2,023	BLM	10/1/2011	12/20/2011
South Magic Valley	Womack	Juniper management	Juniper Handcutting	BLM Fuels	1,047	BLM	10/1/2011	12/20/2011
Upper Snake	Antelope Flat CRP	Herbaceous seeding	Established stand of mixed native grasses and forbs to provide permanent cover	NRCS-FSA/Private	210	Private	2011	2021
Upper Snake	Area NE of Montevieu	Habitat improvement	Decreased grazing to one month to improve vegetation.	NRCS/Private	122	Private	2007	2012
Upper Snake	Area North of Sheep Station	Habitat improvement	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation.	NRCS/Private	773	Private	2006	2011
Upper Snake	Area West of Ashton	Habitat improvement	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation.	NRCS/Private	425	Private	2009	2013
Upper Snake	Bannock Pass Water Development	Habitat improvement/fencing	Exclosure around riparian habitat, piping of water ~200 yards to trough for livestock	FS and permittees on the Medicine	2 acres within the exclosure	USFS	NEPA started January 2011,	Ongoing

Planning Area	Project Name	Type of Project	Brief Description	Funding Mechanism	Acres Affected	Land Ownership	Start Date	End Date
				Lodge allotment (50/50 split)	e, improved livestock distribution on more than 1,000 acres		decision in May, materials purchased, construction has not yet started	
Upper Snake	Camas Butte	Habitat improvement	Stocking rate reduction of 20%	BLM, Permittees	23,709	BLM, State, Private	2010 – voluntary	2011 permanent
Upper Snake	Camas Creek	Habitat improvement	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation.	NRCS/Private	600	Private	2008	2014
Upper Snake	Cave Falls CRP-SAFE	Herbaceous seeding	Planting of mixed native grasses and forbs to provide permanent cover	NRCS-FSA/Private	31	Private	2011	2021
Upper Snake	CCRP	Habitat improvement	Riparian forest buffer	FSA-NRCS/private	150	Private	2005	2015
Upper Snake	Cedar Butte	Fencing project	Net wire replacement	BLM	1 mile	BLM	June 2011	September 2011
Upper Snake	Davis Creek area	Habitat improvement	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation.	NRCS/Private	2,244	Private	2010	2014
Upper Snake	Deep Creek/Crooked Creek	Fencing project	Net wire replacement	BLM	3.75 miles	BLM	June 2011	September 2011

Planning Area	Project Name	Type of Project	Brief Description	Funding Mechanism	Acres Affected	Land Ownership	Start Date	End Date
Upper Snake	Department of Energy weed treatments	Chemical treatment	Knapweed, Kochia, Musk Thistle, Russian Thistle, Bull Thistle, Canada Thistle, Halogeten	DOE	752	DOE	Ongoing	Ongoing
Upper Snake	Dry Gulch, Bear Canyon, Gooch	Fencing project	Riparian fences modified	BLM	1.5	BLM	June 2011	September 2011
Upper Snake	Dubois District (Forest Service) weed treatments	Biological treatment	Spotted knapweed, Leafy spurge, houndstongue, Canada thistle, and black henbane	USFS	75	USFS Dubois District and Resource Advisory Committee (RAC)	June 12, 2011	September 30, 2011
Upper Snake	Dubois District (Forest Service) weed treatments	Chemical treatment	Leafy Spurge, Spotted knapweed, and Canada thistle	USFS	413	Dubois District and RAC	June 12, 2011	September 30, 2011
Upper Snake	Edie Hills Double Tree Warm Creek Coyote Springs	Fencing project	Riparian exclosures	BLM	34.1	BLM	June 2011	September 2011
Upper Snake	Fence Marking on Sand Creek Desert	Fence marking	Sand Creek Desert	IDFG, Boy Scouts	2.5 miles	BLM, IDFG	July 2011	July 2011
Upper Snake	Hog Hollow area CRP-SAFE	Herbaceous seeding	Planting of mixed native grasses and forbs to provide permanent cover	NRCS-FSA/Private	376	Private	2011	2021
Upper Snake	Icehouse Creek	Habitat improvement, improved grazing management	Permanent easement (from development) with improved grazing management.	NRCS/Private	350	Private	2010	permanent
Upper Snake	Idaho Falls District (BLM) weed treatments	Chemical treatment	leafy spurge, Russian knapweed	BLM	22,005	BLM	March 2011	September 2011

