

# Idaho/SW Montana Sub-region Economic Strategies Workshop



*All sage-grouse photos courtesy of Stan Harter, WGFD*

**BLM/FS  
Greater Sage-Grouse  
Planning Strategy**

**Twin Falls, Idaho  
June 19, 2012**



# Outline

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- Background
- Objectives of workshop
- Social and economic scope
- Role of BLM and FS actions
- Geography of study area
- Data sources and analysis methods
- Questions and comments



# Background

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- The Greater Sage-Grouse have declined in number over the past 100 years because of loss, degradation, and fragmentation of sagebrush habitats essential for their survival.
- FWS in 2010 determined the Greater Sage Grouse was warranted for listing but precluded due to other priorities.
- BLM conducting several "sub-regional" EISs for amendments of multiple planning units.
- To protect the species and potentially avoid a listing, BLM and FS will amend up to 68 BLM RMPs and 20 FS LMPs.



# Idaho/SW Montana Sub-region

## Potentially amend 22 BLM and 8 FS plans:

- Birds of Prey NCA RMP (2008)
- Bruneau RMP revision (and existing 1983 Bruneau RMP)
- Challis RMP (1999)
- Craters of the Moon NM RMP (2006)
- Shoshone-Burley RMP revision (and existing 1980 Bennett Hills/Timmerman Hills, 1985 Cassia, 1975 Magic, 1985 Monument, 1981 Sun Valley, and 1982 Twin Falls MFPs/RMPs)
- Upper Snake RMP revision (and existing 1983 Big Lost, 1985 Medicine Lodge, 1981 Big Desert, and 1981 Little Lost-Birch Creek MFPs/RMPs)
- Sawtooth National Forest Revised Forest Plan (2003) (including UT lands)
- Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest (2009) (Montana)
- Four Rivers RMP revision (and existing 1988 Cascade and 1983 Kuna RMPs)
- Butte RMP (2009) (Montana)
- Dillon RMP (2006) (Montana)
- Boise National Forest Plan (2003)
- Salmon-Challis National Forest Plan (1987) (2 plans included)
- Targhee National Forest Plan (1997)
- Curlew National Grassland Management Plan (2002)
- Caribou National Forest Revised Forest Plan (2003)
- Lemhi RMP (1987)
- Owyhee RMP (1999)
- Pocatello RMP revision
- Jarbidge RMP revision



# Idaho/SW Montana Sub-region

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- Investigating a range and variety of sage-grouse conservation measures
- Implementation of measures may affect BLM management of resource uses in many ways, such as:
  - Areas open for development
  - Timing
  - Forage management treatments
  - Other stipulations



# Objectives

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- Provide information on how BLM/FS analyze local and regional economic and social conditions and trends
- Identify desired economic & social conditions
- Identify opportunities to advance local economic and social goals through planning and policy decisions within the authority of BLM/FS, cooperating agencies, partners
- Come to a common understanding of BLM/FS authority with respect to economic and social conditions – what BLM/FS actions can affect and what is beyond their control



# Social and economic scope

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- Jobs, income, poverty
- Government tax revenues, overall output
- Economic diversification and resilience
- Demographics, housing, public services
- Sources of income and jobs
- Economic contribution attributable to lands and resources managed by BLM and FS
- County land use plans
- Quality of life
- “Nonmarket” values of public lands
- ... Anything we are missing?



# How much do BLM/FS actions matter?

- Substantial influence on certain resource uses:
  - Grazing permits
  - Public recreation areas
  - Oil and gas leasing areas
  - Timber and non-timber forest products
  - Sand, gravel, mining
- No or minimal influence on: decisions by other agencies, local zoning, state and Federal laws, decisions by private entities, many economic sectors, livestock feed prices...



# Existing conditions

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- Quantitative
  - Census Bureau (American Community Survey, Economic Census)
  - Bureau of Economic Analysis
  - Census of Agriculture
- Qualitative
  - Local input – interest groups, concerns
  - Quality of life factors
  - Historical culture and recent trends



