

ACEC Proposal: Vya, Sheldon, Massacre, Buffalo-Skedaddle, Black Rock, Pine Forest PMU's Combined ACEC Proposal

1. BLM-
FS-PLI-
SMA

BLM must designate ACECs that protect occupied sage-grouse habitats across the landscape that are necessary for sage-grouse to fulfill all their seasonal needs to sustain viable populations in the short, mid and long term.

In areas where BLM and the Forest Service (or USFWS or other federal agency) lands together provide critical linked habitat, special designations must span artificial administrative unit boundaries. The Forest too must designate RNAs, Reserves or Conservation Areas.

FLPMA directs the secretary of the Interior to "prepare and maintain on a continuing basis an inventory of all public lands and their resources and other values ... giving priority to ACECs ...".

ACECs are to be designated in areas "where special management attention is needed to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural and scenic values; fish, wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes; or to protect human life and safety from natural hazards." (43 USC § 1702(a) 43 CFR 1601.0-5a).

2. ACK

To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2

An area meets **relevance** criteria if it contains one or more of the following:

- A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to native Americans).
- A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).
- A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).
- Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the RMP process that it has become part of a natural process.

The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described in the relevance section must have substantial significance and values to meet the **importance** criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:

- Has more than locally significant qualities which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern especially when compared to any similar resource.
- Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened or vulnerable to adverse change.

2 cont.

- Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandate of FLPMA.
- Has qualities that warrant highlighting, or poses a threat to human life or safety.

Sage-grouse ACECs: Protect the complex of seasonal habitats required by sage-grouse. Provide for viable populations over time. Allow for integrated management to prevent further fragmentation, and to implement passive and active restoration and rehab to recover essential habitats like springs that provide critical brood rearing habitat that are on the verge of being lost altogether in this very arid landscape. Provide habitat security for sage-grouse during lekking and nesting periods. Limit disturbance, stress and displacement of birds from winter habitats.

Relevant Values

Vya, Sheldon, Massacre, Buffalo-Skedaddle, Black Rock, Pine Forest

The Proposed ACEC meets the criteria of having Relevant values.

Significant wildlife and other resources are found here. These are significant and substantial values. The qualities are of more than local significance. They are of special worth, consequence, distinctiveness and cause for concern. NDOW identified these lands as important for populations of sage-grouse.

3. BLM-FS-PLI-SMA (reference attachment)

The values of the Proposed ACEC are greatly threatened by livestock disturbance and livestock-associated vegetation treatments and infrastructure. Livestock disturbance, facilities and vegetation treatments promote weed invasion, especially cheatgrass. Livestock water facilities and trampling promote West Nile virus. Livestock presence and facilities subsidize nest and egg predators. Livestock disturbance promote further desertification and add to stresses caused by climate change which are predicted to adversely impact the Great Basin and this land area. Climate change is expected to amplify adverse impacts of livestock grazing, further stress waters, and promote cheatgrass and other invasive species. See Fleischner (1994), Belsky and Gelbrad (2000), Connelly et al. 2004, USDI Pellant 2007 Congressional Testimony, Knick and Connelly (2009) Studies in Avian Biology.

Poor management decisions by agencies, and a series of deeply flawed segmented livestock grazing and facility actions, have torn apart the fabric of the sagebrush landscape in many areas, including very important sage-grouse habitats of the ACEC.

The uplands, including mature and old growth Wyoming big sagebrush communities are critical for sage-grouse nesting. The black sagebrush, along with Wyoming big sagebrush, is at times critical for wintering habitats. The fragile, small streams, springs and seeps, and associated sagebrush habitats, provide essential sage-grouse brood rearing habitat. These, and higher elevation mountain big sagebrush communities, are all greatly threatened by continued livestock grazing disturbance which occurs at high levels during sensitive periods that conflict with sage-grouse needs for habitat security. These high levels of grazing are also degrading soils and microbiotic crusts which are essential as a frontline defense to prevent invasive species like cheatgrass. These high levels of grazing also degrade native vegetation structure, composition and function, deplete forbs, reduce essential native bunchgrass nesting cover, and cause other adverse impacts.

Agencies have also allowed mining exploration and development, and energy development to intrude on important and essential sage-grouse seasonal habitats.

The complexly interspersed sagebrush habitats have nationally significant values. They are essential habitat for the existing declining population of sage-grouse. They provide critical connectivity with neighboring PMU's and opportunity for genetic interchange. Their further degradation by livestock and any intensified mining, energy or other development will increase fragmentation and serve to further isolate birds and populations.

Loss of this PMU would further isolate sage-grouse in neighboring areas.

There are identified leks within the Proposed ACEC. These areas are critical for the survival of the birds and livestock grazing during lekking season may disrupt breeding activities. Livestock associated infrastructure may provide perches for raptors which prey on breeding sage grouse. Livestock disturbance of vegetation may reduce the quality and quantity of escape cover used by breeding sage grouse.

Important Values

The Proposed ACEC meets the criteria of having important values.

The Proposed ACEC has more than locally significant qualities which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern especially when compared to any similar resource.

The Proposed ACEC has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened or vulnerable to adverse change.

These lands have suffered 150 years of livestock grazing disturbance. This has resulted in large losses of riparian area and water flows. Large-scale historical mining disturbance, and deforestation and other impacts have also occurred. Uplands have suffered large amounts of soil erosion, reducing site potential. Any continued livestock grazing disturbance occurs in a landscape that has been altered by historical uses – so adverse impacts of even smaller amounts of disturbance to remaining lands, waters, and sage-grouse habitats may be amplified.

The Proposed ACEC has microbiotic crusts, which are a frontline defense against weed invasion, are very fragile and readily damaged by livestock trampling and cross-country motorized disturbance. Their disturbance promotes invasive species that alter natural processes and fire cycles. Whisenant 1994, Belsky and Gelbard (2000), USDI BLM Belnap et al. 2001 Technical Bulletin on microbiotic crusts

The Proposed ACEC should be recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandate of FLPMA.

Benefits of the Protection of Relevant and Important Values Habitat Recovery Will Provide Long-term Viability for Sage-grouse and Other Sagebrush-dependent Species.

Invasion of cheatgrass is alarming. Unfortunately disturbance and desertification associated with livestock grazing has continued, and has been intensified by facilities disturbance, salting, and overstocking.

These lands are of local, regional and national significance for conservation and recovery of sage grouse and other rare and sensitive species populations.

Fragmented and Disconnected Habitat; Sage Grouse Habitats Require Passive Restoration for Recovery.

Springs, springbrooks, intermittent drainages, and overall water quality and quantity are jeopardized by grazing practices and now climate change

In the past, agencies have treated sagebrush and other upland areas as throwaway landscapes. Sagebrush has been “treated” and subjected to continued chronic grazing disturbance. Uplands have been carved with new fences. Livestock spring developments, water pipelines have proliferated. Agencies have adopted a disjointed, piecemeal approach, and treated uplands as sacrifice area.

Management Actions

This ACEC must be withdrawn from locatable, leasable and fluid mineral development.

New rights-of-way will not be allowed for energy, transmission or other infrastructure or developments. Existing ROWS will be amended.

Livestock grazing will be phased out of occupied habitats over a period of three years. In any areas where grazing might continue longer, Appendix A practices will be applied.

Livestock infrastructure, including fences, spring developments, pipelines, stock ponds and other harmful facilities will be removed (active restoration). Livestock and other disturbed areas will be seeded with local native ecotypes of shrubs, grasses and forbs.

Native upland and riparian vegetation communities will undergo passive restoration, where natural processes return as a result of stopping activities that degrade them or prevent recovery.

Spring and stream flows will be restored to their natural condition to the maximum extent possible as developments are removed through active and passive restoration.

Sagebrush manipulation/treatment is prohibited.

Selective hand-cutting of conifers only in areas where they are shown to conflict with sage-grouse needs will be allowed. Mastication, chaining, and other treatments involving use of large machinery are prohibited. (Active restoration).

Ownership of all public lands will be retained.

Travel will be restricted to designated roads.

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No utility corridors will be designated. Existing utility corridors may be retained. Maintenance activity for these areas will be carried out with minimal disturbance.

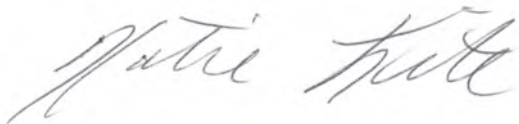
All lands will be managed as VRM 1 or 2.

We request a meeting with BLM to discuss this ACEC proposal, and its incorporation into this Sage-grouse EIS process.

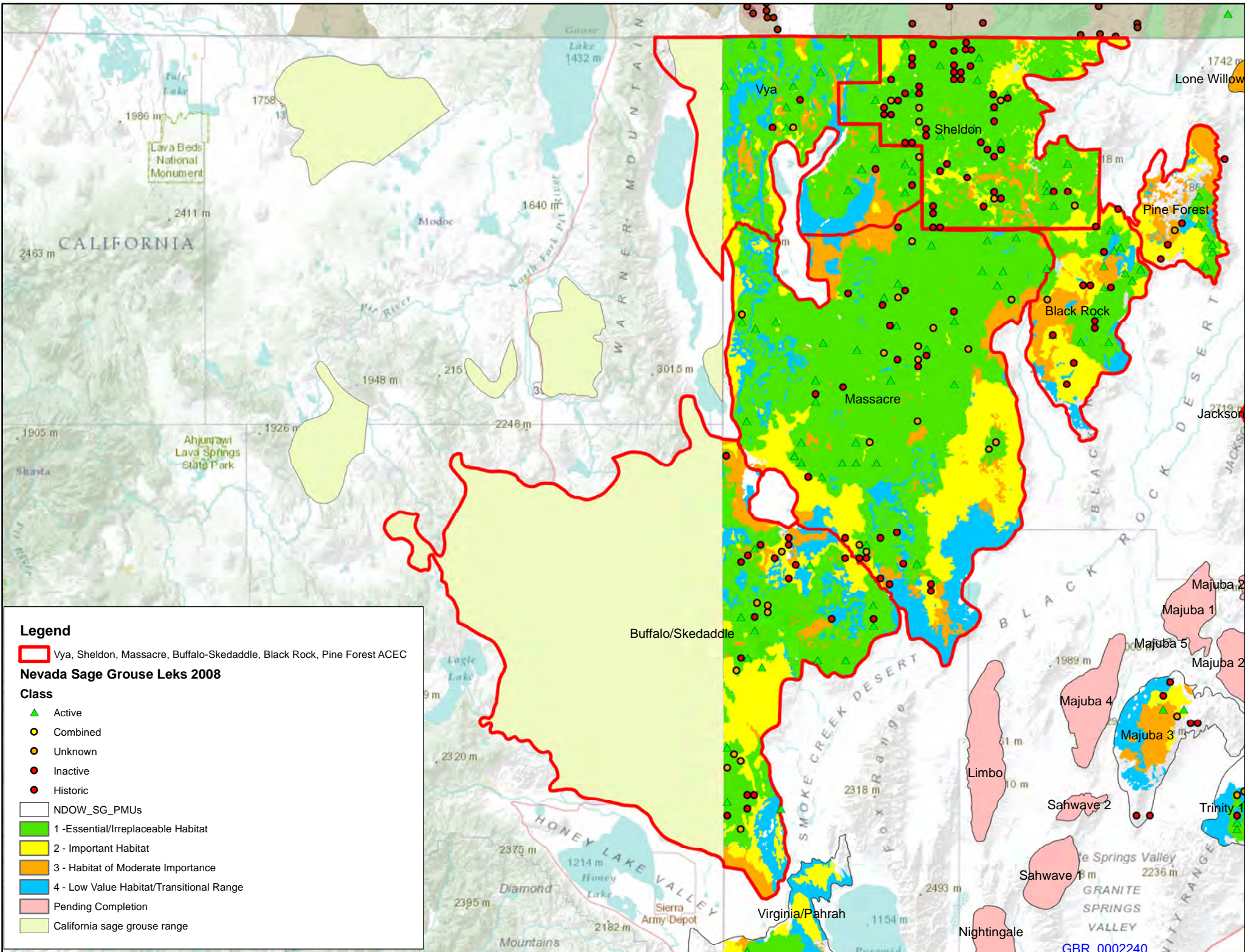
4. ACK

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions, need further information, supporting evidence for, or clarification of issues raised here.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Katie Fite".

Katie Fite
Western Watersheds Project
PO Box 2863
Boise, ID 83701
208-429-1679
Katie@westernwatersheds.org



BLM Sage Grouse Scoping Comments

ORG-GB

From:

Western Legacy Alliance

P.O. Box 162

Moreland, Idaho 83256

e-mail- westernlegacyalliance@gmail.com

To:

BLM Western Region

ACK

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the BLM's scoping processes regarding changes to the conservation measures for the Greater Sage Grouse.

The Western Legacy Alliance is a multiple use coalition which uses public relations and research driven data to encourage land management agencies to ensure that their actions do not impede economic, social and/or private property rights and use.

BLM
PLI-SOC

We would ask that the BLM thoroughly evaluate the socio-economic and peripheral damages that will result from additional habitat conservation measures and restrictions imposed on uses and users of the BLM lands in the Western Region. These include, but are not limited to recreation, mining, logging, livestock, infrastructure developments etc. It is our belief that GSG numbers are currently well above levels that would further habitat restrictions and that those numbers will never fall to a truly biologically unsustainable number in the foreseeable future.

BLM
PLI-SG-GN

Western Legacy Alliance would encourage the BLM to determine for themselves if a 5,000 bird minimum sustainable population will inherently have protection, and be housed within current WSA's, National Parks and Monuments, State WMA's etc. Are the use restrictions already in place within these designated area's complementing the existing GSG populations and as such would this preclude increased regulatory mechanisms on other lands under BLM's management?

BLM
PLI-ED-GN

As an example of peripheral damage referenced above please consider the following. When limitations regarding siting of power infrastructure disallow the use of public lands for infrastructure, the path of least resistance becomes private property. Energy companies are then forced to approach the FERC or

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State authorizing bodies to ask for the right of eminent domain for passage of their power lines or pipelines. This creates a terrible hardship on the private property owners who may not be compensated for anywhere near the value of the land they have lost.

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We are at a critical juncture in this country, when any more regulations can very likely stifle needed power, food, fiber and oil and gas production that has to carry this country forward. Please proceed with these ideas and requests in mind as you consider new habitat conservation measures for a bird that does not qualify for consideration under the ESA based on huge numbers range-wide and a very slow rate of decline that would not reach critical extinction possibility numbers for over 300 years.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Ellis

Chairman-Western Legacy Alliance

OR-ALL

American Bird Conservancy Form Letter Base Text

To Whom It May Concern,

1. ACK As someone who is concerned for the future of the Greater Sage-grouse and its declining sagebrush habitat, I urge you to consider the following as you develop a conservation strategy for the species:

2. BLM-FS-GEN In order to plan successfully for the future of sage-grouse, it is essential that all federal land-management agencies be actively engaged across the bird's entire range. This includes the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and the Departments of Energy and Defense. Currently millions of acres of federal lands harboring Greater Sage-grouse are excluded from the planning process to the detriment of the species.

3. BLM-FS-GEN; PLI-ED-GN; PLI-GRZ Furthermore, sage-grouse habitat must be protected from land uses such as energy development and livestock overgrazing that can degrade the natural landscape. Consistent management standards for these and other industries must be adopted throughout the bird's range based on the best available science, and according to recommendations made by the National Technical Team in their sage-grouse report.

4. BLM-FS-PLI-SMA Another key provision should be the creation of sagebrush reserves that protect the best remaining habitat from harmful land uses. Giving ranchers the option to voluntarily relinquish their grazing permits back to the federal managing agency in exchange for compensation paid for by conservation groups would also provide a new tool with which to conserve and manage sage-grouse populations.

5. BLM-FS-PLI-GRZ

6. BLM-FS-PLI-WL-GE Other population segments of Greater Sage-Grouse, and species that depend on sagebrush habitat, such as the Sage and Brewer's Sparrows, should also be considered in your environmental analysis, and best management practices for conserving these species should be included in any proposed management alternatives.

7. ACK Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Please keep me informed about future opportunities to comment on Greater Sage-Grouse conservation.

OR-UT



US Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management

US Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

Greater Sage Grouse – Land Management Plans

Comments of the

Utah Farm Bureau Federation
9865 South State Street
Sandy, UT 84070
801.233.3040

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ACK

The Utah Farm Bureau Federation is the largest general farm and ranch organization in the state of Utah, representing more than 30,000 member families. Farm Bureau appreciates the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and US Forest Service involving the Western States and organizations representing the public land's multiple use interests.

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BLM-FS-
PLI-SOC
BLM-FS-PLI-
GRZ

Livestock production tied directly to access and use of the federal lands is the backbone of Utah's agriculture industry, contributing more than 65 percent of our state's \$1.5 billion in farm gate sales. This contribution and its economic ripple effect are significant to the state of Utah and of critical importance to rural communities.

It has been estimated that more than 70 percent of Utah's cattle and sheep utilize the public lands for some portion of the grazing year. Sustainable grazing practices, harvesting renewable forage, provides value to all Americans, enhances rangeland resources and controls dead grass and brush helping control deadly wildfires.

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BLM-FS-PLI-
GRZ

With only about 18 percent of Utah privately owned, any major agency decision that eliminates or decreases livestock grazing on federal or interspersed state lands will damage Utah's livestock industry. In a state with limited private grazing land, there are not private grazing lands available to transition to. Any reduction BLM grazing permits requiring greater dependence on purchased hay and forage will make Utah cattle and sheep operations less economically viable.

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BLM-FS-PLI-
SOC

Agriculture is important to all Utahns, not only because we all eat, but because of its economic impact. Utah State University recently released an economic study related to the contribution of food and agriculture industry. Farming and ranching is the foundation to nearly \$15 billion in economic activity, 70,000 jobs and contributes as much as 14 percent of the Gross State Product.

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Access to and multiple-use management of the public lands is important to the economic well-being of Utah and critical to rural Utah. In the public lands states, the combination of private and public lands makes ranching possible. For generations, ranchers incorporating public lands have created new wealth through the harvest of annually renewable forage that ultimately drives our rural economies. The harvest of renewable forage through livestock grazing on the public lands provides a benefit to all Americans. The state of Utah and our rural communities face the difficult task of planning for the future, creating jobs and educating our children, recognizing most of our land is controlled by the federal government and the politics of Washington, D.C.

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American farmers and ranchers provide the safest, most wholesome and affordable food available in the world today. America's natural resources, including the public lands of the Western United States, allow some two million food producers to feed more than 300 million Americans and another 150 million of our global neighbors. Managing the federal lands under the congressionally multiple use mandate is good for Utah and good for America.

Multiple use and responsible stewardship are NOT opposing forces. With fully two-thirds of Utah controlled by federal agencies, the combination of private lands, public lands, water rights and unique livestock genetics developed over generations has allowed economically viable ranching operations.

FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT POLICY

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BLM-FS
PLI-GRZ

Decisions impacting Congressional multiple-use mandates must consider the local history, culture, social and economic and how those decisions impact sustainable ranching practices. Congress recognized when the Federal Land Management Policy Act (FLPMA) was passed that without policy concessions there could be major adverse impacts on states with federal land holding within their borders. FLPMA recognizes the contribution livestock grazing makes to the West and the economic foundation it provides for rural communities.

The Taylor Grazing Act clearly determines the high priority Congress places on livestock grazing in the West based on the "chiefly valuable for grazing" principle. This is a principle that has been upheld in the courts.

