

Appendix D: Progress on State Plan Implementation Tasks

6.1 Local Working Group Milestones

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
6.1.1. Initiate formal Local Working Group (LWG) in Mountain Home.	Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG)	Group met 6 times in 2011, but no progress towards development of local plan.	Target Deadline: July 1, 2010
6.1.2. LWGs provide annual report to Sage-grouse Advisory Committee Technical Assistance Team (SAC TAT).	LWGs	Statewide LWG Annual Report published annually.	Next Steps: Due January 15, annually
6.1.3. LWGs without completed plans will finalize their plans.	LWGs	9 LWGs have completed plans as of January 1, 2012.	Next Steps: LWGs complete their plans within 2 years of formation of the group.
6.1.4. Identify funding needs and funding sources to implement the <i>Conservation Plan for the Greater Sage-grouse in Idaho</i> (i.e. State Plan) and LWG plans, including support for LWG facilitators.	LWGs, Sage-grouse Advisory Committee (SAC), SAC Funding Subcommittee	<p>Funding and cost-share has been received from numerous organizations including Bureau of Land Management (BLM), IDFG, U.S. Forest Service (FS), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), Department of Energy (DOE), North American Grouse Partnership, the Nature Conservancy (TNC), Resource Conservation and Development councils, soil conservation districts, cooperative weed management areas, private landowners, other non-governmental organization, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, etc.</p> <p>IDFG and OSC provided a funding summary at the November 2011 SAC meeting.</p>	<p>Next Steps: Develop a 5-year plan of funding needs and existing commitments for plan implementation by October 31, 2010. This plan will be updated in October each year.</p> <p>At the November 2011 SAC meeting, the SAC Funding Subcommittee delayed the 5-year plan given current uncertainty regarding federal funding sources.</p> <p>A funding summary will be included in the <i>2009 Annual Statewide Sage-grouse Report</i> and annually</p>

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			thereafter.
6.1.5. Refine LWG boundaries.	Affected LWGs in coordination with SAC TAT	Completed 2009.	Target Deadline: December 31, 2009
6.1.6. As information becomes available, develop measurable habitat restoration (based on Restoration Emphasis Areas) or maintenance goals for each Sage-grouse Planning Area (SGPA) during development of LWG plans (see page 1-32). LWGs with completed plans should confirm, revise, or develop goals.	LWGs, in coordination with private landowners, and local, state, and federal agencies		Target Deadline: July 31, 2010

6.2 Sage-grouse Advisory Committee Milestones

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
6.2.1. Review and update (if needed) State Plan	SAC	On hold	Target Deadline: Evaluate need in 2010
6.2.2. Research mitigation and crediting programs used by other states and the federal government in shrubsteppe or other habitats (e.g., wetlands). Compile results and develop options for mitigation and crediting program for sagebrush steppe habitats in Idaho.	SAC Mitigation Subcommittee, in cooperation with Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation (OSC)	The Mitigation Subcommittee researched a variety of mitigation and crediting programs. Options from various programs were considered during the development of a mitigation framework for sage-grouse habitat in Idaho	Target Deadline: July 31, 2010
6.2.3. Review USFWS Status Report and <i>Ecology and Conservation of Greater Sage-grouse: a Landscape Species and its Habitats</i> to be published in <i>Studies in Avian Biology</i> winter 2009/2010.	SAC TAT	SAC members have given 3 presentations thus far at SAC meetings. Kendra Womack, USFWS, summarized the USFWS findings at the March 2010 SAC meeting. The SAC TAT agreed this is an ongoing task. They will continue to solicit for presentations.	Target Deadline: April 2010
6.2.4. Develop proposal for a mitigation and	SAC Mitigation	The Mitigation Subcommittee presented a draft of a	Next Steps: Finalize

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
crediting program for sagebrush steppe habitats in Idaho and develop recommendations for policy consideration.	Subcommittee, in cooperation with OSC, SAC TAT	compensatory mitigation framework to state and federal agencies, and the SAC August-October 2010. In December 2010, the SAC approved the mitigation framework to be submitted for consideration by relevant entities. In early 2011, the Mitigation Subcommittee presented the framework to IDFG, BLM, FS, OSC, Office of Energy Resources, the Governor's Office, the Idaho Association of Counties, and Rocky Mountain Power. Some minor changes were made after these meetings. In August 2011, the Mitigation Subcommittee submitted the proposal to IDFG and OSC for consideration. The agencies replied they could not provide a definitive response but commit to being as timely as the need for multi-level state coordination allows.	proposal by December 1, 2010
6.2.5. Compile and post on the IDFG website the <i>Annual Statewide Sage-grouse Report</i> which will include: LWG Annual Reports, Chapter 6 Accomplishments, and Annual SAC Report.	SAC TAT	Statewide LWG Annual Report published annually.	Next Steps: Publish by March 1, annually
6.2.6. Update sage-grouse page on IDFG website with SAC meeting summaries, quarterly newsletters, links to current literature by subject and other information.	SAC TAT	Upgraded webpage in 2008 and 2011.	Next Steps: Quarterly
6.2.7. Help LWGs find funding sources for large-scale habitat restoration projects that may cross LWG boundaries.	SAC, in coordination with LWGs		Target Deadline: Ongoing
6.2.8. Consider development of threats and conservation measures for invasive plant species and noxious weeds to be included in future revision of State Plan.	SAC		Target Deadline: Based on 6.2.1.
6.2.9. Establish SAC Technical Assistance Team (TAT), to aid in habitat, population, and data management/ analysis tasks.	IDFG, SAC	SAC TAT established in 2006.	Next Steps: Ongoing
6.2.10. Develop and publish hard-copy photo	University of	Completed.	Target Deadline: March

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
guide to help landowners and the public recognize suitable sage-grouse seasonal habitats throughout their range in Idaho.	Idaho, in cooperation with BLM, IDFG and LWGs.	Gillan, J. K., and E. K. Strand. 2010. Sage-grouse habitat in Idaho: a practical guide for land owners and managers. Contribution Number 1048, Idaho Forest, Wildlife and Range Experiment Station, University of Idaho, Moscow.	2010
6.2.11. Distribute photo guide to landowners, the general public, and interested user groups.	BLM, FS, IDFG, IDL, NRCS, Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), and LWGs.	Completed. Guide has been distributed to LWGs, IDFG and NRCS offices. It is also available for download at: http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/plans/sage_grouse/	Target Deadline: March 2010
6.2.12. Develop SAC Education Subcommittee to collaboratively develop educational materials and programs; share lessons learned and success stories with LWGs and the public.	SAC	<p>SAC Education Subcommittee met December 15, 2010.</p> <p>The Education Subcommittee has gathered together much of the available educational materials about sage-grouse and will not develop additional educational materials or programs at this time (with the exception of PowerPoint presentations in 6.2.17).</p> <p>Several new products are currently available, these include:</p> <p><i>Sage-grouse Habitat in Idaho: A Practical Guide for Land Owners and Managers</i> (U of I)</p> <p><i>Sage-grouse: Icon of the West</i> (USFWS)</p> <p>These documents are available for download on the IDFG website and have been widely distributed via email and hard copies.</p> <p>NRCS Sage-grouse Initiative promotional materials. The link to the NRCS website is on the IDFG sage-grouse web page.</p> <p>The SAC Education Subcommittee will utilize the SAC Quarterly Newsletter to share information on sage-grouse project successes. In addition, see 6.2.13 and 6.2.14.</p>	Target Deadline: January 2010

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6.2.13. Develop sage-grouse educational materials to be incorporated into education curricula, such as Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission (IRRC).	SAC Education Subcommittee in coordination with IRRC and other interested groups	IDFG had a project WILD program for educators about sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse in Twin Falls in 2010. Dialogue has been established between this program and IRRC.	Target Deadline: April 2010
6.2.14. Develop planning and support protocols to assist SAC and LWGs on field trips.	SAC Education Subcommittee	Completed, available from IDFG upon request.	Target Deadline: April 2010
6.2.15. Consider biennial LWG Conference, to focus on sharing information and success stories among LWGs.	SAC and SAC Education Subcommittee	On hold, pending future funding.	Target Deadline: April 2010
6.2.16. Consider sage-grouse educational seminar that would be open to the general public.	SAC and SAC Education Subcommittee	On hold, pending future funding.	Target Deadline: April 2011
6.2.17. Develop PowerPoint presentation materials that can be used by SAC, LWG members, and agency personnel to educate the public and user groups (e.g., Off-Highway Vehicle [OHV] groups) about sage-grouse and their habitat.	SAC Education Subcommittee		Target Deadline: April 2010
6.2.18. Pursue opportunity to use uncompensated time and expenses from non-governmental organization members, landowners, and general public for funding cost share on sage-grouse projects.	SAC Funding Subcommittee	In 2011 SAC and LWG volunteer hours were used as matching funds to secure grants from the BLM and USFWS for SAC and LWG facilitation.	Target Deadline: July 2010 and annually thereafter

6.3 Rangewide Policy Milestones

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
6.3.1. Work with other Western states and federal agencies to assure that development stipulations (e.g., lek buffers, No Surface Occupancy stipulations) are similar among states, with a clear link to science.	IDFG in coordination with other agencies		Target Deadline: Initiate discussion at July 2010 Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) meeting.
6.3.2. Work with other Western states and federal agencies to assure that “core areas” are defined, delineated, and mapped similarly among states.	IDFG in coordination with other agencies		Target Deadline: Initiate discussion at July 2010 WAFWA meeting.
6.3.3. Work with other Western states and federal agencies to develop rangewide lek status definitions.	IDFG in coordination with other agencies		Target Deadline: Initiate discussion at July 2010 WAFWA meeting.

