



## IDAHO FISH AND GAME GOLDSHEET

*March 2025 Commission Meeting*

*Agenda Item: Bruneau-Owyhee Sage-Grouse Habitat (BOSH) Project Overview*

*Presented by: Connor White*

*Position/Title: BOSH Project Coordinator, Pheasants*

*Forever/Quail Forever*

*Agenda Item No.: 11*

*Bureau Chief Approval: SR*

### **Background:**

The Bruneau-Owyhee Sage-grouse Habitat (BOSH) Project is an initiative to clear encroaching trees from sagebrush habitat in southwestern Idaho. The project's focus is on removing encroaching juniper trees to provide better habitat quality and quantity for Greater Sage-grouse. The impact of conifer encroachment on sage-grouse has been well documented. Sage-grouse tend to avoid areas with more than 4% conifer cover. Research has shown conifer encroachment is the second leading threat to sage-grouse habitat, following invasive annual plants such as cheatgrass. Addressing this threat also benefits other upland bird species such as chukar, gray partridge and quail. Several iconic western wildlife species also depend on sagebrush for cover and grazing such as mule deer, pronghorn, and songbirds.

This presentation will give the Commission an overview of this very large-scale, collaborative habitat improvement project happening in southwest Idaho.

### **Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:**

The Department collaborates with the Governor's Office of Species Conservation (OSC) on sage-grouse policy issues in Idaho. The State of Idaho has a statewide plan (Executive Order 2022-03) for sage-grouse conservation to develop a management framework created with a diverse set of stakeholders.

### **Public Involvement Process:**

None.

### **Justification:**

None.

### **Staff Recommendation:**

Informational only.

### **Suggested Motion:**

Informational only.