Conservation Management of Greater Sage-grouse in Idaho
Purpose of Presentation

- Where have we been - management plans
- Implementing Local Working Group Plans and 2006 State sage-grouse plan
- IDFG activities
  - Lek counts
  - Harvest management
  - Research activities
- IDFG view
Where we’ve been

- Upland species plans - 1986 and 1992
- Sage-grouse management plan - 1997
- Local Working Groups - 1998
- Sage-grouse Advisory Committee - 2003
- ESA petitions not warranted January - 2005
- Revised State Plan - 2006
- Amended State Plan - 2009
Local Planning

Local Working Groups

- Shoshone Basin - 1994
- Owyhee - 1998
- Greater Curlew - 1998
- Upper Snake - 1998
- Jarbidge - 1999
- Challis - 2002
- West Central - 2004
- Big Desert - 2006
- East Idaho Uplands - 2006
- North Magic Valley - 2006
- South Magic Valley - 2008
- Mountain Home - 2011
Local Working Groups

- LWG plans
  - Identify and prioritize local threats
  - Develop and implement local conservation measures
  - On the IDFG website

- In 2010
  - 60 meetings
  - 277 individuals attended at least one meeting
  - 53,000 miles driven to attend meetings
Local Working Group Projects

- 133 projects through 2011
  - 55 inventory, monitoring, and research
  - 57 habitat
    - ~36,600 acres
  - 21 others

- Total $ 1.8 million
Statewide Planning

Idaho Sage Grouse Advisory Committee

- Improves statewide communication
- Helps write the State Plan
- Helps decide what needs to get done
- Helps find the resources to get it done
2006 State Plan

- Governor and others signed July 2006
- Goal: Maintain, improve, and, where possible, increase sage-grouse populations in Idaho while considering the predictability and long-term sustainability of a variety of other land uses.
Key Components

- Description of 19 threats
- Toolbox of conservation measures
- Responsible parties
- Voluntarily implemented, non-regulatory
Accomplishments

- Local Planning
- Habitat mapping
- Population Monitoring
- Habitat Improvement
- Education
- Research
- OSC grants
IDFG Activities

- Lek counts
- Harvest management
- Research and Monitoring
Sage-grouse Lek Counts

- **Monitor** population trend
  - Male breeding population trend

- **Standard protocols** (Connelly et al. 2003)

- 980 leks counted in 2011
  - 462 leks on 78 lek routes

- 578 Leks counted in 1997
  - 42 routes in 1997
Location of sage-grouse lek routes by Sage-grouse Planning Area. Lek clusters with the same color encompass a lek route.
Idaho statewide trend in male lek attendance on 69 lek routes that were counted consistently 2006–2011.
Harvest Management
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>3-year running average of lek counts</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Daily Bag</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>• Less than 100 males observed</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Lek counts are less than 50% of 1996–2000 average counts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Lek data are not gathered for population</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrictive</td>
<td>• Lek counts are between 50% and 150% of the 1996–2000 average</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>• Lek counts exceed 150% of the 1996–2000 average</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- Harvest
- # of Hunters

- Hunting season more conservative
- Sage-grouse hunting validation
- New hunter harvest surveys
- Implemented Hunting Season & Bag Limit Guidelines
Research and Monitoring
Sage-grouse research and monitoring projects

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

Sage-grouse research and monitoring projects by sage-grouse planning area, including number of birds radio-collared and purpose of the study, Idaho, 2011.
What is Important?

- Collaborative effort - work together
- Current plan and conservation measures - start
- Priorities to focus our collective and limited resources
- Based upon best available science - defensible
Questions?