

# **Chapter 6 – Implementation Milestones**

**Revised October 2009**

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## 6 Implementation Milestones

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The successful implementation of this Plan necessitates that certain important tasks and processes occur in a timely manner. Many sound, proactive activities, such as sage-grouse habitat restoration, wildfire suppression and rehabilitation, restrictive sage-grouse harvests, and control of invasive plant species are already in progress or will be planned on a site-specific basis. Many other important tasks are pending. The purpose of this chapter is to concisely summarize the latter and identify responsible parties and target deadlines.

Specific project proposals as developed locally, public education efforts, habitat/population assessment and monitoring efforts, research, and staff participation in Local Working Groups (LWG) will be routinely incorporated into agency annual budgets and work plans, as appropriate, and contingent on funding. Agencies, LWGs, and other cooperators are also expected to pursue partnership opportunities to leverage available funding to the greatest extent possible.

Certain elements of this Plan, including fine-, mid-, and broad-scale habitat goals and objectives, habitat and population management conservation measures, LWG processes, and habitat and population monitoring techniques will be implemented immediately where possible. However, implementation of some measures will occur as they are evaluated and incorporated into other plans or processes. For example, mid-scale habitat objectives described in this Plan may not be consistent with agency Land-Use Plans, necessitating further analysis during scheduled Land-Use Plan revision or amendment processes.

This updated Chapter 6 document was developed through a consensus process by a Sage-grouse Advisory Committee (SAC) subcommittee and was reviewed and approved by the full SAC in October 2009. The updated Chapter 6 is a 5-year implementation plan that outlines specific tasks and responsible parties, past accomplishments towards those tasks, and target deadlines. The SAC subcommittee reviewed the Conservation Measures, and Research, Monitoring, and Evaluation Needs in Chapter 4 and identified specific milestones that could be accomplished or initiated within the 5-year time frame. The subcommittee did not identify implementation milestones for every conservation measure. Some conservation measures are more appropriately addressed at the local level. Finally, during the development of Chapter 6, the subcommittee also identified tasks that were not associated with a conservation measure in Chapter 4, but were appropriate implementation milestones for the State Plan.

## 6.1 Local Working Group Milestones

Task	Responsible Party	2006-2008 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)		Target Deadline: July 1, 2010
6.1.2. LWGs provide annual report to Sage-grouse Advisory Committee Technical Assistance Team (SAC TAT).	LWGs	Completed first Statewide LWG Annual Report in March 2008.	Next Steps: Due January 15, annually
6.1.3. LWGs without completed plans will finalize their plans.	LWGs	As of January 1, 2009 6 plans are completed, 1 is in draft, 4 are in progress.	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	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.	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.  A funding summary will be included in the <i>2009 Annual Statewide Sage-grouse Report</i> and annually thereafter.
6.1.5. Refine LWG boundaries.	Affected LWGs in coordination with SAC TAT		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	LWGs, in coordination with private landowners, and local, state, and federal agencies		Target Deadline: July 31, 2010

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>2006-2008 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Next Steps or Target Deadline</b>
Planning Area (SGPA) during development of LWG plans (see page 1-32). LWGs with completed plans should confirm, revise, or develop goals.			

## 6.2 Sage-grouse Advisory Committee Milestones

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>2006-2008 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Next Steps or Target Deadline</b>
6.2.1. Review and update (if needed) State Plan	SAC		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)		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 Studies in Avian Biology winter 2009/2010.	SAC TAT		Target Deadline: April 2010
6.2.4. Develop proposal for a mitigation and crediting program for sagebrush steppe habitats in Idaho and develop recommendations for policy consideration.	SAC Mitigation Subcommittee, in cooperation with OSC, SAC TAT	SAC Mitigation Subcommittee developed a draft proposal in 2008.	Next Steps: Finalize 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	First Statewide LWG Annual Report published March 2008.	Next Steps: Publish by March 1, annually

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>2006-2008 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Next Steps or Target Deadline</b>
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.	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 guide to help landowners and the public recognize suitable sage-grouse seasonal habitats throughout their range in Idaho.	University of Idaho, in cooperation with BLM, IDFG and LWGs.	University of Idaho graduate student initiated work on guide in summer 2008.	Target Deadline: March 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.		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		Target Deadline: January 2010
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		Target Deadline: April 2010

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>2006-2008 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Next Steps or Target Deadline</b>
6.2.14. Develop planning and support protocols to assist SAC and LWGs on field trips.	SAC Education Subcommittee		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		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		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		Target Deadline: July 2010 and annually thereafter

### 6.3 Rangewide Policy Milestones

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>2006-2008 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Next Steps or Target Deadline</b>
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	2006-2008 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
<p>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.</p>	<p>BLM, FS</p>	<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>	<p>Next Steps: BLM and FS will continue to review and validate Fire Management Plans annually.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>BLM, FS, IDL</p>	<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>Next Steps: Ongoing</p>

Task	Responsible Party	2006-2008 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
		<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> <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>Next Steps: Annually, before the ensuing fire season.</p>

