

# STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

## RS23756

This bill appropriates \$13,805,500 to the Office of Species Conservation for fiscal year 2016 and caps the number of authorized full-time equivalent positions at 12. The bill includes funding for the increased costs for health insurance, accounts for a reduction in statewide cost allocation, and includes an ongoing 3% merit-based increase in employee compensation for permanent employees to be distributed at the discretion of agency heads.

There is one line item from the General Fund in the amount of \$500,000 for sage grouse conservation. Conservation projects include \$75,000 for lek monitoring conducted by Idaho Fish and Game, \$120,000 for equipment and training for the Rangeland Fire Protection Associations, \$50,000 for regional efforts to prevent sage grouse listing, \$150,000 as a financial matching component to enhance conservation efforts by private landowners, \$45,000 for projects to reduce fire hazards on private and state endowment lands, \$25,000 to finalize a mitigation strategy for large-scale infrastructure development, \$25,000 for legal defense of the Governor's sage grouse strategy, and \$10,000 for coordination costs of the Office of Species Conservation.

### FISCAL NOTE

|                                  | FTP   | Gen       | Ded      | Fed        | Total      |
|----------------------------------|-------|-----------|----------|------------|------------|
| FY 2015 Original Appropriation   | 12.00 | 693,800   | 57,000   | 12,772,000 | 13,522,800 |
| Removal of One-Time Expenditures | 0.00  | (203,700) | (42,000) | (4,600)    | (250,300)  |
| FY 2016 Base                     | 12.00 | 490,100   | 15,000   | 12,767,400 | 13,272,500 |
| Benefit Costs                    | 0.00  | 3,500     | 0        | 4,800      | 8,300      |
| Statewide Cost Allocation        | 0.00  | (200)     | 0        | 0          | (200)      |
| Change in Employee Compensation  | 0.00  | 11,400    | 0        | 13,500     | 24,900     |
| FY 2016 Program Maintenance      | 12.00 | 504,800   | 15,000   | 12,785,700 | 13,305,500 |
| 1. Sage Grouse Conservation      | 0.00  | 500,000   | 0        | 0          | 500,000    |
| FY 2016 Total                    | 12.00 | 1,004,800 | 15,000   | 12,785,700 | 13,805,500 |
| Chg from FY 2015 Orig Approp     | 0.00  | 311,000   | (42,000) | 13,700     | 282,700    |
| % Chg from FY 2015 Orig Approp.  | 0.0%  | 44.8%     | (73.7%)  | 0.1%       | 2.1%       |

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