

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

### RS21352

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is required to make a listing determination of sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act by September 30, 2015, as a result of a recent court decision. Governor C. L. "Butch" Otter, understanding the potential devastating impacts to the economy and lifestyle of Idaho if the species is listed, desires to develop a management plan that will exempt the state from compliance with the Bureau of Land Management's Instruction Memorandum. The plan will also provide a mechanism to preclude the need to list the species under the ESA, and in the event of listing, to minimize the impact to, and provide regulatory certainty for the use of permitted and lawful activities on public land. Governor Otter believes that such a plan could be considered as the preferred alternative in the Bureau of Land Management's Resource Management Plans and the U. S. Forest Service Land Management Plans. The plan would be built on the efforts provided by local sage grouse working group plans and the current 2006 statewide plan. The legislature endorses and encourages Governor Otter's efforts to move forward with the Governor's Task Force in creating an Idaho Sage Grouse Plan.

### FISCAL NOTE

There will be no fiscal impact to the general fund.

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