IDAHO GOVERNOR'S SAGE-GROUSE CONSERVATION ALTERNATIVE

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Today's Presentation

- Leading up to the Governor's Alternative
- Executive Order
- The Task Force meeting process
- Governor's Alternative

Leading up to the Alternative

- BLM and USFS manage the majority of sage-grouse habitat
- BLM/USFS EIS – due September 2014
- Interim conservation measures
- Secretary of Interior invited states
- Maintain state's authority of wildlife and maintain multiple uses of public lands.

Executive Order - Task Force

- March 2012, Idaho Sage-Grouse Task Force through Executive Order - 15-member team
  - Two county commissioners
  - Two state legislators
  - One public at large
  - A sage-grouse local working group
  - Environmental organization (TNC, ICL)
  - Sportsman's organization (Idaho SFW)
  - Ag - Idaho Cattle Association, Farm Bureau, Simplot
  - Energy - Idaho Power, renewables, Monsanto

Executive Order

- Duties – provide recommendations for developing a state-wide regulatory mechanism to preclude the need to list sage-grouse.
- Advisory
- Foundation
  - State sage-grouse Advisory Committee
  - Sage-grouse Local Working Groups
  - State plan

Executive Order - Threats

Factors

- Habitat loss and fragmentation due to:
  - Wildfire/ Invasive species (i.e. cheatgrass)
  - Infrastructure/ energy development
- Inadequate regulatory mechanisms

Task Force Meetings

- Task Force co-chaired by Governor's Office and IDFG
- Similar to Idaho Roadless Rule process
- Collaborative
- State agencies were technical and policy advisors
- Open to the public
- Public comment at the end of each meeting

Task Force Meetings

- 8 meeting between March – May 2012
- Expert subject speakers (e.g. grouse, threats)
- Sub-committees for threats
- Working Task Force meetings
- Sub-committee meetings
- Homework
- Webpage http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/wildlife/?getPage=310

Task Force Meetings

- Subcommittees submitted draft recommendations
- Task Force voted on subcommittee recommendations
- Task Force submitted recommendations to Governor's Office (June 2012)
- Public comment

