



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Idaho State Office
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Boise, Idaho 83709-1657
<https://www.blm.gov>



In Reply Refer To:
6840 (930)

JAN 20 2021

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your consideration are “Targeted Management Recommendations to Address Idaho Sage-Grouse Habitat Loss and Population Declines.” The interagency Idaho Adaptive Management Team (Team) developed and provides these recommendations in an effort to halt and reverse Idaho sage-grouse population declines that tripped multiple adaptive management triggers in 2018 and 2019. Our goal is for state and federal land managers to implement these recommendations collaboratively to leverage our collective resources.

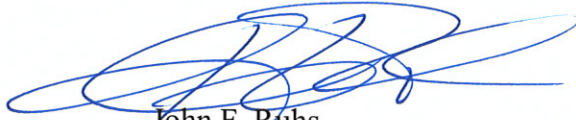
The Team and biologists from several state and federal agencies in Idaho developed these recommendations to address a suite of potential causal factors of sage-grouse population declines. Although population declines were widespread across Idaho, recommendations focus on “Target Areas” where declines were either most pronounced or where we believe that restoration and conservation efforts can be most effective. The reasons for population declines are not known with certainty. Consequently, these recommendations address the most evident causes or potentially limiting factors, and provide a foundation for a proactive conservation strategy to repair, protect, and improve sage-grouse habitat and stabilize sage-grouse populations in vulnerable portions of the state. Recommendations follow U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service guidance and build on direction from other federal and state agencies in Idaho, as well as research institutions and partners to collectively improve habitat and reduce threats for sage-grouse populations.

This document is intended to help inform, prioritize, and/or develop/revise sage-grouse management actions in specific areas of Idaho during current and outyear project planning efforts. To assist with planning efforts, we compiled a table of partner funding timelines and due dates for project proposals. We hope this will facilitate coordination within and among agencies to effectively plan sage-grouse habitat projects based on recommendations in this document.

We recognize the Team will likely need to update this document as new information becomes available regarding treatment effectiveness, and sage-grouse habitat conditions and population

dynamics. As such, the Team will annually review and revise as necessary recommendations to incorporate new science, processes and opportunities so that agency managers can prioritize management in a timely manner in necessary locations that we believe can best halt and reverse population declines.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John F. Ruhs', is written over the typed name and title.

John F. Ruhs
State Director

Enclosure