CONSISTENCY

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BLM-FS-
PLI-GRZ

These same federal laws require a consistency review with state and local statutes, rules, policies and planning processes. Federal policies cannot adversely affect state or county land use plans and planning processes. Sovereign borders, interspersed trust lands and private property, as provided by the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution cannot be adversely affected for public use, without due process and just compensation.

Utah State Law supports livestock grazing and opposes transfer of rangeland resources for wildlife through the reduction or retirement of livestock grazing rights. The basis for major investments by the State of Utah, sportsmen's groups and ranchers was to improve the habitat for all the parties and ultimately return suspended and non-use livestock grazing to productive cattle and sheep grazing.

Utah counties have adopted policies regarding public lands. These policies embrace continued livestock grazing, recognizing the "grazing right" as granted by federal law. The counties are on record as opposing the transfer of livestock grazing rights to wildlife utilization based on a federal agency's reasoning of "rangeland health reasons." In addition, the counties have recommended vigorous treatments of areas overrun with invading species like pinyon-juniper and other woody plants adversely affecting multiple use. Any reduction in livestock grazing must be based on science.

UTAH SAGE GROUSE INITIATIVES

The Utah Sage Grouse Initiative has aggressively addressed habitat related issues and is designed to sustain working ranches while focusing local attention on threats facing Sage Grouse populations. Utah Farm Bureau county leaders have been engaged in Sage Grouse Working Groups.

Utah's Grazing Improvement Program (GIP) is focused on range health, productivity and sustainability of the grazing resource for livestock, wildlife and Sage Grouse habitat.

Millions of dollars of federal, state and private resources have been invested in implementing conservation practices that improve Sage Grouse habitat through seeding with Sage Grouse food plants, installing fencing and water improvements beneficial to Sage Grouse, removing pinyon-juniper in sites critical to grouse numbers and incorporating livestock grazing rotations beneficial to Sage Grouse.

FARM BUREAU POLICY

Utah Farm Bureau policy related to the Endangered Species Act supports any cost burdens affecting private landowners should be borne by the public not the farmer or rancher. Efforts related to restoration or monitoring of sensitive species should be based on sound science. And Utah Farm Bureau opposes endangered, threatened or sensitive species taking priority over established water, property or grazing rights.

ISSUES OF CONCERN

Sage Grouse Hunting Permits – Utah Sage Grouse wildlife biologists continue to assess populations as healthy allowing the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources to issue Sage Grouse hunting licenses in selected areas of Utah – within the BLM's Sage Grouse identified habitat.

Livestock/Wildlife Grazing Policy Disconnect – The Sage Grouse Interim Management Strategy identifies a habitat priority to keep Sage Grouse from being listed. The sage step has many competing interests including livestock, deer, elk and wild horses that impact Sage Grouse habitat. BLM in conjunction with stockmen manage livestock, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and the Wildlife Board manage big game, a process that currently is increasing elk numbers by approximately 20 percent. It would be unfair to reduce livestock grazing rights to address habitat concerns without including other competing interests, including elk, in the decision.

The Fish & Wildlife Service's "Identified Threats to Greater Sage Grouse" did not include other competing wildlife interests on the sage step.

8 cont.
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WL-TR

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BLM-FS-GEN

Fish & Wildlife Service – Identified Threats to Sage Grouse – Identifying agriculture, oil, gas and coal identified as being significant threats to Sage Grouse – BLM decisions could disrupt major sectors contributing to Utah’s economy and quality of life.

BLM has identified 47 million acres administered by the agency across the West as Greater Sage Grouse habitat. There is considerable overlap of Sage Grouse habitat, livestock grazing and energy development. The United States Congress and President have identified energy security as a national policy priority and the federally managed lands of the West have tremendous recognized oil, gas, oil shale and coal reserves as well as food production capacity. Farm Bureau requests that BLM and Forest Service to do a cost/benefit analysis of the trade-offs to protecting Sage Grouse habitat and adverse regulatory impacts to food and energy production.

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Predation – In the agency assessment of threats to Sage Grouse, predation is identified as approximately half the threat as agriculture and grazing. Our experience in Utah suggests otherwise. Proper grazing enhances Sage Grouse habitat and populations. Proper grazing practices allow Sage Grouse to strut and more safely occupy habitat where they can observe predators like fox, ravens and coyotes.

Utah’s Strawberry Valley experience suggests that predators are a major threat to Sage Grouse. In an area with no energy development or livestock grazing, Sage Grouse numbers have been greatly impacted by predators – especially fox and ravens.

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VG-WD
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GRZ

Agency Land Management Policies – BLM and Forest Service policies related to invasive species, wildfires and predators along with strategic livestock grazing should be reassessed pertaining to Sage Grouse habitat. Reduced livestock grazing and reduced chaining of pinyon-juniper coupled with wildfire policy have allowed invasive plant species to expand across the West, including on Sage Grouse habitat. Short duration, heavy grazing on invasive cheatgrass areas when palatable for livestock as a management tool could help return healthy livestock grazing land and Sage Grouse habitat with little or no government expenditure. Policies that don’t allow chemical treatments of predators and invasive species on federal lands need re-evaluation.

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Resource Management Plans – The agencies, state and local governments as well as affected parties participated in the previous RMP process. Long term plans are in place related to these RMPs that major decisions and investments have been made in community infrastructure, job growth, education funding, grazing and other multiple use activities.

CONCLUSION

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GRZ

Deseret Land and Livestock Experience – In closing, Utah Farm Bureau would recommend the agencies review the Deseret Land and Livestock (DL&L) Sage Grouse experience. Located mainly in Rich County Utah, along the Utah-Wyoming border, DL&L have put in place land resource management strategies that embrace livestock and wildlife habitat. Over the past 30 years, sheep and cattle stocking rates have been increased to more than double the stocking rate on most federal lands while the number of Sage Grouse, an “indicator” species, have increased by five times.

Contact:
Randy N. Parker, CEO

American Bird Conservancy Form Letter Base Text

To Whom It May Concern,

- 1. ACK** As someone who is concerned for the future of the Greater Sage-grouse and its declining sagebrush habitat, I urge you to consider the following as you develop a conservation strategy for the species:
- 2. BLM-FS-GEN** In order to plan successfully for the future of sage-grouse, it is essential that all federal land-management agencies be actively engaged across the bird's entire range. This includes the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and the Departments of Energy and Defense. Currently millions of acres of federal lands harboring Greater Sage-grouse are excluded from the planning process to the detriment of the species.
- 3. BLM-FS-GEN; PLI-ED-GN; PLI-GRZ** Furthermore, sage-grouse habitat must be protected from land uses such as energy development and livestock overgrazing that can degrade the natural landscape. Consistent management standards for these and other industries must be adopted throughout the bird's range based on the best available science, and according to recommendations made by the National Technical Team in their sage-grouse report.
- 4. BLM-FS-PLI-SMA** Another key provision should be the creation of sagebrush reserves that protect the best remaining habitat from harmful land uses. Giving ranchers the option to voluntarily relinquish their grazing permits back to the federal managing agency in exchange for compensation paid for by conservation groups would also provide a new tool with which to conserve and manage sage-grouse populations.
- 5. BLM-FS-PLI-GRZ**
- 6. BLM-FS-PLI-WL-GE** Other population segments of Greater Sage-Grouse, and species that depend on sagebrush habitat, such as the Sage and Brewer's Sparrows, should also be considered in your environmental analysis, and best management practices for conserving these species should be included in any proposed management alternatives.
- 7. ACK** Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Please keep me informed about future opportunities to comment on Greater Sage-Grouse conservation.

Greater Yellowstone Coalition Form Letter

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Date

Bureau of Land Management Greater Sage Grouse – **East/West**

Subject: The greater sage-grouse must be protected!

To Bureau of Land Management Greater Sage Grouse – **East/West**

As you develop the new conservation measures to protect the greater sage-grouse and its habitat, I urge you to use the best available science to guide your decisions. Greater sage-grouse once numbered more than 16 million across the West -- their population has plummeted to an estimated 500,000 individuals spread across 11 states, primarily due to intensive livestock grazing, energy development, fires, and conversion of sagebrush habitat for agriculture. Sage-grouse populations have been so diminished that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service determined that the species warranted listing under the Endangered Species Act.

Only by requiring the strongest protective measures when considering new development proposals in sage-grouse habitat will you be able to ensure survival of this spectacular species. To that end, I ask that you require the following conservation measures in the relevant Resource Management Plans and Land Management Plans.

- All actions requiring authorization or approval of individual projects are consistent with the conservation needs of sage-grouse and do not contribute to the need to list the species under the Endangered Species Act.
- Binding standards and guidelines on management of sagebrush habitat for sage-grouse conservation in both Resource Management Plans and Land Management Plans.
- Identify and protect important and/or intact greater sage-grouse habitats and identify locations of priority areas on which to focus conservation actions to maintain the function of sagebrush ecosystems (priority sage-grouse habitat).
- Prohibit conversion of sagebrush habitat to any other use within priority sage-grouse habitat.
- No new leasing of non-renewable energy resources within priority sage-grouse habitat.
- No new fences, power lines, pipelines, roads, motorized trails, communications towers, water developments, or other infrastructure should be permitted in priority sage-grouse habitat.
- Prohibit prescribed burning within priority sage-grouse habitat unless it can be demonstrated that such actions will result in a net benefit to sage-grouse in the short term and long term.
- Develop and implement grazing systems and management practices that maintain the soil quality and ecological processes necessary for a properly functioning sagebrush community to address short-term and long-term needs of greater sage-grouse.
- Manage dispersed recreational activities to avoid, reduce and, where possible, eliminate displacement of greater sage-grouse or negative impacts to greater sage-grouse habitat.

Sincerely,

Name

WildEarth Guardians Base Form Letter

Date

Eastern/Western Region Project Manager
Address
Address

Dear Eastern/Western Region Project Manager,

1. ACK Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the proposed rangewide planning process to conserve the Greater Sage-Grouse. Please consider the following as you develop a conservation strategy for the species.

2. BLM-FS-GEN All federal departments and agencies that manage sage-grouse habitat should be involved in the planning process, including the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Park Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Departments of Energy and Defense. All federal lands with Greater Sage-Grouse habitat should be included in the planning process--currently millions of acres of federal lands harboring Greater Sage-Grouse are excluded.

3. BLM-FS-GEN; PLI-GRZ; PLI-ED-GN The planning process must address all degrading land uses in sage-grouse habitat, such as energy development and livestock grazing, and management standards must be based on the best available science.

Federal planners must ensure that all planning documents make the same prescriptions for land uses across sage-grouse range.

4. BLM-FS-GEN; PLI-SG-GN

This can be accomplished by designating priority and general habitat areas as recommended by the Sage-Grouse National Technical Team (NTT) and implementing recommendations in the NTT sage-grouse report in each land use plan. The Report on National Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Measures improves upon prior management recommendations for the species (including the Wyoming Core Habitat Model), but should be augmented with additional information to develop the best strategy for conserving sage-grouse and their habitat.

The BLM should also designate a system of sagebrush reserves as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern to protect the highest quality remaining habitat from degrading land uses. Authorizing grazing permit retirement in the West would also provide managers new tools to conserve and restore critical sage-grouse habitat.

The planning process should include the Mono Basin and Columbia Basin Distinct Population Segments of sage-grouse. Other sagebrush obligate species, such as Sage and Brewer's Sparrow, pygmy rabbit, Wyoming pocket gopher, and myriad fishes, plants and mollusks should be considered in the environmental analysis and best management practices for conserving these species should be included in the proposed management alternatives.

Thank you again for this opportunity to comment. Please keep me informed about future opportunities to comment on Greater Sage-Grouse conservation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Commenter Name

Address

Address

Blue Ribbon Coalition Base Form Letter

To Sage Grouse Planning Strategy Team:

1. ACK

Please accept this letter as my scoping comments regarding the proposed 2010 Sage Grouse Planning Strategy ("2010 Conservation Measures").

**2. BLM-
FS-PLI-
REC**

According to available literature and studies there is little information related to the effects of motorized recreation on the Grouse. Based on current science it appears that motorized recreation in, any of its forms, does not have a significant impact on the Grouse.

I strongly oppose components of the 2010 Conservation Measures that lack the flexibility to adapt to local management issues. The plan should recognize the importance of Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) recreation to the local economy, the local and outside populations desire for OHV recreation, and the minimal impact that slow moving OHVs have on wildlife. The plan amendments should avoid inflexible management standards. Rather than impose an inflexible, broad-brush management prescription for the Grouse, I suggest the BLM adopts a "landscape specific" approach to minimize the impacts on both the Grouse and the recreating public.

For example, I oppose the provision mandating that any "anthropogenic disturbances" cover less than 3% of the total sage grouse habitat. Without any flexibility, the implementation of this standard on the ground will be extremely difficult. Indeed, the agencies may be forced to restrict activities that have been found to have little to no impact on the grouse.

Regarding recreation, the plan amendments should direct local land managers to cooperate and coordinate with local governments and affected stakeholders to establish achievable goals for protection of the Grouse (lek /nest disturbance, wintering areas and sage habitat degradation) and to mitigate potential affects upon recreation through closure of existing, inventoried and managed routes.

The amendments should recognize that local agency recreation planners and managers are the best suited to work with motorized stakeholders to establish a manageable, designated, user and nature friendly route network for motorized access. This includes access roadways away from paved highways; high clearance routes for pickups, jeeps and other 4WD vehicles; that can be shared under mixed-use by other OHV categories such as trail bikes, ATV/UTV and/or OSV in the winter. Just as important to the motorized community are rural 2 track routes, ATV width trails, and trail bike single-track width routes.

Any plan amendment should include adequate site-specific analysis on anticipated impacts of motorized and non-motorized recreational activities, which often have little to no impact on wildlife. The impacts of motorized and mountain bike routes that are primarily used for recreation should not be "lumped in" with highways and other high-speed access roads.

The analysis should also disclose impacts of the hunting of the Grouse, which is still allowed in at least 8 of the 11 states where it is found. Importantly, Sage Grouse conservation efforts such as seasonal restrictions and bag limits have been quite successful in maintaining healthy

populations. The same has been shown for motorized access and use. For example, Grouse leks are concise, well-established, historic areas that can last for decades. Add to this that leks are mostly in use for strutting/mating during crepuscular hours and that motorized recreation is generally NOT undertaken during those hours...the two can be successfully separated.

The analysis should include the fact that the BLM, Forest Service, state, county, local and tribal land management agencies are moving towards a "limited to designated route" paradigm. This process should prioritize areas where such planning has not yet occurred. I strongly believe that the goals, objectives and new paradigm can be met without severely limiting or restricting responsible, managed motorized recreation uses within the planning area.

Thank you for this chance to comment, and I look forward to assisting in the NEPA planning process as it moves forward.

Sincerely,

Name
Address
Address

Sierra Club Base Form Letter

- Support the Sage-Grouse Recovery Alternative (the conservation community alternative)
- Identify priority habitat that includes breeding, brooding, and winter habitat necessary to support and expand the sage grouse population.
- Don't allow new oil & gas drilling in priority sage grouse habitat. Use directional drilling from existing drill pads.
- Don't allow new wind or solar facilities in priority sage-grouse habitat. (There are plenty of other good places for renewable energy.)
- Reduce livestock grazing in order to restore the grasses and other flowering plants that sage grouse need. Give priority to restoring riparian areas from overgrazing.
- Don't prescribe fire in priority sage-grouse habitat
- Avoid vegetation treatments that reduce the amount and height of sagebrush, especially those that use drastic means such as tractors and chemicals.

Center for Biological Diversity Base Form Letter

I am writing to support the Sage Grouse Recovery Alternative submitted by the conservation community. This recovery alternative would require the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service to identify priority sage grouse habitat that includes breeding, brooding and winter habitats necessary to support and expand the sage grouse population; measures that truly meet the agencies' stated goals. I urge you to consider coordinated plan amendments that will:

- prohibit new oil and gas drilling in priority sage grouse habitat;
- limit new power lines, wind turbines and other tall structures in or near sage grouse priority habitat;
- place a disturbance cap in all priority sage grouse habitat areas;
- reduce livestock grazing in priority habitat and potential recovery areas to restore native plants that the sage grouse depend upon;
- limit the use of prescribed fire in priority sage grouse habitat;
- avoid vegetation treatments that reduce the amount and height of sagebrush, especially those that use drastic means such as tractors and chemicals; and
- apply these measures for all sage grouse populations on public lands including Mono Basin populations in the California-Nevada bi-state area and the Washington state populations.

I urge you to consider and adopt these comprehensive conservation and recovery measures that will preserve sage grouse populations and the habitat essential for them and myriad other native species.

Name
Address
Address

Commenter Name
Address
City, State Zip

March 23, 2012

Sage Grouse Scoping Comments

Dear Sage Grouse Scoping Comments:

To Whom It May Concern:

As an Idaho rancher, private landowner, and public lands grazing permit lessee , I submit the following comments on the BLM/Forest Service proposed sage grouse strategy. My livelihood, as well as many other family ranching businesses across the Western United States, depends on the ability to graze livestock on public and private lands. As such, it is in ranchers' best interest that the lands are managed to optimum condition, which is both ecologically and economically beneficial. I am concerned that the pending effort to significantly amend the land use plans will create unnecessary restrictions on ranchers' ability to graze livestock and will result in unintended consequences that will be more harmful than helpful to sage grouse.

It is important that you recognize that livestock grazing is compatible and beneficial to greater sage-grouse habitat conservation. This has been proven by independent, peer-reviewed scientific analysis. Ranchers are the stewards of the greater sage-grouse habitat on both the private and public range lands. Allowing ranchers the continued use of public lands without unnecessary restrictions due to the potential listing of a species with such a large habitat encourages this stewardship and prevents fragmentation through development. As seen in many areas of successful rangeland conservation, livestock grazing and habitat conservation go hand in hand. Adequate regulatory mechanisms are already in place through rangeland standards and guides to ensure that grazing is managed for ecosystems and sensitive species.

It appears that the agency has overlooked many of the benefits that the continuance of livestock grazing provides. These include: Preservation of open space; Noxious weed and invasive species eradication and containment; Production of forb growth that is preferred by greater sage-grouse to non-grazed areas; Wildfire prevention and controlled burn efforts; Development of wildlife watering sources, including placement of bird ladders in troughs; and Predator control. Rather than undertaking an attitude of restricting livestock, the agencies should utilize grazing as a tool to manage for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's list of primary threats affecting sage grouse in Idaho including fires and invasive weeds.

The regulations should reiterate that ecosystems, occupied habitat and greater sage-grouse populations vary and should not be managed by a "one-size-fits-all" approach, but rather by an approach that allows land managers, local working groups, and grazing permittees to collaborate on management practices that benefit the resources affecting individual populations in small areas-not over the entire west-wide greater sage-grouse range.

The state of Idaho is currently in the process of developing a state sage grouse conservation strategy which should be completed in June. Because this is being developed by a broad-based group of Idaho citizens who have local knowledge of sage grouse populations and the effects thereon, this plan will contain the most effective tools for managing the land and conserving sage grouse in Idaho. BLM/FS should defer to the Idaho plan and utilize it, where applicable, as the preferred alternative for BLM/FS lands within the state.

It is important that the agencies emphasize that any management changes that are undertaken must be linked to the population status of the bird and this must be conducted on a site-specific basis. If sage grouse populations are stable, there should be no need to trigger additional management measures. If management changes are deemed necessary, those changes need to reflect the import of the habitat and account for the primary threats first.

