

# Conservation Management of Greater Sage-grouse in Idaho



# Purpose of Presentation

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

# Where we've been

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

# Local Planning

## Local Working Groups

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

### CHALLIS SAGE-GROUSE CONSERVATION PLAN



FINAL

Developed by:  
The Challis Sage-grouse Local Working Group

# Local Working Groups

- LWG plans
  - Identify and prioritize local threats
  - Develop and implement local conservation measures
  - On the IDFG website
- In 2010
  - 60 meetings
  - 277 individuals attended at least one meeting
  - 53,000 miles driven to attend meetings

# Local Working Group Projects

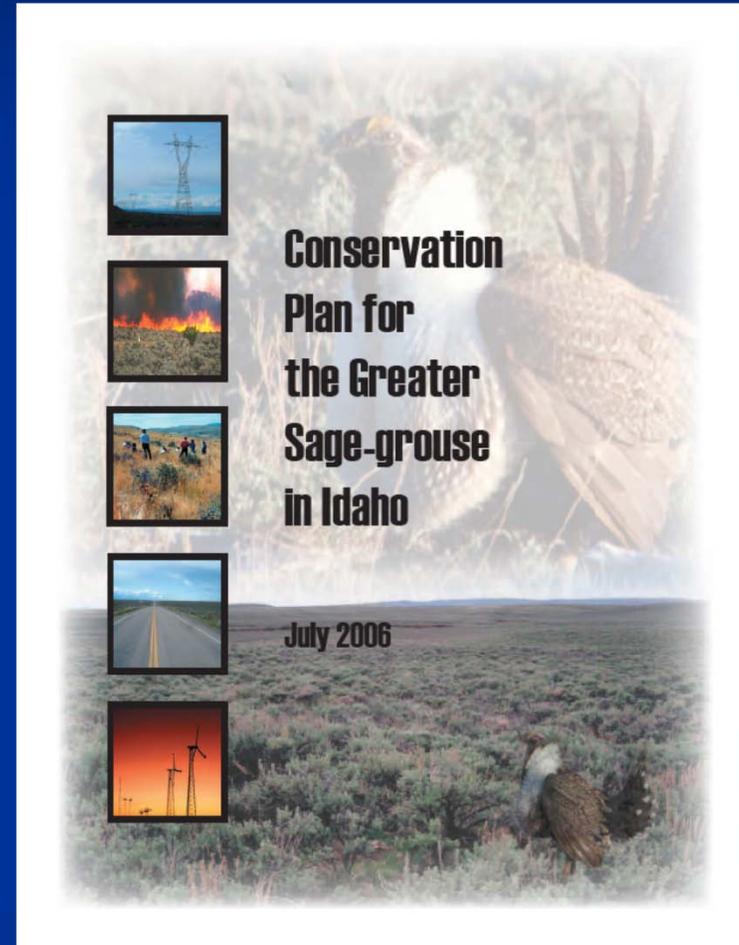
- 133 projects through 2011
  - 55 inventory, monitoring, and research
  - 57 habitat
    - ~36,600 acres
  - 21 others
- Total \$ 1.8 million



