

## Idaho Sage-grouse Actions Team

February 2019

### Idaho Sage Grouse Conservation Accomplishments in FY18: *Implementing the Governor's Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy*

In State Fiscal Year 2018, the Idaho legislature authorized an ongoing amount of nearly \$1 million to the Governor's Office of Species Conservation (OSC) and the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) for sage grouse conservation efforts to implement the Governor's Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy (Idaho Plan). This investment continues to play an important role in Idaho, keeping sage grouse off the endangered species list. Through strategic planning and collaboration, the Sage-grouse Actions Team on average leveraged **\$4.40 for every state general fund dollar spent in FY 18**. These efforts resulted in more than **\$3 million** in collaborative, conservation and wildfire prevention efforts.

In May 2015, the state agencies charged with implementing the Governor's Strategy— OSC, IDL, and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) – established the Sage Grouse Actions Team, along with local federal agency partners including the USFWS, BLM, and the NRCS. The Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission, Idaho Department of Agriculture and the USFS have also joined the group.

The team works collaboratively to prioritize and fund actions in accordance with the Governor's Strategy. Priorities for funding include helping equip RFPAs to improve fire suppression capabilities, build strategic fuel breaks to slow the spread of wildfire, restore areas that have been degraded by wildfire from encroached juniper trees and annual grasses, restore and improve brood rearing habitat, and enhance the monitoring of sage grouse activity.

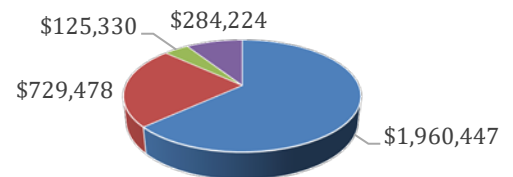


Below: Almo Connectivity Project. The State of Idaho is working with Pheasants Forever and landowners on private land to treat juniper as another part of the larger Burley Landscape Project.

