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 U.S.
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 the authority vested in me under the Constitution and laws of the State of Idaho do hereby order the following:

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 twenty-two.

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

LAWERENCE DENNEY
SECRETARY OF STATE