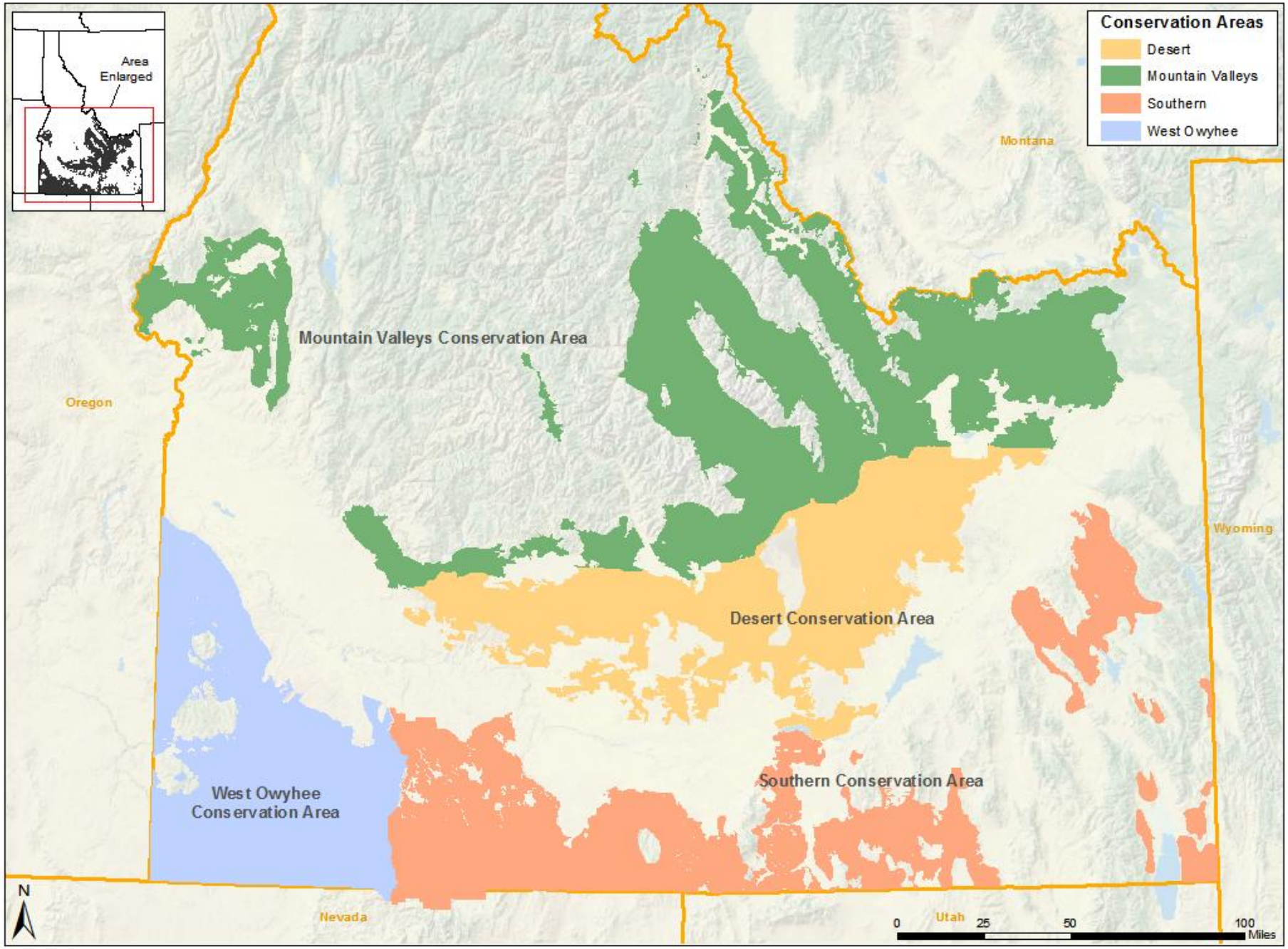
Governor's Alternative

- Governor's office wrote and submitted an alternative to Secretary of Interior
- An alternative in the BLM/USFS EIS

Governor's Alternative

- Goal - preclude the need to list the species.
- Overall objective - conserve the species and its habitat while maintaining predictable uses of the land.
  - Objective 1: Implement regulatory mechanism
  - Objective 2: Stabilize habitats and populations
  - Objective 3: Implement adaptive regulatory triggers