# Statewide Planning

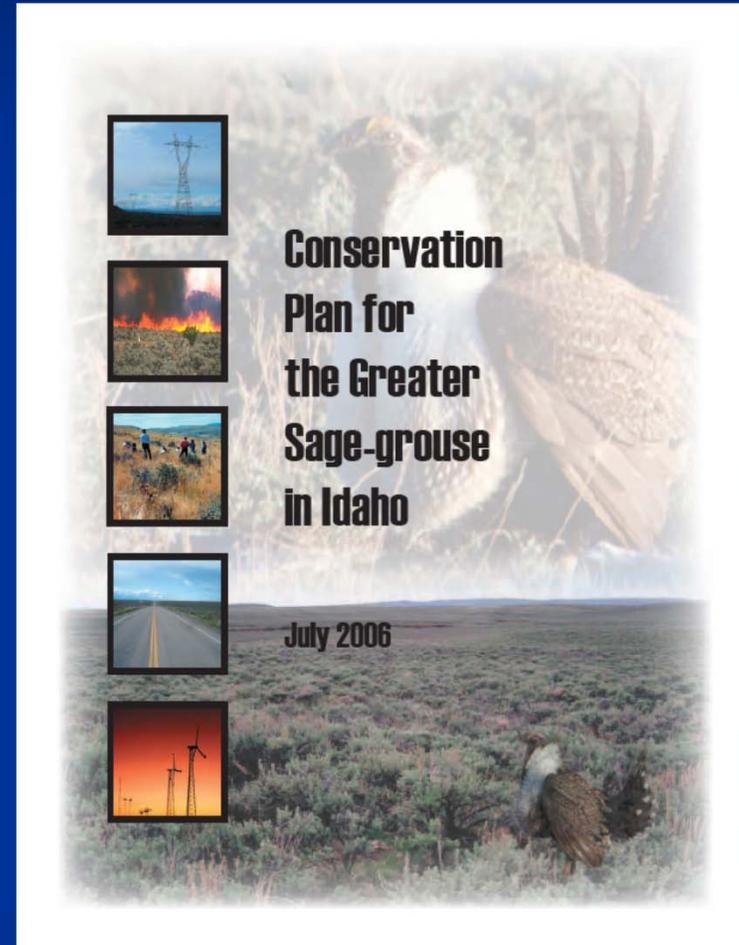
## Idaho Sage Grouse Advisory Committee

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



# 2006 State Plan

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

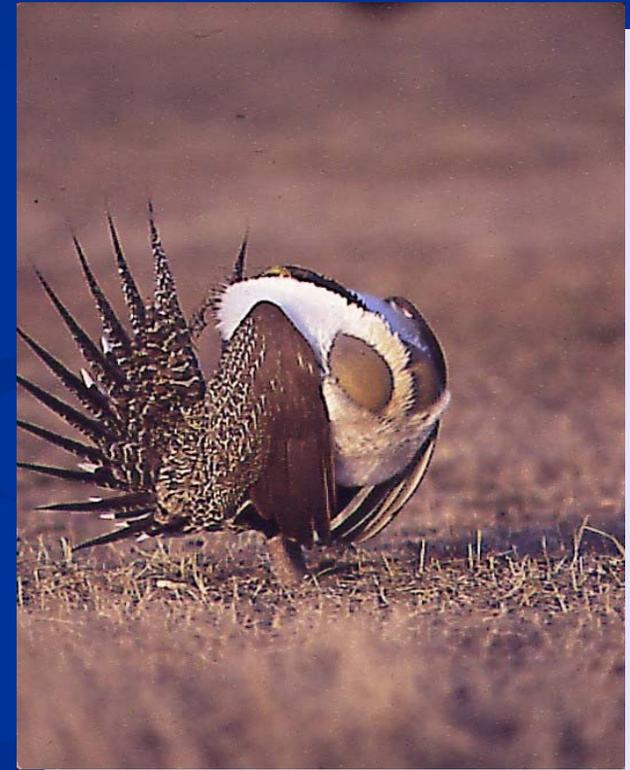


