Sage-Grouse Initiative
Threat Checklist
NRCS-Idaho FY2011

Participant:

Planner:

Date:

Instructions: Choose "Yes" or "No" for all potential threats. Those marked "Yes" are considered identified threats present on the proposed enrolled acreage. Circle the treatment option the landowner will implement to address each threat. Calculate the percentage of identified threats the landowner will address for use in the SGI AERT.

Note: All practices will be planned under Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645) as the umbrella practice. Use the Species Habitat Evaluation for Greater Sage-Grouse in Idaho and the Threats Checklist below to identify habitat conditions and limitations in the planning area. Complete the applicable 645 specification sheet, referring to facilitating practices listed under Treatments below, and attaching additional specification sheets for those practices as needed.

Potential Threats	YES	NO	Treatments
1. Wildfire and cheatgrass invasion threaten existing sagebrush-grassland habitat.			Develop strategically placed firebreaks and consider using greenstripping techniques. NRCS Practices- Firebreak (394) and Range Planting (550).
2. Current grazing management does not allow for sustainable range conditions to persist			Implement grazing strategy that allows for sustainable range condition and increased residual cover for nesting. NRCS Practices- Prescribed Grazing (528), Fence (382), Watering Facility (614) and associated practices.
3. Current grazing management does not allow for adequate residual cover in sage-grouse nesting habitat to maximize nest success.			Implement grazing strategy that allows for increased residual cover for nesting. This will be accomplished with a rest-rotation grazing system on 20% of available nesting habitat to allow complete growing season rest in year 1 continuing through the end of the nesting season in year 2 (i.e. April 1st in Year 1 through June 15th in Year 2. NRCS Practices- Prescribed Grazing (528), Fence (382), Watering Facility (614) and associated practices.
4. Fences or other structures are within 0.6 mile of a lek or are documented as contributing to sage-grouse mortality or increased predation.			Remove, relocate or mark problem fences and structures. NRCS Practices- Fence (382), Obstruction Removal (500). **Note: 382 will be used to design fence marker and perch deterrent projects and to replace removed fences in more appropriate locations. 500 will be used to remove problem fences and structures.**

5. Stock water tanks and troughs do not all have properly designed escape ramps installed.			Install wildlife escape ramps into all existing tanks and troughs. NRCS Practice- Watering Facility (614).
6. Mesic areas (e.g. springs, seeps, wet meadows) are dewatered and fail to provide abundant forbs and insects for sage-grouse broods.			Retrofit altered spring areas to provide wet seeps and restore degraded mesic areas to mimic historic moist soil conditions. Protect springheads. NRCS Practices - Spring Development (retrofit only) (574), Pipeline (516), Range Planting (550), Fence (382). **Note: 574, 382 and 550 will be used to restore altered spring areas.** Restore hydrology to degraded wet meadows to pre-altered conditions to the extent practicable or supplement natural precipitation in areas where plants can use additional moisture. NRCS Practices Grade Stabilization Structure (410), Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390), Range Planting (550), Fence (382). **Note: 410 will be planned if needed to restore down cut wet meadows. 390 or 550 will be used if desired herbaceous response is not anticipated without planting.**
7. Plant species diversity in brood-rearing habitat does not allow optimal sage-grouse chick survival and recruitment.			Develop rangeland enhancements and/or adjust management to increase native vegetation diversity for sage-grouse chick survival. NRCS Practices - Brush Management (314), Range Planting (550), Prescribed Grazing (528).
8. Noxious weeds or invasive species that threaten sage-grouse habitat requirements are present.			Develop specifications to achieve control of identified noxious weeds and/or invasive species while protecting native and other desired plants. NRCS Practice- Herbaceous Weed Control (315).
9. There is conifer encroachment into potential sage- grouse habitat.			Remove conifers which have encroached into sagebrush habitat to eliminate avian predator perch sites and improve vegetative species diversity. NRCS Practices- Brush Management (314), Prescribed Burning (338), Firebreak (394) and Range Planting (550). **Note: 314 will generally be used to remove encroached conifers. 338 may only be considered in mountain big sagebrush communities with annual precip > 16". 394 must be planned if 338 is used. 550 will be used if desired herbaceous response is not anticipated without seeding.**