Planning Area	Project Name	Type of Project	Brief Description	Funding Mechanism	Acres Affected	Land Ownership	Start Date	End Date
Upper Snake	Idaho Falls District (BLM) weed treatments	Biological treatment	Spotted knapweed, leafy spurge	BLM	65	BLM	July 2011	July 2011
Upper Snake	Idaho Falls District (BLM) weed treatments	Mechanical treatment	Musk thistle, puncture vine	BLM	11	BLM	July 2011	September 2011
Upper Snake	Jefferson Fire Rehabilitation	Fire rehabilitation	Planted 40,000 seedlings of basin & Wyoming big sagebrush	BLM - ESR	2,029	BLM	November 2011	November 2011
Upper Snake	Jefferson Fire Rehabilitation	Fire rehabilitation	Aerial sagebrush seeding	BLM - ESR	10,000	BLM	February 2011	February 2011
Upper Snake	Kettle Butte Area	Improved grazing management, fencing project, fence marking	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation including installation of 20,819' of wildlife friendly fence with fence markers.	NRCS/Private	305	Private	2011	2011
Upper Snake	Kettle Butte Area	Improved grazing management	Implementing improved grazing management through fence installation and installation of a new stock water system.	NRCS/Private	305	Private	2012	2014
Upper Snake	Kettle Butte Area	Chemical treatment	Chemical spraying of sagebrush only in areas identified as having very high cover to improve understory forbs and grass quantity and quality.	NRCS/Private	60	Private	2011	2011
Upper Snake	Kettle Butte Area	Herbaceous seeding	Range planting of forbs and grasses around existing sagebrush stands.	NRCS/Private	102	Private	2011	2011
Upper Snake	Kettle Butte Area	Improved grazing management	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation.	NRCS/Private	2,648	Private	2010	2015

Planning Area	Project Name	Type of Project	Brief Description	Funding Mechanism	Acres Affected	Land Ownership	Start Date	End Date
Upper Snake	Leks searches	Sage-grouse ecology	Sand Creek Desert	IDFG	2,000	Private	April 2011	June 2011
Upper Snake	Lemhi County Cooperative Weed Management Area Weed Treatments in Key Sage-Grouse Habitat	Chemical treatment	Spray truck spraying of roadside weeds, targeted spraying of Canada Thistle, Leafy Spurge and Spotted Knapweed	Lemhi County, IDOT, BLM	8,751 total – 616 roadside; 35 Canada Thistle; 2,100 Leafy Spurge; 6,000 Spotted Knapweed	BLM, Private	July 1, 2011	September 30, 2011
Upper Snake	Lost River District (Forest Service) weed treatments	Chemical treatment	Leafy spurge in the Little Lost drainage	USFS in partnership with the Butte County Weed District	45.6	USFS	June 1, 2011	September 30, 2011
Upper Snake	Marty Weed Control	Chemical treatment	Aerial and ground application to reduce knapweed on private property in sage-grouse use area	Partnership involving IDFG (\$2,177 in personnel & equipment), USFWS, CWMA and Pheasants Forever, landowner	640	Private	September 2011	September 2011
Upper Snake	Medicine Lodge Creek	Improved grazing management, chemical treatment	Implementing improved grazing management and weed management (chemical- primarily targeting leafy spurge and	NRCS/Private	430	Private	2011	2011