6.4 Conservation Measures Milestones

6.4.1 Wildfire

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
6.4.1.1. Ensure the BLM/FS Fire Management Plans, Fire Management Unit Databases, and related tools are updated annually, based on the most recent Sage-Grouse Habitat Planning Map.	BLM, FS	<p>Five dispatch centers in southern Idaho send interagency fire suppression resources based on predetermined response plans for each response area. The response is dependent on fire danger levels, weather, access, and resource availability. In multiple ignition events, fire managers make judgment calls to adjust the response. Implemented BLM Idaho Instruction Memorandum (IM) IM ID-2008-051 Districts update Fire Management Plans and dispatch information with the latest sage-grouse habitat information. Also directed Districts to identify, in GIS, highest priority sage-grouse habitats for use by dispatch.</p> <p>FS fire management plans in southern Idaho reflect priorities for protecting sage-grouse habitat. Fire Management Plans have been reviewed and updated annually since 2005.</p>	Next Steps: BLM and FS will continue to review and validate Fire Management Plans annually.
6.4.1.2. Require, if practical, the washing of the undercarriage of fire vehicles and equipment prior to deployment and prior to demobilization from fires, to reduce spread of seeds of invasive species.	BLM, FS, IDL	<p>BLM Idaho Falls and Twin Falls Districts: The 2008 Record of Decision for the <i>Fire, Fuels and Related Vegetation Management Direction Plan Amendment</i> recommends cleaning equipment before and after Type I and II wildfire incidents. It also recommends that staging areas and fire camps should avoid sites with noxious weeds.</p> <p>The Southwestern Idaho (Boise District) Fire Planning Unit Fire Management Plan directs that equipment will be cleaned before arriving on-site, and where possible vehicle wash stations will be set up in base camps. Staging areas and fire camps should be located on sites free of invasive non-native species.</p>	Next Steps: Ongoing

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
		<p>All National Forests in Southern Idaho have incorporated invasive species prevention practices into their Forest Fire Management Plans as of 2008.</p> <p>IDL requires the washing of undercarriage of all its fire vehicles and equipment prior to deployment to reduce spread of invasive species.</p>	
<p>6.4.1.3. Use knowledgeable resource advisors on fires threatening sage-grouse habitats to provide guidance on sage-grouse habitat protection. Incorporate maps of sage-grouse habitats into fire management plans to ensure the protection of these habitats during wildfire suppression efforts.</p>	<p>BLM, FS, IDL</p>	<p>BLM implemented IM ID-2008-051 emphasizing Resource Advisors, knowledgeable about local wildlife habitat concerns, are assigned to fires within or threatening Key habitat.</p> <p>FS assigns Resource Advisors to extended attack or large fires. A person knowledgeable about sage-grouse habitat is assigned when these fires occur in sage-grouse habitat.</p>	<p>Next Steps: Ongoing.</p>
<p>6.4.1.4. Incorporate training in sage-grouse conservation and suppression priorities during annual agency firefighter training; include Rural Fire Districts when possible.</p>	<p>BLM, FS, IDL</p>	<p>BLM implemented IM ID-2008-051. Managers/fire personnel ensure that briefings are provided to incident commanders, dispatch and engine bosses early in the fire season regarding the importance of protecting sage-grouse habitat and sagebrush steppe.</p> <p>The FS discusses the importance of protecting sage-grouse habitat annually at Inter-Agency Spring Fire Operations Meetings.</p>	<p>Next Steps: Annually, before the ensuing fire season.</p>
<p>6.4.1.5. Minimize loss of sagebrush during fire suppression and mop up activities.</p>	<p>BLM, FS</p>	<p>BLM issued IM ID-2008-051 which emphasizes tactics that are intended to minimize loss of sagebrush, such as avoiding burn-out of islands of unburned sagebrush.</p> <p>The BLM Idaho Falls District issues suppression instructions for the liberal use of retardant in sagebrush steppe habitat, especially occupied and known historic sage-grouse habitat.</p>	<p>Next Steps: Ongoing.</p>

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
		The FS discusses the importance of leaving unburned islands of sagebrush within fire perimeters at annual Inter-Agency Spring Fire Operations Meetings.	
6.4.1.6. Identify access roads where the installation of additional fire danger signs may be warranted. Install new signs as needed.	BLM, FS, IDL, in cooperation with LWGs	<p>BLM and FS have installed numerous new signs since 2006.</p> <p>North Magic Valley: Sent letter to Kimama Highway District requesting information on maintenance of Carey-Kimama road in relation to fire danger.</p> <p>Upper Snake: Signs have been installed on high access roads that pose fire hazards. There are approximately 50 permanent fire danger signs on the Targhee NF. Due to public concerns about sign pollution, new signs are not placed. However, fire crews patrol throughout the summer educating the public about fire safety, putting out abandoned campfires, and placing temporary signs during high fire danger periods or during periods of fire restrictions.</p>	Next Steps: Ongoing as needed
6.4.1.7. Increase emphasis on mapping known water sources to ensure Interagency Fire Dispatch Centers have the latest information for fire suppression.	BLM, FS, state agencies, in cooperation with landowners and LWGs	<p>Big Desert, Challis: Completed.</p> <p>Upper Snake: Known water sources in the Big Desert have been mapped. Efforts to map water sources in Medicine Lodge and Sand Creek are currently occurring. Additionally, efforts to determine compatibility of existing water sources with currently owned equipment is presently occurring.</p> <p>On the Forest, all known water sources are already mapped and this information is at the interagency fire dispatch center. They even know which water bodies have whirling disease. The FS does not utilize water troughs because that would create conflicts with permittees and grazing management. The FS has several engines and water tenders (both</p>	Target Deadline: Ongoing

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		in-house and contract) that can get water to a dry site. USFS fire fighting protocols have incorporated sage-grouse considerations including ensuring that incident command has information about leks, key habitat, and brood areas; highly aggressive initial attacks, and efforts to contain and maintain islands of intact habitat.	
6.4.1.8. In areas of limited water availability identify new water sources for fire suppression. Locate such water access facilities near suitable access roads. Mark locations of new sites on maps and distribute maps to Interagency Dispatch Centers.	BLM, FS, state agencies, in cooperation with landowners and LWGs	Big Desert: 48,000 gallons available on private landowner's NRCS project. BLM installed 1.4 miles of pipeline which benefits sage-grouse by reducing water truck activity in the allotment during lekking and nesting and providing a source of water for potential use during wildfire suppression activities. Upper Snake: Identification of new wells is on-going. In addition, one local crop duster is known to keep his plane loaded with water during fire season and he responds to calls for spot fire suppression on private ground.	Target Deadline: Ongoing
6.4.1.9. Work with lessees, permittees and private landowners to encourage that water storage facilities remain full during the fire season.	BLM, FS, IDL, in cooperation with LWGs	Big Desert: Addressed in BLM's permitting process. Upper Snake: This is on-going. Generally done verbally one-on-one between ranchers and firefighters. USFS permittees always keep their troughs full during the fire season/grazing season. They have to in order to provide for the cattle and maintain distribution which enables them to keep their cattle on the allotment for the full permitted season.	Target Deadline: June 1, 2010
6.4.1.10. Identify, prioritize, and implement fuel breaks (e.g., mowing, herbicide application, strictly managed grazed strips or green strips, etc.) to aid in controlling wildfire should wildfire occur near key sage-grouse habitats. Location of fuel breaks should be based on 1) areas of high	BLM, FS, IDL, IDFG, NRCS, working with LWGs	FS identified and implemented fuel breaks on the Curlew National Grasslands in 2007 and 2008 in order to protect remaining areas of unburned sagebrush. BLM identified and implemented fuel breaks on the	Next Steps: Ongoing

