



Idaho Sage-grouse Local Working Groups

Statewide Annual Report 2009

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

March 12, 2010



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ABSTRACT

This report summarizes Idaho sage-grouse Local Working Groups (LWGs) and Sage-grouse Advisory Committee (SAC) accomplishments, and sage-grouse conservation efforts in 2009. Eleven LWGs held a total of 78 meetings with an average of 12.2 attendees per meeting. Overall 280 individuals attended 1 or more LWG meeting. Of the 11 active LWGs, 8 have completed plans and the others are in progress. The SAC met 4 times in 2009, with an average of 31 attendees per meeting. The SAC Chapter 6 Subcommittee met for a total of 8 days in 2009 and completed a revised Implementation Chapter for the *Conservation Plan for the Greater Sage-grouse in Idaho*. Biologists and volunteers surveyed 836 leks statewide. Of these, 135 leks were surveyed by helicopter and 461 leks were counted on 75 established lek routes. Statewide, 2009 male lek attendance was up slightly from 2008; overall, sage-grouse numbers had been increasing from 2004–2006, followed by a decrease in 2007 and a larger decrease in 2008. Sage-grouse productivity statewide, as determined by wing collections was 2.00 chicks per hen in 2009, which was slightly above the previous 5-year's average of 1.88. Estimated sage-grouse harvest in 2009 was 7,196 birds, which is less than the previous 5-year's average of 8,751 birds. Just 1,536 acres of key sage-grouse habitat burned in 2009. Since 2002, the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation has helped provide funding for 113 sage-grouse projects including 48 habitat projects and 45 inventory and monitoring projects. To date, these grants have helped improve at least 27,022 acres of sage-grouse habitat in Idaho.

INTRODUCTION

In 1997, the Idaho Sage-grouse Task Force, under direction of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission, completed the Idaho Sage-grouse Management Plan (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 1997). The 1997 Plan divided Idaho into sage-grouse management areas and called for the creation of LWGs that would develop sage-grouse management plans for each of Idaho's Sage-grouse Planning Areas (SGPA).

The SAC was formed in 2003, with members appointed by former Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG) Director Steve Huffaker. The main purpose of the SAC was described as, “. . . helping all Idahoans, and especially Local Working Groups, by making sure they have the funding, support, and information they need to put meaningful sage-grouse conservation on the ground.” In addition to representatives from key agencies, the SAC includes private citizens from agricultural and conservation groups and at least one member from each LWG. There are currently about 25 SAC members and 10 technical advisors (SAC Technical Assistance Team [TAT]).

In July 2006, the *Conservation Plan for the Greater Sage-grouse in Idaho* was completed and signed by a diverse group of cooperators (Idaho Sage-grouse Advisory Committee 2006). This updated plan provides the management framework for sage-grouse in Idaho and identifies LWGs as the heart of Idaho's sage-grouse conservation strategy. Prior to 2006, there were 5 established LWGs. The 2006 plan identified 13 SGPAs; since then 2 of the planning areas have merged into one (the West Magic Valley and East Magic Valley combined into the North Magic Valley LWG) (Figure 1). Furthermore, several LWGs have amended or are planning to amend their planning area boundaries.

Currently there are 11 active LWGs and the 12th (Mountain Home) has not yet been formed. Of these 11 LWGs, 8 have completed plans (Table 1), including the West Central's Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances.

This statewide annual report is the third compilation of annual reports from each LWG. The purpose of this document is to summarize LWG and SAC accomplishments and sage-grouse conservation efforts in 2009.

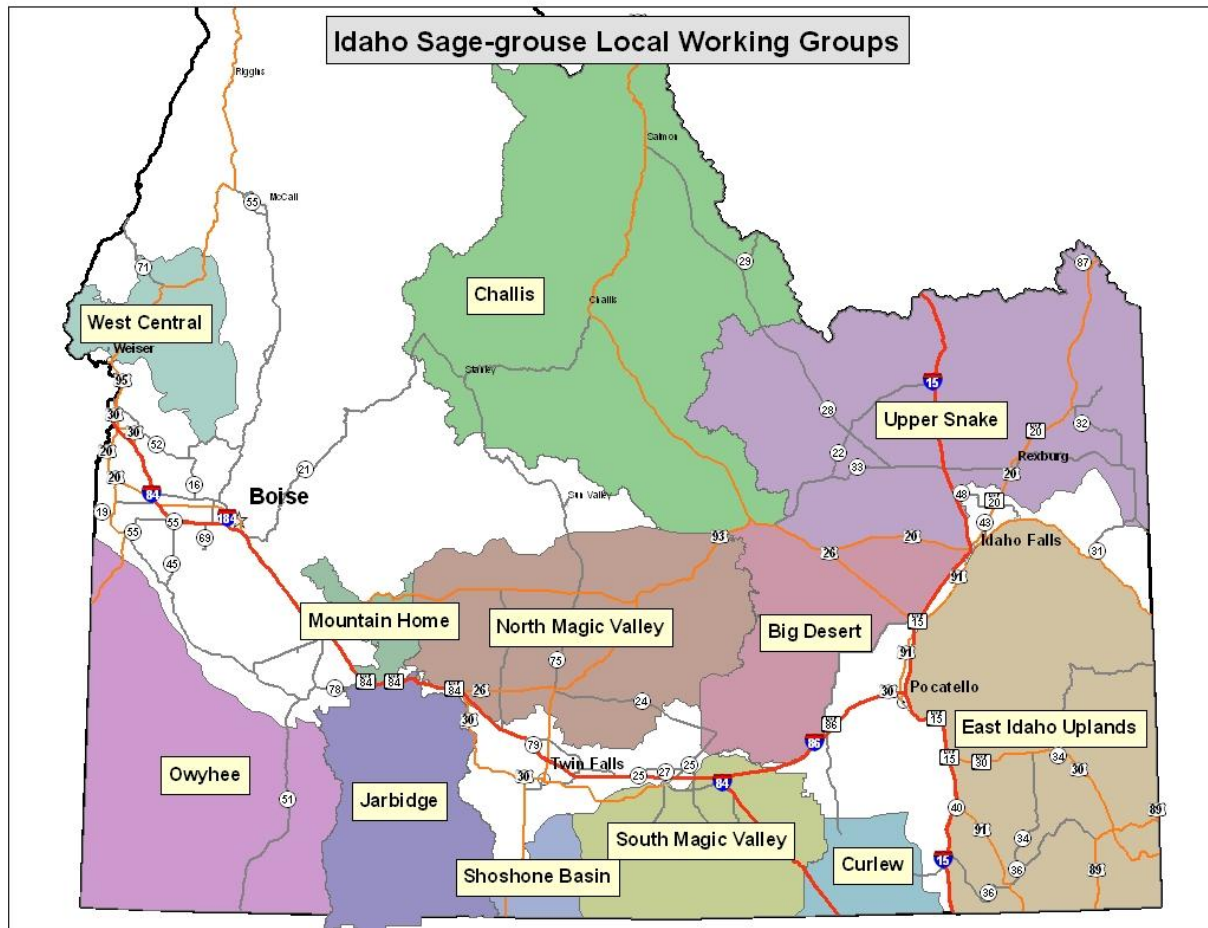


Figure 1. Idaho Sage-grouse Local Working Groups and associated Sage-grouse Planning Areas. Boundaries were updated by some groups in 2009.

Table 1. Status of Local Working Group Plans.

| Local Working Group | Status of Plan |
|----------------------------|---|
| Big Desert | Completed March 2010 |
| Challis | Completed October 2007 |
| East Idaho Uplands | In progress |
| Greater Curlew Valley | Completed June 2004 |
| Jarbidge | Completed December 2007 |
| Mountain Home | Group not yet formed |
| North Magic Valley | In progress |
| Owyhee | Completed August 2004 |
| Shoshone Basin | Completed October 2008 |
| South Magic Valley | In progress |
| Upper Snake | Completed June 2004 |
| West Central | Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA), signed February 12, 2010 |

METHODS

In 2006, the SAC TAT developed a draft Local Working Group annual report form. Four LWGs completed and submitted a report in 2006. The form was revised in 2007, based on input from these 4 LWGs, and the first *Idaho Sage-grouse Local Working Groups Statewide Annual Report* was published March 27, 2008. Each LWG facilitator and IDFG regional contact received the *Local Working Group Annual Report Form 2009* (Appendix A), and were asked to return the completed form by January 15, 2010. The SAC TAT chairman compiled the reports, produced the draft document, and then distributed to SAC TAT members for review prior to final publication.

RESULTS

Eleven LWGs submitted an annual report. The following results are summarized by major category in the annual report form.

LWG and SAC Meetings

Eleven LWGs held a total of 78 meetings with an average of 12.2 attendees per meeting. The number of meetings in a year for a LWG ranged from 1 to 12. Overall 280 individuals attended 1 or more LWG meeting in 2009. Attendance at LWG meeting has decreased since 2007; 345 individuals attended LWG meetings in 2007 and 317 attended meetings in 2008. Attendees were interested citizens and landowners, or represented various grazing associations, nongovernmental organizations, and state, county and federal agencies. Attendees reported a total of 59,634 miles travelled to attend meetings in 2009, for an average of 217 miles per person.

The SAC held 4 meetings in 2009, with an average of 31 attendees per meeting. SAC meeting summaries can be found on the sage-grouse pages of the IDFG website at:

http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/plans/sage_grouse/

When the *Conservation Plan for the Greater Sage-grouse in Idaho* (i.e., the State Plan) was completed in 2006, the SAC agreed on the need to go back and provide a more-detailed implementation plan. In 2009, a SAC subcommittee was formed to update and revise the implementation chapter (Chapter 6) of the State Plan. The 18-member subcommittee represented a broad range of interests and agencies, and developed the chapter through a consensus process. They met 8 days in 2009. The revised Chapter 6 specifically identifies:

- Tasks anticipated to be implemented during the next 5 years addressing conservation measures presented in Chapter 4
- Responsible parties for implementing the tasks
- Target deadlines for implementing the tasks
- 2006–2008 accomplishments towards the tasks.

The SAC invited the agencies to review the draft in May 2009 to ensure that there were no inconsistencies with the various agency missions and obligations. Following the agency review, the Draft Chapter 6 was open for public comment until August 31, 2009.

The Subcommittee met on October 1, 2009 prior to the full SAC meeting that afternoon. The subcommittee reviewed and addressed the public comments received on the draft Chapter 6. They also reviewed agency comments that required additional discussion and those that came in after the agency review deadline. The subcommittee then presented their completed Chapter 6 to the full SAC. The SAC reached consensus agreement and approved the final Chapter 6.

To formalize Chapter 6, the SAC requested letters of support from the agencies that signed the MOU for the State Plan. The letters demonstrate continued support of the State Plan, including the revised Chapter 6, and extend the MOU through December 31, 2015.

Sage-grouse Population Monitoring

Leks

Sage-grouse breeding populations are typically monitored by counts of males at leks each spring. A lek is a traditional display area. The area is normally located in a very open site in or adjacent to sagebrush-dominated habitats. The quality of lek data in Idaho varies greatly, ranging from 1 helicopter survey over an area every 5 years to annual standardized counts on established lek routes.

A lek route is a count of male sage-grouse on a group of leks that are relatively close and represent part or all of a single breeding population. The following summarizes the standardized procedures for lek routes (Connelly et al. 2003):

- All leks within a lek route should be counted on the same day within 1.5 hours.
- Lek routes should be run from 0.5 hours before sunrise to 1 hour after sunrise.
- Each route should be run 4 times during the spring lekking season (generally late March to mid-April, depending on elevation).
- Lek routes should not be conducted under poor weather conditions (rain or snow or winds >15 mph).

Lek route results are reported as the peak male attendance on one day for all leks in the route. Lek route data that have been correctly collected through time are the most appropriate data for assessing population trends.

We asked LWGs to compile lek data for their planning areas. Specifically we asked how many leks were surveyed by air and ground in 2009, the number of lek routes in the area, and the average number of males per lek for leks on routes from 2004–2009. Biologists and volunteers surveyed 836 leks statewide. Of these, 135 leks were surveyed by helicopter and 461 leks were counted on 75 established lek routes (Table 2). The location and distribution of lek routes are shown in Figure 2.

Some LWGs reported their lek route results as the average number of males per lek, while others reported total males on all routes. Although both reporting methods are valid (Connelly et al. 2003), it is difficult to compare numbers statewide. The SAC TAT revisited the lek route data and reported results in 2 ways for this report: 1) Average males per lek for all leks counted on routes; and 2) Total males on lek routes that were visited each year from 2004 to 2009. Average males per lek allow comparisons within and among SGPAs (Table 3). The average is, however, influenced by the number of leks surveyed. The number of leks surveyed on routes was not consistent among years, and in most cases, the number of leks surveyed increased each year. To get a better picture of trends, the SAC TAT also reported the total number of males counted on lek routes within an SGPA, but only used those lek routes that were counted each year from 2004 to 2009. This method allows a more valid comparison among years within an SGPA and statewide (Table 4 and Figure 3). However, because there are a variable number of lek routes in each SGPA, total males cannot be compared among SGPAs. In summary, statewide 2009 male lek attendance was up slightly from 2008; overall, sage-grouse numbers had been increasing from 2004–2006, followed by a decrease in 2007 and a larger decrease in 2008 (Figure 3).