# Key Components

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

# Accomplishments

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



# IDFG Activities

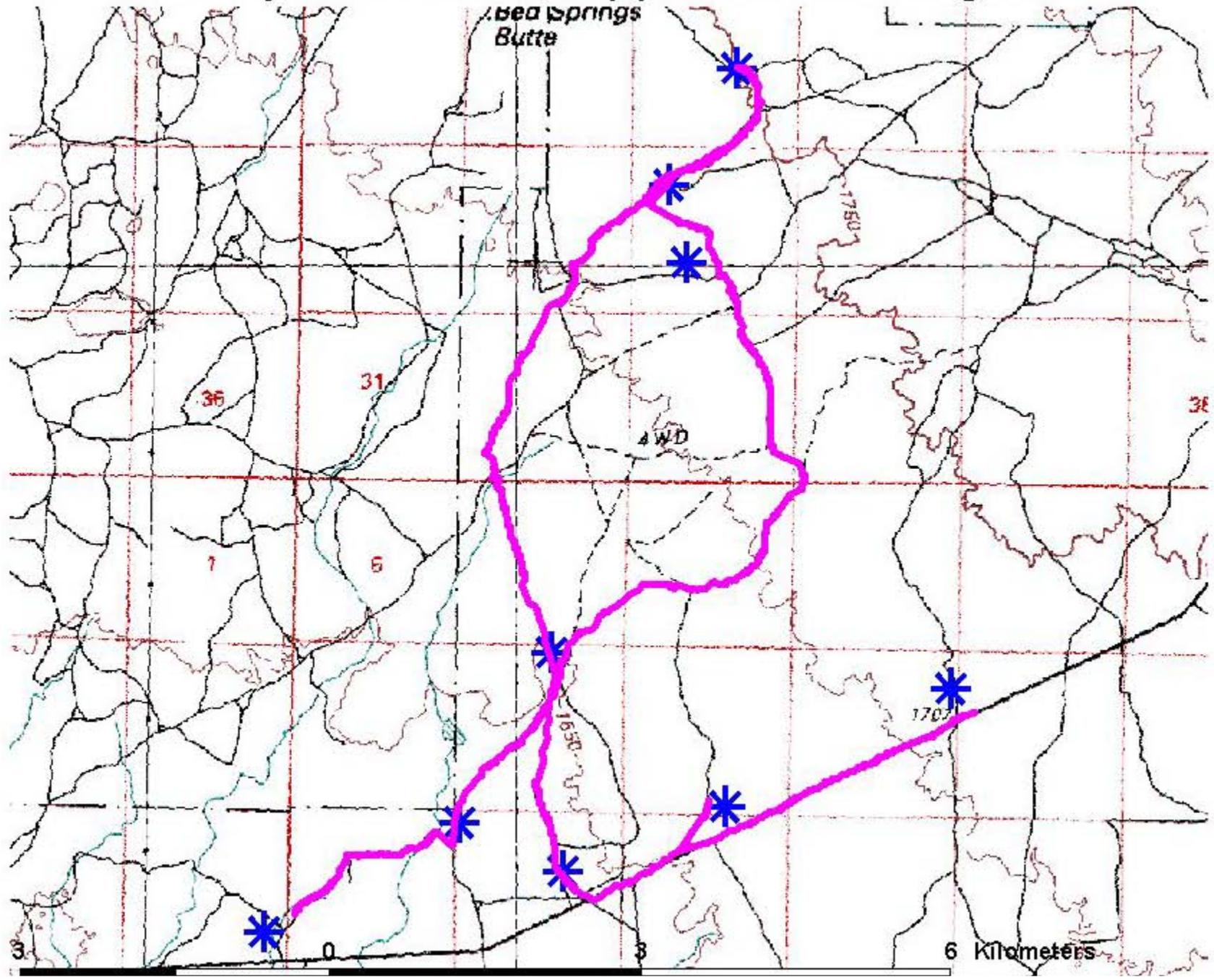
- Lek counts
- Harvest management
- Research and Monitoring