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fire risk; 2) protection of intact sagebrush habitats; 3) protection of important sage-grouse nesting, brood-rearing, and wintering areas; and 4) utilize existing roads where possible.		Big Desert in 2007-2011.	
6.4.1.11. Explore options for agreements with railroad companies to manage fuels/invasives within railroad rights-of-way to minimize wildfire ignitions.	BLM, FS, IDL	As of January 2009, BLM is coordinating with railroad companies. BLM provides fire prevention presentations to railroad workers, and actively pursues investigations and enforcement actions for railroad fires, including reimbursement for fire suppression costs associated with railroad-caused fires.	Target Deadline: July 31, 2010
6.4.1.12. Work closely with utility companies to reduce wildfire ignitions within rights-of-way.	BLM, FS, IDL	BLM provides fire safety and prevention presentations to power-line workers annually, and has established a Memorandum of Agreement with Idaho Power, with protocols for fire prevention and safety, and for coordination during fires. IDL (SW District) meets with all the three power companies twice a year in the fall and spring. East Idaho Dispatch meets with utility companies in their dispatch area each spring.	Target Deadline: December 31, 2010
6.4.1.13. Explore and implement use of targeted grazing ¹ where fuel reduction is needed to protect and enhance sage-grouse habitat.	BLM, FS, IDL, NRCS, in cooperation with universities, livestock operators, and LWGs	Draft guidance is being developed by BLM. Upper Snake: Currently working with ranchers to target roadsides by leaving at least one band of sheep or goats behind to graze through the growing season along roadsides. The USFS has flexibility built into allotment management plans regarding on/off and pasture rotation dates for fuel reduction or drought. Further, utilization levels are limited to 50%. Upland areas do not always reach 50%, but this approximate level of utilization reduces fuels.	Target Deadline: Ongoing. LWGs provide lists of accomplishments, needs, and proposals as part of LWG annual reporting.

¹ Targeted grazing is an application of livestock grazing at a specified season, duration and intensity to accomplish specific vegetation management goals. The term “targeted” refers to the specific plant or landscape that is the aim of controlled grazing practices (American Sheep Industry Association 2006).

6.4.2 Infrastructure

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
6.4.2.1. Research mitigation and crediting programs used by other states and the federal government in shrubsteppe or other habitats (e.g., wetlands). Compile results and develop options for mitigation and crediting program for sagebrush steppe habitats in Idaho.	SAC Mitigation Subcommittee, in cooperation with OSC	The Mitigation Subcommittee researched a variety of mitigation and crediting programs. Options from various programs were considered during the development of a mitigation framework for sage-grouse habitat in Idaho.	Target Deadline: July 31, 2010
6.4.2.2. Develop proposal for a mitigation and crediting program for sagebrush steppe habitats in Idaho with on-site mitigation as the primary priority and develop recommendations for policy consideration.	SAC Mitigation Subcommittee, in cooperation with OSC, SAC TAT	The Mitigation Subcommittee presented a draft of a compensatory mitigation framework to state and federal agencies, and the SAC August-October 2010. In December 2010, the SAC approved the mitigation framework to be submitted for consideration by relevant entities. In early 2011, the Mitigation Subcommittee presented the framework to IDFG, BLM, FS, OSC, Office of Energy Resources, the Governor's Office, the Idaho Association of Counties, and Rocky Mountain Power. Some minor changes were made after these meetings. In August 2011, the Mitigation Subcommittee submitted the proposal to IDFG and OSC for consideration. The agencies replied they could not provide a definitive response but commit to being as timely as the need for multi-level state coordination allows.	Next Steps: Finalize proposal by December 1, 2010
6.4.2.3. Implement appropriate timing stipulations for construction and maintenance activities on federal land and encourage on state, private, and tribal land within 1 km of occupied leks; emphasize timing restrictions in Rights of Way issuances, project planning, and maintenance of existing structures. On state lands, IDL to coordinate with IDFG to identify lek locations early in project planning phase.	BLM, FS, IDL, IDFG, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes	BLM issued IM ID-2009-006 which directs BLM personnel to adopt sage-grouse conservation measures in the State Plan, including the use of timing restrictions for human disturbance around leks. The Curlew National Grassland Plan requires timing stipulations of activities and restricts some activities to reduce disturbance of leks.	Next Steps: Ongoing IDL will implement procedures to contact IDFG prior to any installation.

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
6.4.2.4. Develop a collision risk assessment process to be used by land management agencies, IDFG, NRCS, DOE, and landowners (volunteer basis) when placing new fences or other tall structures (e.g., wind towers, communication towers, MET towers, transmission lines) in sage-grouse habitat. Utilize conservation measures in section 4.3.2.3 (page 4-42) and 4.3.4.3. (page 4-63) until completed.	BLM, IDFG		Target Deadline: After completion of University of Idaho tall structures study (expected by May 2011).
6.4.2.5. Upon completion of University of Idaho tall structures study, SAC (Chapter 6 Subcommittee) will reconvene to consider how to use collision risk assessment and recommended actions on planned and existing structures.	SAC	Stevens, B. S. 2011. Impacts of fences on greater sage-grouse in Idaho: collision, mitigation, and spatial ecology. MS thesis, University of Idaho, Moscow.	Target Deadline: December 2011.
6.4.2.6. Recommend that all new anemometer (MET) towers be self-supporting, or, if guy wires are needed, require that they have permanent markers along their entire length to increase visibility to birds and reduce collision risk.	BLM	BLM IM-2009-006.	Next Steps: Ongoing
6.4.2.7. Avoid the placement of new MET towers within 2 miles of active sage-grouse leks (Connelly et al. 2000) unless they are out of the direct line of sight of the active lek.	BLM, FS, IDL, IDFG	BLM IM-2009-006. Addressed in Curlew National Grassland Plan 2002.	Next Steps: Ongoing IDL will review the location of MET towers on IDL land with IDFG prior to installation. IDL will implement procedures to contact IDFG prior to any installation.
6.4.2.8. Identify specific roads or road sections where sage-grouse mortality has been documented. Work collaboratively with the appropriate agency(s) to develop measures to reduce the risk of road-related mortality of sage-	LWGs	Upper Snake: The A2 road from Dubois to Kilgore was identified as a road segment with potential to create hazards to lekking sage-grouse. Road was monitored during spring 2010 and high use areas were mapped. Measures were developed to	Target Deadline: April 2010 Next Steps: Explore possibility for and implications of “sage-

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grouse. Consider speed limits, brush control, signing, and public education.		<p>encourage birds to stay off the roadway. These measures will be implemented in 2011.</p> <p>“Sage-grouse Crossing” signs were installed at lek sites on the Red Road.</p> <p>In 2010, the Great Basin Restoration Initiative Workgroup prepared the document titled “Considerations for Strategically Reducing Fuels and Wildfires on Public Lands in the Great Basin with Targeted Grazing.” The document is available to interested parties via BLM State Offices.</p>	grouse crossing” signs.
6.4.2.9. Coordinate with the Idaho Office of Energy Resources to regularly obtain updated geospatial information on new and proposed energy projects (e.g., wind energy and MET towers; electrical transmission; geothermal development; and oil and gas pipelines) and associated infrastructure (e.g., distribution lines and roads). Consider posting data on www.insideidaho.org	SAC TAT	Not able to accomplish.	Target Deadline: Set up process by July 1, 2010.
6.4.2.10. SAC to stay informed and consider commenting on infrastructure projects in coordination with LWGs.	SAC, in coordination with LWGs	SAC submitted comment letter on Mountain States Transmission Intertie (MSTI) in 2008.	Next Steps: Ongoing
6.4.2.11. Work with utilities (energy and communications) to site new infrastructure projects away from occupied leks and identified important seasonal habitats, in accordance with section 4.3.2.3 (pages 4-42 to 4-46).	LWGs, BLM, FS, IDFG, and IDL, in coordination with utilities.	<p>Challis: LWG influenced transmission line siting; developer chose to avoid key habitat.</p> <p>EIU: Letters sent regarding UAMPS Horse Butte project. The company provided lek data to IDFG based on their monitoring. LWG will continue providing comments on the Gateway West project as opportunities arise.</p> <p>Jarbridge: LWG member comments on the China Mountain Sage-grouse Conservation Plan.</p> <p>North Magic: Continued to be involved with the Friedman Airport Relocation, SWIP and MSTI updates, and any pending wind farm applications in</p>	<p>Target Deadline: Ongoing</p> <p>Next steps: IDL will implement procedures to contact IDFG early in planning process.</p>

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		<p>their planning area.</p> <p>Owyhee: Owyhee County SGLWG drafted language for a September 2010 County Commission Letter addressing concern "...that the southernmost alternative for Segment 9 of Gateway West would adversely affect Greater Sage-grouse populations." The Commission letter continued with the following language drafted by the LWG, "The alternative route for Segment 9 that runs south of Highway 78 will impact important sage-grouse habitat in Owyhee County. This proposed route runs near dozens of known leks that are currently occupied by sage-grouse in the Owyhee Foothills. The Local Working Group feels that this is the least desirable alternative because the transmission line will attract avian predators, especially Common Ravens. Raptors and ravens use transmission lines for nesting, perching and roosting. Studies have shown that ravens are important nest predators of sage-grouse and that ravens move an average of 7 km and as far as 60 km from transmission line roosts each day. In addition, new roads required for this alternative would create extensive shrub loss and habitat fragmentation in previously undisturbed areas.</p> <p>The alternative (9D) that runs through the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA) is a much better alternative. It would not affect Greater Sage-grouse because sage-grouse do not occur within the NCA. It would be compatible with maintaining raptor populations and the goals of the NCA. Research has demonstrated that properly designed transmission lines can be compatible with raptors."</p> <p>Upper Snake: The LWG will continue to provide comments on the Mountain States Transmission Intertie project as appropriate. IDFG and BLM</p>	