# Geographic scope and scale

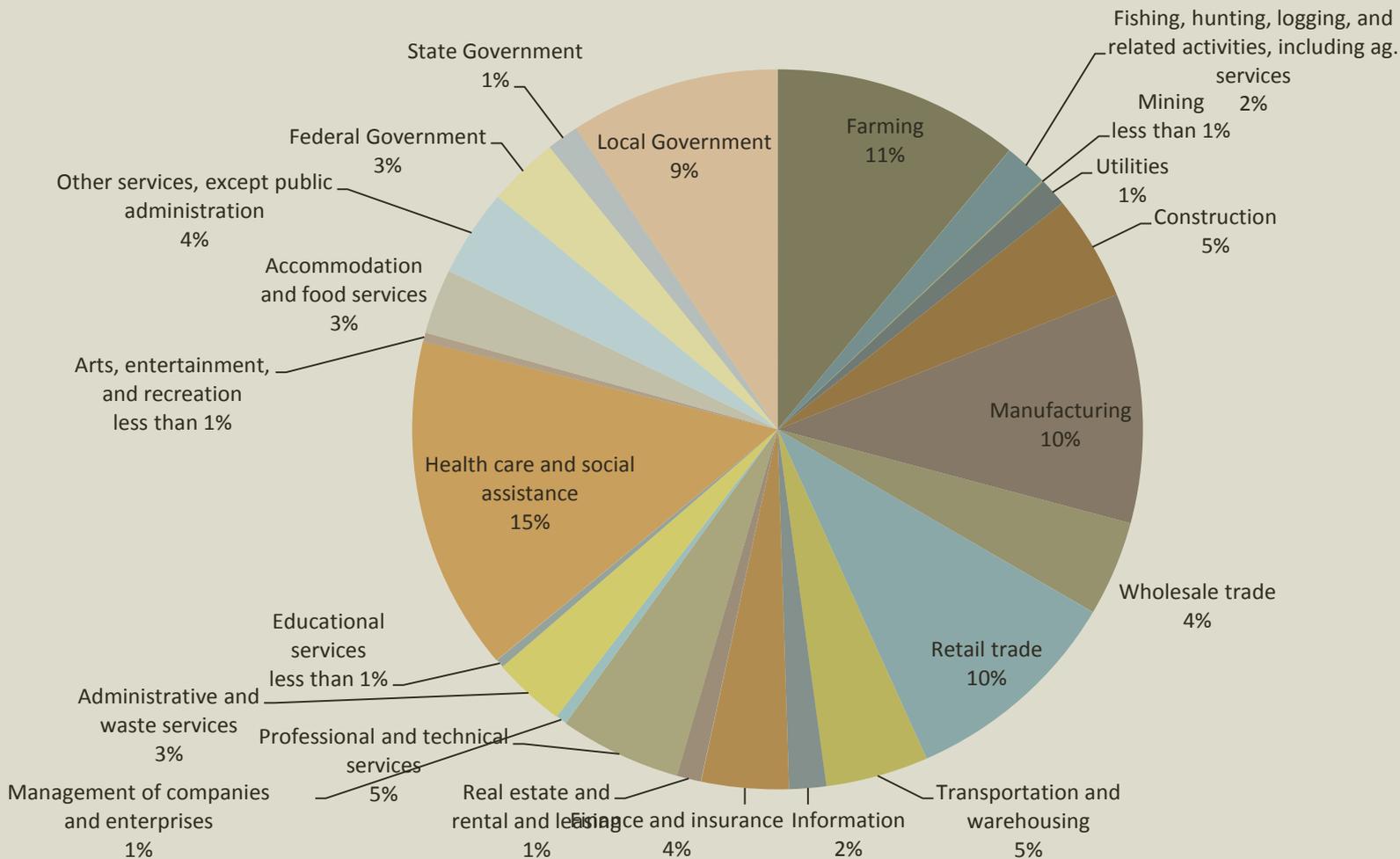
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- A critical early question: how to define socioeconomic study area
- Building blocks: counties
- Areas with significant amounts of sage-grouse habitat
- Areas that could be affected by potential conservation measures (e.g., service areas)
- Avoid “diluting” impact measurements



