



# Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts

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July 11, 2012

The Honorable C.L. "Butch" Otter  
Office of the Governor  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720

Dear Governor Otter,

We read with great interest your federal alternative plan for greater sage-grouse management in Idaho. The Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts (IASCD) and our member districts applaud your leadership on this critical issue.

Idaho's fifty soil conservation districts have a remarkable track record in working with farmers, ranchers, rural and city residents, and communities to protect and preserve our state's natural resources. Each of our board members serves on a local conservation district board, and we have assisted willing land owners to develop common sense solutions to environmental challenges for decades. These solutions are crafted by people with significant knowledge of the local land and expertise in natural resource management, not by an overreaching federal agency.

We know the soil conservation districts in the impacted areas can play a vital role in this draft, or a final plan. Districts are proven, responsible government entities and empower Idahoans to voluntarily build or use conservation projects on private land. Therefore, we feel the best approach to land owners who wish to continue maintain and improve sage-grouse populations and habitats are through districts. We have always championed a belief that Idaho's natural resources will be preserved using responsible approaches that include incentive driven programs, public-private partnerships, and the concept of local, self-government. The districts located within the CHZ are ready and willing to work with local, state, and federal agencies to carry out your final plan.

As always, please feel free to contact IASCD if our board or our district supervisors can be of assistance to you. We can be reached at 208-344-1221.

Sincerely,

Kit Tillotson  
President

Billie Brown  
Vice President

Steve Becker  
Treasurer

Rick Rodgers  
Secretary

J. Lynn Bagley  
Director

Lynn McKee  
Director