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		both provided comments on the Areva project.	
6.4.2.12. For existing structures, work with utilities (energy and communications) to identify and implement appropriate mitigation measures near occupied leks and identified important seasonal habitats.	LWGs, BLM, FS, and IDL, in coordination with utilities.	Challis: Reauthorized one transmission line (30 year renewal) requiring perch deterrents within sage-grouse priority areas.	Target Deadline: Ongoing
6.4.2.13. Evaluate and consider the scale of impacts of current, proposed, and potential increased use of roads and trails in terms of disturbance to occupied leks or identified important seasonal habitats. Work with appropriate land management or other agency to identify solutions to reduce the impacts to sage-grouse, while considering routine administrative and permitted use. See also discussion in 4.3.5.3 on human disturbance and management of livestock in 6.4.4 and 6.4.5.	BLM, FS, IDL, NPS, and DOE in conjunction with LWGs	The BLM Challis Field Office completed a Travel Management Plan in 2008, addressing impacts to sage-grouse and other wildlife.	Target Deadline: In conjunction with development of Travel Management Plans or review of new projects.

6.4.3 Annual Grassland

Because the 2006 State Plan did not include noxious weeds and invasive plants as a separate threat, we will include milestones related to these issues under the Annual Grassland threat.

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
6.4.3.1. Promote washing of vehicle undercarriage to minimize potential to transport seeds and plant parts of noxious weeds and invasive plants, including cheatgrass.	SAC Education subcommittee in cooperation with Cooperative Weed Management Areas	Don't Pack a Pest educational brochure is available for download at: http://www.agri.state.id.us/Categories/PlantsInsects/NoxiousWeeds/Documents/nwffs/packapest.pdf The Education Subcommittee will not develop separate educational materials at this time. The SAC TAT is working on a portion of this issue in 6.4.5.3.	Target Deadline: April 2010

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
6.4.3.2. Review available cheatgrass occurrence maps and determine which would be most suitable for sage-grouse habitat mapping needs.	SAC TAT, in coordination with BLM	Don Major, BLM, presented information on cheatgrass mapping at the October SAC meeting. Several SAC TAT members and others met February 15, 2011 to further discuss.	Target Deadline: 2010.
6.4.3.3. Identify priority annual grasslands for restoration.	SAC TAT in coordination with LWGs	Updated target deadline December 2011. This task will be accomplished in combination with Restoration Emphasis Areas 6.6.2.	Target Deadline: Based on completion of 6.4.3.2.
6.4.3.4. Distribute prioritized annual grassland maps to LWGs.	SAC TAT	Updated target deadline March 2012 in the 2011 LWG Annual Report,	Target Deadline: Based on completion of 6.4.3.3.
6.4.3.5. Require users of federal public lands to utilize certified weed-free forage.	BLM, FS	The FS requires Certified Noxious Weed Free Forage on all National Forests in southern Idaho.	Next Steps: Idaho BLM EA was completed in 2009. Publication of Supplemental Federal Rule is pending.
6.4.3.6. Encourage state land management agencies and users and private landowners to utilize certified weed-free forage.	SAC	SAC wrote letter to IDL, IDFG, and Idaho Governor's Office, April 2010 IDFG has approved the requirement of certified weed-free hay, straw, and mulch on its land. In September 2010, BLM published a supplementary Proposed Rule in the Federal Register that would require the use of certified weed-free hay, straw and mulch on BLM-managed lands in Idaho. Pending completion.	Target Deadline: SAC to write letter to IDL, IDFG, and Idaho Governor's Office, April 2010
6.4.3.7. Establish fuel breaks to limit the growth and size of annual grassland (See also 6.4.1.8.).	BLM, FS, NRCS, in coordination with Great Basin Initiative	FS identified and implemented fuel breaks on the Curlew National Grasslands in 2007 and 2008 in order to protect remaining areas of unburned sagebrush. BLM identified and implemented fuel breaks on the Big Desert in 2007-2011.	Target Deadline: Ongoing
6.4.3.8. Create and distribute a "watch list" of invasive plant species that can potentially alter sage-grouse habitats.	IDFG, ISDA, Cooperative Weed Management		Target Deadline: January 2010 and annually thereafter.

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
	Areas, in cooperation with LWGs.		

6.4.4 Livestock Impacts

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
6.4.4.1. Identify areas where livestock management-related activities are repeatedly displacing sage-grouse on active leks and work with livestock managers to avoid problem areas during the lekking season (see page 4-61 and 4-62 for specific dates).	LWGs, with support from BLM, FS, IDL, SAC TAT	BLM identifies livestock/sage-grouse conflicts during rangeland health evaluations, and works with permittees to find solutions. Big Desert: Craters of the Moon Nation Monument Travel Management Plan identified lek locations and restrictions; BLM distributed maps to permittees in 2010 identifying lek locations and timing restrictions.	Target Deadline: December 31, 2010, with annual review thereafter.
6.4.4.2. Provide livestock managers with maps of lek locations to address 6.4.4.1.	IDFG, BLM, FS, IDL, in coordination with LWGs	Challis: Provided maps with lek locations to all permittees.	Target Deadline: At annual turn-out meeting or upon request, starting in 2010.
6.4.4.3. Identify and map expiring CRP lands that are suitable for livestock forage reserves. Livestock forage reserves would provide livestock operators with temporary alternative forage during times when resting is needed for sage-grouse habitat restoration (see also page 4-59).	Farm Service Agency (FSA), ISDA, Idaho Cattle Association (ICA), Idaho Woolgrowers Association (IWGA)		Target Deadline: September 2010
6.4.4.4. Identify and map livestock forage reserves on federal land.	BLM, FS	2 forage reserves on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. One new FS forage reserve in planning. 1 BLM forage reserve near Burley and 2 near Aberdeen.	Target Deadline: Provide GIS of existing reserves to NRCS by September 2010 and update as new reserves become available.
6.4.4.5. Identify funding for expiring CRP land	IDFG, NRCS,	NRCS has EQIP funding to assist producers with	Target Deadline:

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
to be used as livestock forage reserves	BLM, ISDA, ICA, IWGA, LWGs	fencing and water developments to convert the expired CRP as grazing land.	September 1, 2010 and annually thereafter
6.4.4.6. Identify cost-share funding for livestock forage reserves on private land that need associated livestock-management facilities (e.g., fences and water developments).	IDFG, NRCS, BLM, ISDA, ICA, IWGA, LWGs	NRCS has EQIP funding to assist producers with fencing and water developments to convert the expired CRP as grazing land.	Target Deadline: September 1, 2010 and annually thereafter
6.4.4.7. Consolidate maps and information about available livestock forage reserves. Provide information to livestock operators as needed.	NRCS, in coordination with IDFG, BLM, ISDA, FSA, FS, ICA, IWGA, LWGs		Target Deadline: December 31, 2010
6.4.4.8. In NRCS Prescribed Grazing Standard and Specification, reference sage-grouse conservation measures (section 4.3.4.3 and Appendix D)	NRCS	Completed.	Target Deadline: June 30, 2010
6.4.4.9. Develop a collision risk assessment process to be used by land management agencies, IDFG, NRCS, and landowners (volunteer basis) when placing new fences in sage-grouse habitat. Utilize conservation measures on pages 4-63 and 4-64 until assessment and review is completed.	BLM, IDFG	Stevens, B. S. 2011. Impacts of fences on greater sage-grouse in Idaho: collision, mitigation, and spatial ecology. MS thesis, University of Idaho, Moscow.	Target Deadline: After completion of University of Idaho tall structures study (expected by May 2011).
6.4.4.10. Upon completion of University of Idaho tall structures study, SAC (Chapter 6 Subcommittee) will reconvene to consider how to use collision risk assessment and recommended actions on temporary, planned, and existing fences.	SAC		Target Deadline: December 2011.
6.4.4.11. Continue collaborative efforts with livestock managers to implement conservation measures in State Plan and LWG plans. Seek opportunities to apply flexible adaptive management based on monitoring and evaluation	BLM, FS, NRCS, IDFG, IDL, University of Idaho (e.g., Range Extension	Agencies worked with landowner to bury a new power line supplying power for irrigation in Small, Idaho. BLM identifies livestock/sage-grouse conflicts during rangeland health evaluations, and works with	Target Deadline: Ongoing

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
(pages 5-30 and 5-31) in order to provide benefits to sage-grouse and their habitats.	Specialists), LWGs, in cooperation with livestock managers	permittees to find solutions.	