It is imperative that a stable economic environment be sustained and enhanced so that ranchers and other stakeholders may continue to assist in the conservation of rangeland for the greater sage-grouse. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the NOI regarding development of EISs and SEISs for management of the greater sage-grouse and its habitat.

Sincerely,

Commenter Name

In regards to your sage grouse conservation guidelines, please consider the following:

- The BLM must rely on the best available science concerning sage-grouse behavior, habitat needs, and conservation best-practices when developing land use guidelines.
- The plan should implement the recommendations of the Sage-Grouse National Technical Team as minimum standards to protect sage-grouse from development.
- The Final Environmental Impact Statement MUST exclude any development or land-disturbing activities in priority habitat areas, as recommended by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- Threats to sage-grouse, including livestock grazing, fences, water developments, energy infrastructure and transmission, road building and maintenance, prescribed fire, and vegetative seedings and treatments, must be managed in priority and general habitat to enhance sage-grouse populations.
- Administrative designations, such as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and/or Research Natural Areas (RNA), should be used to protect priority sage-grouse habitat on BLM lands.
- Any proposed developments should be co-located and close to existing disturbance or infrastructure to eliminate further disturbance and fragmentation of sage-grouse habitat.
- The Final Environmental Impact Statement should identify year-round habitat requirements for sage-grouse by state or region, and not solely focus on breeding habitat, since many populations are migratory.
- Mitigation must be significant and provide for net-benefits to the sage-grouse, which is already experiencing declines in numbers.
- The BLM must account for the significant impacts of climate change at regional scales, to ensure long-term habitat connectivity for sage-grouse.

Sincerely,

Commenter Name
City, State

IN-ALL

Department of Interior/BLM/Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Measures into
Land Use Plans and Land Management Plans

Western Region: sagewest@blm.gov

FAX: 775-861-6747

From: Leta Collord/collord@citlink.net

BLM-FS
GEN

OS-NR

BLM-FS
PLI-SG-GN

BLM-FS
PLI-WL-GN

BLM-FS
GEN

- Analyze the affects or influences of single species conservation planning on the shared environment in the natural world, where the landscape specy prompts the concern.
- Analyze the financial impacts/burdens on the nation's budget of the petition process under the Endangered Species Act as related to the Greater Sage-Grouse. (This would include mandates for changes to Land Use Plans and all the pertinent actions required for successful completion.)
- Analyze the extent that weather patterns influence the success of chick survival and brood-success, overtime.
- Analyze: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services inclusion of ravens in 50CFR21.43 "Control of Depredation Birds". A species assessment on the raven as a limiting factor to sage-grouse population stability and increase.
- Analyze the implications of species recovery success through large-scale uniform requirements as opposed to local coordinated planning for long-term engagement and success of conservation measures.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my concerns for analysis related to the Greater Sage-grouse, and related species that are involved in this landscape species.

Leta Collord, Elko, Nevada

Please verify receipt through the above email address.
Leta Collord OR FAX #.

Sage-Grouse Great Basin Region Project Management Team Weekly Call

July 22, 2014 10:00 a.m. PST

Attendance

BLM: Lauren Mermejo, NV; Joe Tague, NV;

CA: Arlene Kusic, CA; Quincy Bahr, UT; Brent Ralston, ID; Joan Suther, OR;

SOL: Aaron Moody, SOL; Sarah Shattuck, SOL; Johanna Munson, WY

WO: Kathy Stangl, WO; Matt Magaletti, WO; Frank Quamen, NOC

USFS: Glen Stein; Randy Sharp; Rob Mickelsen; Melissa Martin; Robert Skorkowsky; Madelyn Dillon

EMPSi: David Batts; Chad Ricklefs; Meredith Zaccherio; Holly Prohaska; Derek Holmgren; Peter Gower; Drew Vankat

Handouts

- None.

Action Items

Sub regional PMs and Forest Service

- ALL: fill out USFWS response tables and send to Lauren by this Friday.

Meeting Minutes

WO Review Updates

- Reviewing Chapter 2 summary tables in Denver this week. Lauren will be following up individually with PMs next week.
- Federal family meetings are tentatively set for Aug 18-22 for the Great Basin Region and Sept 8-12 for the Rocky Mountain Region. Anticipate finalizing details and location by COB today. Scheduling has been difficult. This will be a decision meeting.
- Working through how the state-BLM coordination process will occur.
- Meeting is around the corner and Lauren will be coordinating with the subregions to get all the materials prepared. Lauren can contact Madelyn for Forest Service input.
- Schedule: Great Basin should continue to move forward with intent to submit to WO by the 1st or 2nd week in September.
- Utah will go to both GBR and RMR federal family meetings but will plan to submit with GBR plans.
- White paper for disturbance/adaptive management is out for review and comment. Hope to have it out by next week.

Roll up and Tier II Update

- Frank has all data sets and hopes to have all tables done by this week. Spreadsheets will be locked for editing.

Subregional Updates

- OR – discussion regarding existing OHV areas and where the adaptive management triggers may be tripped or are close. Jessica Rubado has joined the team.
- ID/MT – working on effects analysis and GIS calculations. No net unmitigated loss applies to both core and important management zones. Need to clarify in the proposed plan.
- UT – meeting tomorrow with the USFWS to finalize discussions regarding their review of the proposed plan. Finishing up internal review with field offices. Anticipate starting impact analysis next week.
- NV/CA –getting ready to review the draft impact analysis.

Final Forest Service Plans

- Subregions are preparing crosswalks and subregional plans.
- Making some final changes regarding grazing language today.
- Allocations and avoidance criteria should be the same as for BLM’s plans. Will consider including the exceptions from WO. Differences will be discussed at the federal family meeting.
- UT may have some inconsistencies with lands and realty decisions.
- Idaho – Rob and Brent will get together to discuss.
- NV/CA – no major differences in the allocations.

Forest Service Analysis of Proposed Plan

- How to portray the Forest Service plan without having another alternative?
- Will keep this on the agenda. Management team would like to talk to Glen about this, but Glen is out this week. At a standstill until subregional Forest Service plans are ready.
- Have discussed different ideas. Could have BLM and Forest Service proposed plans side-by-side in Chapter 2 and have the Forest Service supplement the BLM impact analysis in Chapter 4. Do not think the Forest Service plans will be very different.

USFWS Comment Response

- Lauren sent out Quincy’s table documenting their response to USFWS comments and rationale. Each subregion should fill out and send tables to Lauren by this Friday. Color coding will help Lauren. Look at high scale changes made to address USFWS comments as well as where we haven’t made changes and what their issues still are. Lauren will work with Jesse next week – wants him to contact subregional liaisons on what the issues are so we can be prepared to talk about them.
- USFWS in NV/CA may be concerned about grazing and how Table 2-6 will be used to adjust permits on the ground. This may be a universal concern across the subregions.

Management Changes for Non-Habitat within Mapped Habitat

- If there is a site-specific proposal that finds non-habitat on the ground within mapped PPH/PGH, would any subregions allow different management allocations in these areas (e.g., if PPH is closed to non-energy leasables, would development be allowed)?
 - OR – yes. Included sideboards, but cautious due to fragmentation concerns. In addition, options for plan maintenance or an amendment where habitat needs to be re-mapped. Text may have been removed from the EIS.
 - ID/MT – no, but it could affect the level of mitigation required. Tied to the criteria.
 - UT – yes. State that polygons are general in nature and with more site-specific information, specific decisions may not be applied. However, criteria must be met.
 - NV/CA – there is a process to review habitat but it is not tied to project-level decisions. Interagency group will look at proposals to change habitat. This is described in the EIS.
 - Fear of fragmentation; introduces a lot of uncertainty for protection of habitat. Criteria are important.

Sage-Grouse Great Basin Region Project Management Team Weekly Call

July 29, 2014 10:00 a.m. PST

Attendance

BLM: Lauren Mermejo, NV; Joe Tague, NV; Quincy Bahr, UT; Brent Ralston, ID; Joan Suther, OR; Kathy Stangl, WO; Matt Magaletti, WO; Vicki Herren, NOC; Johanna Munson, WY

USFS: Glen Stein; Randy Sharp; Madelyn Dillon

EMPSi: David Batts; Chad Ricklefs; Meredith Zaccherio; Holly Prohaska; Derek Holmgren; Peter Gower; Drew Vankat

Handouts

- None.

Action Items

Sub regional PMs and Forest Service

- WO to share disturbance white paper after review with Ed.

Meeting Minutes

WO Review Updates

- Great Basin federal family meeting is scheduled for the week of 8/18 in Portland. WO is preparing for this. Still working to schedule the Rocky Mountain federal family meeting.
- Determining the invite list. Likely a very restricted list of invitees – state director and one other person from each subregion.
- Kathy participating in sagebrush restoration science coordination meeting for Great Basin. BLM, Forest Service, USGS, and USFWS have been participating.
- Finishing disturbance white paper and will share with SOL and USFWS. Will talk to Ed on Friday. Disturbance paper will include two attachments – Q&A and flow chart.
- Paper describes what is in national datasets; how it will be used; what happens when we hit a disturbance threshold; ties adaptive management in.
- What is disturbance? Disturbance versus degradation. Degradation – surface disturbance associated with human activity. Look at table 2 on page 9 of the monitoring framework.
- Team would like to see the white paper. Need Ed to look at it and can send to the group as a draft after that on Friday. However, SOL and USFWS have not reviewed yet, so it could change.
- Matt ran through the list of questions associated with the disturbance white paper.
- WO describes it as a three percent threshold objective. It is not a decision.
- Reminder that none of the Chapter 2 sections are final until the rollup is complete. Message from WO is to continue moving forward, even though changes may be required.

Fire Update

- Doug Havlina will be providing weekly updates on the FIAT assessments.
- IM went to SOL and is now in WO-100. Meeting on Friday to talk about FIAT IM.

Roll up and Tier II/CEA Update

- EMPSi has received the data from the NOC. NOC hosted a webinar on how to use and interpret it. Now, EMPSi is populating tables in the CEAs and finalizing schedule for deliverables and reviews. EMPSi will follow up with Great Basin project leads on specifics.

Adaptive Management

- Some concerns that adaptive management triggers and responses are not consistent across the Great Basin Region.
- Lauren thinks there is room for differences as the direction was to work with states and local USFWS staff. Need the rationale for differences and science behind the triggers. Be prepared to talk about this at the federal family meeting.

Subregional Updates

- Lauren is conducting federal family meeting reviews with each subregion this week. USFWS liaisons from NV/CA, OR, and ID/MT said there are no red flags with the BLM proposed plans. Have not heard from UT liaison yet. Lauren will have a follow up call with Jesse.
- Lauren has been sending recommended language for each plan based on her reviews of the subregional proposed plans (e.g., text describing why we would not use an RDF at project scale).
- Call tomorrow regarding incorporating Forest Service proposed plan into the subregional plans.

Other

- Concerns about FIAT and timing; unsure about staff availability.
- This is also a GIS exercise, not just fire staff. It will likely be stop and go through fire season.

Sage-Grouse Great Basin Region Project Management Team Weekly Call

August 11, 2014 10:00 a.m. PST

Attendance

BLM: Lauren Mermejo, NV; Quincy Bahr, UT; Brent Ralston, ID; Joan Suther, OR; Frank Quamen, NOC; Kathy Stangl, WO; Matt Magaletti, WO; Vicki Herren, NOC

USFS: Glen Stein; Randy Sharp; Madelyn Dillon

EMPSi: David Batts; Chad Ricklefs; Meredith Zaccherio; Holly Prohaska; Derek Holmgren; Peter Gower; Drew Vankat

Handouts

- None.

Action Items

- None.

Meeting Minutes

Federal Family Meeting

- Meeting materials should arrive by Wed or Thursday as hard copies. PMs should discuss the proposed plan with their state directors who have to give a 5 minute talk about the subregional plan.
- Recommend putting the subregional effort in context of the rangewide effort for the 5 minute briefing. State what percent of the population and habitat is within the subregion. Highlight the major threats in your state, and efforts with relationships (how USFWS has been involved locally). Also mention unique aspects about your effort (e.g., moratorium on planning in western UT).
- Matt will send the powerpoint with the regional context for each subregion.
- There will be a session on adaptive management, mitigation, monitoring and coordination with the states. Would like input from the state directors on how we will move forward with states collectively. There will be a regional meeting with the states after the federal family meeting. The Department, solicitors, Forest Service, and USFWS will also be there.
- Disturbance white paper will be released after the federal family meeting.

Outcomes from Last Week's Meeting

- Anticipate having one ROD for the Great Basin plans. May be signed by the Secretary. As a result, the proposed plans need to have a consistent format across the GBR and RMR. Proposed plans will be discussed separately in Chapter 2. There will be a consistent format that everyone must follow with consistent headings. Will require re-working and formatting. Template has yet to be determined.

- Ensure that all BMPs and RDFs from NTT are in the proposed plans. Matt will send a table tracking how RDFs are included. It is an internal check, but PMs should wait to fill it out until after the meeting next week. Not a problem if a subregion has added RDFs as long as they don't conflict with existing RDFs.
- Ongoing discussions on how to integrate Forest Service plan into Chapter 2. Will wait until after federal family meeting to talk about formatting.

Forest Service Plan Update

- Working to finish draft proposed planning language for ID/MT and UT. Working on NV/CA next.
- Reviewing the subregional revisions and comments and ensuring consistency across the region.

USFWS Data Call

- Data call letter from USFWS has been circulating. Data call for the conservation efforts database (CED) and threat information that will go to them. Steve Small and Vicki are working on the strategy for how BLM will respond. CED is in beta testing now. Would like to provide as much data as possible from national level datasets then determine what level of involvement will be needed from the field.
- Unsure how the threats data will be provided. Likely can be derived from the same data layers described in the monitoring framework for the broad and mid-scale.

Disturbance and Monitoring Team Update

- Working to develop consistency between local monitoring plans. Discussing what to include at fine/site-scale. Will be using same threats at broad/mid-scale in monitoring framework and additional threats to include at project level and biologically significant units. Taking a final vote on what to include on Thursday (e.g., underground pipelines, meteorological towers, hydropower plants, recreation areas). If PMs have concerns, talk to your disturbance and monitoring team liaisons.

Cumulative Effects Analysis

- Putting CEA on hold until after federal family meeting to ensure the data is ready, complete, and accurate. Moving forward with Buffalo CEA to use as a template. EMPSi will set up a workshop with PMs and lead biologists to review that plan so everyone can see what CEA includes/doesn't include and set expectations.

Other

- Joan sent out a paper regarding mitigation in Oregon and asked for feedback. Also sent revised adaptive management strategy.
- Randy will send out some of the materials they have worked on regarding mitigation.
- FIAT – hopefully the IM will be out this week.

Sage-Grouse Great Basin Region Project Management Team Weekly Call

August 26, 2014 10:00 a.m. PST

Attendance

BLM: Quincy Bahr, UT; Seth Flanigan, UT; Joan Suther, OR; Jessica Rubado, OR; Vicki Herren, NOC; Doug Havlina, NIFC

USFS: Madelyn Dillon

EMPSi: David Batts; Chad Ricklefs; Meredith Zaccherio; Derek Holmgren; Peter Gower

Handouts

- Updated BLM Great Basin GRSG ADPP Buffer Distances from Leks

Action Items

Sub regional PMs and Forest Service

- PMs and subregional biologists should review the buffer table and make sure that everything is adequately depicted. Send feedback to Lauren by next Tuesday, September 2.

Meeting Minutes

WO Review Updates

- David will send action item list from last week's federal family meeting once Lauren and Solicitors have approved.
- Outcomes from the Rocky Mountain Region federal family meeting could affect the GBR.
- Ed Roberson will be in charge of consistency.
- Budget requests from Lauren due tomorrow.

Fire Update

- Doug has a summary of acres affected by fire in 2014 in PPH/PGH. This summary will be attached to the meeting notes.
- FIAT process updates:
 - Memo should be released this week.
 - Still identifying some team leads.
 - Will start to have weekly information sharing calls.
 - Deadline of 1/31/15 for completion of the first 5 priority FIAT assessments.

Disturbance and CEA Updates

- Disturbance and monitoring subteam will be having more discussions this Thursday based on results from the federal family meeting. Different scales (e.g., biologically significant units) and how that relates to the disturbance cap. Trying to come up with a better or simpler way to depict disturbance. This is due prior to the Rocky Mountain Region federal family meeting.

- Long conversation at the federal family meeting about the 3% threshold and what we are measuring it against.
- Vicki does not think we will stray too far from the existing monitoring framework. Discussion regarding sagebrush availability objectives, degradation, and what is included in the numerator/denominator. Concerns that the more acreage included in the denominator, the more disturbance you can have before you hit the cap (e.g., including conifer encroached area would allow more disturbance).
- UT proposing using BPS but removing certain non-habitat areas (e.g., towns, fires in the last 10-15 years, conifer encroachment above 20% canopy cover).
- How engaged is USFWS in providing input into the formula? They will need to understand the calculation for their determination. Pat has provided input and there are USFWS staff members on the disturbance and monitoring subteam. Pat will be invited for the call on Thursday.
- CEA process is on hold but EMPSi has drafted the Buffalo CEA. EMPSi will lead a workshop in mid-September for a review of that CEA. Purpose is to make sure everyone is on the same page; set expectations for what is included in CEA; obtain feedback and guidance.

Review of Outcomes from Federal Family meeting

- Reminder: Common language for all plans: prescribed fire; fluid mineral exception language; retention of general habitat. Will be distributed with the notes/action items.
- Buffer table: Sense from everyone is that the Great Basin Region will need to be consistent with this table. PMs and subregional biologists should review the table and make sure that everything is adequately depicted. Send feedback to Lauren by next Tuesday, September 2.

Schedule

- Schedule will likely depend on the outcomes from the RMR federal family meeting. After that time, the Great Basin Region will make final changes to proposed plan and send revised data for CEA to Frank. Likely will not send the documents to WO by early Oct/late Sept. Suggest EMPSi and BLM PMs should coordinate and not continue with Chapter 4 analysis or editing due to possible changes from the RMR meeting.

Sage-Grouse Great Basin Region Project Management Team Weekly Call

November 25, 2014 10:00 a.m. PST

Attendance

BLM: Lauren Mermejo, NV; Joe Tague, NV; Quincy Bahr, UT; Jon Beck, ID; Paul Makela, ID; Joan Suther, OR; Jessica Rubado, OR; Frank Quamen, NOC; Pam Murdock, WY; John Carlson, MT

USFS: Randy Sharp

EMPSi: Chad Ricklefs; Meredith Zaccherio; Holly Prohaska; Derek Holmgren; Peter Gower

Handouts

- Screening Criteria for New Anthropogenic Disturbances

Action Items

Sub regional PMs and Forest Service

- Lauren: revise and send screening criteria.

Meeting Minutes

WO Update

- State Director call today at 1 pm Pacific to discuss some of the decisions, though limited information will be available. Briefing with Secretary on Monday and should have more information after that time. Lauren will talk with Matt about combining the GBR and RMR calls if the same information is to be released.

Screening Criteria for New Anthropogenic Disturbances

- Lauren has looked at the avoidance criteria for ROWs and wondered why not apply these criteria for all anthropogenic disturbances (like ID/MT has done)? Would like to have all text be the same.
- Review and edits to screening criteria. Lauren will revise and re-send the screening criteria.

Other

- NOC would like a conference call with Lauren, Project Leads, and GIS leads to discuss what needs to be changed in order to start on CEA calculations and respond to USFWS data request by the end of the year.

National Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Plan Great Basin Federal Family Meeting

GBR_PUB_0101
5.1

BLM - Forest Service
Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan

Portland, Oregon
August 18-22, 2014



GBR_0307197

What Have We Been Doing Since The Last Time We Were In Portland?

- Addressing public comments on Draft EISs;
- Coordinating with Federal and State Partners;
- Incorporating changes between the Draft EIS Preferred Alternatives and Administrative Draft Proposed Plans (ADPPs);
 - Great Basin wide changes
 - Subregional changes
- Anticipating and preparing for challenges to the Finish Line.



Number Of Public Comments On Draft EIS

Great Basin Region

- Submissions: 74,240
- Form Letters: 67,700
- Unique Submissions: 1,550
- Substantive Comments: 4,990



Public Comments on Draft EIS By Sub-Region in the Great Basin

Oregon

Submissions: 20,060
Form Letters: 19,420
Unique Submissions: 640
Substantive Comments: 1,187

Nevada/California

Submissions: 16,920
Form Letters: 16,520
Unique Submissions: 400
Substantive Comments: 1,747

Utah

Submissions: 16,750
Form Letters: 16,570
Unique Submissions: 180
Substantive Comments: 1,139

Idaho/Montana

Submissions: 15,520
Form Letters: 15,190
Unique Submissions: 290
Substantive Comments: 917



Public Comments on Draft EIS

Common Issues Raised in Both Regions:

- There were inconsistencies between the planning efforts.
- Disturbance cap needed further explanation.
- The NTT report was/was not valid or reliable.
- The plans did not meet the purpose and need.
- The plans did not comply with NEPA, FLPMA, BLM and Forest Service planning regulations, and other laws.
- The best available information for each resource was not used in the plans.
- Hunting and predation was not analyzed in the plans.
- Local conservation plans were not evaluated as an alternative.
- The plans would negatively impact livestock grazing.
- The baseline data was overly broad and should be amended to include local data (i.e.. county socioeconomic data).



Public Comments on Draft EIS

Most Frequent Topics in the Great Basin Region:

- Disturbance Cap
- Range of Alternatives (for Sage-Grouse, Livestock Grazing, Sagebrush Vegetation, Leasable Minerals)
- Sage-Grouse and Livestock Grazing Baseline Information
- Sage-Grouse Impact Analysis
- Socioeconomic Impact Analysis
- Predation



Public Comments on Draft EIS

Common Themes in the Great Basin Region:

- The plans could negatively impact the socioeconomic for the region.
- Alternatives which limited or managed wild horses and burros was not considered within the range of alternatives.
- Lands should not be closed from mineral entry.
- Additional mitigation measures should be placed on mineral development.



Coordination Between Draft and Final EISs

- Worked through many comments with our federal and state partners;
- Coordinated common responses across the range;
- Many have provided early review of working drafts to Cooperators of the BLM ADPPs and held follow up discussions;
- Continuing ongoing coordination;
- This Federal Family Meeting is critical to resolving all issues and successfully completing the plans.



Global Changes for the Great Basin Between Draft and Final EISs

- Augmented the Monitoring Framework;
- Refined the Mitigation Strategy ;
- Included a 3% disturbance objective in priority habitat;
- Committed to No Net Unmitigated Loss in all habitats (except BLM PGH in Idaho);
- Incorporated an Adaptive Management Strategy with hard and soft triggers;
- Integrated the FIAT Report with the Chambers guidelines and provided direction for completing the Assessments;
- Added measurable vegetation treatment objectives from VDDT modeling (except Oregon);
- Inserted consistent ROW avoidance criteria (except Idaho).



Global Changes for the Great Basin Between Draft and Final EISs

- Added consistent noise criteria;
- Incorporated standalone FS proposed plans with a crosswalk to the BLM ADPP (except OR);
- Worked through the National Policy Team guidance on consistent allocation decisions – this will be the focal discussion of our FFM this week;
- Will add a Conservation Summary to provide an overview of threat alleviation;
- Will include a cumulative impact analysis to Sage Grouse by WAFWA management zone;
 - Dependent upon proposed allocations being finalized



Major Changes Specific to Utah Between Draft and Final EISs

- Changed from a lek centric Preferred Alternative to applying allocation decisions on all PPMA in the ADPP;
- Not applying allocative/resource restrictions (except for FS) to PGMA, but applying no net unmitigated loss to all habitats;
- Changed from a 5% cap to a 3% cap; added one disturbance per 640 acres;
- Added additional detail and decisions to address the conifer encroachment threat;
- Added the Alton Coal Mine area as PPMA (from PGMA in draft);
- Added additional restrictive management actions to reduce prescribed fire and sagebrush removal in sagebrush habitat.



Major Changes Specific to Nevada / California Between Draft and Final EISs

- Fairly consistent with Draft Preferred Alternative - minor changes and clarifications;
- Reduced number of designated utility corridors within GRSB habitat from existing land use plans;
- Made a commitment to work with the State of Nevada on mitigation banking;
- Incorporated additional wild horse and burro measures/actions from the Nevada State Plan;
- Incorporated goals and objectives and some actions tied to predation from the Nevada State Plan;
- Added a 3% disturbance cap to the Proposed Plan, but are currently asking for a variance of this.



Major Changes Specific to Oregon Between Draft and Final EISs

- Changed wind and solar allocations from avoidance (PPMA) and open (PGMA) to exclusion (PPMA) and avoidance (PGMA);
- Added more specific language to address the key threats in Oregon (conifer encroachment, annual grasses);
- Applied a tiered decadal approach to the 3% disturbance threshold (1% per decade);
- Added more restrictive actions within lek protective zones in PGMA;
- Revised livestock grazing allocations in response to public comment: Preferred alternative had about 118,000 acres closed to livestock grazing; ADPP proposes to close approximately 20,000 acres.



Major Changes Specific to Idaho/SW Montana Between Draft and Final EISs

- Idaho:
 - Changed oil and gas allocation in Core from CSU/TL to NSO where there is potential for development;
 - Added a 3% disturbance threshold;
 - Refined comprehensive avoidance criteria for all anthropogenic activities addressed in the disturbance threshold;
 - Incorporated additional specific measures in conjunction with the Idaho State Plan;
 - Re-mapped sage-grouse habitats based on site-specific and field ground truthing (approximate change of 300,000 acres less)
- SE Montana
 - Added a 3% disturbance threshold using the DDCT model
 - Added more restrictive fluid mineral stipulations



Challenges to Reaching the Finish Line

- Any changes to ADPP allocations decisions will require additional analysis and time
- WO and SOL/OGC reviews and revisions
- Protest response – expecting large number of protests (30-days after NOA for Final EIS)
- Governor's 60-day consistency review
- Formal Section 7 consultation would require 135 days before ROD (Lipidium in Idaho)
- Potential FOIA requests
- Preparing RODs



Questions and Discussion



Great Basin Region Greater Sage-grouse Federal Family Meeting



August 19-21, 2014

BLM Oregon State Office, Portland, Oregon



1 - Informational Packet Navigation Tool

Each Informational Packet contains the following materials:

Ref #	Document Title	Packet Page Number
1	Informational Packet Navigation Tool	Pages 1-2
2	Great Basin Federal Family Meeting Agenda	Pages 3-9
3	Great Basin ADPP Map Packet (30 11X17 Total)	<i>Separate 11”X17” Packet</i>
4	Population Summary Tables (7 total)	Pages 11-32
5	Acronyms and Abbreviations List	Page 32
6	Land Use Plan Allocations Cheat Sheet	Pages 33-34

Great Basin Administrative Draft Proposed Plan (ADPP) Map Packet

- ✓ Map 1 in the separate Great Basin ADPP Map Packet is a reference map that depicts GRSG populations, sub-regional boundaries, and surface management.
- ✓ Map 2 is also a reference map depicting where the Priority Areas for Conservation (PACs), Preliminary Priority Habitat (PPH), and Preliminary General Habitat (PGH) (or other management area/habitat classifications) are located in the Great Basin Region.
- ✓ The following 28 maps display two sets of 14 ADPP land use plan allocations being applied to PPH and PGH in the Great Basin Region. The sets include one map highlighting the allocation decisions being applied in the PACs (maps on the left), and the other displaying the specific allocation being proposed for all PPH and PGH (maps on the right).

Population Summary Tables

- ✓ There are a total of seven population summary tables that are part of this informational packet. The tables are organized in two different ways: 1) by populations fully within a sub-region (a total of five tables), and 2) by populations that span across more than one sub-region (such as the Western Great Basin and Northern Great Basin Populations).
- ✓ Population Statistics: At the top of each table, there is a list of statistics relative to the population (or multiple populations that are solely within a sub-region). In order to provide context as to how the PACs correlate with the populations, this table provides the land status acre figures split by PPMA, PGMA, and Non-habitat for lands within the PACs and lands not within the PAC.
- ✓ Threats: The threats posed to each population are presented in the left-hand column of each table. The threats identified in this column are those threats cited as “present and widespread” in Table 2 of the USFWS’s 2013 Conservation Objectives Team (COT) Report. Although not identified as “present and widespread”, additional threats were addressed as they relate to the National Policy Team (NPT) allocation guidance.



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- ✓ **Red text:** The red text indicates areas where the sub-regional ADPP allocation deviates from the NPT guidance provided to the sub-regional teams in April 2014. Rational as to why there is a deviation from the NPT guidance is also provided in red text in the right hand column of the table.
- ✓ **Green text:** The green text indicates areas where the Forest Service is deviating from the BLM's allocation or management direction to address that threat.
- ✓ **Purple text:** The purple text is only displayed in the Montana population for the Idaho/SW Montana ADDP and depicts where the BLM has different management decisions in Idaho and Montana.

Acronyms and Abbreviations List & BLM Land Use Plan (LUP) Allocations Cheat Sheet

Throughout the population summary tables, many sub-regional titles, allocation types, agency names, and other terms have been abbreviated. This list provides a description for all acronyms and abbreviations presented in the population summary tables. The BLM LUP Allocation Cheat Sheet lists all of the BLM LUP allocations specific to BLM program areas and provides a brief definition for each of these allocations (per BLM's Lands Use Planning Handbook H-1601-1).



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Great Basin Region Federal Family Meeting Agenda

August 19-21, 2014 – BLM Oregon State Office, Portland, OR

Objectives of this Meeting

- Identify threats to Greater Sage-grouse (GRSG) for each PAC/population within the BLM/FS planning area as identified in the COT Report
- Determine how each BLM and FS plan addresses these threats through land use allocations and other conservation actions
- Discuss the adequacy of the land use allocation decisions and other conservation measures to address these threats and any changes in plans required to address inadequacies and/or inconsistencies in response
- Provide clear and specific guidance to develop draft final administrative plans that are adequate to address the threats to each GRSG population identified in the COT Report

DAY ONE – TUESDAY AUGUST 19, 2014

- 8:00 am **Welcome**
Jerry Perez, BLM Oregon State Director
- 8:05 am **Introductions**
Penny Mabie, Meeting Facilitator
- 8:10 am **Opening Remarks**
Neil Kornze, BLM Director
Noreen Walsh, USFWS Regional Director, Mountain-Prairie Region
Chris Iverson, USFS Deputy Regional Forester
Amy Lueders, BLM Nevada State Director
- 8:30 am **Process, Expectations, and Outcomes**
Jim Lyons, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, DOI
Michael Bean, Counselor for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, DOI
- 9:00 am **Agenda Review (Logistics)**
Penny Mabie, Meeting Facilitator
- 9:15 am **BLM Approach to Developing ADPP's**
Ed Roberson, BLM Assistant Director for Resources and Planning
- 9:25 am **Forest Service Approach to Developing their DPPA's**
Chris Iverson, USFS
- 9:40 am **Major Changes between BLM/FS DEIS' and ADPPs in Great Basin**
Lauren Mermejo, Great Basin Regional Project Manager
- 10:00 am 15 Minute Break**



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10:15 am **5-Minute ADDP Overview by BLM State Directors**
NV - Amy Lueders, BLM NV State Director
CA - Jim Kenna, BLM CA State Director
OR - Jerry Perez, BLM OR State Director
UT - Juan Palma, BLM UT State Director
ID - Tim Murphy, BLM Acting ID State Director
MT - Jamie Connell, BLM MT State Director

11:00 am **Information Packet Orientation**
Frank Quamen, BLM-NOC Wildlife Biologist
Matt Mageletti, BLM- WO Planning

WAFWA Management Zone V

Review of Conservation Strategies for Populations solely within OR

- 11:15 am
- ✓ **Review of Threats to GRSG and Identified Treats to Populations in the Zone**
Jim Lyons - ASLM
 - ✓ **Review of present threats to this population**
Frank Quamen/Matt Mageletti
 - ✓ **Discuss proposed responses to each threat and rationale**
Matt Mageletti, State Directors, and Project Leads
 - ✓ **Discuss adequacy of conservation actions to address threats, inconsistencies and/or other concerns**
Meeting Principals (Facilitated by Penny Mabie)
 - ✓ **Finalize changes (if any) in plans to address identified threats to each PAC/population and remaining issues in question**
 - ✓ **Identify and record specific change to relevant plans**
Meeting Principals (Facilitated by Penny Mabie)

12:00 pm 1 Hour Lunch

Review of Conservation Strategies for the Western Great Basin Population (NV/NE CA and OR)

- 1: 00 pm
- ✓ **Review of Threats to GRSG and Identified Treats to Populations in the Zone**
Jim Lyons - ASLM
 - ✓ **Review of present threats to this population**
Frank Quamen/Matt Mageletti
 - ✓ **Discuss proposed responses to each threat and rationale**
Matt Mageletti, State Directors, and Project Leads
 - ✓ **Discuss adequacy of conservation actions to address threats, inconsistencies and/or other concerns**
Meeting Principals (Facilitated by Penny Mabie)
 - ✓ **Finalize changes (if any) in plans to address identified threats to each**



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PAC/population and remaining issues in question

- ✓ **Identify and record specific change to relevant plans**
Meeting Principals (Facilitated by Penny Mabie)

3:00 pm **Validate outcomes for the entire WAFWA Management Zone**
Penny Mabie

3:30 pm 15 Minute Break

WAFWA Management Zone III

Review of Conservation Strategies for Populations solely within Utah

- 3:45 pm
- ✓ **Review of Threats to GRSG and Identified Treats to Populations in the Zone**
Jim Lyons - ASLM
 - ✓ **Review of present threats to this population**
Frank Quamen/Matt Magaletti
 - ✓ **Discuss proposed responses to each threat and rationale**
Matt Magaletti, State Directors, and Project Leads
 - ✓ **Discuss adequacy of conservation actions to address threats, inconsistencies and/or other concerns**
Meeting Principals (Facilitated by Penny Mabie)
 - ✓ **Finalize changes (if any) in plans to address identified threats to each PAC/population and remaining issues in question**
 - ✓ **Identify and record specific change to relevant plans**
Meeting Principals (Facilitated by Penny Mabie)

5:45 pm **Close-out**
Penny Mabie, Meeting Facilitator



DAY TWO – WEDNESDAY AUGUST 20, 2014

8:00 am **Recap from day 1**
Penny Mabie, Meeting Facilitator

Continuation of WAFWA Management Zone III

Review of Conservation Strategies for Populations solely within Nevada

- 8:15 am ✓ **Review of Threats to GRSG and Identified Treats to Populations in the Zone** *Jim Lyons - ASLM*
- ✓ **Review of present threats to this population**
Frank Quamen/Matt Magaletti
- ✓ **Discuss proposed responses to each threat and rationale**
Matt Magaletti, State Directors, and Project Leads
- ✓ **Discuss adequacy of conservation actions to address threats, inconsistencies and/or other concerns**
Meeting Principals (Facilitated by Penny Mabie)
- ✓ **Finalize changes (if any) in plans to address identified threats to each PAC/population and remaining issues in question**
- ✓ **Identify and record specific change to relevant plans**
Meeting Principals (Facilitated by Penny Mabie)

9:15 **Validate outcomes for the entire WAFWA Management Zone**
Penny Mabie

9:45 am 15 Minute Break

WAFWA Management Zone IV

Review of Conservation Strategies for Populations solely within Idaho

- 10:00 am ✓ **Review of Threats to GRSG and Identified Treats to Populations in the Zone** *Jim Lyons - ASLM*
- ✓ **Review of present threats to this population**
Frank Quamen/Matt Magaletti
- ✓ **Discuss proposed responses to each threat and rationale**
Matt Magaletti, State Directors, and Project Leads
- ✓ **Discuss adequacy of conservation actions to address threats, inconsistencies and/or other concerns**
Meeting Principals (Facilitated by Penny Mabie)
- ✓ **Finalize changes (if any) in plans to address identified threats to each PAC/population and remaining issues in question**
- ✓ **Identify and record specific change to relevant plans**
Meeting Principals (Facilitated by Penny Mabie)

12:00pm 1 Hour Lunch



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Review of Conservation Strategies for Northern Great Basin Population (ID, NV/CA, and OR)

- 1:00 pm
- ✓ **Review of Threats to GRSG and Identified Treats to Populations in the Zone** *Jim Lyons - ASLM*
 - ✓ **Review of present threats to this population**
Frank Quamen/Matt Magaletti
 - ✓ **Discuss proposed responses to each threat and rationale**
Matt Magaletti, State Directors, and Project Leads
 - ✓ **Discuss adequacy of conservation actions to address threats, inconsistencies and/or other concerns**
Meeting Principals (Facilitated by Penny Mabie)
- 2:30 pm** **15 Minute Break**
- 2:45 pm
- ✓ **Finalize changes (if any) in plans to address identified threats to each PAC/population and remaining issues in question**
 - ✓ **Identify and record specific change to relevant plans**
Meeting Principals (Facilitated by Penny Mabie)
- 4:00 pm
- Validate outcomes for the entire WAFWA Management Zone**
Penny Mabie
- 5:00 pm
- Close-out**
Penny Mabie, Meeting Facilitator



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DAY THREE – THURSDAY AUGUST 21, 2014

8:00 am **Recap from day 2**
Penny Mabie, Meeting Facilitator

Continuation of WAFWA Management Zone IV

Review of Conservation Strategies for Populations solely within Southwest Montana

8:15 am ✓ **Review of Threats to GRSG and Identified Treats to Populations in the Zone** *Jim Lyons - ASLM*
 ✓ **Review of present threats to this population**
 Frank Quamen/Matt Magaletti
 ✓ **Discuss proposed responses to each threat and rationale**
 Matt Magaletti, State Directors, and Project Leads
 ✓ **Discuss adequacy of conservation actions to address threats, inconsistencies and/or other concerns**
 Meeting Principals (Facilitated by Penny Mabie)
 ✓ **Finalize changes (if any) in plans to address identified threats to each PAC/population and remaining issues in question**
 ✓ **Identify and record specific change to relevant plans**
 Meeting Principals (Facilitated by Penny Mabie)

9:15 am **Validate outcomes for the entire WAFWA Management Zone IV**
Penny Mabie, Meeting Facilitator

9:45 am 15 Minute Break

10:00 am **Adaptive Management, Mitigation and Monitoring**
Status by BLM State Directors Facilitated by Penny Mabie

11:00 am **Update on Coordination with States**
Status by BLM State Directors Facilitated by Penny Mabie

12:00 pm 1 Hour Lunch

1:00 pm **Next Steps with the States**
Jim Lyons, ASLM

1:45 pm **NRCS Sage Grouse Initiative Update with the States/Private Landowners**
Tim Griffiths, NRCS Sage Grouse Initiative Coordinator