Table 2. Sage-grouse leks surveyed in each Sage-grouse Planning Area in 2009.

| Sage-grouse Planning Area | 2009 Leks Surveys | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| | Leks surveyed by air ^a | Individual leks ground surveyed ^a | Number of lek routes | Leks surveyed on routes ^a | Total leks surveyed |
| Big Desert | 0 | 52 | 6 | 49 | 101 |
| Challis | 0 | 22 | 14 | 36 | 58 |
| East Idaho Uplands | 13 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 23 |
| Greater Curlew Valley | 0 | 7 | 4 | 14 | 21 |
| Jarbidge | 32 | 14 | 9 | 60 | 99 |
| Mountain Home | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| North Magic Valley | 0 | 57 | 9 | 98 | 155 |
| Owyhee | 91 | 5 | 7 | 30 | 119 |
| Shoshone Basin | 0 | 45 | 1 | 14 | 59 |
| South Magic Valley | 0 | 30 | 3 | 19 | 49 |
| Upper Snake | 0 | 2 | 14 | 122 | 124 |
| West Central | 0 | 11 | 4 | 13 | 24 |
| Statewide | 135 | 254 | 75 | 461 | 836 |

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

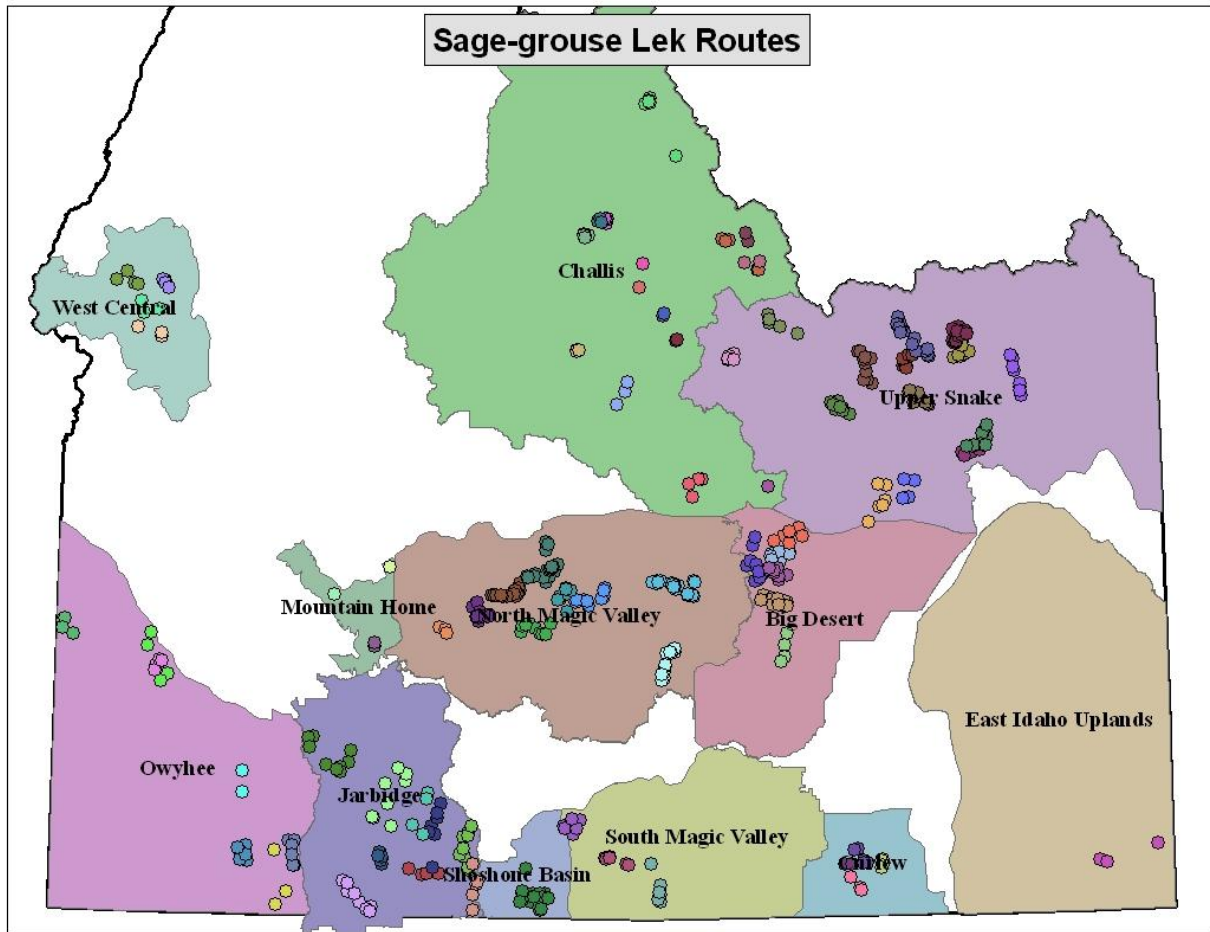


Figure 2. Location of sage-grouse lek routes by Sage-grouse Planning Area. Lek clusters with the same color encompass a lek route.

Table 3. Average number of males per lek for all lek routes, 2004–2009.

| Sage-grouse Planning Area | Average Number of Males per Lek | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| | 2004 | | 2005 | | 2006 | | 2007 | | 2008 | | 2009 | |
| | # | Avg | # | Avg | # | Avg | # | Avg | # | Avg | # | Avg |
| Big Desert | 43 | 17 | 43 | 20 | 43 | 23 | 44 | 20 | 48 | 15 | 49 | 14 |
| Challis | 30 | 21 | 29 | 22 | 30 | 27 | 33 | 25 | 32 | 16 | 35 | 17 |
| East Idaho Uplands | 1 | 69 | 3 | 36 | 2 | 39 | 2 | 31 | 2 | 26 | 2 | 33 |
| Greater Curlew Valley | 10 | 17 | 12 | 19 | 14 | 17 | 14 | 15 | 13 | 13 | 14 | 11 |
| Jarbridge | 46 | 8 | 44 | 11 | 57 | 12 | 48 | 11 | 53 | 8 | 60 | 5 |
| Mountain Home | -- | -- | -- | -- | 4 | 10 | 3 | 12 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 6 |
| North Magic Valley | 77 | 10 | 78 | 12 | 78 | 15 | 56 | 7 | 76 | 7 | 98 | 6 |
| Owyhee | 15 | 24 | 23 | 29 | 25 | 28 | 27 | 20 | 30 | 13 | 30 | 14 |
| Shoshone Basin | 13 | 22 | 12 | 26 | 16 | 16 | 17 | 15 | 18 | 10 | 14 | 11 |
| South Magic Valley | 16 | 20 | 14 | 21 | 13 | 24 | 14 | 18 | 18 | 10 | 19 | 8 |
| Upper Snake | 91 | 18 | 93 | 23 | 98 | 24 | 112 | 24 | 113 | 19 | 123 | 15 |
| West Central | 14 | 21 | 14 | 24 | 14 | 25 | 14 | 10 | 14 | 8 | 14 | 8 |
| Statewide | 356 | 16 | 365 | 19 | 394 | 20 | 384 | 18 | 421 | 13 | 460 | 10 |

Table 4. Total number of males counted on leks routes that were counted each year, 2004–2009.

| Sage-grouse Planning Area | # of lek routes | Total Number of Males | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
| Big Desert | 6 | 713 | 855 | 990 | 900 | 619 | 603 |
| Challis | 9 | 371 | 442 | 496 | 510 | 335 | 377 |
| East Idaho Uplands | 1 | 69 | 108 | 77 | 61 | 50 | 38 |
| Greater Curlew Valley | 4 | 166 | 226 | 231 | 203 | 167 | 160 |
| Jarbridge | 4 | 205 | 292 | 326 | 308 | 207 | 170 |
| North Magic Valley | 8 | 595 | 767 | 898 | 523 | 406 | 451 |
| Owyhee | 4 | 308 | 427 | 444 | 356 | 226 | 213 |
| Shoshone Basin | 1 | 211 | 264 | 156 | 202 | 138 | 109 |
| South Magic Valley | 2 | 193 | 243 | 251 | 195 | 116 | 119 |
| Upper Snake | 13 | 1,492 | 1,910 | 2,097 | 2,052 | 1,366 | 1,465 |
| West Central | 4 | 54 | 74 | 87 | 36 | 35 | 22 |
| Statewide | 56 | 4,377 | 5,608 | 6,012 | 5,310 | 3,633 | 3,708 |

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

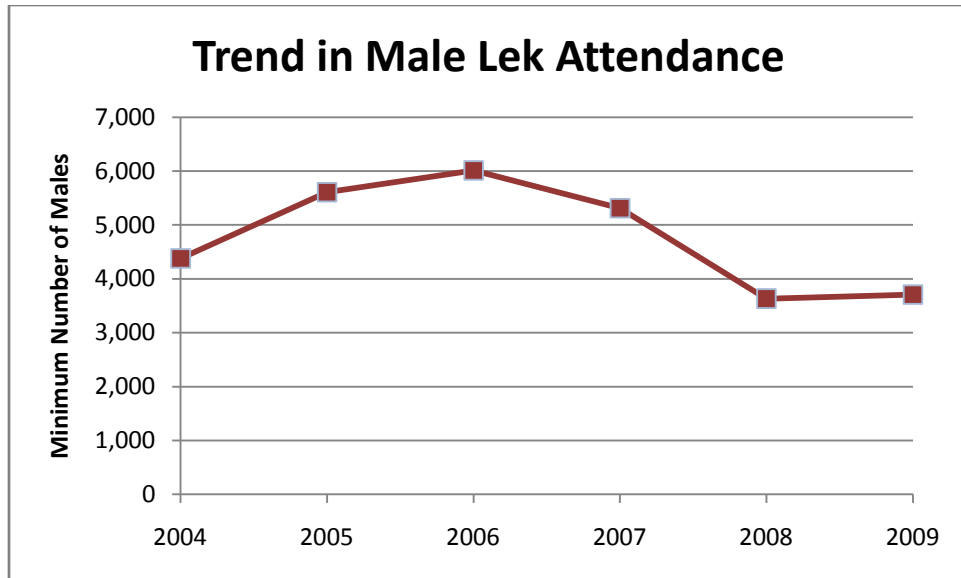


Figure 3. Statewide trend in male lek attendance on lek routes that were counted consistently 2004–2009.

Productivity

Sage-grouse productivity in an area can be estimated by examining wings left by hunters in wing barrels or at check stations. In 2006–2009, IDFG also gathered additional wings through a mail-in wing program. By closely examining the shape, condition, length and color patterns on wing feathers, biologists are able to determine the bird's age, gender, and reproductive status of hens. However, it is important to note that statisticians recommend at least 100 females wings in an area to adequately assess productivity (Autenrieth et al. 1982); therefore, there are usually inadequate samples within each SGPA. Recent work in Oregon, however, demonstrated the number of wings needed is much larger, depending on the desired level of confidence and precision (Hagen and Loughin 2008). Traditionally, the North Magic Valley, Owyhee, and Upper Snake planning areas were typically the only areas with a significant number of wings to accurately determine productivity (Table 4). However, the North Magic Valley experienced a very large decline in the number of wings collected in 2007–2009.

Productivity is reported as the number of chicks per hen. Sage-grouse hens lay an average of 6–7 eggs. Therefore, 'chicks per hen' represents the average number of chicks per hen alive during the hunting season in September and October. Connelly and Braun (1997) suggested that a ratio of ≥ 2.25 juveniles/hen in the fall should result in stable to increasing sage-grouse population. Statewide the average productivity was 2.00 chicks per hen in 2009, which was slightly above the previous 5-year's average of 1.88. Over the 6-year period, productivity statewide ranged from a high of 2.5 chicks per hen in 2005 to a low of 0.82 chicks per hen in 2007 (Table 5 and Figure 4). Although productivity varied somewhat by planning area, it generally followed a similar pattern each year (Figure 4). Sage-grouse productivity is highly influenced by weather (Idaho Sage-grouse Advisory Committee 2006).