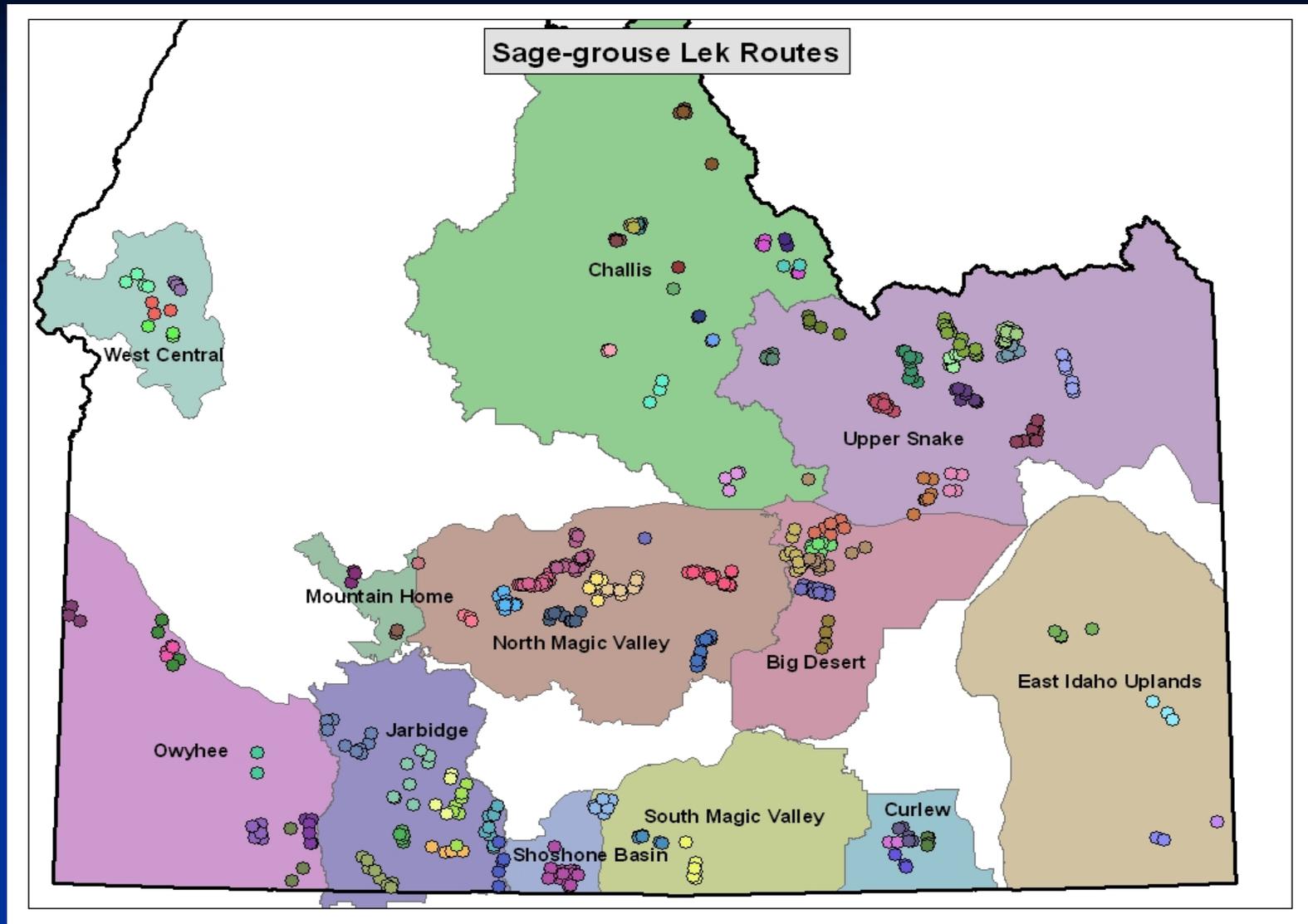
# Sage-grouse Lek Counts

- Monitor population trend
  - Male breeding population trend
- Standard protocols (Connelly et al. 2003)
- 980 leks counted in 2011
  - 462 leks on 78 lek routes
- 578 Leks counted in 1997
  - 42 routes in 1997



