

# TECHNICAL NOTE

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USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Boise, Idaho

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Biology Technical Note No. 32

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## SPECIES HABITAT EVALUATIONS

Species habitat evaluations (SHEs) provide a means of evaluating the current and expected values of habitat for a specific wildlife species. In Idaho, SHEs have been developed to support efforts to document, conserve, and improve habitat for the greater sage-grouse and the Columbian sharp-tailed grouse. These SHEs, along with Biology Technical Note 19 - Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Guides (TN19) for Idaho and Biology Technical Note 29 - Stream Visual Assessment Protocol Version 2 (SVAP2) comprise the approved Habitat Evaluation Procedures for Idaho.

Habitat Evaluations are completed as part of the resource inventory during conservation planning to determine if habitat for fish and wildlife is a resource concern. Habitat Evaluations also document whether present or planned conditions meet Quality Criteria for fish and wildlife and guide planners in formulating alternatives to address habitat factors that may limit fish and wildlife populations.

The SHEs are to be used when the client has specific objectives for greater sage-grouse and/or Columbian sharp-tailed grouse. It is not necessary to also complete TN19 when these SHEs are used. Read the Instructions tab prior to using the SHEs and request training or assistance from the Area or State Biologist if needed.