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>2006-2008 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Next Steps or Target Deadline</b>
		The FS discusses the importance of protecting sage-grouse habitat annually at Inter-Agency Spring Fire Operations Meetings.	
6.4.1.5. Minimize loss of sagebrush during fire suppression and mop up activities.	BLM, FS	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.  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.  The FS discusses the importance of leaving unburned islands of sagebrush within fire perimeters at annual Inter-Agency Spring Fire Operations Meetings.	Next Steps: Ongoing.
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	BLM and FS have installed numerous new signs since 2006.	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		Target Deadline: Ongoing
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		Target Deadline: Ongoing

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>2006-2008 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Next Steps or Target Deadline</b>
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		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 fire risk; 2) protection of intact sagebrush habitats; 3) protection of important sage-grouse nesting, brood-rearing, and wintering areas; and 4) utilize existing roads where possible.	BLM, FS, IDL, IDFG, NRCS, working with LWGs	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 and 2008.	Next Steps: Ongoing
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

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>2006-2008 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Next Steps or Target Deadline</b>
6.4.1.13. Explore and implement use of targeted grazing <sup>1</sup> 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	Target Deadline: Ongoing. LWGs provide lists of accomplishments, needs, and proposals as part of LWG annual reporting.

## **6.4.2 Infrastructure**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>2006-2008 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Next Steps or Target Deadline</b>
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		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	SAC Mitigation Subcommittee developed a draft proposal in 2008.	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.

<sup>1</sup> 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).

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>2006-2008 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Next Steps or Target Deadline</b>
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		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-grouse. Consider speed limits, brush control, signing, and public education.	LWGs	In an area of known sage-grouse-vehicle collisions, the Upper Snake LWG received an OSC grant to rotomow openings in sagebrush to encourage birds to lek away from the road.	Target Deadline: April 2010 Next Steps: Explore possibility for and implications of “sage-grouse crossing” signs.

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>2006-2008 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Next Steps or Target Deadline</b>
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 <a href="http://www.insideidaho.org">www.insideidaho.org</a>	SAC TAT		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.		Target Deadline: Ongoing Next steps: IDL will implement procedures to contact IDFG early in planning process.
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.		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.

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>2006-2008 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Next Steps or Target Deadline</b>
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	See 6.4.1.2 accomplishments.	Target Deadline: April 2010
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	Several cheatgrass occurrence maps are currently being developed by BLM and others.	Target Deadline: 2010.
6.4.3.3. Identify priority annual grasslands for restoration.	SAC TAT in coordination with LWGs		Target Deadline: Based on completion of 6.4.3.2.
6.4.3.4. Distribute prioritized annual grassland maps to LWGs.	SAC TAT		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		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		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 Areas, in cooperation with LWGs.		Target Deadline: January 2010 and annually thereafter.

### 6.4.4 Livestock Impacts

Task	Responsible Party	2006-2008 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.	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		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 to be used as livestock forage reserves	IDFG, NRCS, BLM, ISDA, ICA, IWGA, LWGs		Target Deadline: 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		Target Deadline: September 1, 2010 and annually thereafter

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>2006-2008 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Next Steps or Target Deadline</b>
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		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		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 (pages 5-30 and 5-31) in order to provide benefits to sage-grouse and their habitats.	BLM, FS, NRCS, IDFG, IDL, University of Idaho (e.g., Range Extension Specialists), LWGs, in cooperation with livestock managers	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 permittees to find solutions.	Target Deadline: Ongoing

### 6.4.5 Human Disturbance

Task	Responsible Party	2006-2008 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
<p>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.</p>	<p>BLM, FS, IDL, IDFG, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The Curlew National Grassland Plan requires timing stipulations of activities and restricts some activities to reduce disturbance of leks.</p>	<p>Next Steps: Ongoing</p> <p>IDL will implement procedures to contact IDFG prior to any installation.</p>
<p>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).</p>	<p>NRCS</p>		<p>Target Deadline: December 2009</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>SAC TAT, BLM, FS, IDL, Idaho Parks and Recreation</p>	<p>The FS develops conservation measures during Travel Planning on each forest that has sage-grouse habitat.</p>	<p>Target Deadline: SAC TAT to research appropriate conservation measures by April 1, 2010. Consideration by land management agencies during planning and permitting OHV and mountain bike events.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>BLM, FS, IDL, IDFG, and tribes (when applicable)</p>	<p>IDL identifies “non-use” areas in temporary permits and leases related to OHV activities.</p> <p>Challis BLM Field Office Travel Plan was completed summer 2008.</p>	<p>Target Deadline: Ongoing, and during development of travel management plans.</p> <p>Forests in southern Idaho will have completed travel management plans by September 2009.</p>

### 6.4.6 West Nile Virus

Task	Responsible Party	2006-2008 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).	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		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.	Next steps: During periods of potential WNV outbreak

### 6.4.7 Prescribed Fire

Task	Responsible Party	2006-2008 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>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	2006-2008 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
6.4.8.1. Encourage establishment of sagebrush and desirable forbs and grasses into seeded perennial grasslands.	LWGs, NRCS, IDFG, land management agencies, private landowners	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.  Curlew National Grasslands has seeded and planted sagebrush seedlings on approximately 30 acres.	Target Deadline: Ongoing
6.4.8.2. Encourage livestock grazing or habitat conservation of expiring CRP over tillage, cropping, or development.	LWGs, NRCS, IDFG, private landowners		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		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		Target Deadline: September 2010 and annually thereafter