2:15 pm **Schedule Discussion**
Ed Roberson, BLM
Noreen Walsh, USFWS



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- 2:45 pm** **15 Minute Break**
- 3:00 pm **Outcome Summary and Follow-up Actions**
Penny Mabie, Meeting Facilitator
- 4:00 pm **Closing Remarks**
Jim Lyons, DOI
Ed Roberson, BLM
Noreen Walsh, USFWS
Chris Iverson, USFS

Great Basin Region Roll-Up Attendees:

- BLM States (12): State Directors: **Amy Lueders, Jerry Perez, Juan Palma, Jim Kenna, Tim Murphy and Jamie Connell**
Project Managers: Joe Tague, Joan Suther, Mike Haske, Quincy Bahr, Brent Ralston, John Carlson
 - BLM Regional (2): Lauren Mermejo and Johanna Munson
 - BLM WO/NOC (8): **Neil Kornze, Steve Ellis, Ed Roberson,** Kathy Stangl,
Frank Quamen, Joe Stout, Steve Small, and Matt Magaletti
 - DOI (3) **Jim Lyons, Michael Bean, and Sarah Greenberger**
 - SOL (3): **Bret Birdsong, Ted Boling,** and Sarah Shattuck
 - USFS National (5): **Chris Iverson,** Glen Stein and Madelyn Dillon
Project Managers: Ron Rodriguez, Rob Mickelson
 - OGC (1): Kathryn Guillou Bergenholtz
 - FWS (11): **Noreen Walsh,** Pat Deibert, Nicole Alt, Paul Henson
Dennis Mackey, Ted Koch, Mary Grim, Michael Fris,
Terry Rabot, Larry Crist and Jesse Delia
 - NRCS National (1): Tim Griffiths
 - Facilitator (1): Penny Mabie
 - EMPSI Rep (1): David Batts
- TOTAL: 48 (16 Principals at the table)**



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3 - *Great Basin ADPP Map Packet (30 11” X 17” Maps)***



4 – Population Summary Tables

- 4a – Oregon Sub-region (Populations 17 and 18)
- 4b – Population 31: Western Great Basin (Sub-regions NV/NE CA & OR)
- 4c – Utah Sub-region (Populations 9b 9c 10a 10b 11 12 13a 13b 13c 15a 15b and 26b)
- 4d – Nevada/Northeast California Sub-region (Populations 14, 15c, and 30)
- 4e – Idaho Portion of the Idaho/Southwestern Montana Sub-region (Populations 18, 23, 25, and 27)
- 4f – Population 26a: Northern Great Basin (Sub-regions Nevada/NE California, Idaho, and Oregon)
- 4g – Southwest Montana Portion of the Idaho/Southwestern Montana Sub-region (Populations 19-22)



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4a - Oregon Sub-region
Populations (fully within Oregon sub-region): 17 and 28

Population Statistics (17 and 28)			
	PPMA	PGMA	Non-Habitat
PAC acres (% of total pop.)	BLM: 472,596 (11%)	BLM: 0 (0%)	BLM: 0 (0%)
	FS: 19,312 (0%)	FS: 0 (0%)	FS: 116 (0%)
	BIA: 0 (0%)	BIA: 0 (0%)	BIA: 0 (0%)
	Other Federal: 19 (0%)	Other Federal: 0 (0%)	Other Federal: 0 (0%)
	Private: 491,640 (11%)	Private: 0 (0%)	Private: 8,464 (0%)
	State: 28,279 (1%)	State: 0 (0%)	State: 0 (0%)
	Other: 578 (0%)	Other: 0 (0%)	Other: 0 (0%)
Non-PAC acres (% of total pop.)	BLM: 0 (0%)	BLM: 1,256,921 (28%)	BLM: 438,555 (10%)
	FS: 0 (0%)	FS: 58,425 (1%)	FS: 597,892 (14%)
	BIA: 0 (0%)	BIA: 173 (0%)	BIA: 280 (0%)
	Other Federal: 0 (0%)	Other Federal: 14,622 (0%)	Other Federal: 2,172 (0%)
	Private: 0 (0%)	Private: 525,683 (12%)	Private: 455,066 (10%)
	State: 0 (0%)	State: 28,259 (1%)	State: 16,427 (0%)
	Other: 0 (0%)	Other: 3,597 (0%)	Other: 9,366 (0%)
TOTAL	1,012,424 (23%)	1,887,679 (43%)	1,528,338 (34%)

Population Present & Widespread Threats	ADPP Allocations Addressing Threat <i>Allocation that deviates from NPT Guidance</i>	Major points as to how threat will be ameliorated <i>Rationale for NPT guidance deviations (as described in State Director memos)</i>
Isolated/Small Size (Applicable to: 17)	<u>PPMA</u> : Retention <u>PGMA</u> : Varies (no action)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain PPMA, unless exchange provides additional benefits to GRSG habitat.
Sagebrush Elimination (Applicable to: 17)	<u>PPMA</u> : Retention <u>PGMA</u> : Varies (no action)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain PPMA, unless exchange provides additional benefits to GRSG habitat, See other management actions for applicable threats.
Agriculture Conversion (Applicable to: 17)	<u>PPMA</u> : Retention <u>PGMA</u> : Varies (no action)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain PPMA in federal ownership.
Fire (Applicable to: 17 and 28)	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commit to strengthening wildfire prevention and suppression activities. Commit to use the FIAT Report to complete assessments in prioritized areas. Specifically, applying fuel treatments at a landscape level to modify fire behavior characteristics, fire intensity, fire complexity, fire size, and fire effects.



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply fuels treatments over the landscape to restore, maintain, and conserve ecological function and increase or maintain the ecological sites' resistance to invasive species and resilience to disturbance.
Conifers (Applicable to: 28)	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commit to use the FIAT Report to complete assessments in prioritized areas. Commit to remove conifers from specified distances around leks.
Weeds/Annual Grasses (Applicable to: 17 and 28)	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritize treatments to remove invasive annual grasses to provide the most benefit to GRS habitat conditions using the FIAT Report. Require use of native seeds for fuels management treatment based on availability, adaptation (site potential), and probability of success. Where probability of success or native seed availability is low, non-native seeds may be used as long as they meet sage-grouse habitat objectives.
Energy (NOT A PRESENT AND WIDESPREAD THREAT)	<p align="center"><u>Solar/Wind ROWs</u></p> <p><u>PPMA</u>: Exclusion <u>PGMA</u>: Avoidance</p> <p align="center"><u>Fluid Mineral Resources</u></p> <p><u>PPMA</u>: NSO <u>PGMA</u>: Open with moderate constraints (CSU with TLs) with NSO for 1 mile around leks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent with NPT guidance.
Mining (Applicable to: 17 and 28)	<p align="center"><u>Mineral Materials</u></p> <p><u>PPMA</u>: Closed <u>PGMA</u>: Open</p> <p align="center"><u>Non-Energy Leasable Minerals</u></p> <p><u>PPMA</u>: Closed <u>PGMA</u>: Open</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent with NPT guidance.
Infrastructure (NOT A PRESENT AND WIDESPREAD THREAT)	<p align="center"><u>High-Voltage Transmission and Major Pipeline ROWs</u></p> <p><u>PPMA</u>: Avoidance <u>PGMA</u>: Avoidance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent with NPT guidance.



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	<p><u>Other (Minor) Rights-of-Way and Land Use Authorizations/Permits</u></p> <p><u>PPMA</u>: Avoidance <u>PGMA</u>: Open</p>	
Disturbance	<p>3% disturbance threshold. BSU: PPMA within 21 Oregon PACs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consistent with NPT guidance.• No Net Unmitigated Loss applied to PPMA and PGMA (with benefit to GRSG habitat).



4b - Population: 31 – Western Great Basin
Sub-regions: Nevada/NE California and Oregon*

Population 31 Statistics						
	PPMA	PGMA	Non-Habitat			
PAC acres (% of total pop.)	BLM:	4,809,659 (34%)	BLM:	222,377 (2%)	BLM:	200,199 (1%)
	FS:	22,662 (0%)	FS:	1 (0%)	FS:	0 (0%)
	BIA:	9,600 (0%)	BIA:	345 (0%)	BIA:	568 (0%)
	Other Federal:	703,402 (5%)	Other Federal:	23,825 (0%)	Other Federal:	11,264 (0%)
	Private:	315,140 (2%)	Private:	12,126 (0%)	Private:	9,435 (0%)
	State:	36,176 (0%)	State:	0 (0%)	State:	0 (0%)
	Other:	415,230 (3%)	Other:	15,811 (0%)	Other:	63,776 (0%)
Non-PAC acres (% of total pop.)	BLM:	60,052 (0%)	BLM:	2,294,184 (16%)	BLM:	2,299,840 (16%)
	FS:	0 (0%)	FS:	31,840 (0%)	FS:	622,779 (4%)
	BIA:	0 (0%)	BIA:	0 (0%)	BIA:	21,982 (0%)
	Other Federal:	2,428 (0%)	Other Federal:	43,713 (0%)	Other Federal:	233,636 (2%)
	Private:	2,232 (0%)	Private:	484,492 (3%)	Private:	452,878 (3%)
	State:	5 (0%)	State:	43,492 (0%)	State:	49,429 (0%)
	Other:	179 (0%)	Other:	75,885 (1%)	Other:	640,922 (5%)
TOTAL	6,376,765 (45%)	3,248,341 (23%)	4,606,708 (32%)			
Population Present & Widespread Threats	ADPP Allocations Addressing Threat <i>Allocation that deviates from NPT Guidance</i>	Major points as to how threat will be ameliorated – unless noted, these apply to NV/CA, OR, and ID. <i>Rationale for NPT guidance deviations (as described in State Director memos)</i>				
Fire	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commit to strengthening wildfire prevention and suppression activities. Commit to use the FIAT Report to complete assessments in prioritized areas. Specifically, applying fuel treatments at a landscape level to modify fire behavior characteristics, fire intensity, fire complexity, fire size, and fire effects. Apply fuels treatments over the landscape to restore, maintain, and conserve ecological function and increase or maintain the ecological sites' resistance to invasive species and resilience to disturbance. 				
Conifers	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using VDTT modeling to establish LUP objectives for treatments by year (except Oregon). Commit to use the FIAT Report to complete assessments in prioritized areas. Commit to remove conifers from specified distances from leks. 				



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Weeds/Annual Grasses	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize treatments to remove invasive annual grasses to provide the most benefit to GRSG habitat conditions using the FIAT Report. • Require use of native seeds for fuels management treatment based on availability, adaptation (site potential), and probability of success. Where probability of success or native seed availability is low, non-native seeds may be used as long as they meet sage-grouse habitat objectives.
Mining (NOT A PRESENT OR WIDESPREAD THREAT)	<p align="center"><u>Mineral Materials</u></p> <p><u>NV/CA-PPMA</u>: Closed <u>OR-PPMA</u>: Closed</p> <p><u>NV/CA-PGMA</u>: Closed <u>OR-PGMA</u>: Open</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent with NPT guidance.
Infrastructure (NOT A PRESENT OR WIDESPREAD THREAT)	<p><u>High-Voltage Transmission and Major Pipeline ROWs</u></p> <p>NV/CA-PPMA: Avoidance OR-PPMA: Avoidance</p> <p>NV/CA-PGMA: Avoidance OR-PGMA: Avoidance</p> <p><u>Other (Minor) Rights-of-Way and Land Use Authorizations/Permits</u></p> <p>NV/CA-PPMA: Avoidance OR-PPMA: Avoidance</p> <p>NV/CA-PGMA: Avoidance OR-PGMA: Open</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent with NPT guidance. • Worked across sub-regional boundaries to develop consistent ROW avoidance criteria.
Grazing	<p><u>NV/CA-PPMA</u>: Available <u>OR-PPMA</u>: Available (some RNAs will be unavailable to grazing)</p> <p><u>NV/CA-PGMA</u>: Available <u>OR-PGMA</u>: Available (some</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage livestock grazing according to rangeland health standards and Connelly/Coates quantitative vegetation objectives. Corrective actions will be taken when not meeting standards. • Using HAF indicators for monitoring. • Manage grazing structures to minimize the impacts to GRSG.



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	RNAs unavailable to grazing)	
Free-roaming Equids	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritizing WHB gathers to stay within AMLs. • Herd Management Plans will incorporate habitat objectives for all HMAs. • Modify AML if not meeting objectives.
Energy (NOT A PRESENT & WIDESPREAD THREAT)	<p align="center"><u>Solar/Wind ROWs</u> <u>NV/CA-PPMA</u>: Exclusion <u>OR-PPMA</u>: Exclusion</p> <p align="center"><u>NV/CA-PGMA</u>: Exclusion <u>OR-PGMA</u>: Avoidance</p> <p align="center"><u>Fluid Mineral Resource Allocation</u> <u>NV/CA-PPMA</u>: NSO <u>OR-PPMA</u>: NSO</p> <p align="center"><u>NV/CA-PGMA</u>: NSO <u>OR-PGMA</u>: Open with moderate constraints (CSU/TLs) with 1 miles NSO around leks</p> <p align="center"><u>Non-Energy Leasable Minerals</u> <u>NV/CA-PPMA</u>: Closed <u>OR-PPMA</u>: Closed</p> <p align="center"><u>NV/CA-PGMA</u>: Closed <u>OR-PGMA</u>: Open</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent with NPT guidance.
Disturbance	<p><u>NV/CA</u>: 3%** within BSU (18 population management units)</p> <p><u>OR</u>:3% within BSU (21 Oregon PACs encompassing all PPMA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent with NPT guidance. • No Net Unmitigated Loss will be applied to PPMA and PGMA for Oregon, Nevada and California. • 3% disturbance threshold being discussed.
*No FS Lands within this population		



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4c – Utah Sub-region

Populations fully within Utah Sub-region: 9b, 9c, 10a, 10b, 11, 12, 13a, 13b, 13c, 15a, 15b, and 26b

Population Statistics (9b, 9c, 10a, 10b, 11, 12, 13a, 13b, 13c, 15a, 15b, and 26b)						
	PPMA	PGMA	Non-Habitat			
PAC acres (% of total pop.)	BLM:	1,992,834 (27%)	BLM:	13,350 (0%)	BLM:	816,406 (11%)
	FS:	745,919 (10%)	FS:	3,184 (0%)	FS:	526,041 (7%)
	BIA:	27,990 (0%)	BIA:	0 (0%)	BIA:	3,853 (0%)
	Other Federal:	13,394 (0%)	Other Federal:	0 (0%)	Other Federal:	44,048 (1%)
	Private:	2,062,374 (28%)	Private:	13,120 (0%)	Private:	508,498 (7%)
	State:	556,422 (7%)	State:	2,064 (0%)	State:	157,482 (2%)
	Other:	0 (0%)	Other:	0 (0%)	Other:	0 (0%)
Non-PAC acres (% of total pop.)	BLM:	4 (0%)	BLM:	0 (0%)	BLM:	2,725 (0%)
	FS:	0 (0%)	FS:	0 (0%)	FS:	0 (0%)
	BIA:	19 (0%)	BIA:	0 (0%)	BIA:	138 (0%)
	Other Federal:	0 (0%)	Other Federal:	0 (0%)	Other Federal:	0 (0%)
	Private:	1 (0%)	Private:	0 (0%)	Private:	274 (0%)
	State:	0 (0%)	State:	0 (0%)	State:	404 (0%)
	Other:	0 (0%)	Other:	0 (0%)	Other:	0 (0%)
TOTAL	5,398,957 (72%)	31,718 (0%)	2,059,869 (28%)			

Population Present & Widespread Threats	ADPP Allocations Addressing Threat <i>Allocation that deviates from NPT Guidance</i>	Major points as to how threat will be ameliorated <i>Rationale for NPT guidance deviations (as described in State Director memos)</i>
Isolated/Small Size (Applicable to: 10a, 10b, 11, 12, 13c, 15a, 15b)	PPMA: Retention PGMA: Varies FS: Same as BLM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain PPMA, unless exchange provides additional benefits to GRS habitat.
Agriculture Conversion (Applicable to: 13b and 13c)	PPMA: Retention PGMA: Varies FS: Same as BLM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain PPMA in federal ownership.
Fire (Applicable to: 9b, 9c, 10a, 10b, 11, 12, 13a, 13b, 13c, 15a, 15b, and 26b)	N/A	BLM and FS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commit to strengthening wildfire prevention and suppression activities. Commit to use the FIAT Report to complete assessments in prioritized areas. Specifically, applying fuel treatments at a landscape level to modify fire behavior characteristics, fire



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		<p>intensity, fire complexity, fire size, and fire effects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply fuels treatments over the landscape to restore, maintain, and conserve ecological function and increase or maintain the ecological sites' resistance to invasive species and resilience to disturbance.
Conifers (Applicable to: 9b, 9c, 10a, 12, 13a, 13b, 13c, 15a, 15b, and 26b)	N/A	<p>BLM and FS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using VDTT modeling to establish LUP objectives for treatments by year. Commit to use the FIAT Report to complete assessments in prioritized areas. Commit to remove conifers from specified distances from leks.
Weeds/Annual Grasses (Applicable to: 9b, 9c, 10a, 10b, 12, 13a, 13b, 13c, 15a, 15b, and 26b)	N/A	<p>BLM and FS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritize treatments to remove invasive annual grasses to provide the most benefit to GRSG habitat conditions using the FIAT Report. Require use of native seeds for fuels management treatment based on availability, adaptation (site potential), and probability of success. Where probability of success or native seed availability is low, non-native seeds may be used as long as they meet sage-grouse habitat objectives.
Energy (Applicable to: 9b, 10a, 10b, 11, 12, 13b, 13c, and 15a)	<p align="center"><u>Solar/Wind ROWs</u> PPMA: Exclusion (Solar), Exclusion (Wind) PGMA: Exclusion (Solar), Open (Wind) FS: Same as BLM, except Avoidance in PGMA for wind</p> <p align="center"><u>Fluid Mineral Resources</u> PPMA: NSO PGMA: Same as no action (Open, CSU, TL) FS: Same as BLM</p>	<p>BLM: The rationale for not avoiding wind development in PGMA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are only 32 breeding males in PGMA. PGMA is already largely disturbed by anthropogenic disturbances. Subject to No Net Unmitigated Loss.
Mining (Applicable to: 9c, 10b, 13b, 13c, 15a, and 26b)	<p><u>Mineral Materials</u> PPMA: Closed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent with NPT guidance.