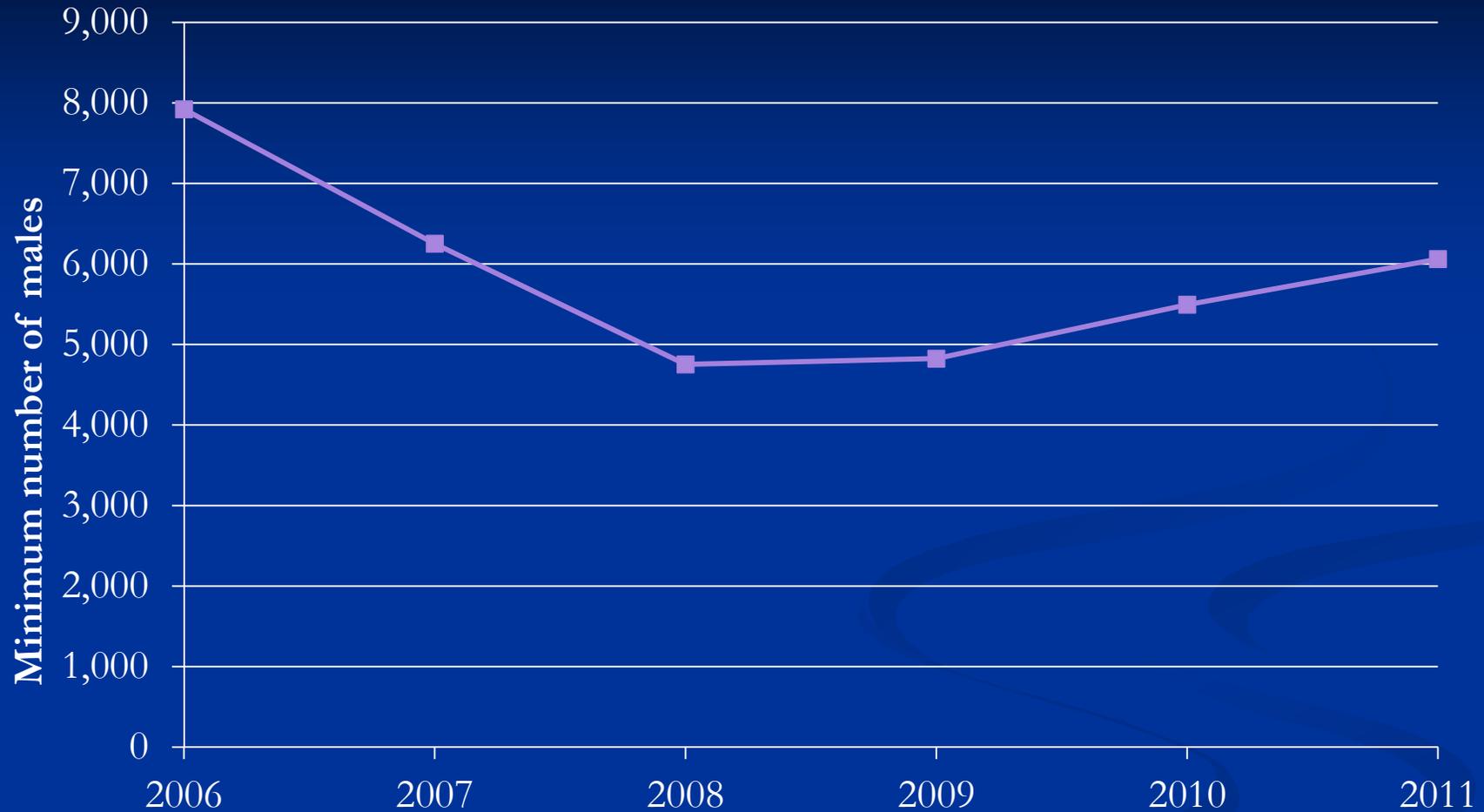
# Jacoby Lek Route, Upper Snake Region





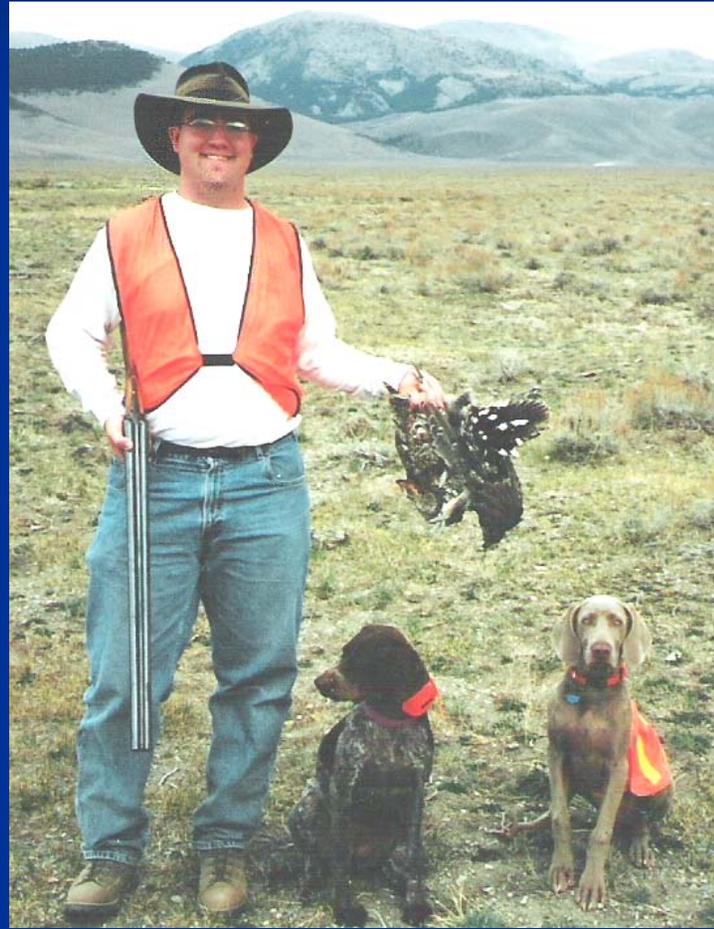
Location of sage-grouse lek routes by Sage-grouse Planning Area. Lek clusters with the same color encompass a lek route.