6.4.5 Human Disturbance

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
6.4.5.1. Implement appropriate timing stipulations for construction and maintenance activities on federal land and encourage on state, private, and tribal land within 1 km of occupied leks; emphasize timing restrictions in Rights of Way issuances, project planning, and maintenance of existing structures. On state lands, IDL to coordinate with IDFG to identify lek locations early in project planning phase.	BLM, FS, IDL, IDFG, Shoshone- Paiute Tribes	BLM issued IM ID-2009-006 which directs BLM personnel to adopt sage-grouse conservation measures in the State Plan, including the use of timing restrictions for human disturbance around leks. The Curlew National Grassland Plan requires timing stipulations of activities and restricts some activities to reduce disturbance of leks.	Next Steps: Ongoing IDL will implement procedures to contact IDFG prior to any installation.
6.4.5.2. In NRCS Prescribed Grazing Standard and Specification, reference sage-grouse conservation measures relative to human disturbance (section 4.3.4.3 and Appendix D, see also livestock impacts 6.4.4.8).	NRCS	Completed.	Target Deadline: December 2009
6.4.5.3. Develop conservation measures for OHV, mountain bike, and other organized recreational events in sage-grouse habitats to minimize impacts to leks and identified important seasonal habitats.	SAC TAT, BLM, FS, IDL, Idaho Parks and Recreation	The FS develops conservation measures during Travel Planning on each forest that has sage-grouse habitat. SAC approved conservation measure November 2011 ² . The SAC will submit a letter to the affect agencies requesting support for the conservation measure.	Target Deadline: SAC TAT to research appropriate conservation measures by April 1, 2010. Consideration by land management agencies during planning and permitting OHV and

² See conservation measure below

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
			mountain bike events.
6.4.5.4. Incorporate conservation measures from State Plan (page 4-70), LWG plans, and tribal ordinances when developing travel management plans. Seek opportunities to apply flexible adaptive management based on monitoring and evaluation in order to provide benefits to sage-grouse and their habitats.	BLM, FS, IDL, IDFG, and tribes (when applicable)	IDL identifies “non-use” areas in temporary permits and leases related to OHV activities. Challis BLM Field Office Travel Plan was completed summer 2008.	Target Deadline: Ongoing, and during development of travel management plans. Forests in southern Idaho will have completed travel management plans by September 2009.

Human disturbance conservation measure approved November 2011.

Issue Addressed	Rationale	Conservation Measure(s)
Organized recreational events, including but not limited to OHV, car/truck, motorcycle, mountain bike races, horse rides, and bird dog trials	Organized recreational events can disturb sage-grouse, cause collision-related mortalities or injury, adversely impact vegetation and soils, and increase risk of invasive plants and fires.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organized recreational events should occur in areas designated for motorized and mechanized events whenever possible. 2. Organized recreational events should have location and/or timing restrictions to protect sage-grouse with an emphasis on avoiding disturbance during the breeding season and in known wintering and late brood-rearing areas. Restrictions should address disturbance and collision risk along the entire route, start and end points, and staging areas. Managers should use the best available information to ensure that noise buffers are adequate to protect sage-grouse, taking into consideration the nature of the event (e.g. mountain bike vs OHV), and local conditions such as topography. 3. Managers should encourage event organizers to request that race participants and attendees wash all vehicles and undercarriages prior to attending the event to minimize spread of invasive plants and noxious weeds. 4. Managers should ensure readiness to respond to a wildfire initiated during a recreational event in sage-grouse habitat.

6.4.6 West Nile Virus

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
6.4.6.1. When practical, draw blood from trapped sage-grouse to test for presence of West Nile virus (WNV) antibodies. During WNV season, throat swabs should be collected to test for active WNV.	IDFG and other cooperators, including the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes.	51 captured sage-grouse were tested for WNV in the Owyhees in 2007 and 2008 (45 blood tests, 51 throat swabs); 32 captured sage-grouse were tested for WNV by the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation in 2007 and 2008 (19 by blood, 13 by oral swabs). Ongoing monitoring in the Owyhees 2009-2011.	Next steps: Ongoing and seasonally.
6.4.6.2. Cooperate with mosquito abatement districts and state-level WNV monitoring (e.g., mosquito monitoring and human cases) to track potential for WNV outbreaks. Communicate with IDFG regional staff when an outbreak could affect sage-grouse in their area.	IDFG health lab	West Central Local Working Group worked with the local mosquito abatement district to monitor ponds for WNV mosquitoes.	Target Deadline: Ongoing
6.4.6.3. Increase monitoring of sage-grouse during WNV outbreaks. Monitoring methods may include radio-telemetry and on-the-ground monitoring for sage-grouse deaths around known late brood-rearing habitats (e.g., wetlands, springs and ponds). In addition, agency field staff and the public are encouraged to report dead birds to the IDFG regional office.	IDFG, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, and other cooperators	51 sage-grouse in the Owyhees were radio-collared and monitored weekly during the WNV season in 2007 and 2008. Fifteen sage-grouse were captured and monitored on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation in 2007. Radio-collars transmitting mortality signals were located on the ground immediately and dead birds were submitted to the IDFG Health Lab for WNV testing. No WNV outbreaks documented 2009-2011.	Next steps: During periods of potential WNV outbreak

6.4.7 Prescribed Fire

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
<p>6.4.7.1. Require SAC-sponsored projects proposing sagebrush control provide site-specific data justifying treatment.</p> <p>Encourage all project proponents to consider sage-grouse habitat needs as described in the State Plan (see page 4-79).</p>	<p>SAC</p> <p>Land management agencies, NRCS, and private landowners</p>	<p>BLM issued IM 2009-006, directing districts and field offices to use the State Plan and completed Local Working Group Plans as references to support and guide project planning.</p> <p>Added language to RFP documents for OSC funding in 2010 and 2011 funding round.</p> <p>NRCS consults with IDFG before conducting sagebrush control.</p>	<p>Target Deadline: April 1, 2010 and ongoing</p>
<p>6.4.7.2. Incorporate sage-grouse conservation measures related to brush management into conservation planning (see page 4-79).</p>	<p>NRCS</p>	<p>Completed August 2008</p>	<p>Next Steps: Ongoing implementation</p>

6.4.8 Seeded Perennial Grassland

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
<p>6.4.8.1. Encourage establishment of sagebrush and desirable forbs and grasses into seeded perennial grasslands.</p>	<p>LWGs, NRCS, IDFG, land management agencies, private landowners</p>	<p>The BLM Fire, Fuels and Related Vegetation Management Direction Plan Amendment, completed for southeast and south-central Idaho in 2008, provides for diversification of perennial grass seedlings.</p> <p>Big Desert: projects reported in Appendix D.</p> <p>Challis: Ongoing</p> <p>EIU: NRCS and IDFG are encouraging the use of native forbs and grasses, including pollinators, as opportunities arise.</p> <p>Curlew: BLM is implementing this during restoration projects; NRCS is putting forbs in all plantings going into land formerly under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).</p>	<p>Target Deadline: Ongoing</p>

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
		<p>Shoshone Basin: Mule Creek Fire Rehabilitation</p> <p>South Magic: Always recommend to land management agencies to add desirable forbs and grasses (native if possible) to all seeding mixes.</p> <p>Upper Snake: BLM does this on an ongoing basis; NRCS does this on an ongoing basis on CRP lands.</p>	
6.4.8.2. Encourage livestock grazing or habitat conservation of expiring CRP over tillage, cropping, or development.	LWGs, NRCS, IDFG, private landowners	<p>EIU: NRCS discusses this with landowners when private land is retiring from CRP program.</p> <p>Curlew: NRCS has put prescribed grazing systems on former CRP lands.</p> <p>North Magic: Through NRCS's SGI, re-enrolled landowners in CRP on the Camas Prairie.</p> <p>Upper Snake: IDFG has a farm bill coordinator in Region 6 and that individual does this on an ongoing basis. IDFG also cooperates with Pheasants Forever on an additional farm bill coordinator position stationed in Blackfoot but available to work in the Upper Snake Sage-grouse Planning Area.</p>	Target Deadline: September 2010 and annually thereafter
6.4.8.3. Encourage FSA to incorporate information into FSA monthly newsletter regarding use of expiring CRP lands to benefit sage-grouse.	SAC TAT	<p>IDFG and NRCS worked together to encourage CRP sign-ups in September.</p> <p>IDFG and NRCS have submitted an article that is expected to be published in April 2011.</p>	Target Deadline: September 2010 and annually thereafter
6.4.8.4. Identify funding or other incentives for expired CRP land to be used for livestock grazing or habitat conservation over tillage, cropping, or development.	IDFG, NRCS, BLM, ISDA, ICA, IWGA, LWGs	NRCS has EQIP funding to assist producers with fencing and water developments to convert the expired CRP as grazing land.	Target Deadline: September 2010 and annually thereafter