### 6.4.9 Climate Change

Task	Responsible Party	2006-2008 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		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		Target Deadline: October 2011

### 6.4.10 Conifer Encroachment

Task	Responsible Party	2006-2008 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.		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	BLM currently encourages biomass utilization in fuels contracts.  Caribou-Targhee National Forest has initiated a collaborative effort to encourage biomass utilization in eastern Idaho.	Target Deadline: Ongoing

### 6.4.11 Isolated Populations

Task	Responsible Party	2006-2008 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		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	2006-2008 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		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 (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.	IDFG, APHIS-WS		Target Deadline: December 2010

### 6.4.13 Urban/Exurban

Task	Responsible Party	2006-2008 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
6.4.13.1. Identify sage-grouse habitat most vulnerable to conversion to urban/exurban development.	LWGs	Salmon-Challis National Forest has identified 3 private in-holdings in sage-grouse habitat that are vulnerable to development.	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	West Central LWG is presently engaged with Washington and Adams counties planning and zoning.	Target Deadline: Ongoing
6.4.13.3. Inform and encourage local land trusts to consider sage-grouse habitat needs in conservation planning.	LWGs		Target Deadline: Ongoing
6.4.13.4. Encourage the use of conservation easements to protect sage-grouse habitats.	IDFG, LWGs, NRCS		Target Deadline: Ongoing
6.4.13.5. When doing land exchanges and acquisitions, consider sage-grouse habitat.	BLM, FS, IDL, IDFG	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).  FS policy requires that sage-grouse be considered in land exchanges and acquisitions.	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		Target Deadline: July 31, 2010
6.4.13.7. Develop proposal for a mitigation and crediting program for sagebrush steppe habitats in Idaho and develop recommendations for policy consideration.	SAC Mitigation Subcommittee, in cooperation with OSC, SAC TAT	SAC Mitigation Subcommittee developed a draft proposal in 2008.	Next Steps: Finalize proposal by December 1, 2010

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>2006-2008 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Next Steps or Target Deadline</b>
6.4.13.8. Document and report sagebrush acreage converted to urban/exurban development annually by county.	SAC TAT, in cooperation with LWGs		Target Deadline: Report in Statewide LWG Annual Report.

### **6.4.14 Sagebrush Control**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>2006-2008 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Next Steps or Target Deadline</b>
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		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	2006-2008 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.	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	2006-2008 Accomplishments	Next Steps or Target Deadline
6.4.16.1. Identify sage-grouse habitat most vulnerable to agricultural conversion	LWGs		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		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		Target Deadline: Ongoing
6.4.16.4. Encourage the use of conservation easements or other alternatives to protect sage-grouse habitats.	IDFG, LWGs, NRCS		Target Deadline: Ongoing

### 6.4.17 Sport Hunting

Task	Responsible Party	2006-2008 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 units that may be appropriate or needed (e.g., isolated populations). In cases of catastrophic events or other unique circumstances, the IDFG Director can issue an Emergency Closure in an area on short notice.	IDFG, in coordination with LWGs	For the 2008 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
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		Target Deadline: July 30, 2010
6.4.17.5. Resolve sage-grouse harvest reporting zone boundaries.	IDFG		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		Target Deadline: July 30, 2010

### 6.4.18 Mines, Landfills, and Gravel Pits

Task	Responsible Party	2006-2008 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		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	SAC Mitigation Subcommittee developed a draft proposal in 2008.	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 coordinate with IDFG to identify lek locations early in the planning process.	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.
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

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>2006-2008 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Next Steps or Target Deadline</b>
6.4.19.1. Survey falconers annually to obtain monthly sage-grouse harvest data.	IDFG	Estimated annual falconry harvest in 2006.	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		Target Deadline: July 2010

## 6.5 Monitoring Milestones

### 6.5.1 Population Monitoring

Task	Responsible Party	2006-2008 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	2006-2008 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		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 <a href="http://www.insideidaho.org/">www.insideidaho.org/</a>	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		Target Deadline: March 2010
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	Initiated September 2008	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		Target Deadline: Ongoing as tools and products are developed.

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>2006-2008 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Next Steps or Target Deadline</b>
6.5.2.7. Require effectiveness monitoring (pre- and post project, where possible) and reporting for SAC-sponsored (e.g., OSC grants) habitat restoration efforts	SAC		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		Target Deadline: Ongoing, as requested

## 6.6 Habitat Restoration Milestones

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>2006-2008 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Next Steps or Target Deadline</b>
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 <a href="http://www.insideidaho.org">www.insideidaho.org</a> . 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	Accomplishments: Draft REA maps were identified in most SGPAs by Fall 2008.	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		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		Target Deadline: Ongoing, as requested
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		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

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>2006-2008 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Next Steps or Target Deadline</b>
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.	Target Deadline: Encourage Farm Bill Coordinators to attend NRCS division meetings and workshops.