

## Idaho Sage-grouse Actions Team

July 1, 2024

### Idaho Sage Grouse Conservation Accomplishments in FY24: *Implementing the Governor's Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy*

The Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation (OSC) and the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) have been working with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and other partners to improve habitat conditions across southern Idaho for sage grouse and other wildlife. This work not only benefits the wildlife, but also the people of Idaho who recreate and make a living here. The State of Idaho works with private landowners, federal agencies, and other entities to implement Executive Order 2022-03 (2021 Idaho SG Plan). In State Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) the Idaho Legislature helped to continue these efforts through its budget authorizations to OSC and IDL. Each year the Legislature authorizes these funds, which act as an investment to improve Idaho and hold back invasive annual grasses, noxious weeds, wildfire, and juniper encroachment. All of this helps to keep sage grouse off the endangered species list. The Sage-grouse Actions Team requests projects from across southern Idaho each year. In FY24, 15 conservation projects were funded which on average leveraged **\$3.11 for every state general fund dollar spent**. These efforts resulted in more than **\$2 million** in collaborative conservation. There were also 3 RFPAs assisted with protective equipment (PPE), wildland firefighting engines and tools and for over \$45K. Many times, the State General Fund dollars are used as match to bring other funding sources to Idaho such as the Cheatgrass Challenge and grants through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

#### FY24 Projects

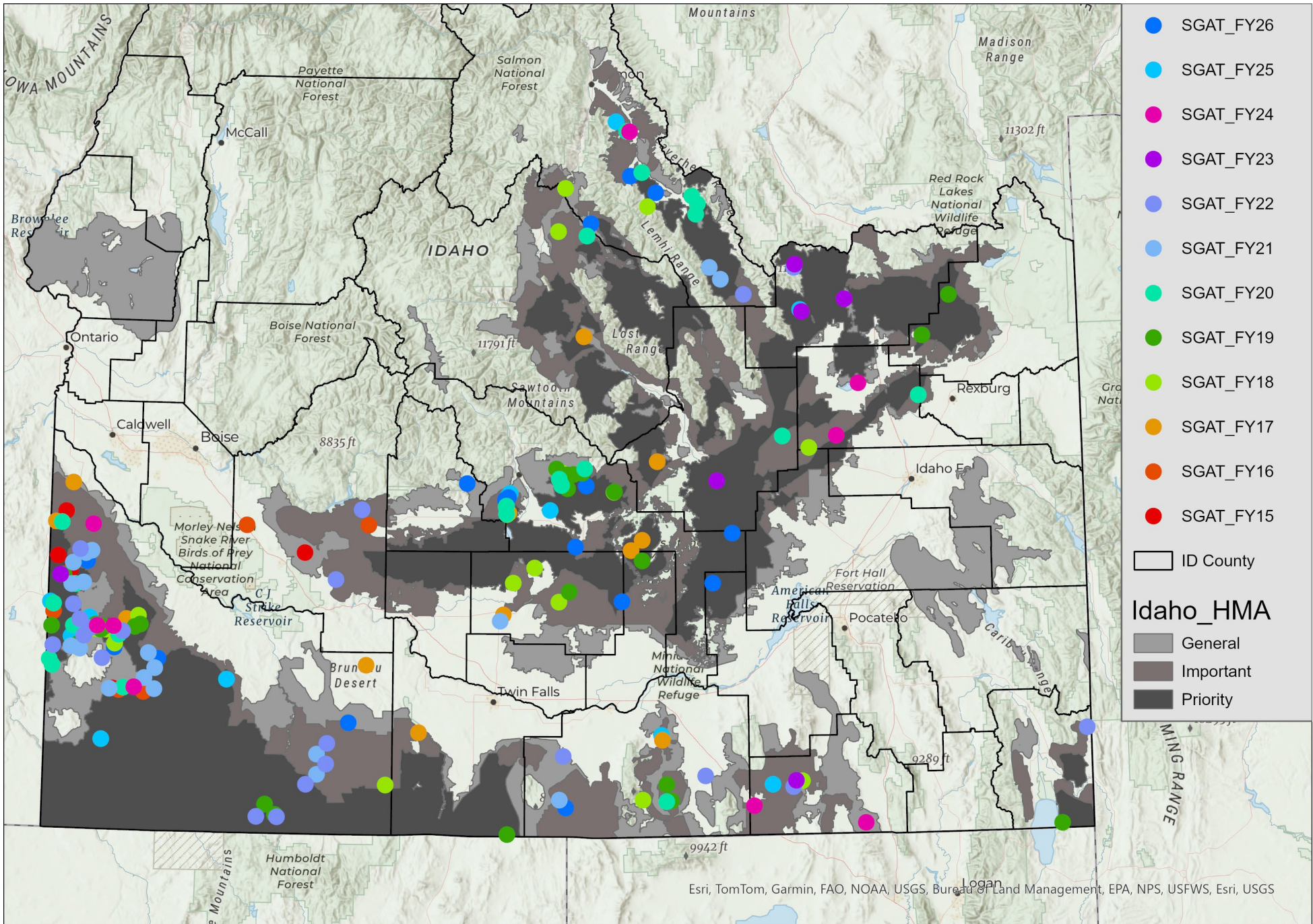
- \$432,351 leveraged \$2 million**
- 3,191 ac. - Conifer Treatment
- 3,122 ac. - Annual Grass Treatment
- 393 ac. - Fuel breaks
- 2,000 ac. - sagebrush seeding
- 1,381 ac. - grass seeding
- 62 acres of Wet Meadow Enhance
- 1,074 Leks Counted (587 Active)
- U of I Grouse and Grazing Study
- IRCP Coordinator Position
- BOSH Coordinator Position
- 3 Rangeland Fire Protection Assns.