6.4.9 Climate Change

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
6.4.9.1. Collect and interpret climate change information significant to sage-grouse and sage-grouse habitat. Disseminate to SAC and LWGs.	SAC TAT, in coordination with USGS, Great Basin Restoration Initiative, and FS Research Stations	Revised target deadline October 2011 for a potential presentation on Don Major's work.	Target Deadline: October 2010 and ongoing
6.4.9.2. Explore scenario planning relative to climate change and sagebrush steppe. Disseminate to SAC and LWGs.	SAC TAT	Revised target deadline October 2012.	Target Deadline: October 2011

6.4.10 Conifer Encroachment

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
6.4.10.1. Conduct statewide mapping effort to quantify impact of conifer encroachment near leks and other seasonally important habitats.	BLM, FS, IDFG		Target Deadline: April 2011
6.4.10.2. Evaluate and disseminate information on the effectiveness, economic and technical feasibility, and lessons learned from various conifer removal treatments.	LWGs, SAC TAT, land management agencies, USGS, and FS Research Stations.	<p>Revised target deadline spring 2011.</p> <p>The SAC TAT will pursue having an expert write an article about juniper control for the Spring 2011 SAC newsletter.</p> <p>The Nature Conservancy, in partnership with the Owyhee LWG, IDFG and ranchers, implemented juniper mastication on 3 sites in the Owyhees, effectively improving nesting and brood rearing habitat on 1,010 acres. TNC is monitoring the project outcomes. They also conducted a cost analysis comparing 2 different treatments (roller-drum masticator on smaller trees and mastication by excavator on larger trees).</p>	Target Deadline: January 2010 and annually thereafter
6.4.10.3. Encourage biomass utilization of removed conifers.	BLM, FS, IDFG, in coordination with Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Southwest Idaho Wildlife Habitat Conservation Partnership	<p>BLM currently encourages biomass utilization in fuels contracts.</p> <p>Caribou-Targhee National Forest has initiated a collaborative effort to encourage biomass utilization in eastern Idaho.</p>	Target Deadline: Ongoing

6.4.11 Isolated Populations

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
6.4.11.1. Refine criteria for and revisit populations identified as isolated (see page 4-99) and identify populations at risk of becoming isolated.	IDFG, in cooperation with LWGs	EIU: Ongoing telemetry work and aerial surveys are designed to identify populations and determined if isolated populations exist within the planning area. Jarbidge: BLM mapping of isolated populations and core sage-grouse areas.	Target Deadline: December 2010 and ongoing
6.4.11.2. Ensure that hunting regulations are consistent with maintaining the viability of isolated populations.	IDFG, in cooperation with LWGs	Closed 2008 sage-grouse hunting season in East Idaho Uplands due to concerns of isolated populations.	Target Deadline: July 2010 and annually thereafter
6.4.11.3. If a population is determined to be isolated, investigate the potential causes for the isolation and explore opportunities to restore connectivity of habitat and populations.	IDFG, LWGs, land management agencies, and private landowners		Target Deadline: December 2011
6.4.11.4. Evaluate predator populations to determine if they are having a negative impact on the viability of isolated populations (See section 4.3.12.3, pages 4-107 to 4-108).	IDFG, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service – Wildlife Services (APHIS-WS), in cooperation with LWGs.		Target Deadline: Ongoing after identification of isolated populations

6.4.12 Predation

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
6.4.12.1. Collect available studies and information on predation effects on sage-grouse, disseminate information, and identify additional research needs.	SAC TAT, in coordination with LWGs	<p>Five new studies on predation effects have been published since the SAB chapter was written.</p> <p>A SAC TAT member summarized and synthesized the information and wrote an article for the Spring 2011 SAC newsletter.</p> <p>There were 5 presentations on predation issues at the November 2011 SAC meeting:</p> <p>Biology and population trends of the raven (<i>Corvus corax</i>) in the Great Basin, by Rob Lonsinger, IDFG.</p> <p>Results of raven study on INL, by Kristy Howe, ISU.</p> <p>Relationship between human footprint and ravens, by Steve Hanser, USGS.</p> <p>Factors that influence sage-grouse nest predation, by Zach Lochyer, ISU.</p> <p>Sage-grouse population ecology in Strawberry Valley, Utah – what we’ve learned after 14 years of consecutive research, by Rick Baxter, BYU.</p>	Target Deadline: April 2010
6.4.12.2. Identify areas where excessive predation may occur. If excessive predation is documented to be limiting a sage-grouse population, follow detailed procedures outlined in State Plan (see section 4.3.12.2.1, page 4-105 to 4-108).	IDFG, APHIS-WS, LWGs		Target Deadline: Ongoing
6.4.12.3. If excessive predation is documented to be limiting a sage-grouse population, following detailed procedures outlined in State Plan (see section 4.3.12.2.1, page 4-105 to 4-108), experimentally implement and evaluate effectiveness of predator control measures on sage-grouse populations and predators.	IDFG, APHIS-WS, LWGs		Target Deadline: Ongoing
6.4.12.4. Review existing data to identify typical	IDFG, APHIS-WS	The following is a link to Kristy Howe’s thesis	Target Deadline:

(baseline) densities of sage-grouse predators in different habitats, landscapes, and seasons (see pages 4-105 and 4-108). Pursue research or monitoring activities to fill in knowledge gaps and identify parameters to define abnormal densities. Initial priorities are to look at corvids and red fox.		presentation on raven populations at the INL: http://media.itrc.isu.edu/videos/?v=events/biologycls/howe_defense120911.flv	December 2010
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6.4.13 Urban/Exurban

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
6.4.13.1. Identify sage-grouse habitat most vulnerable to conversion to urban/exurban development.	LWGs	Big Desert: One county commissioner attended the June field tour. Challis: Salmon-Challis National Forest has identified 3 private in-holdings in sage-grouse habitat that are vulnerable to development. EIU: Addressed in draft Conservation Plan North Magic: Identified in Urban Threats section of local plan (in progress) South Magic: Identified area from valley floor from Elba to Almo as vulnerable.	Target Deadline: Ongoing
6.4.13.2. Inform and encourage county government planning and zoning organizations to consider sage-grouse habitat needs.	LWGs, IDFG, OSC	Challis: IDFG commented through the county comprehensive planning process. EIU: One LWG member recently submitted comments to Bonneville County regarding proposed wind development area. In addition, IDFG personnel have provided comments at planning and zoning (P&Z) meetings. Curlew: Ongoing. Oneida County Commissioners are actively participating in the LWG. Owyhee: During the creation of the Owyhee County Comprehensive Land Use Plan and supporting Zoning Ordinances, County SGLWG and Natural Resources Committee members were	Target Deadline: Ongoing

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
		<p>actively involved in proposing elements of the code regarding species considerations. As a result, one of the elements of the County Code which an applicant for a Conditional Use Permit must meet deals with harm to species.</p> <p>Upper Snake: LWG members attend/participate in Bonneville, Clark, Fremont, and Jefferson County P&Z planning processes</p> <p>West Central: LWG is presently engaged with Washington and Adams counties planning and zoning.</p>	
6.4.13.3. Inform and encourage local land trusts to consider sage-grouse habitat needs in conservation planning.	LWGs	<p>EIU: Ongoing encouragement to the Sagebrush Steppe Regional Land Trust</p> <p>North Magic: Wood River Land Trust participates in LWG meetings.</p>	Target Deadline: Ongoing
6.4.13.4. Encourage the use of conservation easements to protect sage-grouse habitats.	IDFG, LWGs, NRCS	In 2010 and 2011 NRCS enrolled 33,500 acres in permanent GRP easements that restrict development and cropping and use prescribed grazing to maintain or improve sage-grouse habitats.	Target Deadline: Ongoing
6.4.13.5. When doing land exchanges and acquisitions, consider sage-grouse habitat.	BLM, FS, IDL, IDFG	<p>BLM gives full consideration to important wildlife habitat objectives and other factors when participating in land exchanges, in accordance with 43 Code of Federal Regulations Chapter II Section 2200.0-6(b).</p> <p>FS policy requires that sage-grouse be considered in land exchanges and acquisitions.</p>	Target Deadline: Ongoing
6.4.13.6. Research mitigation and crediting programs used by other states and the federal government in shrubsteppe or other habitats (e.g., wetlands). Compile results and develop options for mitigation and crediting program for sagebrush steppe habitats in Idaho.	SAC Mitigation Subcommittee, in cooperation with OSC	The Mitigation Subcommittee researched a variety of mitigation and crediting programs. Options from various programs were considered during the development of a mitigation framework for sage-grouse habitat in Idaho.	Target Deadline: July 31, 2010
6.4.13.7. Develop proposal for a mitigation and	SAC Mitigation	The Mitigation Subcommittee presented a draft of a	Next Steps: Finalize

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
crediting program for sagebrush steppe habitats in Idaho and develop recommendations for policy consideration.	Subcommittee, in cooperation with OSC, SAC TAT	compensatory mitigation framework to state and federal agencies, and the SAC August-October 2010. In December 2010, the SAC approved the mitigation framework to be submitted for consideration by relevant entities. In early 2011, the Mitigation Subcommittee presented the framework to IDFG, BLM, FS, OSC, Office of Energy Resources, the Governor's Office, the Idaho Association of Counties, and Rocky Mountain Power. Some minor changes were made after these meetings. In August 2011, the Mitigation Subcommittee submitted the proposal to IDFG and OSC for consideration. The agencies replied they could not provide a definitive response but commit to being as timely as the need for multi-level state coordination allows.	proposal by December 1, 2010
6.4.13.8. Document and report sagebrush acreage converted to urban/exurban development annually by county.	SAC TAT, in cooperation with LWGs	In 2009-2010 we asked the LWGs to document acreage converted in their LWG annual report. However, acreage information is not often available. In 2011, the SAC TAT revised the LWG Annual Report Form to better address this question by tracking trends in conversion. We asked whether the amount of key habitat lost to urban/exurban had shown: 1) a major increase; 2) a minor increase; 3) no change; or 4) the LWG did not know the answer.	Target Deadline: Report in Statewide LWG Annual Report.