Planning Area	Project Name	Type of Project	Brief Description	Funding Mechanism	Acres Affected	Land Ownership	Start Date	End Date
			knapweed).					
Upper Snake	Pine Creek #1 CRP	Herbaceous seeding	Planting of mixed native grasses and forbs to provide permanent cover	NRCS-FSA/Private	69	Private	2011	2021
Upper Snake	Pine Creek #2 CRP-SAFE	Herbaceous seeding	Planting of mixed native grasses and forbs to provide permanent cover	NRCS-FSA/Private	675	Private	2011	2021
Upper Snake	Rainy Creek CRP	Herbaceous seeding	Planting of mixed native grasses and forbs to provide permanent cover	NRCS-FSA/Private	205	Private	2011	2021
Upper Snake	Rattlesnake Creek	Improved grazing management, chemical treatment	Implementing improved grazing management and weed management (chemical- primarily targeting thistles).	NRCS/Private	2,460	Private	2009	2014
Upper Snake	Sand Creek area CRP-SAFE	Herbaceous seeding	Planting of mixed native grasses and forbs to provide permanent cover	NRCS-FSA/Private	103	Private	2011	2021
Upper Snake	Split Butte area	Habitat improvement	Developing grazing management system to create a desired plant community that addresses seasonal habitat requirements.	NRCS/Private	3,200	Private, State	2011	2015
Upper Snake	Spring Creek area	Improved grazing management	Implementing improved grazing management to improve rangeland vegetation.	NRCS/Private	1,800	Private	2011	2014
Upper Snake	Table Butte	Fencing project	Fence modification (reduced 5-7 strand fence to 3-4 strands)	BLM	11.1 miles	BLM	June 2011	September 2011
Upper Snake	Teeney Creek area	Improved grazing management	Implementing improved grazing management with emphasis on improving herbaceous vegetation,	USFWS, NRCS/Private	5,500	Private	2009	2012

Planning Area	Project Name	Type of Project	Brief Description	Funding Mechanism	Acres Affected	Land Ownership	Start Date	End Date
			including removing livestock access to riparian.					
Upper Snake	West of Ashton	Improved grazing management	Permanent easement (from development) with improved grazing management.	NRCS/Private	320	Private	2005	permanent
Upper Snake	West of Kilgore	Improved grazing management	New permanent easement (from development) with improved grazing management.	NRCS/Private	1,200	Private	2011	permanent
Upper Snake	Wet Creek area	Improved grazing management	Implementing improved grazing management with emphasis on improving herbaceous vegetation in riparian area, including removing livestock access to riparian.	NRCS/Private	3,900	Private	2004	2011
West Central	SGI 1	NRCS Contract	Fencing, Wildlife/Grazing Management	NRCS (EQIP)	2,703	Private	2011	2014
West Central	SGI 2	NRCS Contract	Wildlife/Grazing Management	NRCS (EQIP)	5,000	Private	2011	2015
West Central	SGI 3	NRCS Contract	Native Seeding, Wildlife/Grazing Management	NRCS (WHIP)	160	Private	2011	2015
West Central	SGI 4	NRCS Contract	Wildlife/Grazing Management	NRCS (WHIP)	8,300	Private	2011	2014
West Central	SGI 5	NRCS Contract	Fencing, Obstruction Removal, Native Seeding, Wildlife/Grazing Management	NRCS (WHIP)	550	Private	2011	2015

Planning Area	Project Name	Type of Project	Brief Description	Funding Mechanism	Acres Affected	Land Ownership	Start Date	End Date
West Central	SGI 6	NRCS Contract	Fencing, Obstruction Removal, Wildlife/Grazing Management	NRCS (WHIP)	3,360	Private	2011	2014
West Central	SGI 7	NRCS Contract	Wildlife/Grazing Management	NRCS (WHIP)	4,907	Private	2011	2015
West Central	SGI 8	NRCS Contract	Wildlife & Livestock Water Developments, Fencing, Obstruction Removal, Native Seeding, Wildlife/Grazing Management.	NRCS (WHIP)	891	Private	2010	2018
West Central	RWA SG 1	NRCS Contract	Brush Management, Range Planting, Fencing, Water Development, Wildlife/Grazing Management	NRCS (EQIP)	932	Private	2008	2013
West Central	RWA SG 2	NRCS Contract	Fencing, Water Development, Grazing Management	NRCS (EQIP)	200	Private	2008	2012
West Central	RWA SG 3	NRCS Contract	Fencing, Water Development, Range Planting, Wildlife/Grazing Management	NRCS (EQIP)	15	Private	2008	2012

^a 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 D: OSC Project Reports

This Appendix is filed as a separate document.

APPENDIX E: Progress on State Plan Implementation Tasks.

This Appendix is filed as a separate document.