

IDAHO CATTLE ASSOCIATION



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Cattle Industry Hails Idaho Sage Grouse Conservation Efforts

The Idaho Cattle Association (ICA) supports resources for sage grouse conservation on state and private lands as proposed in Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter’s budget for Fiscal Year 2016. A collaborative group, including resource users and conservationists, recognizes the importance of this funding, which will enable resources to work through proven techniques in preventing and fighting rangeland fires, rehabilitating burned areas, juniper removal, and various conservation measures.

“These resources to conserve sage grouse habitat on state and private lands could go a long way to help keep sage grouse off the endangered species list,” said ICA Executive Vice President Wyatt Prescott. Carl Lufkin, ICA President, adds, “Keeping sage grouse off the endangered species list is a top priority, not only for ICA, but for the cattle industry across the western United States.”

As a member of the collaborative group, The Nature Conservancy shares the cattle industry’s commitment to conserving sage grouse habitat. “We are pleased that Governor Otter is seeking new tools to fight rangeland fire and invasive weeds. This effort will not only conserve sage grouse, it will also help ranchers, recreationists, and everyone who cares about Idaho’s native rangelands,” said Will Whelan, Director of Government Relations for The Nature Conservancy Idaho Chapter. “We know what needs to be done. Now we need to focus on getting the resources and the participation to continue to make a difference on the ground. This proposal is a good start,” Whelan concluded.

The Idaho Cattle Association works on behalf of the more than 10,000 cattle producers in the state of Idaho and has a membership of nearly 1,000 members. It is the only organization in the state that deals exclusively with the needs, interests and welfare of Idaho’s cattle industry.

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