Sage Grouse Conservation Areas

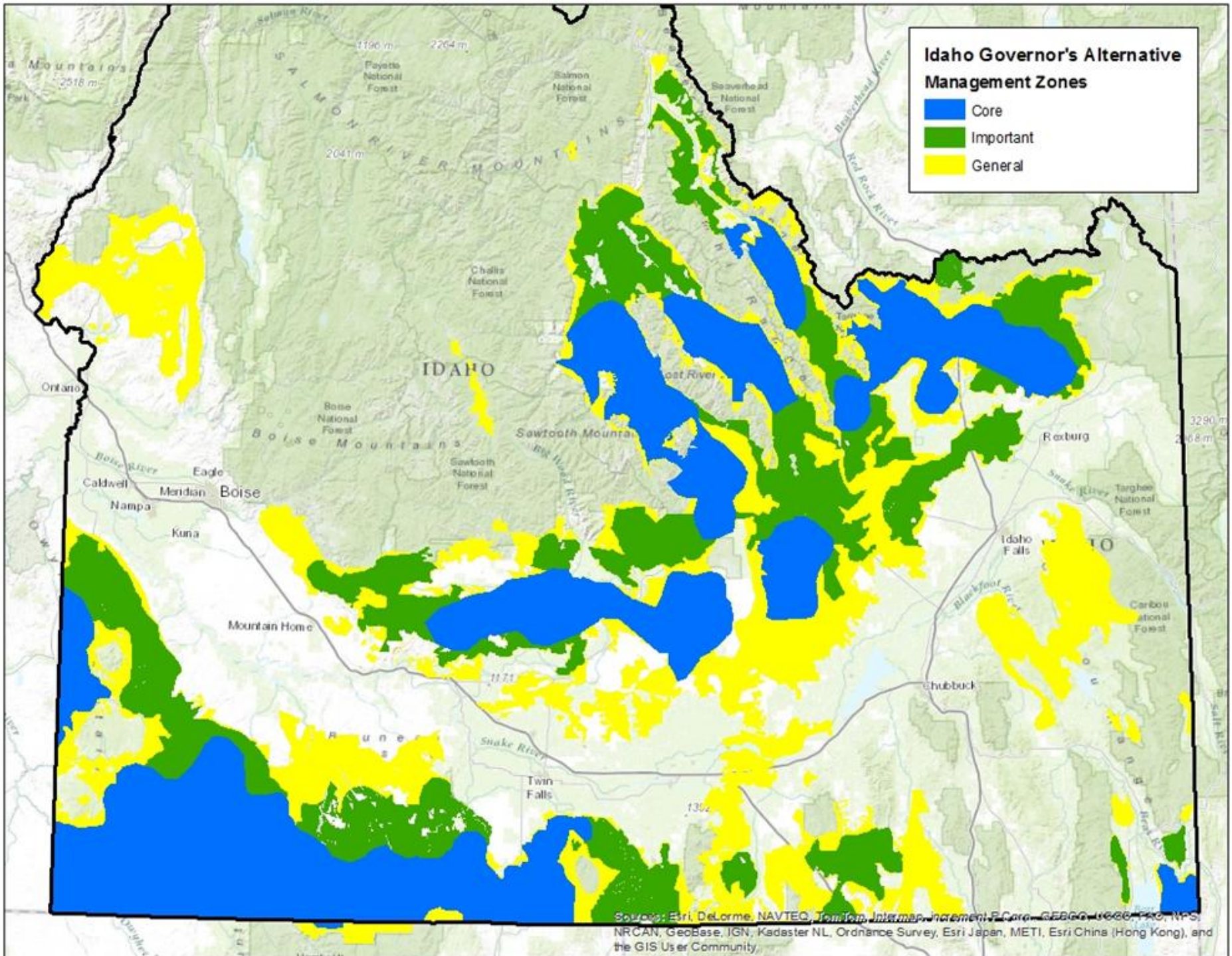


Date: 8/30/2012

Habitat Management Zones

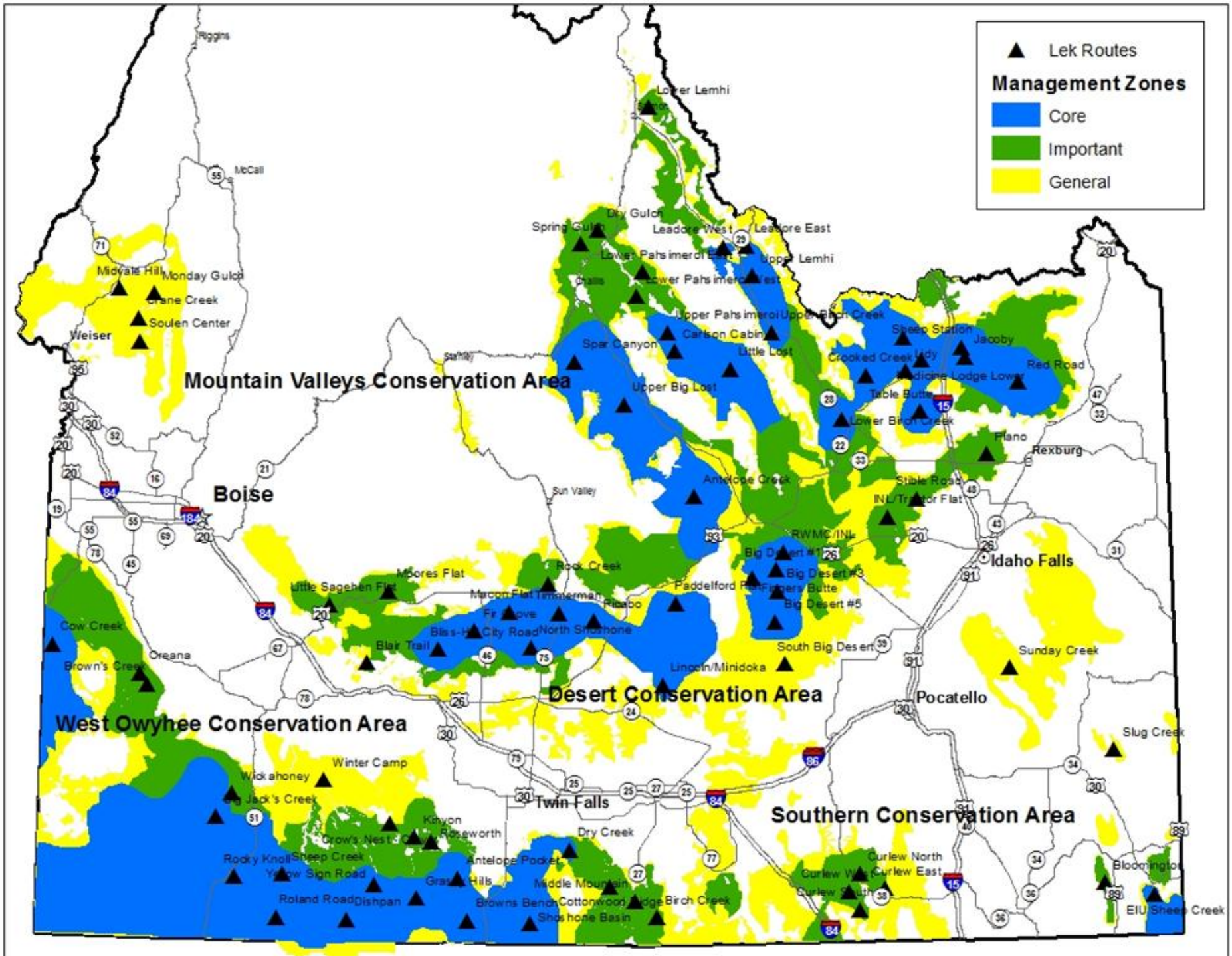
- Core Habitat Zones – 73%
- Important Habitat Zones – 22%
- General Habitat Zones - 5%