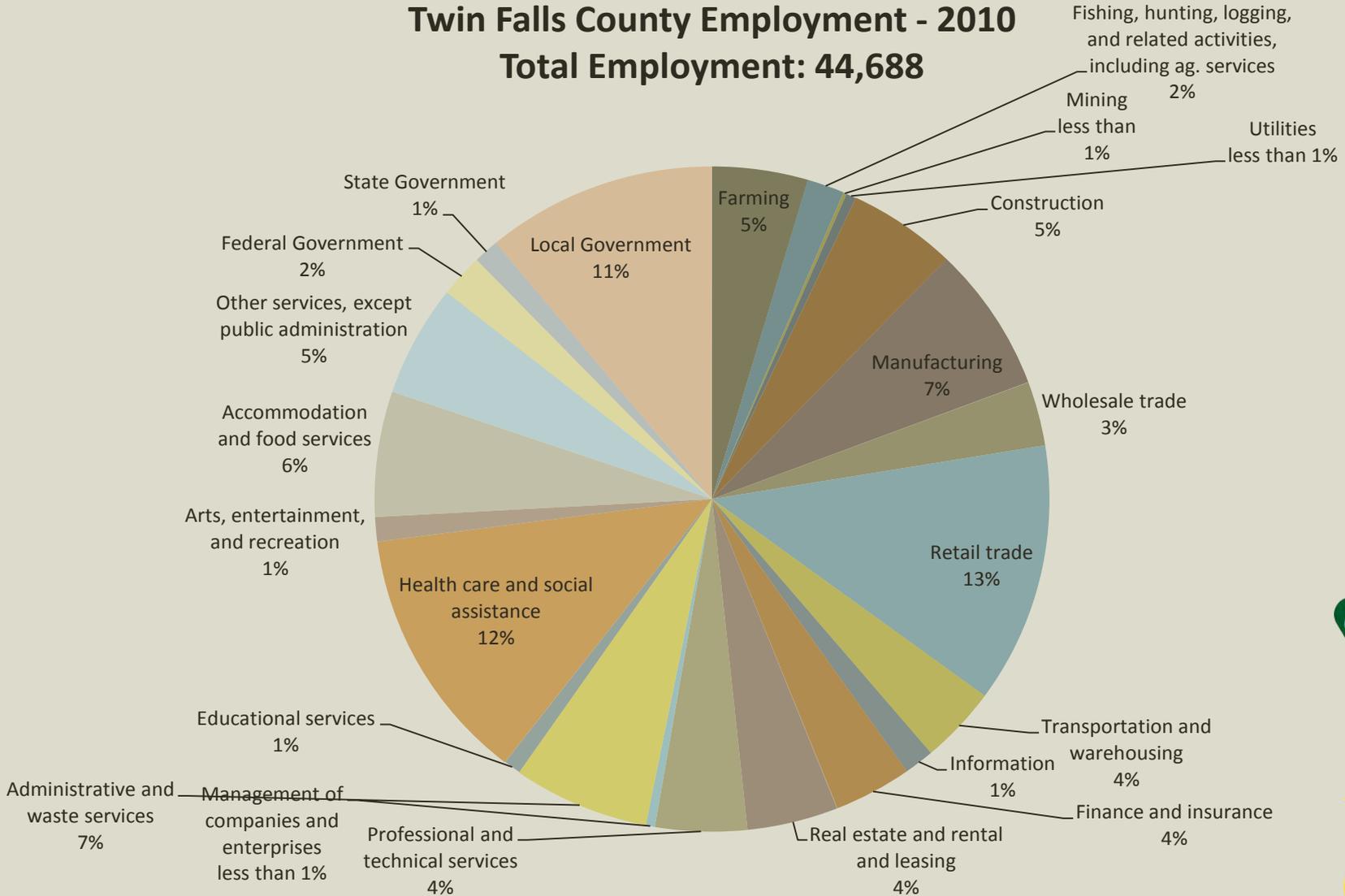
# Sources of income – example (Twin Falls County, 2010)

**Twin Falls County Earnings from Employment - 2010**  
**Total Earnings: \$1,644,000,000**



# Sources of employment – example (Twin Falls County, 2010)

**Twin Falls County Employment - 2010**  
**Total Employment: 44,688**



# Impact analysis

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- Quantitative
  - Jobs
  - Income
  - Tax revenues
  - Population changes
- Qualitative
  - Quality of life
  - Interest groups
- Mixed methods: Nonmarket values, economic diversification, resilience, public services
- Scale of analysis: sub-region, with downscaling as data allow



# Economic modeling (IMPLAN)

- Measures “multiplier effect” of changes in economic activity
- Mathematical matrix showing interrelationships among 440 economic sectors
- Calibrated to specific sub-region
- Predicts jobs, income, tax revenues under various alternatives
- Data intensive – quantify the impacts of activities that reflect major changes in economic activity



# We need your voice!

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- What uses of public land are most important to you or your constituents?
- What priorities should BLM and FS keep in mind when considering sage-grouse conservation?
- What local/regional features most affect your quality of life, or that of your constituents?
- What activities do you regularly take part in on public lands?
- Do you have more sources of local or regional socioeconomic information we should consider?



# Other questions and comments?

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- Check out the map table
- Please submit comments before you leave
- You can also submit comments to:
  - Josh Sidon, BLM Economist
  - [jsidon@blm.gov](mailto:jsidon@blm.gov)
  - (303) 236-6343
- Comments are welcome throughout the EIS process, but to be incorporated into the preliminary draft affected environment section, comments must be received by July 19, 2012.