Table 5. Sage-grouse productivity by Sage-grouse Planning Area, as determined by wing collections, 2004–2009.

| Sage-grouse Planning Area | 2004 | | 2005 | | 2006 | |
|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| | Total Wings | Chicks per Hen | Total Wings | Chicks per Hen | Total Wings | Chicks per Hen |
| Big Desert | 46 | 2.08 ^a | 148 | 3.36 | 189 | 2.26 |
| Challis | 73 | 1.90 ^a | 63 | 1.17 ^a | 208 | 1.61 |
| East Idaho Uplands | 26 | 3.00 ^a | 17 | 5.50 ^a | 23 | 5.67 ^a |
| Greater Curlew Valley | Closed | -- | Closed | -- | Closed | -- |
| Jarbridge | 104 | 2.14 | 123 | 2.68 | 100 | 1.36 |
| Mountain Home | 0 | -- | 4 | -- | 40 | 3.00 ^a |
| North Magic Valley | 445 | 2.09 | 553 | 2.38 | 673 | 2.30 |
| Owyhee | 510 | 2.85 | 568 | 2.21 | Closed | -- |
| Shoshone Basin | 122 | 3.04 | 171 | 2.80 | 146 | 1.93 |
| South Magic Valley | 0 | -- | 2 | -- | 0 | -- |
| Upper Snake | 324 | 2.06 | 474 | 3.05 | 427 | 2.74 |
| West Central | Closed | -- | Closed | -- | Closed | -- |
| Statewide | 1,650 | 2.35 | 2,123 | 2.54 | 1,806 | 2.22 |

| Sage-grouse Planning Area | 2007 | | 2008 | | 2009 | |
|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| | Total Wings | Chicks per Hen | Total Wings | Chicks per Hen | Total Wings | Chicks per Hen |
| Big Desert | 81 | 0.85 ^a | 126 | 1.64 | 72 | 3.46 ^a |
| Challis | 169 | 1.12 | 160 | 1.00 | 62 | 1.88 ^a |
| East Idaho Uplands | 2 | -- | Closed | -- | Closed | -- |
| Greater Curlew Valley | Closed | -- | 2 | -- | 5 | -- |
| Jarbridge | 81 | 0.78 ^a | 62 | 1.12 ^a | 83 | 0.83 ^a |
| Mountain Home | 0 | -- | 0 | -- | 0 | -- |
| North Magic Valley | 54 | 1.10 ^a | 60 | 1.82 ^a | 83 | 2.83 ^a |
| Owyhee | 242 | 0.53 | 365 | 1.08 | 511 | 2.04 |
| Shoshone Basin | 157 | 0.44 | 94 | 0.86 ^a | 83 | 0.70 ^a |
| South Magic Valley | 16 | 0.36 ^a | 0 | -- | 51 | 2.67 ^a |
| Upper Snake | 396 | 1.16 | 998 | 1.84 | 1,193 | 2.17 |
| West Central | Closed | -- | Closed | -- | Closed | -- |
| Statewide | 1,198 | 0.82 | 1,867 | 1.48 | 2,143 | 2.00 |

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

^b Sage-grouse harvest and hunting seasons are discussed in the next section.

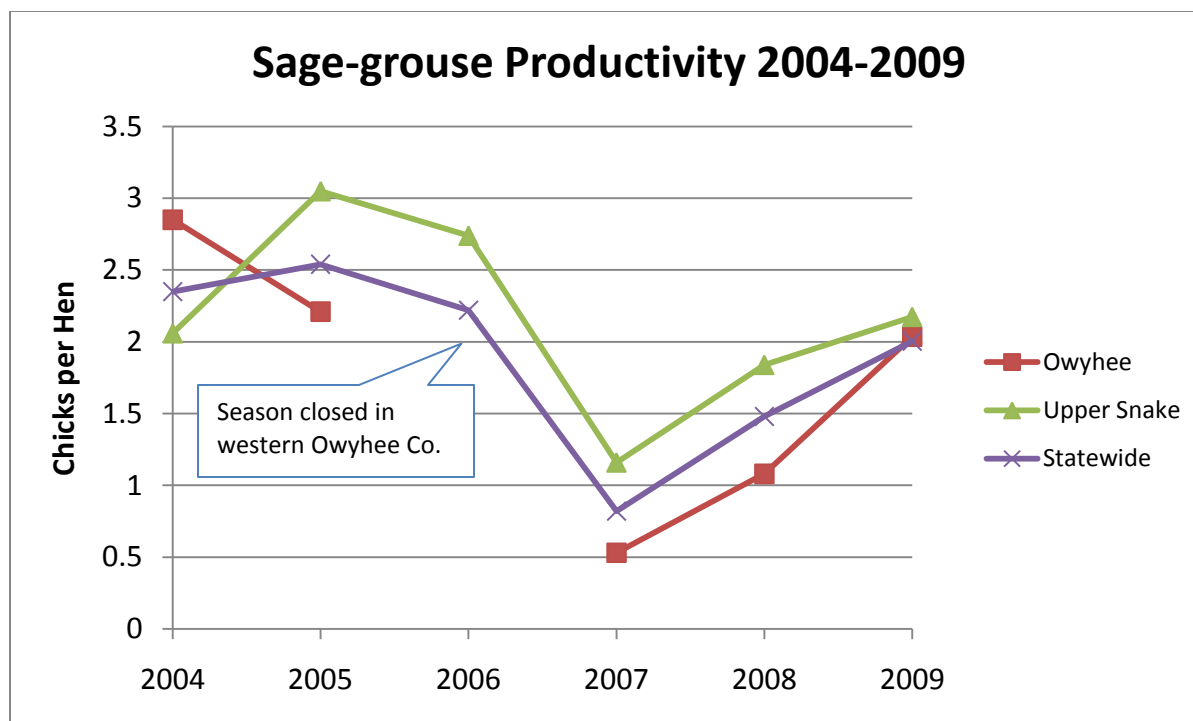


Figure 4. Sage-grouse productivity statewide and for 2 Sage-grouse Planning Areas with a sufficient sample of wings, 2004–2009.

Harvest

In 2008 and 2009, IDFG followed the hunting season and bag-limit guidelines in the 2006 State Plan (Table 6). In addition, IDFG set the sage-grouse hunting season in August, instead of in the spring when other game bird regulations are set. This allowed biologists sufficient time to analyze lek data and information regarding the season's wildfires and West Nile virus (WNV) impacts. IDFG summarized lek route data by SGPA, compared data with the guidelines, and made appropriate recommendations for hunting seasons and bag limits. These data were provided to IDFG regional staff and LWGs, who commented on the recommendations. The recommendations were brought forward to the IDFG Commission and approved in August. IDFG then published and distributed the *Sage-grouse Seasons and Rules 2009* leaflet (Appendix B). The major change was a reduced season and bag limit in most of Lemhi and Custer counties.

IDFG estimates sage-grouse harvest by utilizing survey sampling in a mail-in and telephone survey of hunters who purchased a sage/sharp-tailed grouse permit validation in that year. Harvest data are reported by 'sage-grouse reporting zone.' Prior to 2009, the reporting zone boundaries only roughly corresponded to SGPAs (with some areas combined). In 2009, with input from LWGs, IDFG split some zones to better reflect current SGPA boundaries (Figure 5). Therefore, 2009 harvest estimates by SGPA are not directly comparable to previous years for the Big Desert, Challis, and Upper Snake planning areas. Statewide, hunters harvested an estimated 7,196 birds in 2010, which is less than the previous 5-years' average of 8,751 birds (Table 7).

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

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

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

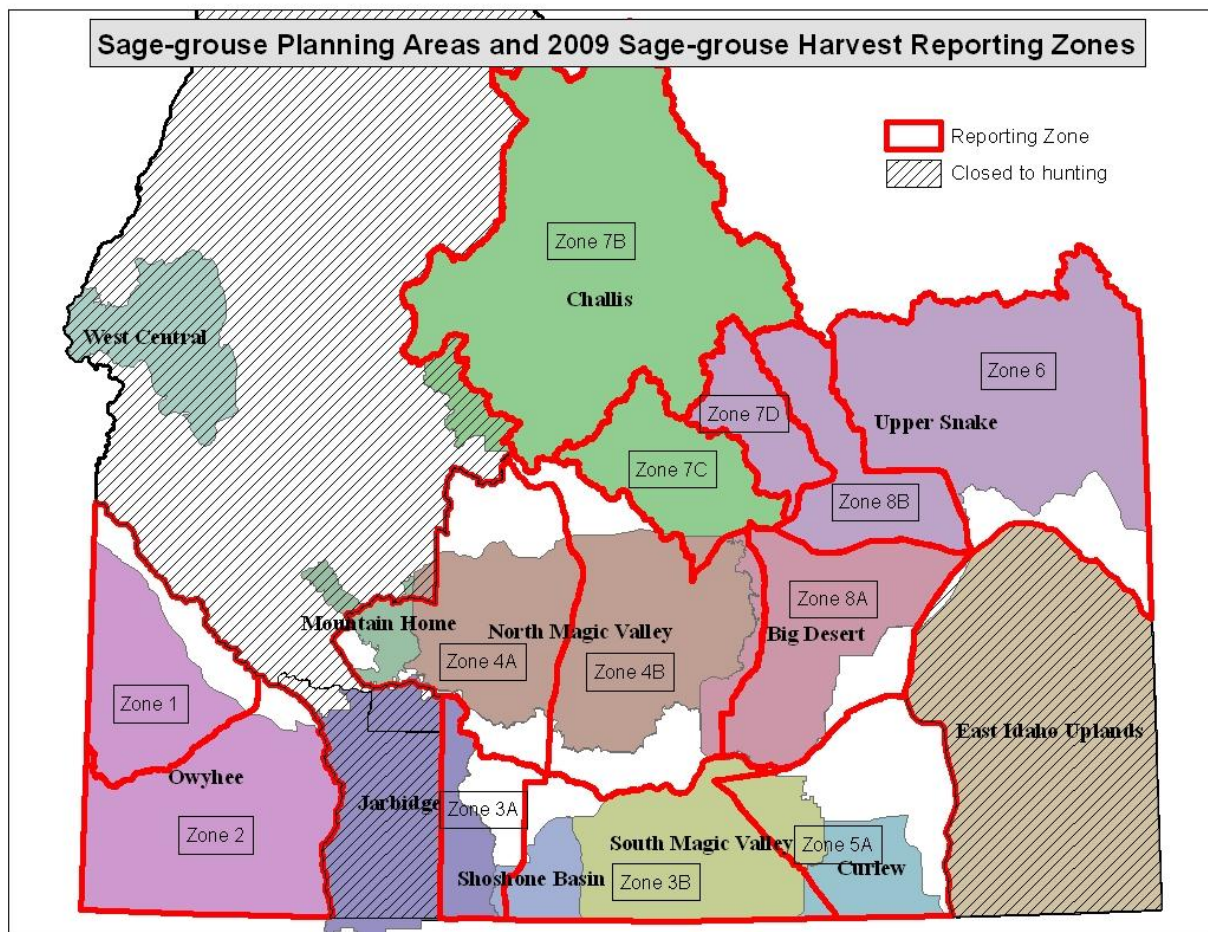


Figure 5. Sage-grouse Planning Areas and 2009 Sage-grouse Reporting Zones for harvest estimation.

Table 7. Estimated sage-grouse harvest and season structure by Sage-grouse Planning Area, 2004–2009.

| Sage-grouse Planning Area | 2004 | | 2005 | | 2006 | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | Estimated Harvest | Season Structure ^a | Estimated Harvest | Season Structure | Estimated Harvest | Season Structure |
| Big Desert | 474 | Restrictive | 1,120 | Restrictive | 1,111 | Restrictive |
| Challis | 459 | Conservative | 424 | Conservative | 1,024 | Conservative |
| East Idaho Uplands | 382 | Restrictive | 403 | Restrictive | 397 | Restrictive |
| Greater Curlew Valley | -- | Closed | -- | Closed | -- | Closed |
| Jarbridge | 320 | Restrictive | 490 | Restrictive | 902 | Restrictive |
| Mountain Home & North Magic Valley | 2,166 | Conservative | 3,185 | Conservative | 4,389 | Conservative |
| Owyhee | 1,748 | Both ^b | 1,373 | Both ^b | -- | Closed ^c |
| Shoshone Basin & South Magic Valley | 687 | Restrictive | 1,001 | Restrictive | 1,116 | Restrictive |
| Upper Snake | 1,789 | Restrictive | 2,538 | Restrictive | 3,561 | Restrictive |
| Unknown | 26 | NA | 3 | NA | 9 | NA |
| West Central | -- | Closed | -- | Closed | -- | Closed |
| Statewide | 8,051 | | 10,537 | | 12,509 | |

| Sage-grouse Planning Area | 2007 | | 2008 | | 2009 ^e | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| | Estimated Harvest | Season Structure | Estimated Harvest | Season Structure | Estimated Harvest | Season Structure |
| Big Desert | 363 | Restrictive | 641 | Restrictive | 292 ^f | Restrictive |
| Challis | 495 | Conservative | 487 | Conservative | 357 ^f | Restrictive |
| East Idaho Uplands | 264 | Restrictive | -- | Closed | -- | Closed |
| Greater Curlew Valley | -- | Closed | 209 | Restrictive | 48 | Restrictive |
| Jarbridge | 148 | Restrictive ^c | 70 | Restrictive ^c | 210 | Restrictive ^c |
| Mountain Home & North Magic Valley | 462 | Restrictive | 264 | Restrictive | 343 | Restrictive |
| Owyhee | 610 | Both ^b | 897 | Both ^b | 1,000 | Both ^b |
| Shoshone Basin & South Magic Valley | 676 | Restrictive | 439 | Restrictive | 471 | Restrictive |
| Upper Snake | 1,917 | Restrictive | 4,698 | Conservative | 4,475 ^f | Conservative |
| Unknown | 0 | NA | 19 | NA | 0 | NA |
| West Central | -- | Closed | -- | Closed | -- | Closed |
| Statewide | 4,935 | | 7,724 | | 7,196 | |

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

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

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

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

^e See Appendix B for 2009 hunting season and bag limit rules.

^f 2009 harvest estimates may not be comparable to previous years because of changes to reporting zone boundaries. Current changes more accurately capture SGPA boundaries (see Figure 5).

Sage-grouse Radio-telemetry Monitoring

There are currently 6 radio-telemetry projects ongoing in 6 SGPAs (Table 8). Four of these studies are being partially supported by grants from the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation (OSC). For many SGPAs, basic information on sage-grouse ecology, habitat use, and seasonal movements is lacking. Thus, LWGs and agency biologists are using radio-telemetry studies to gather such information. Resulting data will help LWGs develop their conservation plan and guide future conservation actions.