The Sage-grouse Actions Team has leveraged funds since May 2015 to implement conservation for sage-grouse. The group contains the state agencies charged with implementing the 2021 Idaho SG Plan— OSC, IDL, and IDFG and includes assistance from the Idaho Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC). Local federal agency partners include the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and nonprofit groups like the Idaho Rangeland Conservation Partnership (IRCP) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

Priorities for funding include restoring areas that have been degraded by wildfire, juniper encroachment and invasive annual grasses, improving brood rearing habitat, helping equip RFPAs to improve fire suppression capabilities and enhancing the monitoring of sage grouse activity.

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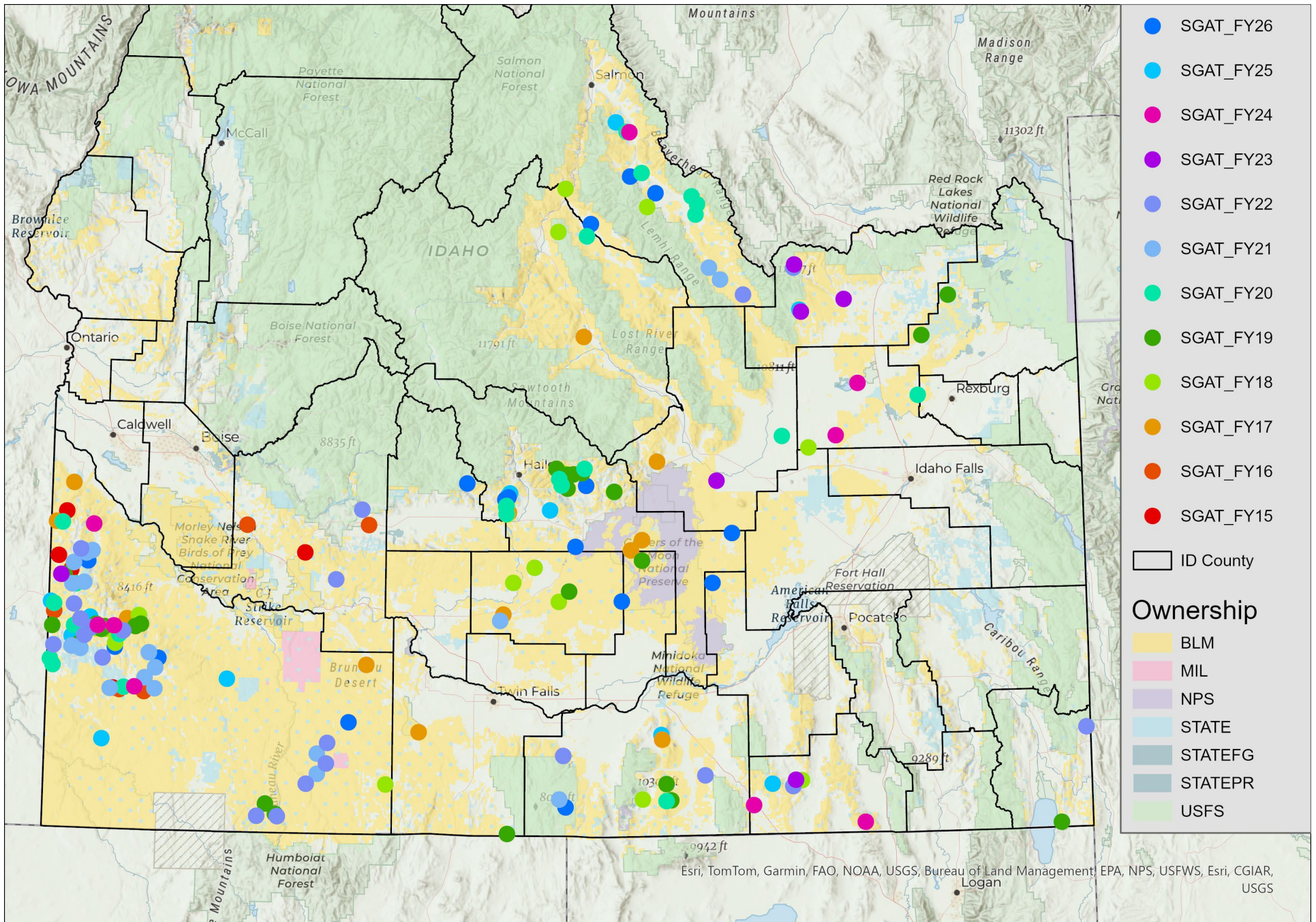




Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, USFWS, Esri, USGS

# FY15 - FY26 Sage Grouse Actions Team Projects





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