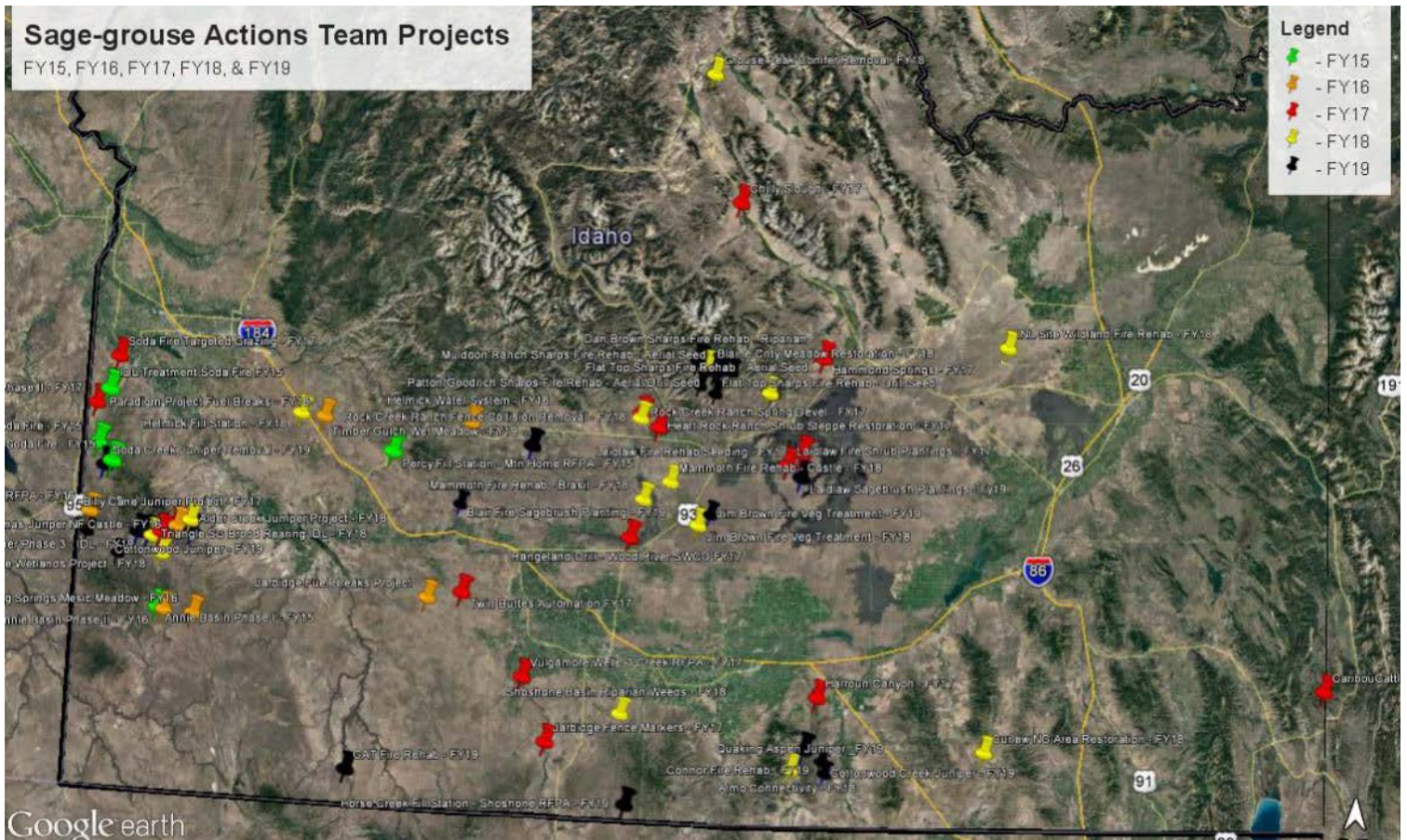
#### By the Numbers: FY18 Projects

- 3,176 ac. Fire Rehab (State & Pvt.)
- 21 miles –Targeted Grazing, Soda Fire Fuel Breaks
- 4,167 ac. - Conifer Treatment
- 1,280 ac. Annual Grass Treatment
- 26K Sagebrush Seedlings Planted
- 1,000 ac. Noxious Weed Treatment
- 75 ac. Wet Meadow Improvement
- 4.1 Miles Riparian Improvement
- 6 Miles of Fences Flagged by LWG
- 1,466 Leks Counted
- 2 Landowners Grazing Mgmt. Infrastructure
- 8 Rangeland Fire Protection Assns. (RFPA) Assisted
- 2 Water Fill stations for Engines
- 6 Type 6 engines, 1 Type 4 Engine
- 20 Radios for Fire Communication
- **\$2.3 million leveraged**

#### FY18 Funds Leveraged



■ Federal ■ State - OSC, IDL ■ State - IDFG ■ Local



The Actions Team, through its partnership, has been able to obligate funding towards 23 projects using state funds including: \$534K of OSC funds, \$195K of IDL funds, \$125K of IDFG funds, \$75K of grant funding from BLM, USFS and USFWS and additional funding from other partners and private landowners. The Actions Team obtained \$130K in additional grant funding from the BLM and USFWS to leverage on-the-ground projects. The Actions Team continues to work on habitat projects using the landscape approach and ameliorating the primary threats of future wildfire and invasive species during wildfire rehabilitation.

In FY18 the State worked with RFPAs to install two engine fill stations and with BLM to obtain six Type 6 engines and one Type 4 engine to give RFPAs additional supplies to address wildfire in sage-grouse areas and their district boundaries.

Legislative and other partner dollars helped increase the number of leks counted from 1,288 in 2017 to 1,466 leks in 2018. Of all leks counted, 693 were active in 2018, 658 were inactive, 108 had an unknown status, and 7 were new.

**FY19: Accomplishments and contracts obligated to date - Obligated: \$625K**

| FY 19: Types of Projects  | Number of acres of Expected Benefit | Number of Projects |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Wildfire Rehab            | 6,272 acres (State & Private)       | 10                 |
| Juniper/Conifer Treatment | 3,981 acres (State and Private)     | 5                  |
| Wet Meadow Enhancement    | 4 miles of riparian (Private)       | 2                  |
| Annual Grass Treatment    | 946 acres (Private)                 | 1                  |
| RFLPA Fill Station        | Increase Water Available            | 1                  |

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