Table 8. Sage-grouse radio-telemetry studies by Sage-grouse Planning Area in Idaho in 2009.

| Sage-grouse Planning Area | # Birds | Purpose |
|----------------------------------|----------------|---|
| Big Desert and Upper Snake | 53 | Population demographics and year-round habitat use on Idaho National Laboratory. ^a |
| Challis | 27 | Hen production and habitat use in Pahsimeroi. |
| Jarbridge | 148 | 2 studies: 1) Ph.D. research on lek attendance and 2) response to Murphy Complex Fire. |
| South Magic Valley | 11 | Seasonal movements and distribution. |
| West Central | 17 | Determine seasonal habitat usage. |

^a Although these birds were originally captured within the boundaries of the Upper Snake SGPA, the telemetry work is demonstrating that the birds move between the Upper Snake and Big Desert planning areas at various times of the year as well as some limited movement into the Challis SPGA.

Sage-grouse Habitat

Wildfire

Just 1,536 acres of key sage-grouse habitat burned in 2009 (Table 9). Acres of sagebrush burned were down significantly in 2009 from the 34,310 that burned in 2008 and the 392,799 acres that burned in 2007. Key habitat is defined as, “areas of generally intact sagebrush that provide sage-grouse habitat during some portion of the year including winter, spring, summer, late brood-rearing, fall transition sites from winter to spring, spring to summer, summer/fall to winter. Key habitat may or may not provide adequate nesting, early brood-rearing, and winter cover due to elevation, snow depth, lack of early season forbs, limited herbaceous cover, or small sagebrush patch size” (Idaho Sage-grouse Advisory Committee 2006). Burned areas occurring on public lands are often rehabilitated to sagebrush, grasses and/or forbs, as appropriate, and as funding allows.

Table 9. Number of acres of wildfire in key sage-grouse habitat in 2009, as reported by Local Working Groups.

| Sage-grouse Planning Area | Private | BLM ^a | USFS ^b | State | Other | Total |
|---------------------------|---------|------------------|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Big Desert | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Challis | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| East Idaho Uplands | 257 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 270 |
| Greater Curlew Valley | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Jarbridge | 0 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| Mountain Home | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| North Magic Valley | 20 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 37 |
| Owyhee | 0 | 377 | 0 | 63 | 0 | 440 |
| Shoshone Basin | 0 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| South Magic Valley | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 0 | 14 |
| Upper Snake | 155 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 170 | 325 |
| West Central | 161 | 247 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 408 |
| Total | 593 | 683 | 0 | 77 | 183 | 1,536 |

^a Bureau of Land Management.

^b United States Forest Service.

Acres of Sagebrush Converted

One task identified in the revised Chapter 6 of the State Plan was to begin to track acres of sagebrush converted to other uses by SGPA. In 2009, we added this request for information to the LWG Annual Report (Appendix A). Four LWGs reported that acres of sagebrush had been converted in their planning area. The North Magic Valley LWG reported that 200 acres of sagebrush were converted to a seeded perennial grassland. The Upper Snake LWG reported that 400 acres of sagebrush were converted to agricultural land. In addition 2 LWGs reported that sagebrush was removed to make fuel breaks to protect sage-grouse habitat. The Big Desert LWG reported that about 1 mile of sagebrush was removed for a fuel break; the Upper Snake LWG reported that 55 miles of sagebrush were removed.

Other Threats to Sage-grouse Habitat

LWGs also reported on new and significant threats to sage-grouse and sage-grouse habitat in their planning areas (Table 10). By far, the most significant imminent threat to sage-grouse is from the construction of several electrical transmission lines and proposed wind power developments. In many cases, LWGs and agency personnel are aware of these projects and are involved in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, but most projects are still early in the planning phases. Many LWGs said they would review and comment on Environmental Impact Statements.

Table 10. New threats to sage-grouse habitat in Idaho, as reported by Local Working Groups in 2009.

| Sage-grouse Planning Area | New Threat | Area Affected |
|---|---|---|
| Big Desert, Upper Snake | Mountain States Transmission Intertie (MSTI) | Unknown, Draft EIS ^a not yet available |
| Big Desert, East Idaho Uplands, Greater Curlew Valley | Gateway West Transmission Line | Unknown, Draft EIS not yet available |
| Big Desert | Potential wind power projects on the Idaho National Lab (INL) | Unknown |
| Challis | West Nile virus | Range-wide |
| East Idaho Uplands | Lombard Transmission Line | 32 miles |
| East Idaho Uplands | Wolverine Wind Energy | 150 turbines |
| East Idaho Uplands | Hooper Springs – Lower Valley Energy Project | 30 miles |
| East Idaho Uplands | Cedar Creek Wind Energy | 150 turbines |
| East Idaho Uplands | Goshen South Wind Energy | 150 turbines |
| Greater Curlew Valley | Re-introduction of agriculture with ground coming out of the Conservation Reserve Program | 400 acres |
| North Magic Valley | Friedman Airport Expansion | Unknown |
| North Magic Valley | Various transmission lines | Unknown |
| Upper Snake | Noxious weeds (wyathea) | 4000 acres |
| Upper Snake | Clark County wind development | Unknown |

^a Environmental Impact Statement

Public Outreach and Field Tours

Several LWGs conducted public outreach, educational events, or field trips. These efforts are summarized in Table 11.

Table 11. Public outreach and field tours in 2009.

| Local Working Group | Public Outreach | Field Tours |
|---------------------|--|---|
| Big Desert | The Big Desert LWG's draft conservation plan was released for public review and comment. | |
| Challis | Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation lek survey trip for 3 people. | Agency staff toured the Gilmore area with Jack Connelly to look at landscape-scale habitat condition and effects of habitat manipulation on sage-grouse. |
| Jarbridge | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service presentation to LWG on sage-grouse status. | RAC tour, IRRC/SRM tour, Sen. Risch tour, Murphy Fire Workshop, U.S. Air Force Plateau spraying, Governor's Trail Ride. |
| North Magic Valley | Quarterly press releases informing public about meeting times and locations. | |
| Owyhee | | Two tours to 2 juniper mastication sites; 39 people attended the first tour and 29 people attended the second. |
| South Magic Valley | | Subcommittee tour of Parks Creek restoration juniper clearing project. |
| Upper Snake | Dubois Grouse Days (DGD) continues to be the main way the LWG communicates with the public. DGD developed a website this year. | |
| West Central | Annual summer BBQ attended by 46 people. During the meeting that followed, explained purpose and projects of LWG to guest. | Lek tour for invited officials and the public, attended by 35 people. Took bus load of guests to view males on leks and hosted breakfast with guest speakers. |

Status of OSC Grant Projects

From 2002–2006, 2008, and 2010 the OSC received funding from a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service appropriation for sage-grouse conservation in Idaho. This money has been used to fund SAC meetings, development of the 2006 plan, LWG facilitators, and most importantly, on-the-ground projects for sage-grouse. Grant money is available via an annual competitive grants program. LWGs and other interested parties or agencies are eligible to apply for funds. The SAC reviews and scores the proposals, following a grant review criteria. The SAC makes

recommendations for funding to the IDFG Director and OSC Administrator, who have final approval.

One-hundred and thirteen projects have been approved to date, including 8 projects approved in 2009, which will be funded with the 2010 appropriations (Appendix C, Table 12, and Table 13). Most projects were for habitat improvement or inventory and monitoring. Inventory and monitoring projects included habitat inventory and mapping, sage-grouse lek surveys, and sage-grouse radio-telemetry projects. Projects in the “other” category included a landowner survey in Owyhee County, a buried power line, a lek mitigation project, and 3 fence-marking projects (Appendix C). Project proponents cancelled 7 projects, usually due to lack of additional or matching funding needed to implement the project.

Table 12. Summary of types of projects funded through the Idaho Governor’s Office of Species Conservation, 2002–2009.

| Project Type | Number |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Education | 4 |
| Equipment | 2 |
| Habitat | 48 |
| Inventory and Monitoring | 45 |
| Other | 7 |
| Cancelled | 7 |
| Total | 113 |

Of the 48 habitat projects 44 are completed or in progress and the remaining 4 are planned for 2010 (Figure 5, Table 14, and Table 15). OSC grants have helped improve at least 27,022 acres for sage-grouse in Idaho. Another 5,002 acres of habitat improvement and 7 acres of spring fencing are planned for 2010. The types of habitat improvement projects included fire restoration; habitat improvements, including re-seeding with native grasses and forbs; sagebrush seedling planting; control of invasive plant species and noxious weeds; and spring and wet meadow fencing to protect late brood-rearing habitat. The success of several of the fire restoration and habitat improvement projects are currently being monitored.

Table 13. 2009 approved projects funded through the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation.

| Grant # | Project Name | Applicant(s) | Summary |
|----------------|---|---|---|
| 2009-02 | Habitat Use and Quality of Winter Diets | West Central LWG and Boise State University | Identify nutritional factors sage-grouse use to select winter diets; monitor movements; and investigate the link between diet quality in winter and habitat use. |
| 2009-04 | Impacts of West Nile Virus on Sage-grouse in Owyhee County | Owyhee LWG | Capture and radio-collar 20 sage-grouse; test captured birds for WNV; monitor and document survival; identify and delineate key nesting and wintering areas. |
| 2009-05 | Mileage Reimbursement for Lek Survey Volunteers | North Magic LWG and IDFG | IDFG will recruit and train volunteers to survey leks throughout the North Magic Valley, South Magic Valley, Shoshone Basin and Jarbidge Sage-grouse Planning Areas. Funds will be used to reimburse volunteers for personal vehicle use. |
| 2009-07 | Big Desert Road Grading and Fuel Breaks 2 | Big Desert LWG | Develop fuel-breaks by improving existing roads and roto-mowing the brush 150 feet on each side of the road to help reduce the size of wildfires in the Big Desert. |
| 2009-09 | Big Desert Lek Search and Documentation 2 | Big Desert LWG | Continue to determine the status of unknown leks and search for new leks within the Big Desert planning area. |
| 2009-11 | Raven Population Management in Relation to Anthropogenic Resource Subsidies in Southeastern Idaho | Curlew LWG | Estimate population density of raven and index sage-grouse abundance using lek surveys; use spatial models to identify anthropogenic resource subsidies that influence raven densities; develop long-term strategic management actions aimed at reducing raven numbers. |
| 2009-12 | Sage-grouse Movements and Home Range Delineation in East Idaho Uplands Planning Area | East Idaho Uplands LWG | Trap and radio-collar 50 sage-grouse on known leks in Bear Lake County; identify nesting and brood-rearing areas and other seasonal habitats in area where little is known about sage-grouse seasonal use areas. |
| 2009-13 | Sage-grouse Habitat Rehabilitation at Table Butte | Upper Snake LWG | Hand plant 30,000 sagebrush seedlings over approximately 1,200 acres to provide a sagebrush seed source for further sagebrush regeneration. |

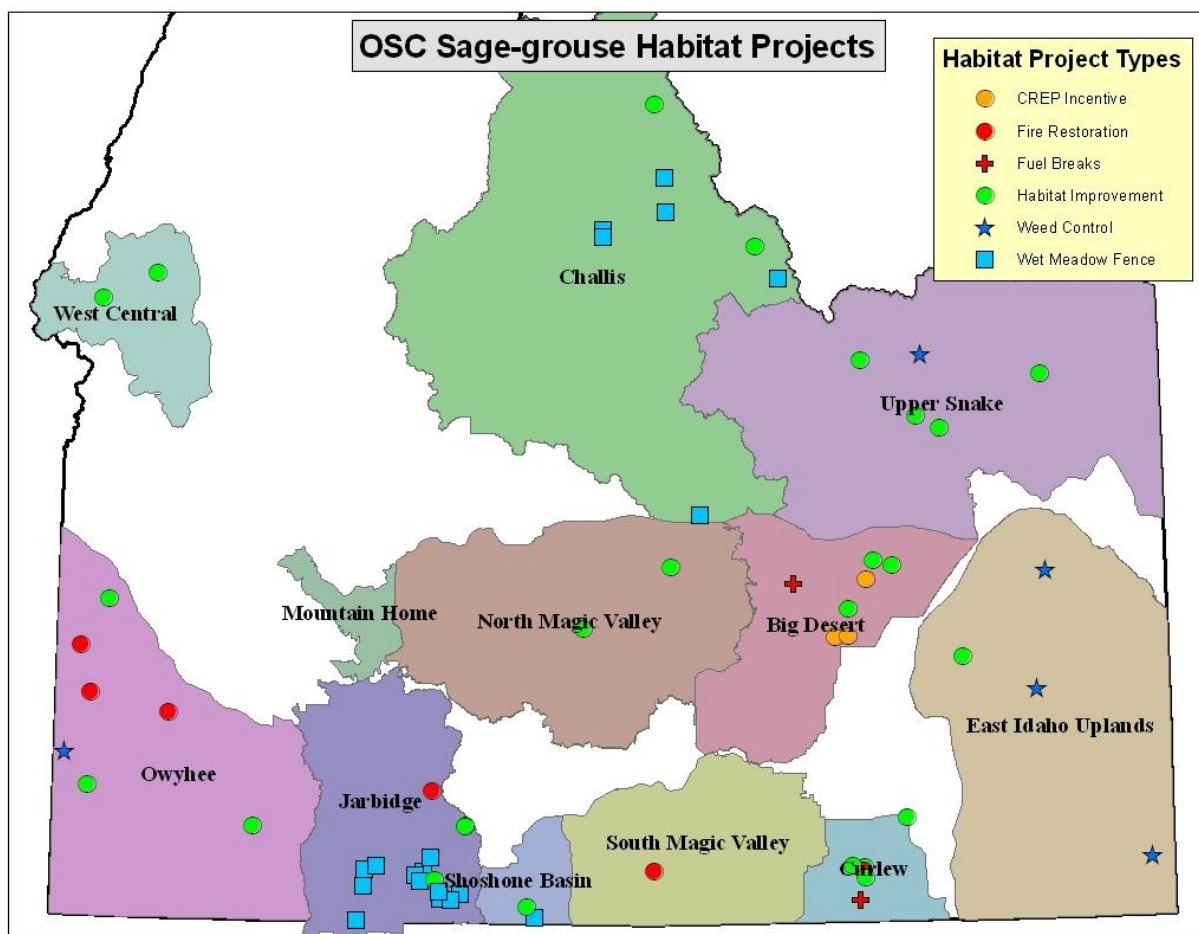


Figure 5. Location and types of sage-grouse habitat projects funded through the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation, 2002–2009. Includes projects scheduled for 2010.

