



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
GOVERNOR

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **SAGE-GROUSE TASK FORCE SUBMITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO GOVERNOR**

(BOISE) – Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter received and reviewed final recommendations today from the sage-grouse task force he appointed in March to develop alternatives to a federal Endangered Species Act listing that could block many traditional land uses and devastate southern Idaho's rural economy.

"The task force members have done a great job putting together options for protecting sage-grouse without the draconian restrictions that would be required by an endangered species listing," Governor Otter said. "I will continue consulting with them throughout the upcoming public review and comment process – the result of which will inform the State's final plan for submission to the secretaries of Interior and Agriculture."

A two-week public comment period will begin in late June, and submission of a final plan to the federal agencies is targeted for mid-July. The task force's recommendations can be viewed and public comments submitted through the Idaho Department of Fish and Game's Web site at <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/wildlife/?getPage=310>

The Governor's Sage-Grouse Task Force includes representatives of the State and local governments, local working groups and conservation interests, as well as industry. It is led by Tom Perry, the Governor's legal counsel, and Idaho Department of Fish and Game Director Virgil Moore.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined in March 2010 that sage-grouse warrant listing as an endangered species throughout its habitat area – including Idaho – but that higher-priority species conservation efforts precluded its listing.

In his Executive Order creating the task force, Governor Otter said it was "vital to the interests of the State to develop a state-specific regulatory mechanism as the listing of the species would adversely impact the economy of Idaho, including the ability to generate revenues from private property and State endowment lands."

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