

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

### RS25417

This bill appropriates \$14,131,500 to the Office of Species Conservation for fiscal year 2018 and caps the number of authorized full-time equivalent positions at 12.63. The mission of the Office of Species Conservation is to coordinate policies and programs related to the conservation of threatened, endangered, and candidate species in Idaho. The bill includes funding for the increased costs of employee health insurance and a decrease in statewide cost allocation. It also includes an ongoing 3% merit-based increase in employee compensation for permanent employees to be distributed at the discretion of the administrator.

There is funding for one line item. It includes \$750,000 from the General Fund to support the Governor's Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Initiative. Funding will be allocated toward sage-grouse population surveys, making stock tanks safe for sage grouse, creating fuel breaks, using other fire management practices, assisting rangeland fire protection associations, and continuing rangeland restoration projects on state and private lands. Moneys will also be used to complete the mitigation strategy for sage grouse and transition to an ecosystem-based conservation approach. The total budget is a 1.8% increase in all funds over the FY 2017 budget.

### FISCAL NOTE

	FTP	Gen	Ded	Fed	Total
FY 2017 Original Appropriation	12.63	538,100	515,000	12,825,300	13,878,400
Removal of One-Time Expenditures	0.00	(15,700)	(500,000)	(17,600)	(533,300)
FY 2018 Base	12.63	522,400	15,000	12,807,700	13,345,100
Benefit Costs	0.00	4,300	0	6,000	10,300
Statewide Cost Allocation	0.00	(400)	0	0	(400)
Change in Employee Compensation	0.00	12,000	0	14,400	26,400
FY 2018 Program Maintenance	12.63	538,300	15,000	12,828,100	13,381,400
1. Sage-Steppe Ecosystem Conservation	0.00	750,000	0	0	750,000
2. Outreach and Coordination	0.00	0	0	0	0
Cybersecurity Insurance	0.00	100	0	0	100
FY 2018 Total	12.63	1,288,400	15,000	12,828,100	14,131,500
Chg from FY 2017 Orig Approp	0.00	750,300	(500,000)	2,800	253,100
% Chg from FY 2017 Orig Approp.	0.0%	139.4%	(97.1%)	0.0%	1.8%

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**DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).**