Table 14. Summary of completed, in progress, and planned sage-grouse habitat projects funded through the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation, 2002–2009.

| Project Type | Completed/in progress | | Planned for 2010 | |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | Number of Individual Projects ^a | Total Treatment Acres | Number of Individual Projects | Planned Treatment Acres |
| CREP Incentive ^b | 3 | 758 | 0 | 0 |
| Fire restoration | 6 | 3,879 | 0 | 0 |
| Fuel breaks | 3 | 4,175 | 0 | 0 |
| Habitat improvement | 18 | 8,468 | 4 | 7,020 |
| Juniper control | 2 | 300 | 1+ | 1,480 |
| Spring/wet meadow fencing | 16 | 146 | 1 | 7 |
| Weed control | Many | 9,296 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 45+ | 27,022 | 5+ | 8,507 |

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

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

Table 15. Sage-grouse habitat projects funded through the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation, 2002–2009. Includes projects scheduled to begin in 2010^a.

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

Table 15. Continued.

| Grant Number | Project Title | Sage-grouse Planning Area | Type of Project | Treatment Acres | Land Ownership | Sage-grouse Seasonal Habitat |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| 2006-10 | Devil Creek Ranch | Jarbridge | Riparian and wet meadow restoration | 35 | Private | Late summer brood |
| 2006-15 | Whitetop Control/CWMA | Owyhee | Weed Control | 5,000 | Private | All |
| 2007-06 | Owyhee Juniper Mastication | Owyhee | Juniper control | 300 | Private | All |
| 2007-07 | Camas NWR Habitat Restoration | Upper Snake | Habitat improvement; education | 20 | USFWS | Nesting & early brood |
| 2007-08 | Thousand Springs Ranch | West Central | Habitat improvement, reseed | 25 | Private | Nesting & early brood |
| 2007-09 | Magpie and Larkspur Enclosures | Challis | Spring/wet meadow fencing | 1.5 | BLM | Late summer brood |
| 2007-10 | Curlew Experimental Plantings | Curlew | Habitat improvement, seedlings | 25 | USFS | Nesting & early brood |
| 2007-11 ^d | Cottonwood Pasture | Challis | Habitat improvement, fencing | 1,200 | BLM | All |
| 2007-12 ^d | Leadville Allotment Rehab | Challis | Habitat improvement, reseed | 2,620 | Various | All |
| 2008-01 | Big Desert Fuel Breaks | Big Desert | Fuel breaks | 2,150 | BLM, private | All |
| 2008-03 | Big Desert Sagebrush Seedlings | Big Desert | Habitat improvement, seedlings | 5,000 | BLM | All |
| 2008-06 ^d | South Baldy Riparian Enclosure | Challis | Spring/wet meadow fencing | 7 | BLM | Late summer brood |
| 2008-10 | South Magic Fire Restoration | South Magic Valley | Reseed following fire | 480 | Private | Nesting & early brood |
| 2008-12 | SS Cattle Company Brush Mgmt. | West Central | Habitat improvement, reseed | 96.5 | Private | Nesting & early brood |
| 2008-21 ^e | Lava Lakes Riparian | North Magic | Riparian and upland restoration | see 2005-15 | Private | Brood |
| 2009-07 | Big Desert Fuel Breaks II | Big Desert | Fuel breaks | 2,003 | BLM, Private | All |
| 2009-13 ^d | Table Butte Habitat Rehab | Upper Snake | Habitat improvement, seedlings | 1,200 | BLM | Winter, breeding |

^a Table acronyms: BLM = Bureau of Land Management; CREP = Conservation Reserve and Enhancement Program; CRP = Conservation Reserve Program; CWMA = Cooperative Weed Management Area; IDL = Idaho Department of Lands; NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; TNC = The Nature Conservancy; USFS = U.S. Forest Service; USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

^b Same grant captured 2 different projects.

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

^d Projects scheduled to begin in 2010.

^e Funded through small grants program.

Other Sage-grouse Projects

LWGs and the BLM reported on 83 other projects in their planning areas that may or were targeted to benefit sage-grouse and sage-grouse habitat (Appendix D). Although we do not believe this list is complete or precise, it does represent a significant level of sage-grouse conservation in Idaho.

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APPENDIX A. Local Working Group Annual Report Form 2009

| Table 1: General Summary | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----|------------------------|--|-----|-----|---------------------------------|-----|--|--|
| Local Working Group | | Meetings | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Date | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | # | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Status of LWG Plan | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| What progress has the LWG made toward implementing their conservation measures? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Describe: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sage-grouse Population Monitoring | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| # of leks surveyed by air | # of leks not on routes that were ground surveyed | # of lek routes | # of leks in these routes | '09 Avg # males/lek on routes | Males/lek previous 5 years | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | '08 | '07 | '06 | '05 | '04 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| '09 # Wings collected | '09 Chicks: Hen | Chicks:Hen previous 5 years | | | | | '09 Estimated harvest | Estimated harvest previous 5 years | | | | | | |
| | | '08 | '07 | '06 | '05 | '04 | | '08 | '07 | '06 | '05 | '04 | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sage-grouse Radio-telemetry Monitoring | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| # of grouse with radio-collars in 2009 | | | | | Purpose of monitoring | | | | | | | | | |
| Sage-grouse Habitat | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number Acres Wildfire on Private Land | Number Acres Wildfire on BLM Land | Number Acres Wildfire on USFS Land | | | Number Acres Wildfire on State Land | | | Number of Acres Wildfire on Other Land (DOE, Tribes, etc.) | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Acres Sagebrush converted | Type of conversion | Land ownership | | | Acres Sagebrush converted | | | Type of conversion | | | Land ownership | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| New Threat | Acres or miles affected | Is this threat being addressed? | | | New Threat | | | Acres or miles affected | | | Is this threat being addressed? | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Public Outreach and Field Tours | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Public Outreach Projects? | | | | | | | Field Tours Conducted? | | | | | | | |
| Describe: | | | | | | | Describe: | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

2009 Sage-grouse Projects

| Table 2: OSC-funded Projects | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|----------------|------|--------------|------|---------------|--------|------------------------|----------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| <i>Include copies of all receipts and invoices for these projects!</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Project Name | OSC Grant Number | Type of Project* | Grant Proposed | | Grant Funded | | In-Kind Match | | Project Implementation | | Total Spent to Date (\$) | Amount left over (\$) | Status |
| | | | Amount (\$) | Date | Amount (\$) | Date | Amount (\$) | Source | Start Date | End Date | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

*Types of Projects (use any or all that apply): Fire rehabilitation; herbaceous seeding; sagebrush seeding; chemical treatment; mechanical treatment; prescribed fire; fencing project; sage-grouse ecology; sage-grouse monitoring; other.

Please note that OSC habitat project sponsors will receive a separate form to complete to summarize the progress and results of their project.

| Table 3: Other Sage-grouse Projects not Funded by OSC | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|------------|----------|
| Project Name | Type of Project* | Brief Description | Funding Mechanism | Acres Affected | Land Ownership(s) | Start Date | End Date |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

*Types of Projects (use any or all that apply): Fire rehabilitation; herbaceous seeding; sagebrush seeding; chemical treatment; mechanical treatment; prescribed fire; fencing project; sage-grouse ecology; sage-grouse monitoring; other.

Table 4: Meeting Attendance Details

[illegible]

Local Working Group Annual Report Form Instructions

Table 1: General Summary

Annual reports are due January 15 each year. The year corresponds to the previous year's projects.

Local Working Group: Name of Local Sage-grouse Planning Area (SGPA)

Meetings, Date and #: Dates of all meetings held (top cells) and total number individuals attended at each meeting (bottom cells).

Status of LWG Plan: Enter the status of the group's plan; e.g., completed, draft, estimated completion date, not started.

What progress has the LWG made toward implementing their conservation measures?:

This is a narrative section for the LWG to describe or enumerate progress towards the conservation measures identified in their plan.

Sage-grouse Population Monitoring

This section should be completed by the IDFG representative on the LWG

of leks surveyed by air: Enter the number of leks that were surveyed by air. This includes any new leks that were located.

of leks not on routes that were ground surveyed: This is the number of leks that were surveyed on the ground, but are not a part of an established lek route.

of lek routes: Enter the number of lek routes in the SGPA.

of leks in these routes: Enter the number of leks that are included in all lek routes.

Avg # males/lek on routes: Enter the average number of males/lek on established lek routes.

Males/lek previous 5 years: Record previous 5 year's information.

Wing data will be available by mid-December.

Wings collected: Total number of wings collected at check stations, wing barrels, or mail-in surveys in areas with a sage-grouse hunting season.

Chicks:Hen: Record the number of chicks per hen within SGPA based on wing data (if available).

Chicks:Hen previous 5 years: Record previous 5 year's information.

Harvest data may not be available by January 15. SAC TAT will add to the final published report.

Estimated harvest: Enter the estimated number of sage-grouse harvested in the SGPA (if available). This information is gathered from IDFG harvest surveys.

Estimated harvest previous 5 years: Record previous 5 year's information.

Sage-grouse Radio-telemetry Monitoring

of grouse with radio-collars: Enter the number of sage-grouse with radio-collars that were monitored in 2009.

Purpose of monitoring: Enter the main objective of the radio-telemetry projects; e.g., West Nile Virus monitoring, movement/location data, graduate student research.

Sage-grouse Habitat

Individual agencies are responsible for providing the following information to the LWG.

Number Acres Wildfire on Private Land, etc: Enter the number of acres of wildfire for each land ownership type (private, BLM, USFS, State, Other).

Acres Sagebrush converted: Enter the number of acres of sagebrush converted to other land uses in 2009. This does not include conversion by wildfire.

Type of conversion: Enter the type of land use to which the land was converted

Land ownership: Enter the land ownership for the converted acreages reported.

Please add more rows to the form for converted acreages as needed.

LWG should work together to identify new threats.

New Threat: What new threats have been identified in sage-grouse habitat on the SGPA?

These are threats that have recently occurred in your area, but do not include wildfire. Examples of new threats might be new roads; powerlines, wind turbines, and other energy development projects; human development; or West Nile Virus.

Acres or miles affected: If known, enter the number of acres or miles affected by this new threat. Miles affected would largely refer to linear projects like roads and powerlines.

Is this threat being addressed?: Enter “yes” or “no” and provide details if available. For example, has the LWG or agency representatives been informed or consulted about this threat? Are there opportunities to minimize the risk of this threat to sage-grouse or sage-grouse habitat? Please add more rows/threats to the form as needed.

Public Outreach and Field Tours

Public Outreach Projects: Describe any public outreach projects the LWG was involved in during the year. This may include newspaper articles, Soil Conservation District articles, BBQs, brochures, Dubois Grouse Days type functions, or opinion surveys.

Field Tours Conducted: Describe any field tours conducted for Local Working group participants, public, or agencies for educational purposes. Examples include Dubois Grouse Days lek observations, tours of seedings, winter tour of sage-grouse habitat, etc.

2009 Sage-grouse Projects

Table 2: OSC-funded Projects

This table is specifically for projects that were fully or partially funded with an OSC grant.

Include projects that were ongoing, started, or ended in 2009, i.e., do not include projects that were completed before 2009 or projects for which money has not yet been received.

Include copies of all receipts and invoices for these projects! This is important for IDFG accounting and federal audits.

Project Name: Brief, descriptive name of project.

OSC Grant Number: Number Associated with OSC Grant.

Type of Project: Enter 1 or more category that best describes the type of project (fire rehabilitation; herbaceous seeding; sagebrush seeding; chemical treatment; mechanical treatment; prescribed fire; fencing project; sage-grouse ecology; sage-grouse monitoring; other).

Grant Proposed, Amount (\$) and Date: Amount of money the LWG proposed for this project and the date of the project proposal.

Grant Funded, Amount (\$) and Date: Enter the actual amount at which OSC funded the project and the date the money was received.

In-Kind Match, Amount and Source: Include amount of any matching dollars and the source of the match (match includes in-kind contributions – landowner time, equipment, etc.).

Project Implementation Start Date: Date project started.

Project Implementation End Date: Proposed or actual end date.

Total Spent to Date (\$): Amount of received cash spent to date.