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	<p><u>PGMA</u>: Open <u>FS</u>: Same as BLM</p> <p><u>Non-Energy Leasable Minerals</u> <u>PPMA</u>: Closed <u>PGMA</u>: Open <u>FS</u>: Same as BLM</p>	
<p>Infrastructure (Applicable to: 9b, 9c, 10a, 10b, 11, 12, 13a, 13b, 13c, 15a, 15b, and 26b)</p>	<p><u>High-Voltage Transmission and Major Pipeline ROWs</u></p> <p><u>PPMA</u>: Avoidance <u>PGMA</u>: Open <u>FS</u> – Same as BLM, except General is avoidance</p> <p><u>Other (Minor) Rights-of-Way and Land Use Authorizations/Permits</u></p> <p><u>PPMA</u>: Avoidance <u>PGMA</u>: Open <u>FS</u>: Same as BLM</p>	<p>BLM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rationale for not avoiding HV transmission ROWs in PGMA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There are only 32 breeding males in PGMA. ○ PGMA is already largely disturbed by anthropogenic disturbances. ○ Subject to No Net Unmitigated Loss. • In PPMA – Utah will be identifying new corridors. <p>• Consistent with NPT guidance.</p>
<p>Free-roaming Equids (Applicable to: 11, 13c, 15a, and 15b)</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>BLM (none on FS lands):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize gathers in PPMAs. • Manage to AML. • Apply RLH Standards.
<p>Recreation (Trails and Travel Management) (Applicable to: 9b, 9c, 10a, 10b, 12, 13a, 13b, 13c, 15a, 15b, and 26b)</p>	<p><u>PPMA</u>: Limited to Existing and Designated Roads and Trails <u>PGMA</u>: Limited to Existing and Designated Roads and Trails <u>FS</u>: Same as BLM, except all limited to designated Roads and Trails</p>	<p>BLM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing management decisions that have limited roads/trails to designated routes in populations 9c, 10a, 10b, 12, and 13a of the states will be carried forward in the ADPP in PPMA. • Making a commitment to complete travel management plans for the other populations in the state. • Currently completing travel management inventories for GRSG habitat areas identified by the USFWS.
<p>Urbanization (Applicable to: 9b, 9c, and 13c)</p>	<p><u>PPMA</u>: Retention</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain PPMA in federal ownership.



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	<u>PGMA</u> : Varies <u>FS</u> : Same as BLM	
Disturbance:	3% disturbance threshold. BSU: PPMA within the 11 population areas (Parker Mtn. Emery Population = 12 and 13a) <u>FS</u> : Same as BLM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consistent with NPT guidance.• No Net Unmitigated Loss in all habitats.



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4d – Nevada/NE California Sub-region

Populations (fully within Nevada/NE California sub-region): : 14, 15c, and 30

Population Statistics (14, 15c, and 30)						
	PPMA	PGMA	Non-Habitat			
PAC acres (% of total pop.)	BLM:	4,075,403 (17%)	BLM:	1,193,253 (5%)	BLM:	1,995,940 (8%)
	FS:	548,796 (2%)	FS:	125,898 (1%)	FS:	866,949 (4%)
	BIA:	11,448 (0%)	BIA:	9,119 (0%)	BIA:	14,451 (0%)
	Other Federal:	0 (0%)	Other Federal:	0 (0%)	Other Federal:	6 (0%)
	Private:	375,412 (2%)	Private:	190,959 (1%)	Private:	207,587 (1%)
	State:	51 (0%)	State:	0 (0%)	State:	158 (0%)
	Other:	300 (0%)	Other:	0 (0%)	Other:	648 (0%)
Non-PAC acres (% of total pop.)	BLM:	808,526 (3%)	BLM:	1,718,784 (7%)	BLM:	8,575,055 (35%)
	FS:	103,312 (1%)	FS:	168,247 (1%)	FS:	1,373,050 (6%)
	BIA:	34,960 (0%)	BIA:	3,350 (0%)	BIA:	43,023 (0%)
	Other Federal:	11,532 (0%)	Other Federal:	5,880 (0%)	Other Federal:	183,561 (1%)
	Private:	153,184 (1%)	Private:	187,889 (1%)	Private:	1,653,278 (7%)
	State:	5,347 (0%)	State:	221 (0%)	State:	17,008 (0%)
	Other:	3,461 (0%)	Other:	812 (0%)	Other:	12,968 (0%)
TOTAL	6,131,732 (25%)	3,604,413 (14%)	14,943,682 (61%)			
Population Present & Widespread Threats	ADPP Allocations Addressing Threat <i>Allocation that deviates from NPT Guidance</i>	Major points as to how threat will be ameliorated <i>Rationale for NPT guidance deviations (as described in State Director memos)</i>				
Isolated/Small Size (Applicable to: 14 and 30)	PPMA: Retention PGMA: Retention FS: Same as BLM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain PPMA and PGMA, unless exchange provides additional benefits to GRSG habitat. 				
Agriculture Conversion (Applicable to: 30)	PPMA: Retention PGMA: Retention FS: Same as BLM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain PPMA and PGMA in federal ownership. 				
Fire (Applicable to: 14, 15c, and 30)	N/A	BLM and FS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commit to strengthening wildfire prevention and suppression activities. Commit to use the FIAT Report to complete assessments in prioritized areas. Specifically, applying fuel treatments at a landscape level to modify fire behavior characteristics, fire intensity, fire complexity, fire size, and fire effects. 				



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply fuels treatments over the landscape to restore, maintain, and conserve ecological function and increase or maintain the ecological sites' resistance to invasive species and resilience to disturbance.
Conifers (Applicable to: 15c and 30)	N/A	<p>BLM and FS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using VDTT modeling to establish LUP objectives for treatments by year. Commit to use the FIAT Report to complete assessments in prioritized areas. Commit to remove conifers from specified distances from leks.
Weeds/Annual Grasses (Applicable to: 14, 15c, and 30)	N/A	<p>BLM and FS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritize treatments to remove invasive annual grasses to provide the most benefit to GRS habitat conditions using the FIAT Report. Require use of native seeds for fuels management treatment based on availability, adaptation (site potential), and probability of success. Where probability of success or native seed availability is low, non-native seeds may be used as long as they meet sage-grouse habitat objectives.
Energy (Applicable to: 30)	<p align="center"><u>Solar/Wind ROWs</u></p> <p><u>PPMA</u>: Exclusion <u>PGMA</u>: Exclusion <u>FS</u>: Same as BLM</p> <p align="center"><u>Fluid Mineral Resources</u></p> <p><u>PPMA</u>: NSO <u>PGMA</u>: NSO <u>FS</u>: Same as BLM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent with NPT guidance.
Mining (Applicable to: 14)	<p align="center"><u>Mineral Materials</u></p> <p><u>PPMA</u>: Closed <u>PGMA</u>: Closed <u>FS</u>: Same as BLM</p> <p align="center"><u>Non-Energy Leasable Minerals</u></p> <p><u>PPMA</u>: Closed <u>PGMA</u>: Closed <u>FS</u>: Same as BLM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent with NPT guidance.



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<p>Infrastructure (Applicable to: 14, 15c, and 30)</p>	<p><u>High-Voltage Transmission and Major Pipeline ROWs</u></p> <p>PPMA: Avoidance PGMA: Avoidance FS: Same as BLM</p> <p><u>Other (Minor) Rights-of-Way and Land Use Authorizations/Permits</u></p> <p>PPMA: Avoidance PGMA: Avoidance FS: Same as BLM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent with NPT guidance.
<p>Free-roaming Equids (Applicable to: 14, 15c, and 30)</p>	<p align="center">N/A</p>	<p>BLM and FS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritizing WHB gathers to stay within HMLs. • Herd Management Plans will incorporate habitat objectives for all HMAs. • Apply Rangeland Health Standards.
<p>Recreation (Trails and Travel Management) (Applicable to: 14, 15c, and 30)</p>	<p>PPMA: Limited to existing roads and trails PGMA: Limited to existing roads and trails FS: Same as BLM except limit to designated roads and trails</p>	<p>BLM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making a commitment to complete travel management plans. • Currently completing travel management inventories for GRSG habitat areas identified by the USFWS.
<p>Urbanization (Applicable to: 30)</p>	<p>PPMA: Retention PGMA: Retention FS: Same as BLM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain PPMA and PGMA in Federal ownership.
<p>Disturbance</p>	<p>3%* disturbance threshold BSU: 18 Population Management Units from State Conservation Plan</p>	<p>BLM and FS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent with NPT guidance, at this point. • No Net Unmitigated Loss applied to PPMA and PGMA.



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4e – Idaho portion of Idaho/SW Montana Sub-region

Populations (fully within Idaho portion of Idaho/SW Montana sub-region): 18, 23, 25, and 27

Population Statistics (18, 23, 25, and 27)			
	Core (Includes Important)	General	Non-Habitat
PAC acres (% of total pop.)	BLM: 2,941,568 (22%)	BLM: 86,279 (1%)	BLM: 64,802 (0%)
	FS: 313,417 (2%)	FS: 5,100 (0%)	FS: 102,363 (1%)
	BIA: 0 (0%)	BIA: 0 (0%)	BIA: 0 (0%)
	Other Federal: 402,626 (3%)	Other Federal: 5,104 (0%)	Other Federal: 98,493 (1%)
	Private: 817,310 (6%)	Private: 27,191 (0%)	Private: 62,875 (0%)
	State: 302,901 (2%)	State: 4,113 (0%)	State: 26,288 (0%)
	Other: 240 (0%)	Other: 1,114 (0%)	Other: 383 (0%)
Non-PAC acres (% of total pop.)	BLM: 467,106 (3%)	BLM: 855,232 (6%)	BLM: 550,225 (4%)
	FS: 81,821 (1%)	FS: 100,714 (1%)	FS: 2,100,542 (15%)
	BIA: 0 (0%)	BIA: 37,083 (0%)	BIA: 29,523 (0%)
	Other Federal: 39,377 (0%)	Other Federal: 126,059 (1%)	Other Federal: 397,648 (3%)
	Private: 97,876 (1%)	Private: 673,236 (5%)	Private: 2,392,700 (18%)
	State: 28,984 (0%)	State: 195,543 (1%)	State: 216,321 (2%)
	Other: 28 (0%)	Other: 1,196 (0%)	Other: 19,079 (0%)
TOTAL	5,493,353 (40%)	2,177,962 (16%)	6,061,242 (44%)

Population Present & Widespread Threats	ADPP Allocations Addressing Threat <i>Allocation that deviates from NPT Guidance</i>	Major points as to how threat will be ameliorated <i>Rationale for NPT guidance deviations (as described in State Director memos)</i>
Isolated/Small Size (Applicable to: 18, 25, and 27)	<u>Core</u> : Retention <u>Important</u> : Retention <u>General</u> : Varies <u>FS</u> : Same as BLM	BLM and FS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain Core and important, unless exchange provides additional benefits to GRSG habitat.
Agriculture Conversion (Applicable to: 18)	<u>Core</u> : Retention <u>Important</u> : Retention <u>General</u> : Varies <u>FS</u> : Same as BLM	BLM and FS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain Core and Important habitat in federal ownership.
Fire (Applicable to: 23)	N/A	BLM and FS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commit to strengthening wildfire prevention and suppression activities. Commit to use the FIAT Report to complete assessments in prioritized areas.



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		<p>Specifically, applying fuel treatments at a landscape level to modify fire behavior characteristics, fire intensity, fire complexity, fire size, and fire effects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply fuels treatments over the landscape to restore, maintain, and conserve ecological function and increase or maintain the ecological sites’ resistance to invasive species and resilience to disturbance. <p>FS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No prescribed fire in Wyoming big sage habitat or in less than 12” precipitation zones.
Conifers (Applicable to: 18)	N/A	<p>BLM and FS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using VDTT modeling to establish LUP objectives for treatments by year. Commit to use the FIAT Report to complete assessments in prioritized areas. Commit to remove conifers from specified distances from leks.
Weeds/Annual Grasses (Applicable to: 23 and 25)	N/A	<p>BLM and FS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritize treatments to remove invasive annual grasses to provide the most benefit to GRS habitat conditions using the FIAT Report. Require use of native seeds for fuels management treatment based on availability, adaptation (site potential), and probability of success. Where probability of success or native seed availability is low, non-native seeds may be used as long as they meet sage-grouse habitat objectives.
Energy (Applicable to: 18, 23, and 25)	<p align="center"><u>Solar/Wind ROWs</u></p> <p><u>Core:</u> Exclusion <u>Important:</u> Avoidance <u>General:</u> Open</p> <p>FS: Same as BLM in Core, <i>Important is Exclusion and General is Avoidance</i></p> <p align="center"><u>Fluid Mineral Resources</u></p> <p><u>Core:</u> Closed & NSO <u>Important:</u> NSO <u>General:</u> Open with moderate constraints (CSU & TL) FS: <i>All NSO in Core</i>, otherwise, same as BLM</p>	<p><i>BLM:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The rationale for not excluding Important areas to solar/wind ROWs in Idaho:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Any proposed development within Important management zones would be required to meet a set of anthropogenic disturbance development criteria.</i> <i>The rationale for not avoiding general zones to solar/wind ROWs in Idaho:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>General zones contain less than 5% of the population and represent the least intact and productive habitats for GRS. Presence of development resources within general zones is sparse to non-existent.</i> <p>Important Area Anthropogenic Disturbance Development Criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The project cannot reasonably be achieved, technically or economically, outside of this management zone; and The project is co-located within the footprint for existing infrastructure, to the extent practicable. If not practicable, the siting should best reduce cumulative impacts and/or impacts on other high value natural, cultural, or societal resources; The project does not result in a net loss of GRS habitat or habitat fragmentation or other impacts causing a decline in the population of the species within the relevant



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		<p>Conservation Area; and</p> <p>d. The project design mitigates unavoidable impacts through appropriate compensatory mitigation; and</p> <p>e. The project complies with the applicable RDFs and BMPs;</p> <p>f. The project should not exceed the disturbance threshold.</p>
<p>Mining (NOT A PRESENT AND WIDESPREAD THREAT)</p>	<p align="center"><u>Mineral Materials</u></p> <p><u>Core</u>: Closed <u>Important</u>: Open <u>General</u>: Open <u>FS</u>: Same as BLM, except Important is Closed.</p> <p align="center"><u>Non-Energy Leasable Minerals</u></p> <p><u>Core</u>: Closed <u>Important</u>: Open <u>General</u>: Open <u>FS</u>: Same as BLM</p>	<p><i>BLM:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The rationale for not closing important areas to mineral materials in Idaho:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Any proposed development within Important management zones would be required to meet a set of anthropogenic disturbance development criteria (see above under the threat: “Energy”).</i>
<p>Infrastructure (Applicable to: 18 and 27)</p>	<p align="center"><u>High-Voltage Transmission and Major Pipeline ROWs</u></p> <p><u>Core</u>: Avoidance <u>Important</u>: Avoidance <u>General</u>: Open <u>FS</u>: Core is Exclusion, otherwise, same as BLM</p> <p align="center"><u>Other (Minor) Rights-of-Way and Land Use Authorizations/Permits</u></p> <p><u>Core</u>: Avoidance <u>Important</u>: Avoidance <u>General</u>: Open <u>FS</u>: Same as BLM</p>	<p><i>BLM:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The rationale for not avoiding general zones to HV transmission and major pipeline ROWs in Idaho:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>General zones contain less than 5% of the population and represent the least intact and productive habitats for GRSG. Any proposed development in general zones is guided by application of lek buffers, RDFs, and appropriate seasonal and timing restrictions to limit impacts to GRSG or habitat. In addition, mitigation of residual impacts would be required.</i> • Consistent with NPT guidance.
<p>Grazing (Applicable to: 18, 23, 25, and 27)</p>	<p><u>Core</u>: Available <u>Important</u>: Available</p>	<p>BLM and FS (with variation):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage livestock grazing according to rangeland health standards and Connelly.



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	<u>General</u> : Available <u>FS</u> : Available	quantitative vegetation objectives. Corrective actions will be taken when not meeting standards. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Using HAF indicators for monitoring.• Manage grazing structures to minimize the impacts to GRSG.
Free-roaming Equids (Applicable to: 23)	N/A	BLM and FS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Herd Management Plans will incorporate habitat objectives for all HMAs.• Manage to AML in all HMAs.• Prioritize gathers in Core habitat.
Disturbance	ID BLM: 3% within BSU (Nesting and wintering habitat within CMZs/IMZs in four Conservation Areas in Idaho) <u>FS</u> : Same as BLM	BLM and FS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consistent with NPT guidance.• No Net Unmitigated Loss will be applied to all Core, Important, and General management zones.



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Southwest Montana Portion of Idaho/SW Montana Sub-region
Populations (fully within SW Montana portion of Idaho/SW Montana Sub-region): 19-22

Population Statistics (19-22)				
	PPMA	PGMA	Non-Habitat	
PAC acres (% of total pop.)	BLM:	458,924 (15%)	BLM:	0 (0%)
	FS:	147,667 (5%)	FS:	163 (0%)
	BIA:	0 (0%)	BIA:	0 (0%)
	Other Federal:	41,410 (1%)	Other Federal:	0 (0%)
	Private:	450,756 (15%)	Private:	321 (0%)
	State:	222,405 (8%)	State:	0 (0%)
	Other:	8,088 (0%)	Other:	0 (0%)
Non-PAC acres (% of total pop.)	BLM:	2,392 (0%)	BLM:	117,513 (4%)
	FS:	11,705 (0%)	FS:	395,626 (13%)
	BIA:	0 (0%)	BIA:	0 (0%)
	Other Federal:	0 (0%)	Other Federal:	15,786 (1%)
	Private:	625 (0%)	Private:	322,445 (11%)
	State:	393 (0%)	State:	69,483 (2%)
	Other:	0 (0%)	Other:	934 (0%)
TOTAL	1,344,365 (45%)	697,125 (24%)	922,270 (31%)	
Population Present & Widespread Threats	ADPP Allocations Addressing Threat <i>Allocation that deviates from NPT Guidance</i>		Major points as to how threat will be ameliorated <i>Rationale for NPT guidance deviations (as described in State Director memos)</i>	
A. Weeds/Annual Grasses (Applicable to:19-22)	N/A		FS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritize treatments to remove invasive annual grasses to provide the most benefit to GRSG habitat conditions using the FIAT Report. <i>(Montana BLM still questioning the need to rely on FIAT Report and conduct assessments).</i> BLM and FS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require use of native seeds for fuels management treatment based on availability, adaptation (site potential), and probability of success. Where probability of success or native seed availability is low, non-native seeds may be used as long as they meet sage-grouse habitat objectives. 	



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<p>B. Grazing (Applicable to:19-22)</p>	<p><u>PPMA</u>: Available <u>PGMA</u>: Available <u>FS</u>: Available</p>	<p>BLM and FS (with variation):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage livestock grazing according to rangeland health standards. • Corrective actions will be taken when not meeting standards. • Use HAF methodology for monitoring. • Manage grazing structures to minimize the impacts to GRSG. <p>FS: Manage livestock grazing according to Connelly quantitative vegetation objectives. <i>(BLM Montana not committed to quantitative vegetation objectives table.)</i></p>
<p>C. Energy (NOT A PRESENT AND WIDESPREAD THREAT)</p>	<p align="center"><u>Solar/Wind ROWs</u></p> <p><u>PPMA</u>: Exclusion <u>PGMA</u>: <i>Avoidance</i> <u>FS</u>: Same as BLM</p> <p align="center"><u>Fluid Mineral Resources</u></p> <p><u>PPMA</u>: NSO <u>PGMA</u>: Open with Major and Moderate Constraints (CSU with TLs) <u>FS</u>: Same as BLM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All consistent with NPT guidance. • <i>Purple differs from portion of planning area in Idaho for General Habitat.</i>
<p>D. Mining (NOT A PRESENT AND WIDESPREAD THREAT)</p>	<p align="center"><u>Mineral Materials</u></p> <p><u>PPMA</u>: Closed <u>PGMA</u>: Open <u>FS</u>: Same as BLM</p> <p align="center"><u>Non-Energy Leasable Minerals</u></p> <p><u>PPMA</u>: Closed <u>PGMA</u>: Open <u>FS</u>: Consistent</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent with NPT guidance.
<p>E. Infrastructure (NOT A PRESENT AND WIDESPREAD THREAT)</p>	<p align="center"><u>High-Voltage Transmission and Major Pipeline ROWs</u></p> <p><u>PPMA</u>: Avoidance <u>PGMA</u>: <i>Open</i></p>	<p><i>BLM:</i> <i>The rationale for not avoiding general zones to HV transmission and major pipeline ROWs in Montana (from Idaho rationale):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>General zones contain less than 5% of the population and represent the least intact and productive habitats for GRSG. Any proposed development in</i>



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	<p><u>FS</u>: Same as BLM except PGMA is Avoidance</p> <p><u>Other (Minor) Rights-of-Way and Land Use Authorizations/Permits</u></p> <p><u>PPMA</u>: Avoidance <u>PGMA</u>: Open <u>FS</u>: Same as BLM</p>	<p><i>general zones is guided by application of lek buffers, RDFs, and appropriate seasonal and timing restrictions to limit impacts to GRSG or habitat. In addition, mitigation of residual impacts would be required.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Montana is still working thru discussions on whether or not to make High Voltage Transmissions and Major Pipeline ROWs an “avoidance” area for General Habitat.</i>
Disturbance	<p>3% within 1 BSU – All PPMA</p> <p><u>FS</u>: Same as BLM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent with NPT guidance. • Purple differs from the BSUs in Idaho. • Using DDCT for disturbance calculation. • Ongoing discussions concerning No Net Unmitigated Loss in all PPMA and PGMA.



