

Proposal
**A Framework for Sage-grouse
Mitigation in Idaho**

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Need for a Mitigation Program

- Mission (6.2.4. of State SAGR Plan)
- Increase in infrastructure projects
- Threats to sage-grouse continue
- No state-wide program to focus mitigation efforts
- Increase scale of mitigation efforts

Idaho Sage-Grouse Advisory Committee Mitigation Subcommittee

- John Robison, ICL
- Brett Dumas, Idaho Power
- Paul Makela, BLM
- Don Kemner, IDFG
- Will Whelan & Trish Klahr, TNC
- Rich Rayhill, Ridgeline Energy, LLC
- Lisa LaBolle, OER
- Nate Fisher, OSC

Recap of Activities

- SAC presentation in July
- Met with state officials in August
 - Support from IDFG, OSC, OER, & IDL
- Met with BLM and USFWS in September
 - Support from both agencies
- SAC presentation in October
- Accepted comments
- Completed discussion paper

Framework Strategy

- Focus on sage-grouse in Idaho
- Mitigation for infrastructure project impacts
 - Does not apply to existing projects or activities
- Complement existing regulatory processes
- Target mitigation based on factors/risks and geographic factors in listing decision and state plan
- A team of experts and oversight committee to provide for a credible program
- Includes roles for federal, state and non-governmental parties

Mitigation Framework Is:

- An option that agencies and/or developers may select
- A coordinated, strategic, and statewide approach to mitigation
- Transparent, inclusive, and accountable

Mitigation Framework Is Not:

- A source of new regulations or permit procedures
- A process for determining mitigation requirements
- A forum for deciding project siting, alternatives or impacts

Mitigation Steps

1. Infrastructure project development and permitting:
 - Assess project impacts
 - Determine mitigation objectives
2. Mitigation Framework:
 - Create guidelines for in-lieu fee contribution
 - Receive funds from participating developer(s)
 - Develop statewide strategy to guide mitigation
 - Solicit, fund, and monitor mitigation actions
 - Evaluate program & sage-grouse benefits

Memorandum of Agreement

1. **Core Group:** oversees program
2. **Science Team:** develops strategy, ranks projects
3. **Program Administrator:** manage funds & grants
4. **Advisory Council:** stakeholders provide advice on program direction

Next Steps

- Brief stakeholders
- Identify key remaining issues
- Secure support for program
- Develop MOA that is signed
- Develop details of mitigation program
- Implement program