Amount Money Leftover: Amount of cash leftover for future projects.

Status: Overall status of project (Completed, started, on-hold, etc.).

Please note that OSC habitat project sponsors will receive a separate form to complete to summarize the progress and results of their project.

| |
|--|
| Table 3: Other Sage-grouse Projects not Funded by OSC |
|--|

This table is for any other projects in the planning area that benefit sage-grouse (e.g., sage-grouse research or graduate student projects, BLM challenge cost-share projects, NRCS, HIP, etc.).

Include projects that were ongoing, started, or ended in 2009, i.e., do not include projects that were completed before 2009 or projects for which money has not yet been received. *Individual agencies or project sponsors are responsible for providing this information to the LWG.*

Project Name: Brief, descriptive name of project

Type of Project: Enter 1 or more category that best describes the type of project (fire rehabilitation; herbaceous seeding; sagebrush seeding; chemical treatment; mechanical treatment; prescribed fire; fencing project; sage-grouse ecology; sage-grouse monitoring; other).

Brief Description: Include a brief description of the project.

Funding Mechanism: How is this project being funded?

Acres Affected: Enter approximated acreage of the project.

Land Ownership(s): Enter landownership(s) for the project (private, BLM, USFS, IDL, etc.).

Start Date: Date project started.

End Date: Proposed or actual end date.

| |
|--|
| Table 4: Meeting Attendance Details |
|--|

Meeting Attendees: List all individuals who attended meetings

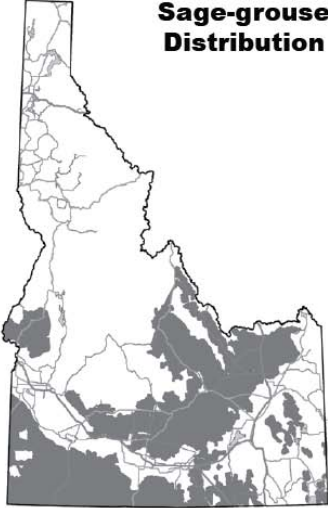
Number Meetings Attended: Number of meetings that individual attended that year

Representation: Who does that person represent? (Landowner, BLM, IDFG, USFS, ICL, grazing association, etc.).


Miles Traveled: If available, please have each person estimate the number of miles they traveled to and from LWG meetings and events over the past year. This information can be used as in-kind match for federal funds!

Return the completed annual report form by January 15, 2009 to: Ann Moser at ann.moser@idfg.idaho.gov or 600 S. Walnut St., P.O. Box 25, Boise, ID 83707. The SAC TAT will compile all LWG reports and publish the Statewide LWG Annual Report. The report will be available on the website (http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/plans/sage_grouse/) by March 1, 2009.

APPENDIX B: Outside of *Sage-Grouse Seasons and Rules 2009* Leaflet.



Sage-grouse Distribution



Sage-grouse Seasons and Rules 2009

Sage-grouse seasons open September 19

23-day season, two-bird limit:

- Southwestern Owyhee County
- Most of the Upper Snake Region

Seven-day season, one-bird limit:

- Big Desert area west of Interstate 15 and south of U.S. Highway 20
- Northwestern Owyhee County
- Most of Lemhi and Custer counties
- Magic Valley Region and most of Butte County
- Power County and most of Oneida County

Closed:

- Eastern Owyhee County
- Southeastern part of the state, east of Interstate 15 and south of U.S. Highway 26
- Washington County and Adams County


Sage/Sharp-tailed Grouse Permit Validation: Any person hunting sage- or sharp-tailed grouse must have in possession a valid hunting license with a sage/sharp-tailed grouse permit validation at \$4.75.

Identify Your Target! Is it a Sage-grouse or a Sharp-tailed Grouse?

Note: Sharp-tailed grouse have recently been introduced into historical range in southern Twin Falls County and southeastern Owyhee County. Twin Falls County, Owyhee County and most of Cassia County are closed to the hunting of sharp-tailed grouse. Sharp-tailed grouse also occur around Split Butte in Minidoka County. Hunting of sharp-tailed grouse is closed in Minidoka County. Be sure of your target!

See inside for details.

Refer to the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 Upland Game, Furbearer and Turkey Seasons and Rules for general upland gamebird rules, license and permit information.



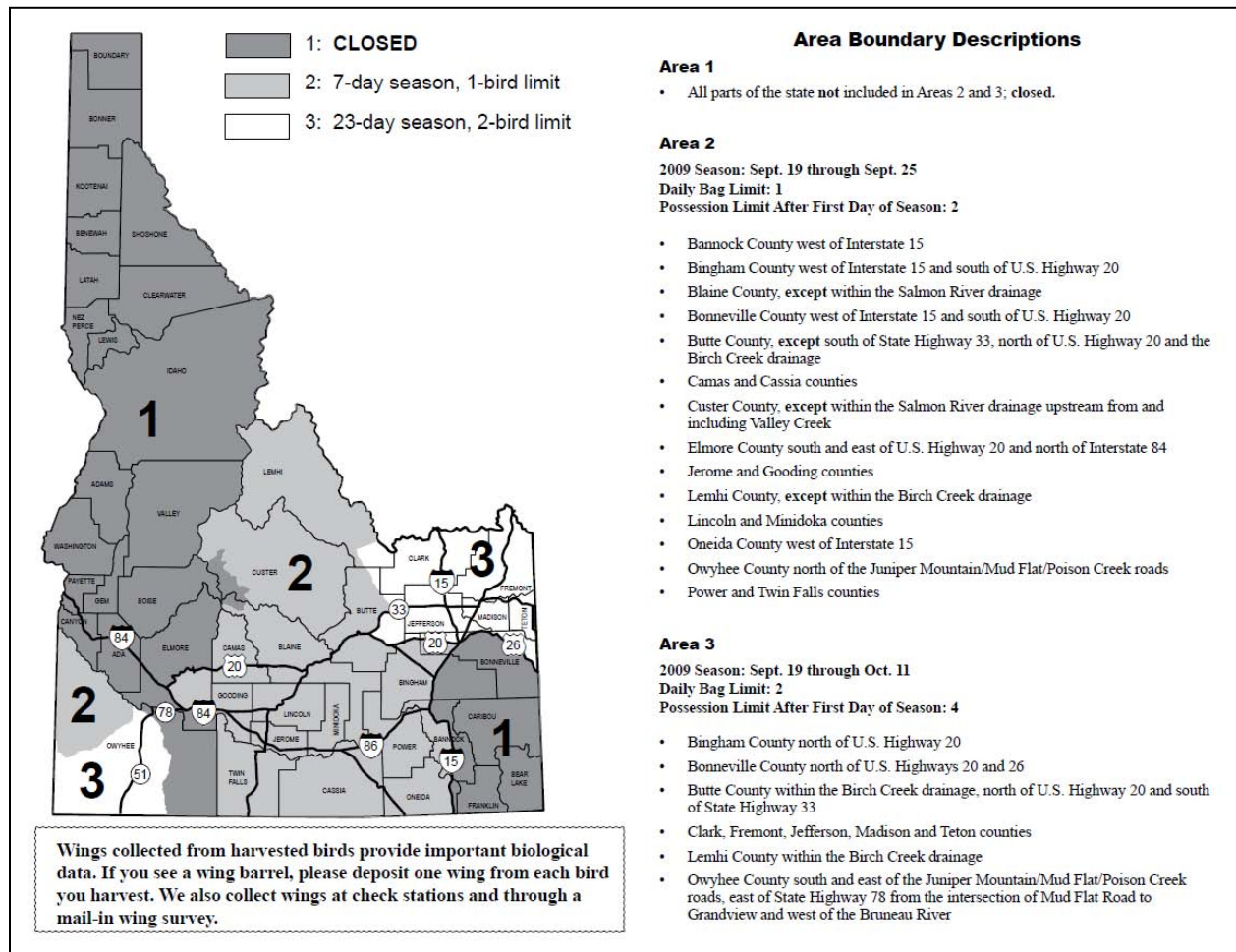
Sage-grouse

This native grouse is widely distributed in areas with large blocks of sagebrush habitat throughout southern Idaho. Sagebrush is a crucial winter food for sage-grouse and also provides them with nesting and roosting cover during the rest of the year. Wet places, including agricultural lands, are important feeding areas for hens with chicks and are heavily used by sage-grouse during the fall in dry years.

Idaho Fish and Game adheres to all applicable state and federal laws and regulations related to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender, disability or veteran's status. If you feel you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility of Idaho Fish and Game, or if you desire further information, please write to: Idaho Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 25, Boise, ID 83707 OR U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Federal Assistance, Mailstop: MBSP-4020, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203, Telephone: (703) 358-2156. This publication will be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact the Department of Fish and Game for assistance.

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Appendix B, Continued: Inside of Sage-Grouse Seasons and Rules 2009 Leaflet.



APPENDIX C: Sage-grouse grants from the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation, 2002–2009^a.

| Grant # | Project Title | Submitting Organization | Project Type |
|---------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 2002-01 | Upper Snake Habitat Mapping | NAGP | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2002-02 | Crooked Creek Ranch | NAGP | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2002-03 | Rayburn Springs and Basin Cutoff | Shoshone Basin LWG | Habitat |
| 2002-04 | Jarbridge Fence Projects | Jarbridge LWG | Habitat |
| 2002-05 | Flint Creek Habitat rehab | Owyhee LWG | Habitat |
| 2002-07 | Horse Springs Fence | Jarbridge LWG | Habitat |
| 2002-08 | Landowner Survey | Owyhee LWG | Other |
| 2002-09 | Dubois Grouse Days | Upper Snake LWG | Education |
| 2002-10 | Jarbridge Winter Range Survey | Jarbridge LWG | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2003-01 | Lek Surveys | Shoshone Paiute Tribes | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2003-02 | Reserve Seed Bank | NAGP | Habitat |
| 2003-03 | Upper Snake Habitat Mapping | NAGP | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2003-04 | Antelope Pocket Habitat | Jarbridge LWG | Habitat |
| 2003-05 | Crooked Creek Ranch Riparian | NAGP | Habitat |
| 2003-06 | Challis Data Compilation | Challis LWG | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2003-07 | Curlew Telemetry | Curlew LWG | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2003-08 | Jarbridge Lek Survey | Jarbridge LWG | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2003-09 | Owyhee Telemetry | Owyhee LWG | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2003-10 | Jarbridge Winter Range Survey | Jarbridge LWG | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2004-01 | Dubois Grouse Days | Upper Snake LWG | Education |
| 2004-02 | Bluebird Mine | Owyhee LWG | Habitat |
| 2004-03 | Crab Creek Meadow | Owyhee LWG | Habitat |
| 2004-04 | IDL E. Idaho | Idaho Dept of Lands | Habitat |
| 2004-05 | Upper Snake Seed Drill | Upper Snake LWG | Equipment |
| 2004-06 | Nalder CRP Habitat Project | Curlew LWG | Habitat |
| 2004-07 | Spencer Weed Control | Upper Snake LWG | Habitat |
| 2004-08 | Shoshone Basin Mapping | Shoshone Basin LWG | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2004-09 | Highland CWMA | Caribou National Forest | Habitat |
| 2004-10 | Ryegrass Habitat Project | Challis LWG | Habitat |
| 2004-11 | Pahsimeroi Telemetry | Challis LWG | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2004-12 | West Central Telemetry | West Central LWG | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2004-13 | Clover Crossing | Jarbridge LWG | CANCELLED |
| 2004-14 | Continuation of Habitat projects | Jarbridge LWG | Habitat |
| 2004-15 | Owyhee Lek Surveys | Owyhee LWG | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2004-16 | IDL bird ladders | Owyhee LWG | CANCELLED |
| 2004-17 | Jack's Creek Telemetry | Owyhee LWG | Inventory & monitoring |

| Grant # | Project Title | Submitting Organization | Project Type |
|----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 2004-18 | Big Springs Telemetry | Owyhee LWG | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2004-19 | Curlew Telemetry | Curlew LWG | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2004-20 | Reserve Seed Bank | NAGP | Habitat |
| 2004-21 | 2005 Dubois Grouse Days | NAGP | Education |
| 2005-02 | Duck Valley Telemetry | Shoshone-Paiute Tribes | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2005-03 | Crab Creek Meadow #2 | Owyhee LWG | Habitat |
| 2005-04 | West Central Telemetry #2 | West Central LWG | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2005-05 | Reynolds Creek Habitat | Owyhee LWG | Habitat |
| 2005-06 | Jordan Valley CWMA | Owyhee LWG | Habitat |
| 2005-07 | Hammond Canyon Project | BLM, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife | Habitat |
| 2005-08 | Spencer Weed Initiative #2 | Upper Snake LWG | Habitat |
| 2005-09 | 2006 Dubois Grouse Days | NAGP | education |
| 2005-10 | Clear Hixon Project | Challis LWG | Habitat |
| 2005-11 | Medicine Lodge Habitat | Upper Snake LWG | CANCELLED |
| 2005-12 | Bell Rapids Transects | IDFG, BLM | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2005-13 | Pahsimeroi Telemetry #2 | Challis LWG | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2005-14 | Curlew Telemetry #2 | Curlew LWG | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2005-15 | Lava Lakes Riparian | Lava Lake Land & Livestock | Habitat |
| 2005-16 | S. Magic Valley Telemetry | IDFG | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2005-17 | IDL Clover Fire Restoration | IDL, Jarbidge LWG | Habitat |
| 2005-18 | Magic Valley SG Technician | Jarbidge LWG | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2005-19 | Shoshone Basin Habitat Mapping | Shoshone Basin LWG | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2005-20 | Owyhee County Lek surveys | Owyhee LWG | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2005-21 | Jarbidge Habitat Improvement | Jarbidge LWG | Habitat |
| 2006-01 | Sands HMA Treatments | BLM | Habitat |
| 2006-02 | Berry Creek Burn | USFS | CANCELLED |
| 2006-03 | Sorensen | Birch Creek Ranch | CANCELLED |
| 2006-04 | Chubby Spain | Owyhee LWG | Habitat |
| 2006-05 | WNv Monitoring | Owyhee LWG | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2006-06 | Nalder Fire Restoration | Curlew LWG | Habitat |
| 2006-07 | Green Strips | Curlew LWG | Habitat |
| 2006-08 | CREP Incentive | IDFG | Habitat |
| 2006-09 | Jarbidge Dixie Harrow | Jarbidge LWG | equipment |
| 2006-10 | Devil Creek Ranch | Jarbidge LWG | Habitat |
| 2006-11 | Duck Valley Lek Survey | Shoshone-Paiute Tribes | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2006-12 | Jarbidge Artificial Wetland | Jarbidge LWG | CANCELLED |
| 2006-13 | West Central Telemetry | West Central LWG | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2006-15 | Big Springs Whitetop Control | Owyhee LWG | Habitat |