- Scaled management criteria to address threats in each zone


Idaho Governor's Alternative Management Zones
Core
Important
General
IDAHO
Boise
Caldwell
Nampa
Meridian
Eagle
Kuna
Mountain Home
Twin Falls
Chubbuck
Idaho Falls
Rexburg
Ontario
Boise Mountains
Sawtooth Mountains
Salmon River Mountains
Payette National Forest
Salmon National Forest
Seaverhead National Forest
Challis National Forest
Boise National Forest
Sawtooth National Forest
Targhee National Forest
Caribou National Forest
Snake River
Blackfoot River
Red Rock River
Boise River
Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, TomTom, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), and the GIS User Community

Adaptive Regulatory Triggers

- Baseline – 2011 populations and habitats
- Population Trigger - Core
  - Soft trigger – 10% decline in males counted
  - Hard trigger – 20% decline in males counted
  - Rate of change
- Habitat Trigger - Core
  - Soft trigger – 10% loss of nesting/winter habitat
  - Hard trigger – 20% loss of nesting/winter habitat



Lek Routes
Management Zones
Core
Important
General
Mountain Valleys Conservation Area
Desert Conservation Area
West Owyhee Conservation Area
Southern Conservation Area
Boise
Idaho Falls
Pocatello
Twin Falls
Rexburg
Weiser
Lower Lemhi
Dry Gulch
Spring Gulch
Leadore West
Leadore East
Upper Lemhi
Lower Pahsimeroi East
Lower Pahsimeroi West
Upper Pahsimeroi
Upper Birch Creek
Carlson Cabin
Little Lost
Spar Canyon
Upper Big Lost
Sheep Station
Jacoby
Crooked Creek
Lidy
Medicine Lodge Lower
Red Road
Table Butte
Lower Birch Creek
Plano
Antelope Creek
Stible Road
INL/Tractor Flat
RWMC/INL
Big Desert #1
Big Desert #3
Fingers Butte
Big Desert #5
Paddelford Flat
Rock Creek
Moores Flat
Little Sagehen Flat
Macon Flat
Timmerman
Ricabo
Fir Grove
Bliss-Hill City Road
North Shoshone
Blair Trail
South Big Desert
Lincoln/Minidoka
Sunday Creek
Slug Creek
Midvale Hill
Monday Gulch
Crane Creek
Soulen Center
Cow Creek
Brown's Creek
Oreana
Winter Camp
Wickahoney
Big Jack's Creek
Kinyon
Roseworth
Crow's Nest
Rocky Knoll
Sheep Creek
Yellow Sign Road
Roland Road
Dishpan
Antelope Pocket
Grassy Hills
Browns Bench
Middle Mountain
Cottonwood Ridge
Shoshone Basin
Birch Creek
Dry Creek
Curlew North
Curlew East
Curlew West
Curlew South
Bloomington
EIU Sheep Creek
Riggins
McCall
Stanley
Sun Valley

Conservation Measures

- Wildfire
  - rural fire districts
  - focused resources
- Infrastructure
  - Core - no development unless . . .
  - Important - development if . . .
  - General - development.

Governor's Alternative

- Collaborative
- Pro-active conservation actions
- Outcome based scientific strategy
- Adaptive
- Testing driving components

Governor's Alterative

- New - unknown
- Biggest threat is not an on/off switch
- Funding for implementation, prevention, suppression, and restoration

What's Next?

- BLM's Draft EIS public review in September 2013
- Final EIS Completed September 2014
- Seeking USFWS concurrence
- Short term focus
  - replace current interim management protocols with Governor's Alternative

Questions?