## Trend in Male Lek Attendance



**Idaho statewide trend in male lek attendance on 69 lek routes that were counted consistently 2006–2011.**

# Harvest Management

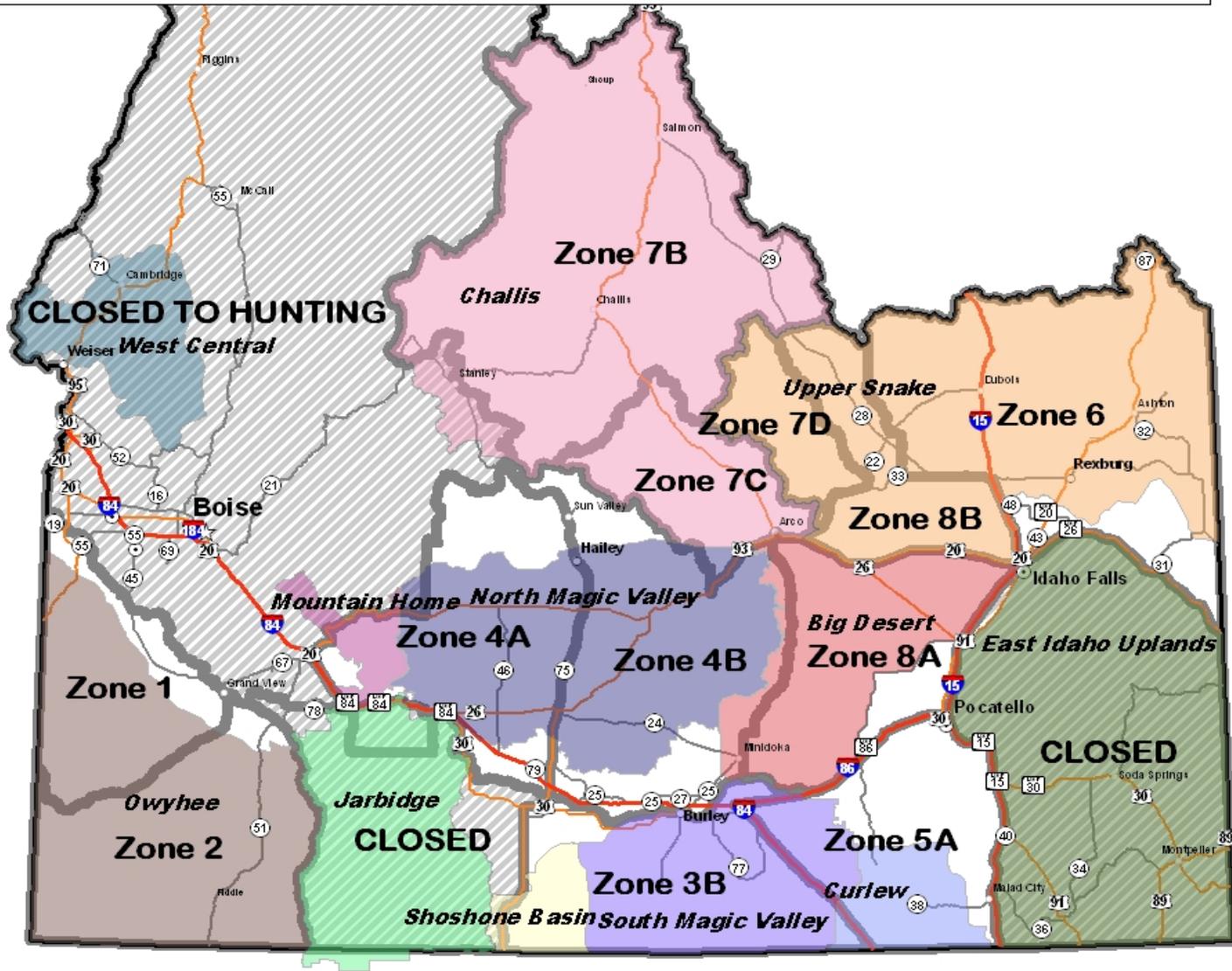


## Idaho hunting season and bag-limit guidelines for sage-grouse populations.<sup>a</sup>

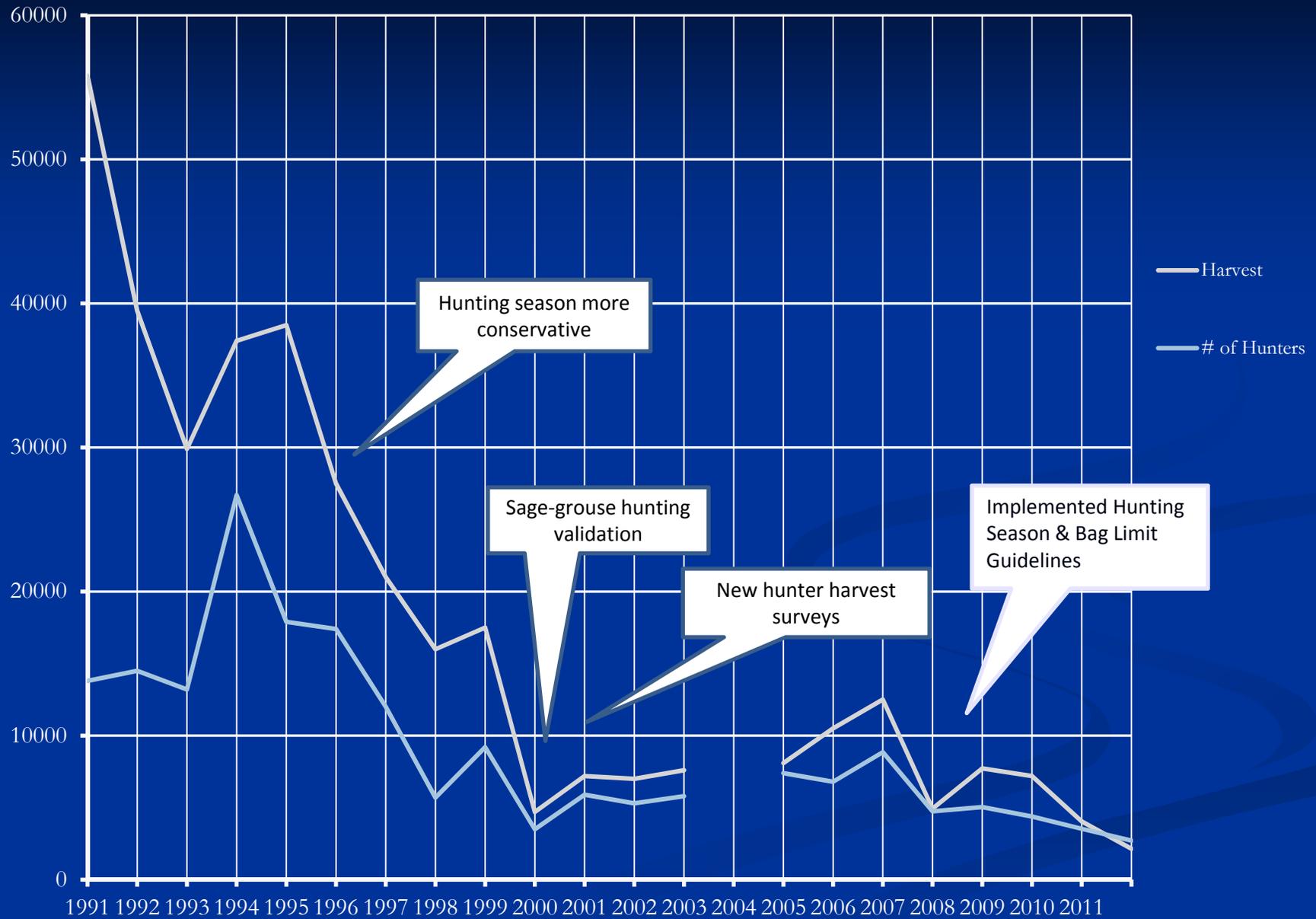
Option	3-year running average of lek counts	Days	Daily Bag
Closed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Less than 100 males observed</li> <li>Lek counts are less than 50% of 1996–2000 average counts</li> <li>Lek data are not gathered for population</li> </ul>	0	0
Restrictive	<ul style="list-style-type: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

<sup>a</sup>From Idaho Sage-grouse Advisory Committee 2006; Table 4-14, page 4-122.

# Sage-Grouse Planning Areas and 2011 Sage-grouse Harvest Reporting Zones



# Sage-grouse Hunting In Idaho



# Research and Monitoring



## Sage-grouse research and monitoring projects

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

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

# What is Important?

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

# Questions?