| Grant # | Project Title | Submitting Organization | Project Type |
|----------------|--|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 2006-16 | Small, ID Buried Powerline | Upper Snake LWG | Other |
| 2007-02 | West Central Studies | West Central LWG | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2007-03 | DVIR WNV Monitoring | Shoshone-Paiute Tribes | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2007-04 | Owyhee County WNV Monitoring | Owyhee LWG | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2007-05 | Curlew Aerial Habitat Mapping | Curlew LWG and USFS | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2007-06 | Owyhee Juniper Mastication | Owyhee LWG | Habitat |
| 2007-07 | Camas NWR Habitat Restoration | Upper Snake LWG | Habitat |
| 2007-08 | Thousand Springs Ranch Habitat Restoration | Thousand Springs Ranch | Habitat |
| 2007-09 | Magpie and Larkspur Exclosures | Challis LWG | Habitat |
| 2007-10 | Curlew Experimental Plantings | Curlew LWG | Habitat |
| 2007-11 | Cottonwood Pasture Habitat Improvement Fence | Challis LWG | Habitat |
| 2007-12 | Leadville Allotment Rehabilitation | Challis LWG | Habitat |
| 2007-13 | Camas Co. Fence Marking | North Magic Valley LWG | Other |
| 2008-01 | Big Desert Fuel Breaks | Big Desert LWG | Habitat |
| 2008-02 | Big Desert Lek Search | Big Desert LWG | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2008-03 | Big Desert Sagebrush Seedling Plantings | Big Desert LWG | Habitat |
| 2008-06 | South Baldy Riparian Exclosure | Challis LWG | Habitat |
| 2008-07 | East Idaho Uplands Sage-grouse Telemetry | East Idaho Uplands LWG | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2008-08 | Lek Search and Documentation | East Idaho Uplands LWG | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2008-09 | Curlew Fence Flagging Project | Curlew LWG | Other |
| 2008-10 | South Magic Post-fire Restoration | South Magic LWG | Habitat |
| 2008-11 | Seasonal Movements and Distribution of Sage-grouse | South Magic LWG | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2008-12 | SS Cattle Company Brush Management | SS Cattle Co/West Central LWG | Habitat |
| 2008-13 | Upper Snake Fence Marking | Upper Snake LWG/BLM | Other |
| 2008-15 | A2 Highway Lek Identification and Mitigation | Upper Snake LWG | Other |
| 2008-16 | Sage-grouse Brood Habitat Study | West Central LWG | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2008-17 | Square Lake Fencing Project | Wood River Land Trust | CANCELLED |
| 2008-18 | Reimbursement for Private Vehicle Use by Lek Survey Volunteers | North Magic Valley LWG | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2008-19 | Post Murphy Fire Sage-grouse Investigations | Owyhee LWG | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2008-21 | Lower Copper Creek Riparian | Lava Lake Land & | Habitat |

| Grant # | Project Title | Submitting Organization | Project Type |
|---------|---|---|------------------------|
| | and Upland Restoration | Livestock | |
| 2009-02 | Habitat Use and Quality of Winter Sage-grouse Diets | West Central LWG and Boise State University | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2009-04 | Impacts of WNv on Sage-grouse in Owyhee County | Owyhee LWG | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2009-05 | Mileage Reimbursement for Lek Survey Volunteers | North Magic Valley LWG and IDFG | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2009-07 | Big Desert Road Grading and Fuel Breaks | Big Desert LWG | Habitat |
| 2009-09 | Big Desert Lek Search and Surveys | Big Desert LWG | Habitat |
| 2009-11 | Raven Population Management in Relation to Anthropogenic Resource Subsidies in Southeastern Idaho | Curlew LWG and U.S. Geological Survey | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2009-12 | Sage-grouse Movements and Home Range Delineation in East Idaho Uplands Planning Area | East Idaho Uplands LWG | Inventory & monitoring |
| 2009-13 | Sage-grouse Habitat Rehabilitation at Table Butte | Upper Snake LWG | Habitat |

^a Table acronyms: BLM = Bureau of Land Management; CREP = Conservation Reserve and Enhancement Program; CRP = Conservation Reserve Program; CWMA = Cooperative Weed Management Area; DVIR = Duck Valley Indian Reservation; IDFG = Idaho Department of Fish and Game; IDL = Idaho Department of Lands; LWG = Local Working Group; NAGP = North American Grouse Partnership; NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; USFS = U.S. Forest Service; WNv = West Nile virus.

APPENDIX D. Other sage-grouse projects not funded through the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation, as reported by Local Working Groups and the Bureau of Land Management in 2009^a.

| Planning Area | Project Name | Type of Project | Brief Description | Funding Mechanism | Acres Affected | Land Ownership | Start Date | End Date |
|----------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---|
| Big Desert | Big Desert water developments | Water development | 3 water developments on the Minidoka Allotment and 1 on the Big Desert Sheep Allotment | BLM, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, IDFG | NA | BLM | Spring 2009 | Fall 2009 |
| Big Desert | Big Desert weed treatment | Noxious weed treatments | Herbicide application | BLM | 11,700 | BLM | May 2009 | October 2009 |
| Big Desert | Craters of the Moon Travel Management Plan | Temporary closure of roads | Motorized and mechanized road closures (except administrative purposes with permission) from 6 pm to 9 am, March 15-May 1 | BLM | 27 miles of roads | BLM | Continuing | Continuing |
| Big Desert | Idaho National Laboratory sage-grouse telemetry | Sage-grouse population monitoring | Population demographics and habitat use sage grouse on INL | DOE | NA | DOE and BLM | Spring 2008 | Continuing |
| Big Desert | Idaho National Laboratory weed treatments | Chemical treatment | Weed treatment | DOE | 66 | DOE | Spring 2009 | Fall 2009 |
| Big Desert | Minidoka Desert Fuel Break | Fuel breaks | Burley BLM removed vegetation and planted Forage Kochia to establish fire breaks along roads within the Minidoka allotment | BLM fire funding | 24.5 miles (100 foot wide along) | BLM | Fall 2009 | Fall 2010 |
| Big Desert | Minidoka fire rehabilitation | Fire rehabilitation | Herbicide treatment, seed preparation | BLM | 11,300 | BLM | April 2009 | Ongoing – will spray twice (again) in 2010 followed by seeding. |
| Big Desert | Minidoka fire rehabilitation | Fire rehabilitation | Aerial broadcast of sagebrush seed | BLM | 15,865 | BLM | 2009 | 2009 |
| Big Desert | O'Brian Forage Reserve | Forage reserve | Northwest of Springfield allotment | NA | 480 | BLM | Ongoing | Ongoing |

| Planning Area | Project Name | Type of Project | Brief Description | Funding Mechanism | Acres Affected | Land Ownership | Start Date | End Date |
|----------------------|---|--|---|---|--|---|-------------------|-----------------|
| Challis | Baldy Basin Allotment | Grazing management changes | Changed grazing which will improve sage-grouse habitat | BLM, permittee | 2,200 | BLM | 3/1/09 | 2/28/19 |
| Challis | Butte County Weed treatments | Noxious weed treatment within Butte County (Big Lost River drainage) | Treatment for 121 acres of spotted knapweed; 762 acres of leafy spurge, and 202 acres of Canada thistle. | | 1,085 | 133.5 acres BLM, 99.5 acres USFS, and 852 acres private | | |
| Challis | Challis Field Office Weed Treatments | Chemical and mechanical treatments | Spot treatments | Fuels Program | 200 | BLM | 6/1/09 | 9/30/09 |
| Challis | Challis Field Office Weed Treatments | Chemical and mechanical treatments | Spot treatments | HLI | 100 | BLM | 6/1/09 | 9/30/09 |
| Challis | Challis Travel Management Plan | Road closures in priority areas | Redundant roads closed and rehabilitated to lessen disturbances in priority areas | Federal Stimulus | 467,910 acres affected by 84 miles of road closure | BLM | October 2009 | Ongoing |
| Challis | Condon Springs area | Habitat improvement | Range planting, extensive weed management (chemical), and altered grazing management to improve vegetation and habitat. Significant improvement to wet meadows with short duration grazing management and weed management (chemical). | NRCS, Private | 280 | Private | March 2009 | Continuing |
| Challis | Custer county weeds | | | | | | | |
| Challis | Leadville Exclosure | Exclosure | Excludes grazing from an upland site. | BLM | 25 | BLM | 6/1/09 | 10/1/09 |
| Challis | Lemhi County Cooperative Weed Management Area | Noxious weed treatments | Treatment of leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, etc. 272,742 acres affected, within that 90,373 acres were inventoried, 2,193 acres were treated using biological treatments, 2030 bio-control agents were released, and 300 | Lemhi County, USFS, BLM, State of Idaho, etc. | 272,742 | BLM, USFS, private, State | 5/1/2009 | 10/1/2009 |

| Planning Area | Project Name | Type of Project | Brief Description | Funding Mechanism | Acres Affected | Land Ownership | Start Date | End Date |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | | chemical acres were completed | | | | | |
| Challis | Moyer Basin (Panther Creek drainage) Sage-grouse Trapping. | SG habitat use/migration | Determine seasonal use of Moyer Basin and origin of grouse | IDFG, USFS | 5,944 | USFS | 3/1/09 | Ongoing |
| Challis | Pahsimeroi River Area | Habitat improvement | Range planting | NRCS, private | 74 | Private | June 2009 | September 2009 |
| Challis | Pahsimeroi Sage-grouse Habitat monitoring | SG habitat use | Identify important SG habitats | IDFG, (OSC purchased collars in 2007) | 30,000+ | BLM, USFS, Private | 1-1-09 | 12-31-09 |
| Challis | Ryegrass Exclosure This project was funded by OSC in 2004 (2004-10). | Exclosure modification | Existing exclosure was expanded to include a larger mesic area for the benefit of sage-grouse. | USFS | 5 | USFS | 6/1/09 | 6/15/09 |
| Challis | Salmon-Challis National Forest motorized vehicle use plan | | Travel Plan identifies travel routes by vehicle type and season of use, and restricts cross-country motorized travel on lands administered by the Forest which will benefit sage-grouse | | | | | |
| East Idaho Uplands | CRP SAFE | Plant permanent cover to benefit Sharp-tail grouse and other wildlife | Planting mixed forbs and grass to into prepared plots. | NRCS | 1,717 | Private | 2009 | On-going through calendar year 2010 |
| East Idaho Uplands | Fencing of Blackfoot River | Riparian protection | BLM land along the Blackfoot River will be fenced to exclude livestock | BLM | 40 | BLM | 2009 | On-going more fence to built in 2010 |
| East Idaho Uplands | MDI Forb Planting | Planting forb food plots to benefit mule deer and other wildlife | Planting mixed forbs and grass to into prepared plots in CRP | IDFG – License and PR | 1,376 | Private CRP and State Lands | Spring 2009 | Fall 2009 |
| East Idaho Uplands | MDI Mountain Shrub Seedling Planting | Planting Mt. shrub seedlings to benefit mule deer and other wildlife. | Planted 127,7000 Mt. Big Sagebrush - Antelope Bitterbrush Seedlings in CRP and Public Land | IDFG – License and PR | 644 | BLM, IDFG, and Private | Spring 2009 | Spring 2009 |

