

THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF IDAHO
BOISE**

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2022-03

**ADOPTING IDAHO'S 2021 SAGE-GROUSE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND
IDAHO SAGE-STEPPE MITIGATION PROCESS**

WHEREAS, in 2015, through Executive Order 2015-04, Idaho adopted the collaboratively developed "Idaho's Sage-grouse Management Plan" (2015 Idaho Plan) as the State's official policy for sage-grouse management in Idaho; and

WHEREAS, Idaho regularly engages in collaborative efforts with stakeholders and federal agencies for the management of sage-grouse and sage-grouse habitat and in order to effectively continue to engage in these efforts, it is essential for the State to keep an updated State policy on sage-grouse management; and

WHEREAS, the State of Idaho brought together stakeholders that included affected industry, conservation groups, and agency personnel to incorporate updated information into the 2015 Idaho Plan and form an updated plan to be known as the "Idaho 2021 Sage-grouse Management Plan"; and

WHEREAS, the 2021 Idaho Sage-grouse Management Plan provides necessary updates while maintaining a balanced approach for the species and the people of Idaho through the foundational elements of the 2015 Idaho Plan; and

WHEREAS, the State of Idaho has spent approximately \$5 million to increase data on sage-grouse populations and enhance 76,251 acres of sage-grouse habitat since 2015 through the implementation of conservation measures such as juniper and annual grass treatment, sagebrush planting and perennial grass seeding, wildfire suppression and wildfire rehabilitation, wet meadow and riparian improvement and management of mitigation for sage-grouse habitat; and

WHEREAS, the State has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Bureau of Land Management and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the US Forest Service to enhance coordination across land ownerships for the implementation and management of policy and mitigation for sage-grouse habitat; and

WHEREAS, the State developed a Habitat Quantification Tool that will be used in conjunction with the Idaho Sage-Steppe Mitigation Principles document to provide guidance and recommendations to ensure that when mitigation is appropriate it is implemented in a consistent manner sufficient to meet a defined mitigation goal, sustainable through time, and consistent with the aforementioned MOA and MOU; and

WHEREAS, it is vital to the interests of the State to continue engaging in collaborative efforts with stakeholders and federal agencies as the listing of sage-grouse and overly restrictive federal land-use plan amendments would adversely impact Idaho's sovereign interest in managing its wildlife pursuant to Idaho Code § 36-103 and § 68-818, as well as the State's economy, customs, culture, and way of life;

NOW, THEREFORE I Brad Little, Governor of the State of Idaho, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this state do hereby order:

That all executive agencies, to the extent consistent with existing state law, for relevant permits and policies, adopt the updated 2021 Idaho Sage-grouse Management Plan, the Idaho Sage-Steppe Mitigation Principles document, and all supporting documentation, attached hereto and incorporated in their entirety into this Executive Order by this reference.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 18th day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-two.

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

LAWRENCE DENNEY
SECRETARY OF STATE