5 -Acronyms/Abbreviations List

Planning Units/Sub-regions			
NV	Nevada/NE California Sub-region	ID	Idaho/Southwest Montana Sub-region
OR	Oregon Sub-region	UT	Utah Sub-region
Sage-grouse Habitat/Management Areas			
PPMA	Preliminary Priority Management Area	PGMA	Preliminary General Management Area
PH	Priority Habitat	GH	General Habitat
Core	Core Sage-grouse Habitat <i>Idaho/SW MT Only</i>	Non-core	Non-core Sage-grouse Habitat <i>Idaho/SW MT Only</i>
CMZ	Core Management Zone <i>Idaho/SW MT Only</i>	IMZ	Important Management Zones <i>Idaho portion of the Idaho/SW MT Only</i>
PAC	Priority Area for Conservation	BSU	Biologically Significant Unit
Agencies / Groups			
BLM	Bureau of Land Management	FS	US Forest Service
USFWS	US Fish and Wildlife Service	NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NPT	National Policy Team	NTT	National Technical Team
FIAT	Fire and Invasives Team		
Others			
BSU	Biologically Significant Unit	RDF	Required Design Feature
ROW	Right-of-Way	RLH	Rangeland Health
R&T	Routes and Trails	LUP	Land Use Plan
GRSG	Greater Sage-grouse	VDDT	Vegetative Dynamic Data Tool
PMU	Population Management Unit	NSO	No Surface Occupancy
CSU	Controlled Surface Use	TL	Timing Limitations
HMA	Herd Management Area	WHB	Wild Horse and Burros
AML	Appropriate Management Levels (Grazing)	HAF	Habitat Assessment Framework
HV	High-Voltage Transmission Line	DPPA	Forest Service Draft Proposed Plan Amendment
ADPP	BLM Administrative Proposed Plan		



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6 - BLM LAND USE PLANNING PROGRAM AREA

ALLOCATIONS/DESIGNATIONS CHEAT SHEET

(Per H-1601-1 BLM Land Use Planning Handbook)

Livestock Grazing

- **Available:** areas where livestock grazing would be permitted under the criteria set forth in 43 CFR 4130.2(a).
- **Not Available:** areas where livestock grazing would not be permitted due (but not limited to) conflicts with other land uses, terrain/soil/vegetation/watershed characteristics, the presence of undesirable vegetation, and the presence of resources that require special management.

Recreation and Visitor Services

- **Recreation Management Areas (RMAs):** areas where Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) objectives are recognized as a primary resource management consideration and specific management is required to protect the recreation opportunities.
- **Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs):** RMAs managed to protect and enhance a targeted set of activities, experiences, benefits, and desired recreation setting characteristics. The SRMAs may be subdivided into recreation management zones (RMZ) to further delineate specific recreation opportunities.
- **Extensive Recreation Management Areas (ERMAs):** areas managed to support and sustain the principal recreation activities and the associated qualities and conditions of the ERMA. Management of ERMA areas is commensurate with the management of other resources and resource uses.
- **Public Lands Not Designated as RMAs:** area not designated as RMAs are managed to meet basic R&VS and resource stewardship needs. Recreation is not emphasized however recreation activities may occur. The R&VS are managed to allow recreation uses that are not in conflict with the primary uses of these lands.

Travel and Transportation

- **Open areas:** intensive OHV use areas where there are no special restrictions or where there are no compelling resource protection needs, user conflicts, or public safety issues to warrant limiting cross-country travel (see 43 CFR 8340.05).
- **Limited areas:** areas where OHV use must be restricted to meet specific resource management objectives. Examples of limitations include: number or type of vehicles; time or season of use; permitted or licensed use only; use limited to designated roads and trails; or other limitations if restrictions are necessary to meet resource management objectives, including certain competitive or intensive use areas that have special limitations (see 43 CFR 8340.05).
- **Closed areas:** areas closed to all vehicular use to protect resources, promote visitor safety, or reduce use conflicts (see 43 CFR 8340.05).

Lands and Realty (Land Tenure, ROWs, Solar and Wind)

- **Lands identified for disposal:** land or interest in lands that are available for disposal under a variety of disposal authorities, provided they meet the criteria outlined in FLPMA (Sales, Section 203, 43 U.S.C. 1713(a); Exchanges, Section 206, 43 U.S.C. 1716(a); and Reservation and Conveyance of Minerals, Section 209, 43 U.S.C. 1719(a)) or other statutes and regulations.
- **Lands identified for retention:** lands or interest in lands that will be retained under Federal ownership.
- **Lands identified for acquisition:** land or interest in lands that are suitable for acquisition under Federal ownership, based on acquisition criteria identified in the land use plan; FLPMA Section 205(b)).
- **Withdrawals (non-discretionary):** areas that have been transferred in total or partial jurisdiction to another Federal agency and/or areas closed (segregated) to operation of all or some of the public land laws and/or mineral laws. Withdrawals are only made by the President, the Secretary of the Interior, or other authorized officer of the Executive branch of the Federal government. BLM land use plans can only “recommend” areas for the Secretary of Interior to consider pursuing for withdrawal.
- **Utility corridors:** linear areas with the potential for at least one additional facility and thus can be considered a corridor (if not already designated) to minimize adverse environmental impacts and the proliferation of separate right-of-ways.
- **ROW Avoidance areas:** areas to be avoided but may be available for location of right-of-ways with special stipulations.
- **ROW Exclusion areas:** areas which are not available for location of right-of-ways under any conditions.

Coal

- **Unsuitable areas:** areas where coal leasing would not be permitted under the criteria set forth in 43 CFR 3461.5
- **Suitable areas:** areas found to be suitable for development by all mining methods or by only certain stipulated mining methods, such as surface or underground mining (see 43 CFR 3461).

Fluids (oil and gas, tar sands, and geothermal resources)

- **Open:** areas open to leasing with minor to no constraints, subject to existing laws, regulations, and formal orders; and the terms and conditions of the standard lease form.
- **Open with moderate constraints:** areas open to leasing, subject to moderate constraints. These are areas where it has been determined that moderately restrictive lease stipulations may be required to mitigate impacts. These stipulation include:
 - **Timing limitations (TL):** areas open to leasing but would be closed to surface disturbing activities during identified time frames. This stipulation



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would not apply to operation and maintenance activities, including associated vehicle travel, unless otherwise specified.

- **Controlled Surface Use (CSU):** areas that are open to leasing but would require proposals for surface disturbing activities to be authorized only according to the controls or constraints specified.
- **Open with major constraints:** areas open to leasing, subject to major constraints. These are areas where it has been determined that highly restrictive lease stipulations are required to mitigate impacts.
 - **No Surface Occupancy (NSO):** areas open to leasing but surface disturbing activities cannot be conducted on the surface of the land. Access to oil and gas deposits would require horizontal drilling from outside the boundaries of the NSO areas. The NSO areas are avoidance areas for rights-of-way; no rights-of-ways would be granted in NSO areas unless there are no feasible alternatives.
- **Closed:** areas where it has been determined that other land uses or resource values cannot be adequately protected with even the most restrictive lease stipulations; appropriate protection can be ensured only by closing the lands to leasing.

Locatable Minerals

RMPs can only recommend areas for closure related to locatable exploration or development. Withdrawals are managed under the Lands and Realty program.

Mineral Materials

- **Open areas:** areas open to mineral material disposal (these areas are still subject to mitigation and RMP objectives).
- **Closed areas:** areas closed to mineral material disposal due to protection of natural resources within the planning area.

Non-energy Leasables

- **Open areas:** areas open to non-energy leasables (these areas are still subject to mitigation and RMP objectives).
- **Closed areas:** areas closed to non-energy leasables due to protection of natural resources within the planning area.

Wild Horse and Burro Management

- **Herd Areas (HAs) (non-discretionary):** areas of the public lands identified as being habitat used by wild horses and burros at the time of the passage of the Wild Horse and Burro Act, as amended (16 USC 1331).
- **Herd Management Areas (HMAs):** established only in HAs, within which wild horses and/or burros can be managed for the long term.
- **Herd Areas Not Designated as Herd Management Areas:** areas where horses/burros will be removed from all or part of a HA due to intermingled and unfenced lands within HAs where private landowners do not want to make them

available for wild horse or burro use; or essential habitat components are not available for wild horse or burro use within a HA.

- **Wild Horse and Burro Ranges:** all or portions of an HMA where there is a significant public value present, such as unique characteristics in a herd or an opportunity for public viewing.

Wilderness Characteristics

- **Lands with Wilderness Characteristics:** areas to be managed to protect or preserve wilderness characteristics (naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude, and outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation).

Special Designations

- **Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs):** areas that require special management to prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems. To qualify, the resources at risk must have substantial significance or values beyond local concerns.
- **Wilderness Study Areas (non-discretionary):** roadless areas of five thousand acres, identified during the inventory required by section 201(a) of the Wilderness Act as having wilderness characteristics. These areas are required to be managed to maintain their wilderness characteristics until Congress decides whether it should either be designated as wilderness or should be released for other purposes.
- **Eligible wild and scenic river segments:** river segments that are free flowing and, with its adjacent land area, possess one or more outstandingly remarkable values.
- **Scenic and Back Country Byways (non-discretionary):** byways that traverse remote country, providing solitude and spectacular scenery in landscape settings.
- **National Scenic, Historic, and Recreation Trails (non-discretionary):** trail segments established and designated by either the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture, subject to the consent of the Federal agency, State, political subdivision, or other appropriate administering agency having jurisdiction over the lands involved.

Visual Resource Management (VRM)

- **VRM Class I:** areas that preserve the existing character of the landscape.
- **VRM Class II:** areas that retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change should be low.
- **VRM Class III:** areas that partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate
- **VRM Class IV:** areas that provide for management activities which require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high.

Waivers, Exemptions and Modifications

Waivers, Exceptions and Modifications (WEMs) (Source IM-2008-032)

A waiver is a permanent exemption from a lease stipulation, the stipulation would no longer apply anywhere within the lease. Waivers require a 30-day public review and are approved and signed by the State Director.

An exception is a one-time exemption for a particular site within the lease; exceptions are determined on a case-by-case basis; the stipulation continues to apply to all other sites within the lease. An exception is a limited type of waiver.

A modification is a change to the provisions of a lease stipulation, either temporarily or for the term of the lease. Depending on the specific modification, the stipulation may or may not apply to all sites within the lease to which the restrictive criteria are applied.

Utah	Idaho	Nevada	Oregon	Montana
Exceptions to the NSO stipulation could be granted if the following conditions are met:	FLM-3: Core Management Zones: Waivers, exemptions or modifications to the NSO stipulation could be considered in accordance with the Anthropogenic Disturbance Exceptions (Core – AD-3) and the Anthropogenic Disturbance Development Criteria (Important – AD-4)	Action G-UFM 1: In unleased federal fluid mineral estate in PPMA, apply a no surface occupancy (NSO) stipulation. A lease exception may be considered Action G-UFM 2: In unleased federal fluid mineral estate in PGMA, apply a NSO stipulation, but allow for waivers, exception, or modifications consistent with the objective.	Action MLS – x: Stipulate all leases within PPMA as NSO, with no waivers or modifications. A single exception will be allowed:	Areas within Core Management Zones would be open to leasing subject to no surface occupancy. No waivers, exceptions or modifications would be allowed unless
The development (e.g., well pad, road, etc.) is on a portion of the lease is determined to be in non-habitat, the area is not used by GRSG, nor would it have direct, indirect or cumulative effects to sage grouse or its habitat (see conditions outlined in MA-GRSG-2). The determination would be made by a team of agency GRSG biologists, including experts from the state wildlife agency, USFWS, and BLM/FS.	The project would not result in a net loss of GRSG Key habitat or habitat fragmentation or other impacts causing a decline in the population of the species within the relevant CA (the project would be outside Key habitat in areas not meeting desired habitat conditions or the project would provide a benefit to habitat areas that are functioning in a limited way as habitat);	where a portion of the proposed lease is determined to be in nonhabitat, the area is not used by GRSG, and the lease would not have direct, indirect, or cumulative effects on GRSG or its habitat. A team of agency GRSG experts, including experts from the state wildlife agency, USFWS, SEIT, the BLM and the Forest Service, would make this determination.	Exception: a lease exception may be considered where a portion of the proposed lease is determined to be in non-habitat, the area is not used by Greater Sage-grouse, or it would not have direct, indirect, or cumulative effects to Greater Sage-grouse or its habitat. The determination would be made by a team of interagency Greater Sage-grouse experts, including an expert from the state wildlife agency, USFWS, and the BLM.	

Utah	Idaho	Nevada	Oregon	Montana
Prior to granting an exception to this NSO stipulation a 30-day public review period will be provided (43 CFR 3101.1-4).	Waivers require a 30-day public review	Waivers require a 30-day public review	Waivers require a 30-day public review	Waivers require a 30-day public review
In addition, exceptions to this NSO stipulation may only be granted by the BLM Utah State Director.	are approved and signed by the State Director.	All exceptions must be approved by the State Director.	All exceptions must be approved by the State Director.	approved by the State Director.
<p>If an exception is granted to this NSO stipulation, the following restrictions would be placed on the proposed development as COAs.</p> <p>disturbance is limited to an average of one minerals disturbance per 640 acres, regardless of type of mineral disturbance (i.e., non-energy, coal, locatable, mineral material, or fluid) (MA-MIN-2);</p> <p>construction, drilling, and completion, and scheduled maintenance activities would not occur during sensitive seasonal periods (i.e., breeding and nesting, brood rearing, winter) (MA-GRSG-3); and</p> <p>disturbance would be consistent with the 3 percent disturbance objective (Objective-GRSG-3).</p> <p>In addition, the RDFs identified in Appendix J, Required Design Features for Fluid Minerals, would be attached as lease notices to all new leases in PPMA and would be applied during the permitting process as COAs, unless at least one of the following can be demonstrated in the NEPA analyses associated with the specific project:</p> <p>A specific design feature is documented to not be applicable to the site-specific conditions of the project/activity;</p> <p>A proposed design feature or BMP is</p>	<p>In the event a waiver, exception or modification were allowed development would still be subject to CSU which includes buffers, seasonal timing restrictions and standard stipulations.</p> <p>subject to RDFs, BMPs, buffers, timing restrictions and standard stipulations</p> <p>Incorporate required design features (RDFs) as described in Appendix A in the development of project or proposal implementation, reauthorizations or new authorizations and suppression activities, as conditions of approval into any post-lease activities and as best management practices for locatable minerals activities, to the extent allowable by law, unless at least one of the following conditions can be demonstrated and documented in the NEPA analysis associated with the specific project:</p> <p>A specific RDF is not applicable to the site-specific conditions of the project or activity;</p> <p>A proposed design feature or BMP is determined to provide equal or better protection for GRSG or its habitat; or</p> <p>Analysis concludes that following a specific RDF would provide no more protection to GRSG or its habitat than not following it, for the project being proposed.</p>	<p>Objective G-Lease-FM 2: Conserve and maintain the quality and distribution of PPMA and PGMA through application of lease stipulations, Conditions of Approval (COAs), and RDFs on existing and future leases.</p>		

Utah	Idaho	Nevada	Oregon	Montana
<p>determined to provide equal or better protection for GRSG or its habitat;</p> <p>Analyses conclude that following a specific feature will provide no more protection to GRSG or its habitat than not following it, for the specific project being proposed.</p>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The proposed well can be drilled from an existing well pad (expanded to accommodate multiple wells) in GRSG habitat; · In coordination with UDWR it is determined that locating a proposed development (e.g., well pad, road, etc.) on Federal lands in GRSG habitat would have less effect to the GRSG population than locating the well on State or private lands. 	<p>and upon recommendation from the Governor through the Implementation Task Force during the federal site-specific NEPA analysis.</p> <p>Core</p> <p>The population trend for the GRSG within the associated Conservation Area is stable or increasing over a three-year period and the population levels are not currently engaging the adaptive management triggers (this applies strictly to new authorizations; renewals and amendments of existing authorizations would not be subject to this criteria when it can be shown that long-term impacts from those renewals or amendments would be substantially the same as the existing development);</p> <p>The development with associated mitigation would not result in a net loss of GRSG Key habitat and would provide a net conservation benefit of the respective Core Management Zone;</p> <p>Cannot be reasonably accomplished outside of the Core Management Zone; or can be either: 1) developed pursuant to a valid existing authorization; 2) is an incremental upgrade/capacity increase of existing development (i.e. powerline capacity upgrade) ; or 3) is co-located within the footprint of existing infrastructure (i.e. powerlines)</p>	<p>Upon expiration or termination of existing leases within PPMA, apply the same stipulation as above.</p> <p>Upon expiration or termination of existing leases within PGMA, apply the same stipulation as above.</p>		

Utah	Idaho	Nevada	Oregon	Montana
	<p>(proposed actions would not increase the 2011 authorized footprint and associated impacts more than fifty percent (50%), depending on industry practice.</p> <p>Development could be implemented adhering to the required design features (RDF) described in Appendix A;</p> <p>The project would not exceed the disturbance threshold (AD-1).</p> <p>The project has been reviewed by the State Implementation Team and recommended for consideration by the Idaho Governor.</p> <p>Core and Important:</p> <p>The project cannot reasonably be achieved, technically or economically, outside of this management zone; and</p> <p>The project is co-located within the footprint for existing infrastructure, to the extent practicable. In the event co-location is not practicable, the siting should best reduce cumulative impacts and/or impacts on GRSG and other high value natural, cultural, or societal resources; and</p> <p>The project does not result in a net loss of GRSG Key habitat or habitat fragmentation or other impacts causing a decline in the population of the species within the relevant CA; and</p> <p>The project design mitigates unavoidable impacts through appropriate compensatory mitigation; and</p>			

Utah	Idaho	Nevada	Oregon	Montana
	<p>The project complies with the applicable RDFs and BMPs as described in Appendix A.</p> <p>The project would not exceed the disturbance threshold (AD-1).</p>			

