

Idaho Sage-grouse Actions Team

February 2020

Idaho Sage Grouse Conservation Accomplishments in FY19: *Implementing the Governor's Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy*

In State Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19), the Idaho legislature authorized 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 **\$2.77 for every state general fund dollar spent in FY 19**. These efforts resulted in more than **\$2 million** in collaborative conservation and wildfire rehabilitation that normally would not occur.

The Sage-grouse Actions Team has been working together since May 2015 to leverage funds to implement conservation for sage-grouse. The group contains the state agencies charged with implementing the Governor's Strategy— OSC, IDL, and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (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 The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

The team works collaboratively to prioritize and fund actions in accordance with the Idaho Plan. Priorities for funding include helping equip RFPAs to improve fire suppression capabilities, building strategic fuel breaks to slow the spread of wildfire, and restoring areas that have been degraded by wildfire, juniper encroachment and annual grasses. The group also helps fund projects that improve brood rearing habitat and enhance the monitoring of sage grouse activity.

By the Numbers: FY19 Projects

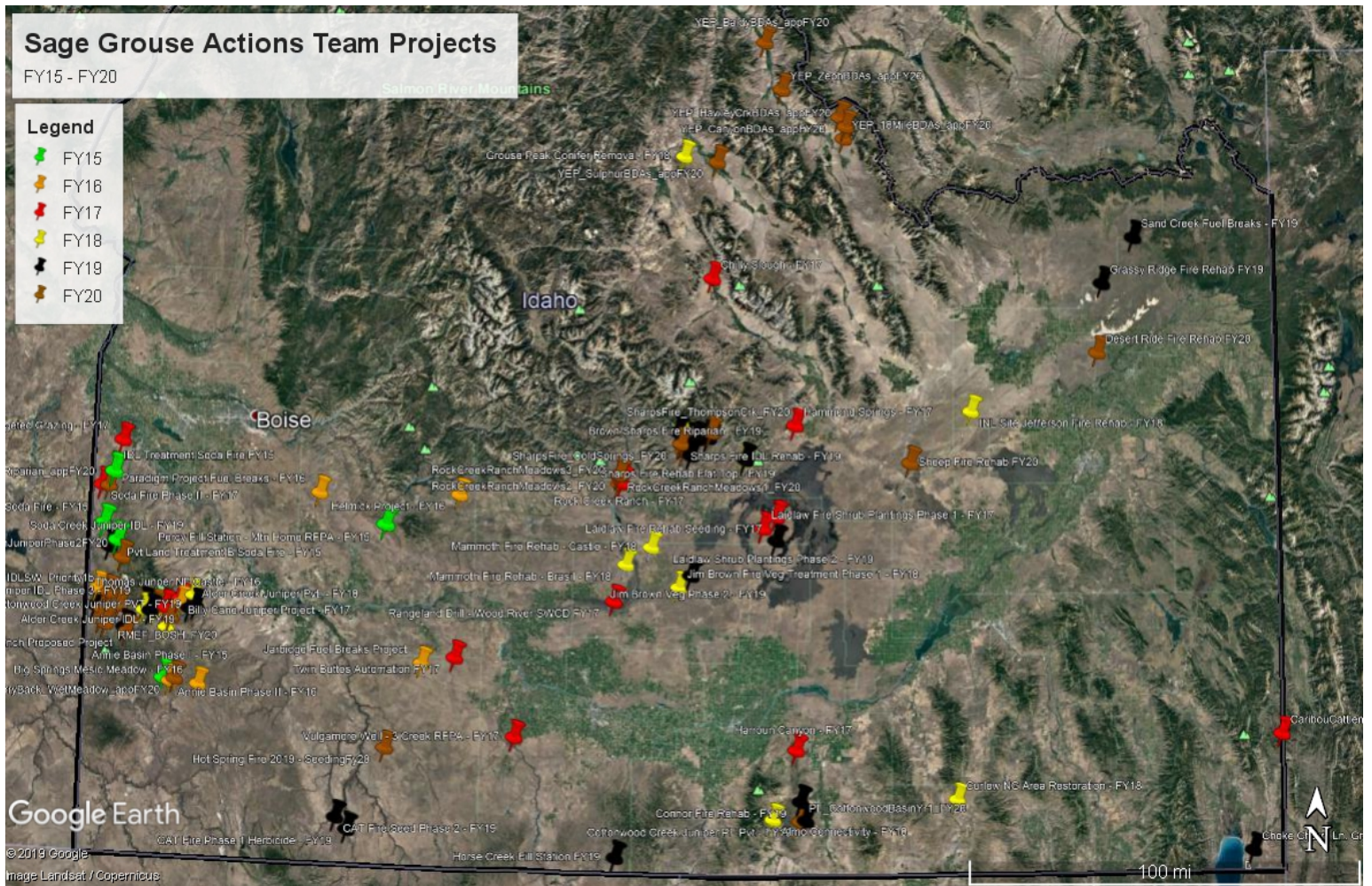
- 6,479 ac. Fire Rehab (State & Pvt.)
- 21 miles – Soda Fire Targeted Grazing
- 103 miles - Sand Creek Fuel Breaks
- 4,985 ac. - Conifer Treatment
- 640 acres - Sagebrush Seedlings
- 1,000 ac. Noxious Weed Treatment
- 4.1 Miles Riparian Improvement
- 24 Miles of Fences Flagged by LWG
- 1,501 Leks Counted
- 2 Landowners Grazing Mgmt. Infrastructure
- 4 Rangeland Fire Protection Assns. (RFPA) Assisted
- 1 Water Fill stations for Engines
- 31 Radios for Fire Communication
- 32 sets of PPE for RFPAs
- \$2.3 million leveraged**

Before Juniper Treatment – Looking up
Cottonwood Creek – Cassia County, Idaho



After Juniper Treatment Oct 2018





The Actions Team, through its partnership, has been able to obligate funding towards 25 projects using state funds including: \$538K of OSC funds, \$195K of IDL funds, \$116K of IDFG funds, \$88K of grant funding from BLM and USFWS and more than \$105K in additional funding from other partners and private landowners. The ability to leverage the legislatively appropriated dollars paid dividends this fiscal year. With the ability to leverage funding, members of the Actions Team obtained \$425,000 through a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant to help with juniper in Owyhee County and wet meadow enhancement across southern Idaho.

Legislative and other partner dollars also helped increase the number of leks counted from 1,466 in 2018 to 1,501 leks in 2019 (654 were active in 2019, 681 were inactive, and 166 had an unknown status). IDFG reported 20 potential new leks in 2019. Of the 7 new leks that were discovered in 2018, 5 were confirmed as occupied leks in 2019.

FY20: Accomplishments and contracts obligated to date - Obligated: \$623K

FY 20: Types of Projects	Number of acres of Expected Benefit	Number of Projects
Wildfire Rehab	8,828 acres (State & INL)	5
Juniper/Conifer Treatment	6,057 acres (State & Private)	7
Wet Meadow Enhancement	12 riparian miles (Private, State, Federal)	4
Annual Grass/Noxious Weed Treatment	497 acres (Private)	3
RFPA Fill Station	Increase Water Available	1

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