| Planning Area | Project Name | Type of Project | Brief Description | Funding Mechanism | Acres Affected | Land Ownership | Start Date | End Date |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--|
| East Idaho Uplands | Paradise Creek area | Habitat improvement | Decreased shrub cover | NRCS, Private | 430 | Private | July 2009 | September 2009 |
| East Idaho Uplands | Paris Creek area | Riparian herbaceous cover | Improved riparian herbaceous cover | NRCS, Private | 64 | Private | 2008 | Continuing |
| East Idaho Uplands | Upper Brush Creek area | Habitat improvement | Decreased shrub cover | NRCS, Private | 540 | Private | July 2009 | September 2009 |
| Greater Curlew Valley | Sagebrush planting | Sagebrush planting | Tractor planting of sagebrush seedlings | 50% BLM 50% IDFG | 50 | BLM | | Completed |
| Greater Curlew Valley | Curlew National Grassland Off-Center Plant Testing Site | Revegetation study (native and desirable non-native plants) | The NRCS Aberdeen Plant Material Center is establishing a plant testing site for identifying plant material (currently available grasses, forbs & shrubs) that may be best suited for revegetation in similar conditions in the West (14-16 inch precip/sagebrush steppe) | 100% USFS | 1-2 | USFS | Fall 2009 | Fall Planting 2010; evaluation 2011-2014 |
| Jarbridge | Vosberg | Other | Water redistribution | NRCS | Approx. 100 | Private | | |
| Jarbridge | Bear Creek | Other | Water redistribution | NRCS | Approx. 100 | Private, State | | |
| Jarbridge | Slickspot Peppergrass Sagebrush Planting | Sagebrush planting | Plant sagebrush seedlings to improve slickspot peppergrass and sage-grouse habitats | Fuels \$203,100 | 1,750 | BLM | 2008 | 2012 |
| Jarbridge | Murphy Chemical Spray/drill | Annual invasive plant treatment/herbaceous seeding | Treated cheatgrass to prepare seedbed for planting sagebrush steppe species | Fuels \$850,600 | 3,000 | BLM | 2009 | 2009 |
| Jarbridge | Clover Sagebrush Planting | Sagebrush plantings | Restore habitats for Sagebrush steppe obligates including sage-grouse | Fuels/? | 2,020 | BLM | 2009 | 2012 |
| Jarbridge | Crucial Habitat Restoration | Sagebrush plantings | Restore habitats for sagebrush steppe obligates including sage-grouse | HLI \$297,000 | 615 | BLM | 2009 | Ongoing |
| North Magic | Shoshone Field Office Sensitive Species | Aerial | BLM has funded the IDFG to conduct aerial surveys for sage- | BLM flexible | 250,000 | BLM | 2005 | ? |

| Planning Area | Project Name | Type of Project | Brief Description | Funding Mechanism | Acres Affected | Land Ownership | Start Date | End Date |
|----------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------|--|-------------------|-----------------|
| Valley | Survey | | grouse winter habitat | funding for wildlife management | | | | |
| North Magic Valley | Sage-grouse Lek Aerial Surveys | Aerial | Challenge cost share project with IDFG to survey lek activity with the Shoshone Field Office boundary | CCS \$16,000 | 225,000 | BLM | 2006 | 2010 |
| North Magic Valley | Craters Monument Sage-grouse sagebrush conservation | Rehab | Vegetation restoration efforts would convert 1,105 acres of dramatically depleted native sagebrush steppe plant communities adjacent to sage-grouse stronghold areas into vegetation communities that provide desired native and non-native perennial plants and habitat conditions required by greater sage-grouse | BLM flexible funding for wildlife management | 1,100 | BLM | 2007 | ? |
| North Magic Valley | Fairfield Ranger District Lek Searches | Monitoring | Field searches for sage grouse leks on Sawtooth National Forest lands (and private lands within 1 mile of Forest boundary) | National Forest inventory and monitoring funds | Approx. 1,000 | USFS (Sawtooth National Forest) and adjacent BLM, State, and private lands | March 2009 | May 2009 |
| North Magic Valley | Skinner volunteer lek counts/searches | Monitoring | Lek counts and searches | none | Approx. 1,000 | BLM and private lands | March 2009 | May 2009 |
| North Magic Valley | Shoestring Drill/Aerial Seed | Herbaceous and sagebrush seedings | | Fuels program, \$725,300 | 3,400 | BLM | 2009 | 2009 |
| North Magic Valley | Kimama Drill/Aerial Seeding | Herbaceous and sagebrush seeding | | Fuels program, \$886,750 | 2,650 | BLM | 2009 | 2009 |
| North Magic Valley | Tri-County Weeds | Noxious Weed Treatments | | Fuels program, \$8,000 | 3,000 | BLM | | ongoing |

| Planning Area | Project Name | Type of Project | Brief Description | Funding Mechanism | Acres Affected | Land Ownership | Start Date | End Date |
|----------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| North Magic Valley | Bear Den Butte Aerial Seeding | Sagebrush seeding | | HLI, \$69,000 | 3,130 | BLM | 2008 | 2009 |
| North Magic Valley | NLCS Sage-grouse Habitat Restoration and Monitoring | Herbaceous and sagebrush seedings | | NLCS (1711), \$65,000 | 225 | BLM | On-going | |
| North Magic Valley | Shoshone Field Office Sensitive Species | Population Monitoring | Sage-grouse leks, monitored 14 populations | Wildlife (1110) | NA | BLM | On-going | |
| North Magic Valley | North Minidoka/Whiskey Lake Restoration | Chemical treatment/sagebrush seeding | Treated cheatgrass to prepare seedbed for planting sagebrush steppe species | Fuels (chemical treatment), \$319,200 HLI (sagebrush seeding) | 12,115 sprayed; 4,680 aerially sagebrush seeded | BLM | 2009 | 2011 |
| North Magic Valley | Desert Fuel Breaks | Harrow and seed | Harrowed and seeded strips of fire resistance plant species in selected locations to help prevent the spread of wildfire and protect remaining isolated patches of sage grouse nesting habitat in the Minidoka area | Fuels, \$40,000 | 175 | BLM | 2009 | 2011 |
| South Magic Valley | Goose Creek Restoration | Juniper treatment | Mechanically remove selected juniper trees in sage-grouse habitat | Fuels, \$103,000; Wildlife, (1110) \$38,000 | 1,500 | BLM | 2009 | 2010 |
| South Magic Valley | Parks Creek Mechanical | Juniper treatment | Mechanically remove selected juniper trees in sage-grouse habitat | Fuels/? | 400 | BLM | 2008 | 2009 |
| South Magic Valley | Cottrell Mountain-grouse monitoring | Telemetry | Seasonal movement and distribution | BLM; Windland Inc. | | BLM; Private; State; USFS | Continuing | |
| South Magic Valley | Walker Hollow | Juniper treatment | Clearing juniper | BLM Fuels | 800 | BLM | Oct 2008 | Oct 2009 |

| Planning Area | Project Name | Type of Project | Brief Description | Funding Mechanism | Acres Affected | Land Ownership | Start Date | End Date |
|----------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| South Magic Valley | Water Canyon | Fence project | To fence off riparian area | BLM Range | 5 acres | BLM | Oct 2009 | Nov 2009 |
| South Magic Valley | Northeast Cassia | Juniper treatment | Clearing juniper | USFS Fuels | 500 acres | USFS | May 2009 | Nov 2009 |
| South Magic Valley | Jim Sage Shrub Planting | IDFG Shrub planting | Planted sage brush | | | BLM | | |
| Upper Snake | Crooked Creek Exclosures | Fencing project | Rebuild 9 existing riparian exclosures | BLM | 30 | BLM | Sept | Sept |
| Upper Snake | Deep Creek Fence Modification | Fencing project | Remove sheep fencing and replace with wildlife-friendly fencing | BLM | 10 miles | BLM | Sept | Nov |
| Upper Snake | Idaho National Laboratory sage-grouse Telemetry | Sage-grouse population monitoring | Population demographics and habitat use sage grouse on INL | DOE | NA | DOE and BLM | Spring 2008 | Continuing |
| Upper Snake | Idaho National Laboratory weed treatments | Chemical treatment | Weed treatment | DOE | 1,257 | DOE | Spring 2009 | Fall 2009 |
| Upper Snake | Lemhi Coordinated Weed Management Area | Chemical treatment | Treating leafy spurge | BLM, Lemhi County | 21 | BLM | May 2009 | September 2009 |
| Upper Snake | Mud Flats Habitat Improvement Project | Little Lost | Rotomowing to decrease shrub cover and sagebrush seeding to improve sagebrush cover | BLM | 1,500 | BLM | October 2009 | November 2009 |
| Upper Snake | Mud Lake WMA Revegetation | Chemical Treatment | Treating noxious weeds in sagebrush habitat | IDFG funds | 330 | IDFG | October 09 | October 09 |
| Upper Snake | Mud Lake WMA Revegetation | Herbaceous seeding | Seeded grass into areas where weed control has taken place | IDFG funds | 45 | IDFG | May 09 | May 09 |
| Upper Snake | Mud Lake WMA Revegetation | Sagebrush seeding | Collected sagebrush seed and spread it along north side of lake | IDFG funds | 20 | IDFG | February 09 | February 09 |
| Upper Snake | Sand Creek WMA Prescribed burn 2009- | Prescribed burn | Prescribed burning of grass fields to release vegetation (42 | Sand Creek WMA | 42 | IDFG and Sand Creek | August 1, 2009 | |

| Planning Area | Project Name | Type of Project | Brief Description | Funding Mechanism | Acres Affected | Land Ownership | Start Date | End Date |
|---------------|---|---|---|--|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | grass | | acres). | budget. PR dollars | | WMA | (control lines mowed) | |
| Upper Snake | Sand Creek WMA Prescribed burn 2009-shrub | Prescribed burn | Prescribed burning of dense shrubs (< 70% canopy cover) to test regeneration and prescribed burn timing (8 acres) (December). | Sand Creek WMA budget. PR dollars | 8 | IDFG and Sand Creek WMA | December 4, 2009 | |
| Upper Snake | Upper Snake | Chemical Treatment | Noxious weed program | BLM | 50,000 | BLM | May 09 | Sept 09 |
| Upper Snake | Upper Snake | Biological Treatment | Noxious weed program | BLM | 400 | BLM | May 09 | Sept 09 |
| Upper Snake | Upper Snake | Mechanical Treatment | Noxious weed program | BLM | 2,500 | BLM | May 09 | Sept 09 |
| Upper Snake | Voluntary livestock Reduction - Cole Canyon | Habitat improvement | Voluntary reduction to improve upland habitat | BLM, Private | 4,500 | BLM | Jun | Continuing |
| Upper Snake | Voluntary Livestock Reduction (sheep & cattle) Table Butte* | Habitat improvement | Voluntary reduction to improve upland habitat | BLM, Private | 23,709 | BLM | April | Continuing |
| Upper Snake | Warm Springs Creek area | Habitat improvement | Herbaceous and range plantings | NRCS, Private | 4.5 | Private | April 2009 | September 2009 |
| Upper Snake | Wildland and prescribed fire follow up monitoring | Habitat monitoring | Dry Lake prescribed fire, Dunes Fire, Crater Lake, Snowshoe Fire, Antelope Valley prescribed fire | BLM | 12,300 | BLM, State, Private | 2006 | Continuing |
| West Central | SS Cattle Co. wildlife seeding | Mechanical treatment + brush & herbaceous seeding | Lawson aerator on 70 ac. followed by fall aerial seeding; built 2 ponds | Wildlife Conservation Agreement cost share: FWS, IDFG, landowner | 70 | SS Cattle Company (private) | Fall 2009 | |
| Statewide | Sage-grouse Data Coordination | Data Management/Planning | IDFG sage-grouse data management, conservation planning | BLM \$40,000 IDFG \$40,000 | N/A | All | 10/01/2008 | 09/30/2009 Ongoing |
| Statewide | Sage-grouse Advisory | SAC Meeting | SAC Facilitation/ special | BLM | N/A | All | 10/01/2008 | 09/30/2009 |

| Planning Area | Project Name | Type of Project | Brief Description | Funding Mechanism | Acres Affected | Land Ownership | Start Date | End Date |
|----------------------|--|---|---|--|--|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | Committee Facilitation | Facilitation/ coordination | projects | \$20,000 | | | | Ongoing |
| Statewide | Sage-grouse and Elevated Structures | Master's student research | Research on fence collision risk etc., 4 study areas statewide. | BLM \$10,000 IDFG \$20,000 Other \$5,000 | Statewide | All | 10/01/2008 | 09/30/2009 Continuing through 2010 |
| Statewide | Sage-grouse Habitat Restoration Coordinator | Project planning; technical support | Technical support to LWGs and agencies for restoration planning, implementation | BLM \$20,000 IDFG \$10,000 | N/A (Specific Projects reported separately) | All | 10/01/2008 | 09/30/2009 Ongoing |
| Statewide | Sage-grouse Habitat Photo Guide | Master's student project, University of Idaho | Development of photo guide to aid landowners in conservation planning | BLM \$5,000 IDFG \$2,000 OSC \$10,000 USFWS \$3,000 University of Idaho \$25,000 | Statewide | All | 10/01/2008 | 09/30/2009 |
| Statewide | Nutritional and Chemical Quality of Winter Diets Selected by Sage-grouse | Master's student research, Boise State University | Research on sage-grouse winter diet | BLM \$14,000 Boise State University \$15,000 | Statewide | All | 10/01/2008 | 09/30/2009 |

^aTable acronyms: BLM = Bureau of Land Management; CCS = Challenge Cost Share; CRP = Conservation Reserve Program; DOE = Department of Energy; HLI = Healthy Lands Initiative; IDFG = Idaho Department of Fish and Game; LWG = Local Working Group; NA = not applicable; NRCS = Natural Resources Conservation Service; OSC = Office of Species Conservation; PR = Pitman Robertson; USFS = U.S. Forest Service; USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; WMA = Wildlife Management Area.