6.4.14 Sagebrush Control

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
6.4.14.1. Require SAC-sponsored projects proposing sagebrush control provide site-specific data justifying treatment. Encourage all project proponents to consider sage-grouse habitat needs as described in the State Plan (see page 4-79).	SAC Land management agencies, NRCS, and private landowners	Added language to RFP documents for OSC funding in 2010 and 2011 funding round. NRCS conferenced with USFWS on potential adverse effects of conservation practices on sage-grouse and now incorporates conservation measures into all practice specifications when installed in sage-grouse habitat.	Target Deadline: April 1, 2010 and ongoing
6.4.14.2. Incorporate sage-grouse conservation measures related to brush management into conservation planning (see page 4-79).	NRCS	Completed August 2008	Next Steps: Ongoing implementation

6.4.15 Insecticides

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
6.4.15.1. Identify agricultural fields that are used by sage-grouse during the late brood-rearing period and that might be a concern for insecticide application. Inform landowners about how to reduce potential impacts.	LWGs, IDFG, NRCS, University of Idaho extension, ISDA		Target Deadline: July 2010 and ongoing
6.4.15.2. Continue to collaborate closely to ensure annual control efforts for Mormon crickets and grasshoppers, focus on key problem areas, better delineate treatment avoidance areas, determine the treatment of least risk to sage-grouse and monitor results.	BLM, FS, ISDA, IDFG, APHIS, LWGs	BLM State Office and Districts coordinate annually with APHIS. EIU: communication with APHIS and BLM to assure the LWG is made aware of annual treatment plans within the planning area.	Target Deadline: During annual or periodic updates of Mormon Cricket and Grasshopper Control Environmental Assessments.
6.4.15.3. Cooperate with mosquito abatement districts as needed.	IDFG health lab		Target Deadline: Ongoing

6.4.16 Agricultural Expansion

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
6.4.16.1. Identify sage-grouse habitat most vulnerable to agricultural conversion	LWGs	Upper Snake: IDFG has identified habitat that is vulnerable to conversion in Clark, Fremont, and Jefferson counties.	Target Deadline: Ongoing
6.4.16.2. Document and report sagebrush acreage converted to agriculture annually by county.	SAC TAT, NRCS, in cooperation with LWGs	However, acreage information is not often available. In 2011, the SAC TAT revised the LWG Annual Report Form to better address this question by tracking trends in conversion. We asked whether the amount of key habitat lost to agricultural conversion had shown: 1) a major increase; 2) a minor increase; 3) no change; or 4) the LWG did not know the answer.	Target Deadline: Report in Statewide LWG Annual Report.
6.4.16.3. Inform and encourage local land trusts to consider sage-grouse habitat needs in conservation planning.	LWGs	EIU: Ongoing encouragement to the Sagebrush Steppe Regional Land Trust North Magic: Wood River Land Trust participates in LWG meetings.	Target Deadline: Ongoing
6.4.16.4. Encourage the use of conservation easements or other alternatives to protect sage-grouse habitats.	IDFG, LWGs, NRCS	In 2010 and 2011 NRCS enrolled 33,500 acres in permanent GRP easements that restrict development and cropping and use prescribed grazing to maintain or improve sage-grouse habitats.	Target Deadline: Ongoing

6.4.17 Sport Hunting

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
6.4.17.1. Analyze existing wing data to determine the differences in sex and age of the harvest during opening weekend, compared to later in the season, and summarize other long-term trends.	IDFG	Preliminary analysis indicates there is no difference in sex and age ratios in the harvest between September and October.	Next Steps: Continual and ongoing
6.4.17.2. Utilize the Hunting Season and Bag-limit Guidelines, as provided in the State Plan (Table 4-14, page 4-122), to guide hunting season recommendations by SGPA or other population	IDFG, in coordination with LWGs	For the 2008-2011 season, IDFG used the Hunting Season and Bag-limit Guidelines as provided in the State Plan (Table 4-14, page 4-122).	Next Steps: July, annually

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
units that may be appropriate or needed (e.g., isolated populations). In cases of catastrophic events or other unique circumstances, the IDFG Director can issue an Emergency Closure in an area on short notice.			
6.4.17.3. Review Hunting Season and Bag-limit Guidelines based on additional data, updated research, and analysis.	IDFG		Target Deadline: October 2010 and ongoing
6.4.17.4. Consider the feasibility and potential value of implementing a permit system with mandatory reporting by all sage-grouse hunters.	IDFG	The Department increased the mail-in wing envelope effort in-lieu of a mandatory report.	Target Deadline: July 30, 2010
6.4.17.5. Resolve sage-grouse harvest reporting zone boundaries.	IDFG	Completed 2009.	Target Deadline: December 31, 2009
6.4.17.6. Explore opportunities to collect more wings from harvested sage-grouse (e.g., statewide mail-in wing survey, additional wing barrels, etc.).	IDFG, in coordination with LWGs	IDFG sent out 2,000 mail-in wing envelopes to known sage-grouse hunters in 2010 and 2011. The Upper Snake added kiosks to wing barrels to increase their visibility and educate hunters on the importance of submitting wings.	Target Deadline: July 30, 2010

6.4.18 Mines, Landfills, and Gravel Pits

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
6.4.18.1. Research mitigation and crediting programs used by other states and the federal government in shrubsteppe or other habitats (e.g., wetlands). Compile results and develop options for mitigation and crediting program for sagebrush steppe habitats in Idaho.	SAC Mitigation Subcommittee, in cooperation with OSC	The Mitigation Subcommittee researched a variety of mitigation and crediting programs. Options from various programs were considered during the development of a mitigation framework for sage-grouse habitat in Idaho.	Target Deadline: July 31, 2010
6.4.18.2. Develop proposal for a mitigation and crediting program for sagebrush steppe habitats in Idaho and develop recommendations for policy consideration.	SAC Mitigation Subcommittee, in cooperation with OSC, SAC TAT	The Mitigation Subcommittee presented a draft of a compensatory mitigation framework to state and federal agencies, and the SAC August-October 2010. In December 2010, the SAC approved the mitigation framework to be submitted for consideration by relevant entities. In early 2011, the Mitigation Subcommittee presented the framework to IDFG, BLM, FS, OSC, Office of Energy Resources, the Governor's Office, the Idaho Association of Counties, and Rocky Mountain Power. Some minor changes were made after these meetings. In August 2011, the Mitigation Subcommittee submitted the proposal to IDFG and OSC for consideration. The agencies replied they could not provide a definitive response but commit to being as timely as the need for multi-level state coordination allows.	Target Deadline: December 1, 2010
6.4.18.3 Where permissible by law, regulation and policy, and where placement of mines, landfills and gravel pits near leks is unavoidable or has already occurred, require timing stipulations for construction, operations and maintenance activities on federal land and encourage on state, private, and tribal land within 1 km of occupied leks. Emphasize timing restrictions, seasonal closures or other appropriate measures, in Rights of Way issuances, project planning and maintenance of existing structures/operations. On State Lands, IDL will	BLM, FS, IDL, IDFG, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes	BLM issued IM ID-2009-006 which directs BLM personnel to adopt sage-grouse conservation measures in the State Plan, including the use of timing restrictions for human disturbance around leks. The Curlew National Grassland Plan requires timing stipulations of activities and restricts some activities to reduce disturbance of leks.	Target Deadline: Immediately and ongoing. Next steps: IDL will implement procedures to contact IDFG prior to any installation.

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
coordinate with IDFG to identify lek locations early in the planning process.			
6.4.18.4. Require gravel pit operators on federal and state (IDL) land to control noxious and invasive weeds.	BLM, FS, IDL		Target Deadline: December 31, 2010 IDL will include language in all leases requiring lessees to manage noxious weeds.

6.4.19 Falconry

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
6.4.19.1. Survey falconers annually to obtain monthly sage-grouse harvest data.	IDFG	Estimated annual falconry harvest in 2006. Conducted survey of falconers in 2010 for annual and monthly sage-grouse harvest data. The estimated harvest by falconers was 58 sage-grouse in 2010.	Next Steps: Next survey spring 2010.
6.4.19.2. Review falconer survey data and updated data on sage-grouse lek attendance, and evaluate the falconry hunting season.	IDFG	Based on 2010 survey, the SAC determined that no further action was needed.	Target Deadline: July 2010

6.5 Monitoring Milestones

6.5.1 Population Monitoring

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
6.5.1.1. Agency partners and volunteers submit completed lek monitoring forms to the appropriate IDFG Wildlife Manager or data steward for inclusion into the statewide lek database.	BLM, FS, volunteers conducting lek surveys	Implemented	Next Steps: No later than May 15, annually.
6.5.1.2. Identify lek monitoring goals (and primary and secondary lek routes) for SGPAs.	IDFG		Target Deadline: Continual and ongoing
6.5.1.3. Explore the potential for initiating the “Adopt a Lek” program for Idaho, to increase monitoring of leks, while also ensuring that volunteers have adequate training.	IDFG	Magic Valley region began a volunteer lek survey program in 2007.	Next Steps: Consider feasibility of volunteer lek survey program in other regions and implement by March 2010.
6.5.1.4. Develop and distribute a standardized lek survey form and protocol to all agency partners and volunteers to assure that data are collected in a standardized and consistent manner.	IDFG	New 2009 lek survey form replaces 2006 lek survey forms in State Plan.	Next Steps: Re-distribute form and protocol by March, 1 annually
6.5.1.5. Develop standardized protocol for aerial surveys of known sage-grouse leks and searches for new leks. Distribute protocol to all cooperators.	IDFG	Completed.	Next Steps: Re-distribute by March 1, annually.
6.5.1.6. Develop and distribute radio-telemetry guidelines for sage-grouse telemetry projects.	IDFG		Target Deadline: March 2010

6.5.2 Habitat Monitoring

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
6.5.2.1. Review and encourage the use of the national Sage-grouse Habitat Assessment Framework when available.	SAC TAT	The SAC TAT held a sage-grouse habitat assessment and vegetation monitoring workshop the 3 rd day of the June SAC meeting. This workshop included methods in the Framework.	Target Deadline: Pending completion of Framework document in 2010 by national Framework team.
6.5.2.2. BLM to coordinate with IDFG, other agencies, and LWGs during the fall/early winter each year to acquire spatial and related data needed for the annual update of the Sage-grouse Habitat Planning Map.	BLM	Map update and interagency coordination has been ongoing since 2000. Improved collaboration efforts in 2008.	Next Steps: Acquire data from agency field-level offices and other partners by approximately February 1, annually.
6.5.2.3. Complete annual update of the Sage-grouse Habitat Planning Map including acreage summary (of key perennial grasslands, annual grasslands, conifer encroachment, by SGPA). Post pdf of map on the IDFG sage-grouse website. Post GIS data on the Inside Idaho website at www.insideidaho.org/	BLM State Office	Implemented posting of map data with the 2007 update.	Next Steps: By March 1, annually.
6.5.2.4. Develop and implement long-term habitat and threats monitoring programs, with the focus on: areas of priority to LWGs; habitats associated with priority lek routes; areas where land uses or threats have changed; or unique areas of local or regional importance.	SAC TAT, in cooperation with IDFG, BLM, FS, DOE, and LWGs	<p>Habitat Monitoring: The SAC TAT agreed that the scale of this task was beyond our scope. However, the group will compile and distribute a list of recommended standardized protocols.</p> <p>Threats Monitoring: The SAC TAT identified a need to change the way we ask LWGs to report threats in the LWG Annual Report. 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. New threats were also reported.</p>	Target Deadline: March 2010

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
6.5.2.5. Delineate all known sage-grouse breeding, late brood-rearing, and winter habitat at 1:100,000 (or 1:24,000 if possible), using best available information.	IDFG, in cooperation with land management agency biologists and LWGs	Draft December 2009 map was based on expert opinion, leks, and radio-telemetry locations. The following report and resulting habitat models are currently being considered: Knetter, S. J., L.K. Svancara, and W.R. Bosworth. 2011. Mapping sage-grouse habitat. Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Boise, ID, unpublished document.	Next Steps: Draft map by December 2009 and update annually as additional information becomes available
6.5.2.6. Continue to explore and review emerging remote-sensing tools and products that would have the capability and accuracy to refine or replace the Sage-grouse Habitat Planning Map.	SAC TAT, in coordination with universities	The following report and resulting habitat models are currently being considered: Knetter, S. J., L.K. Svancara, and W.R. Bosworth. 2011. Mapping sage-grouse habitat. Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Boise, ID, unpublished document.	Target Deadline: Ongoing as tools and products are developed.
6.5.2.7. Require effectiveness monitoring (pre- and post project, where possible) and reporting for SAC-sponsored (e.g., OSC grants) habitat restoration efforts	SAC	Added language to RFP documents for OSC funding and incorporated into grant agreements beginning in 2010.	Target Deadline: April 1, 2010
6.5.2.8. Provide training for habitat and restoration monitoring to LWGs and other interested parties to monitor local projects.	SAC TAT	The SAC TAT held a sage-grouse habitat assessment and vegetation monitoring workshop the 3 rd day of the June SAC meeting.	Target Deadline: Ongoing, as requested

6.6 Habitat Restoration Milestones

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
6.6.1. Utilize Conservation Efforts Database to track, summarize, and report habitat accomplishments statewide, as reported by LWGs in their annual report.	SAC TAT, LWGs, IDFG	Implemented in 2008.	Next Steps: Updated during LWG annual reporting process with results published in Statewide LWG Annual Report by March 1, annually.
6.6.2. Identify Restoration Emphasis Areas (REAs) within each SGPA. Post pdf of map on the IDFG sage-grouse website. Post GIS data on the Inside Idaho website at www.insideidaho.org . REAs are identified areas with missing, marginal, or degraded sage-grouse habitat characteristics that if successfully improved or restored should result in a positive sage-grouse population response.	IDFG/TNC, SAC TAT, BLM, FS, IDL, in cooperation with LWGs	<p>Accomplishments: Draft REA maps were identified in most SGPAs by Fall 2008.</p> <p>The SAC TAT will make REAs more comprehensive for March 2012 update. The SAC TAT will assure that the new REA map is readily available to LWGs.</p> <p>REAs are currently not available on Inside Idaho. They will be posted by March 2011.</p> <p>The SAC TAT will investigate including new mapping products in the REAs process. This should include cheatgrass and cheatgrass risk mapping (6.4.3.2), sage-grouse breeding density maps, juniper invasion mapping (Don Major), and seeded perennial grasslands.</p> <p>They also discussed the need to annually update the REA map to include removing areas that are recovering on their own.</p>	Next Steps: Updated by March 1, annually.
6.6.3. Require effectiveness monitoring (pre- and post project, where possible) and reporting for SAC-sponsored (e.g., OSC grants) habitat restoration efforts	SAC	Added language to RFP documents for OSC funding and incorporated into grant agreements beginning in 2010.	Target Deadline: April 1, 2010
6.6.4. Provide training for habitat and restoration monitoring to LWGs and other interested parties to monitor local projects.	SAC TAT	The SAC TAT held a sage-grouse habitat assessment and vegetation monitoring workshop the 3 rd day of the June SAC meeting.	Target Deadline: Ongoing, as requested

Task	Responsible Party	2009-2011 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
6.6.5. As information comes available, develop measurable habitat restoration (based on REAs) or maintenance goals for each SGPA during development of LWG plans (see page 1-32). LWGs with completed plans should confirm, revise, or develop goals.	LWGs, in coordination with private landowners, and local, state, and federal agencies	Challis and South Magic Valley: Habitat restoration goals are established on a project-by-project basis. Curlew: Forest Service has maintenance goals in the Curlew National Grassland Land Use Plan; Noted that NRCS has stated goals for sage-grouse habitat restoration.	Target Deadline: July 31, 2010
6.6.6. Improve knowledge of commercial sagebrush seed collectors by providing training in sagebrush identification and localities of suitable collection sites.	BLM, FS		Target Deadline: April 2011
6.6.7. Explore development of a seed testing protocol for verification of sagebrush species and subspecies.	BLM, universities		Target Deadline: April 2011
6.6.8. Make sage-grouse habitat restoration or maintenance a priority task for IDFG Farm Bill Coordinators using Farm Bill and other programs.	IDFG, NRCS	Accomplishments: Funding presentation at LWG workshop November 2007. Three sage-grouse biologists were hired in 2011 through Pheasants Forever to assist with implementation of NRCS's Sage-grouse Initiative.	Target Deadline: Encourage Farm Bill Coordinators to attend NRCS division meetings and workshops.