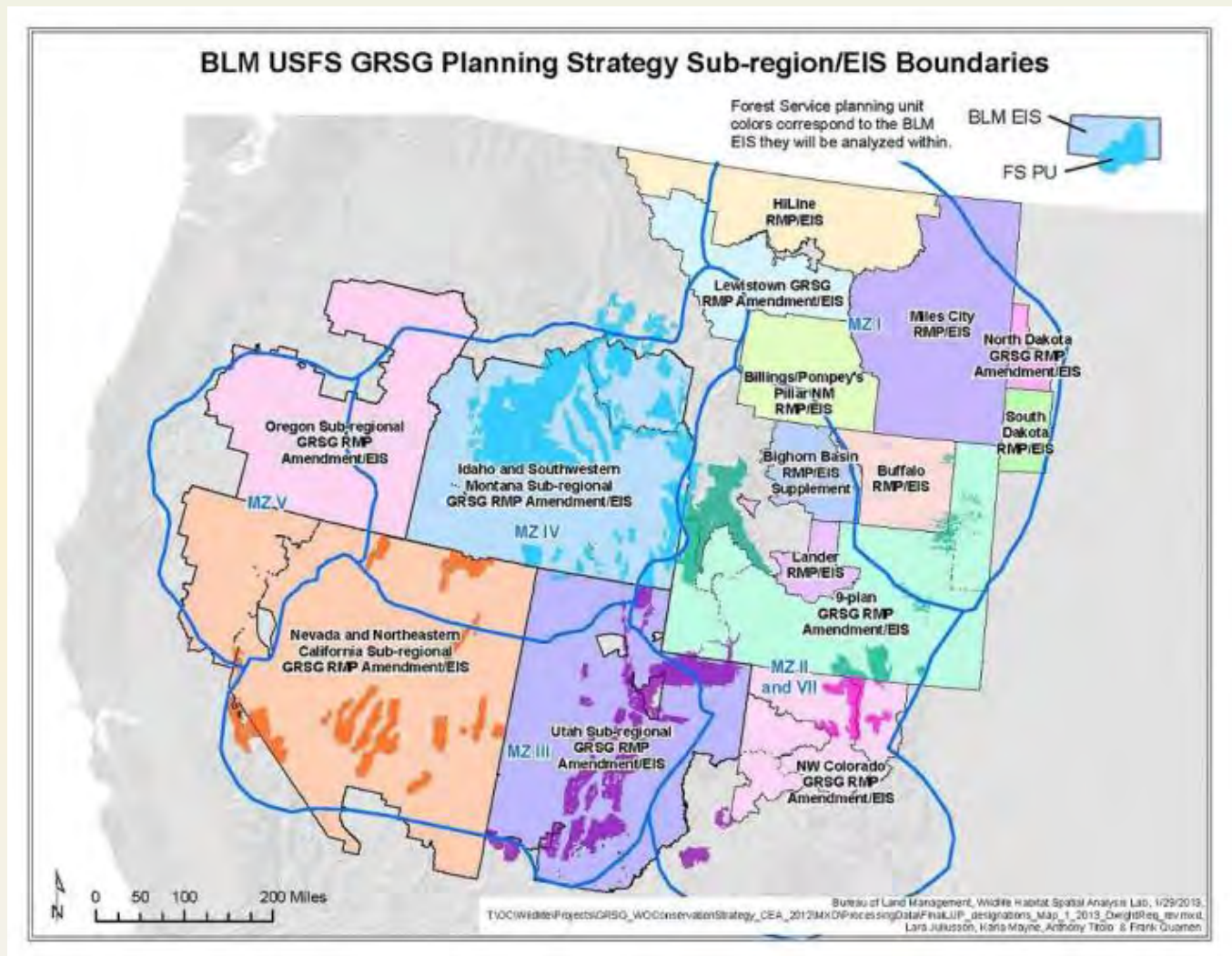
Greater Sage-grouse Interagency Roll-up Review Tools

GBR_PUB_0205
5.1



Frank Quamen, BLM Wildlife Habitat Spatial Analysis Lab:
(Karla Mayne, Anthony Titolo, Shannon Glazer, Steven Haymes)
Vicki Herren, Vanessa Stepanek
BLM National Operations Center

Tier II (MZ) Cumulative Effects Analysis

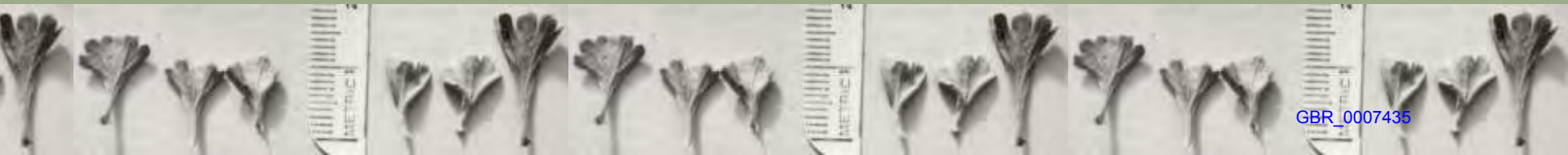


Planning Alternatives Decision Data Call

- *Largest data call in BLM history*
- *16 subject/program areas*
- *Standard categories*
- *40+ decision categories*
- *Standard naming conventions*
- *Standard data format*
- *Standard folder structure*
- *Organized data sets*

**Greater Sage-grouse Interagency Roll-up
Threats, Program Areas, Decisions**

COT Threats	Subject/Program Area	Decision Category/Data Layer
1 Isolated Small Size	Non-allocation decision	n/a
2 Sagebrush Elimination	Non-allocation decision	n/a
3 Agriculture Conversion	See Urbanization	n/a
4 Fire	Non-allocation decision	n/a
5 Conifers	Non-allocation decision	n/a
6 Weeds/Annual Grasses	Non-allocation decision	n/a
7 Energy	Fluid Mineral Leasing (O&G)	OandG_OpenStandardStips OandG_OpenModerateStips OandG_OpenMajorStips OandG_Closed
	Coal Leasing	Coal_Suitable Coal_Unsuitable
	Wind Energy	Wind_Open Wind_Avoidance Wind_Exclusion
	Solar Energy	Solar_OpenZone Solar_AvoidanceVariance Solar_Exclusion
	Geothermal Energy	Geothermal_OpenStandardStips Geothermal_OpenModerateStips Geothermal_OpenMajorStips Geothermal_Closed
8 Mining	Locatable Minerals	Locatable_ExistingWithdrawals Locatable_RecommendedWithdrawals Locatable_Open
	Salable Minerals (Materials Disposals)	Salable_Open Salable_Closed
	Non-energy Leasable Minerals	Nonenergy/Leasable_Open Nonenergy/Leasable_Closed
9 Infrastructure	Right-of-Ways	ROW_Open ROW_Avoidance ROW_Exclusion
	Utility Corridors	Utility_ExistingCorridor Utility_ProposedCorridor
10 Grazing	Livestock Grazing	Livestock_Available Livestock_AvailableWithModification Livestock_Unavailable
11 Free-roaming Equids	No data available	n/a
12 Recreation	Trails & Travel Management	Travel_Open Travel_Limited Travel_Closed
13 Urbanization	Realty (Land Tenure)	Lands_Disposal Lands_Retention
14 Various Threats	Wilderness	Wilderness_Designated Wilderness_StudyAreas Wilderness_Characteristics
	ACECs/Zoological Areas	ACEC_Proposed_Existing



The bulk of data

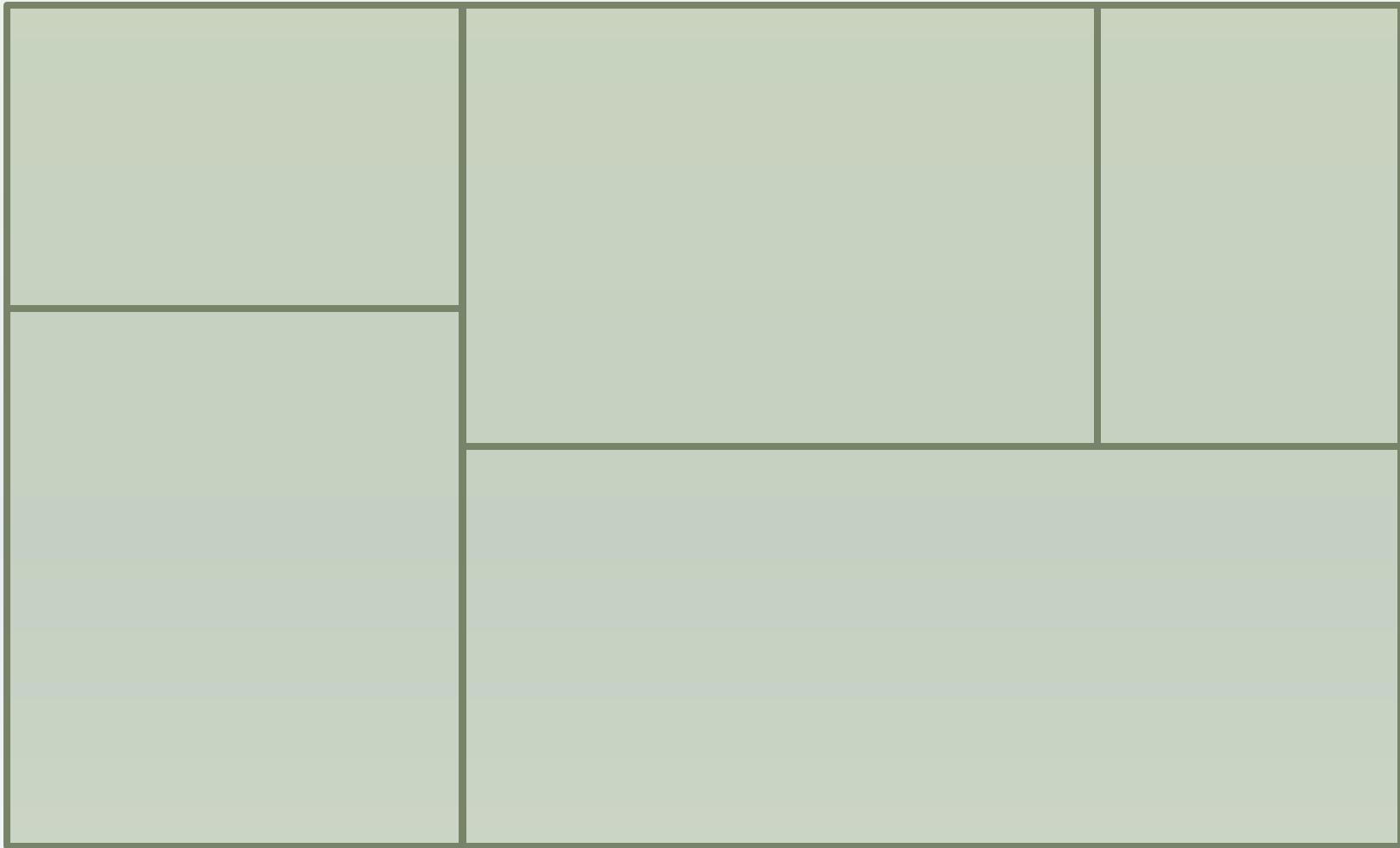


1. 2,200 data sets submitted (No Action –Preferred)
2. 11,244 records in our Master Summary File
3. 741 output tables for CEA
(15 EISs x up to 42 Decision Categories x 4-6 Alternatives)
4. Average size of EIS submitted files:
800 K – 1.6 MB
5. ~30 hours just for the computer to process ID
6. About a month needed to QA/QC data, process the data, pivot table, produce maps.

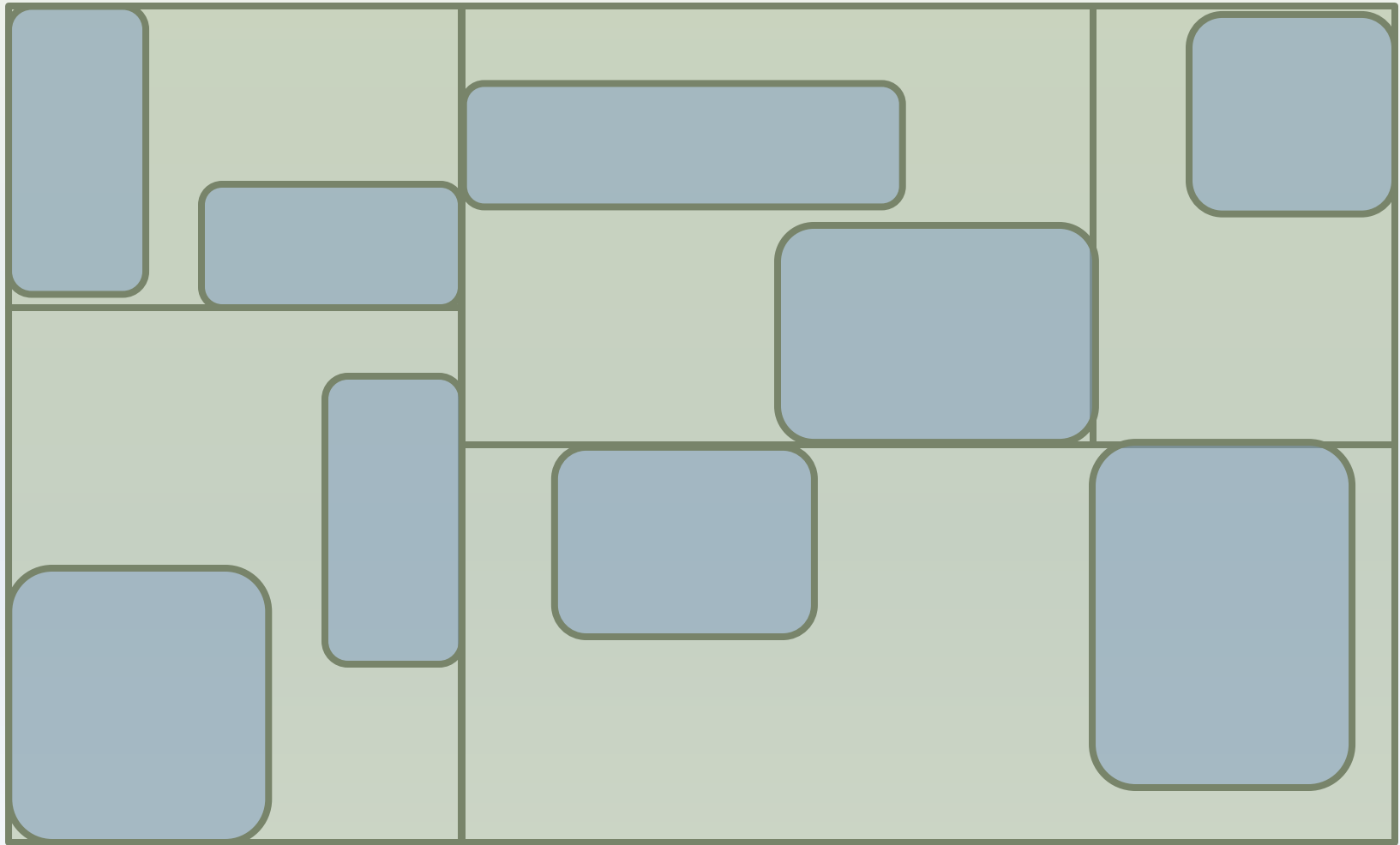
Program/Subject Areas

1. GRSG Habitat
2. Fluid Mineral Leasing
3. Coal Leasing
4. Wind Energy
5. Solar Energy
6. Geothermal Energy
7. Locatable Minerals
8. Salable - Mineral Materials Disposals
9. Non-energy Leasable Minerals
10. Rights-of-way
11. Utility Corridors
12. Livestock Grazing
13. Trails & Travel Mgmt
14. Land Tenure
15. Wilderness
16. ACECs





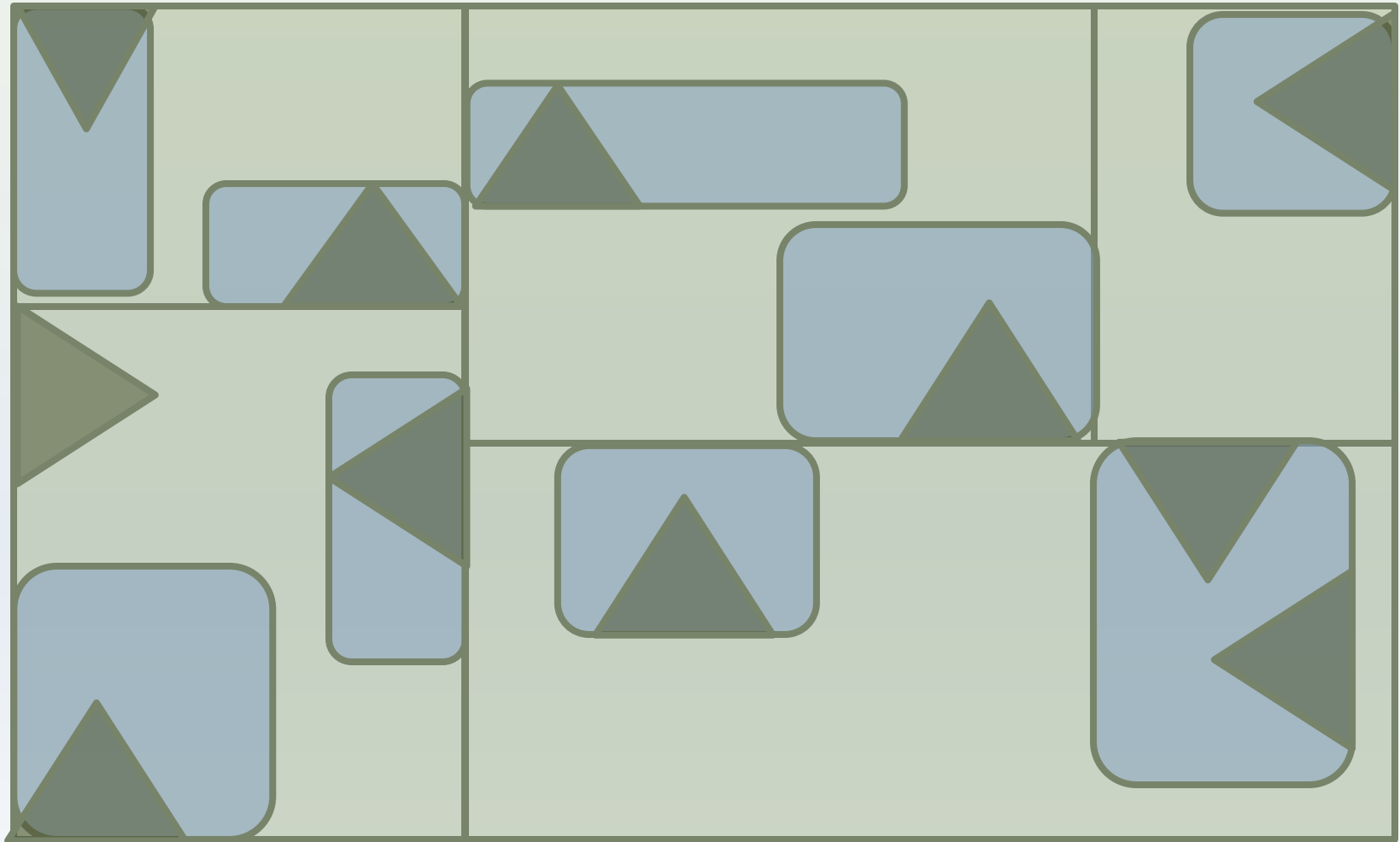
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EIS



SMA



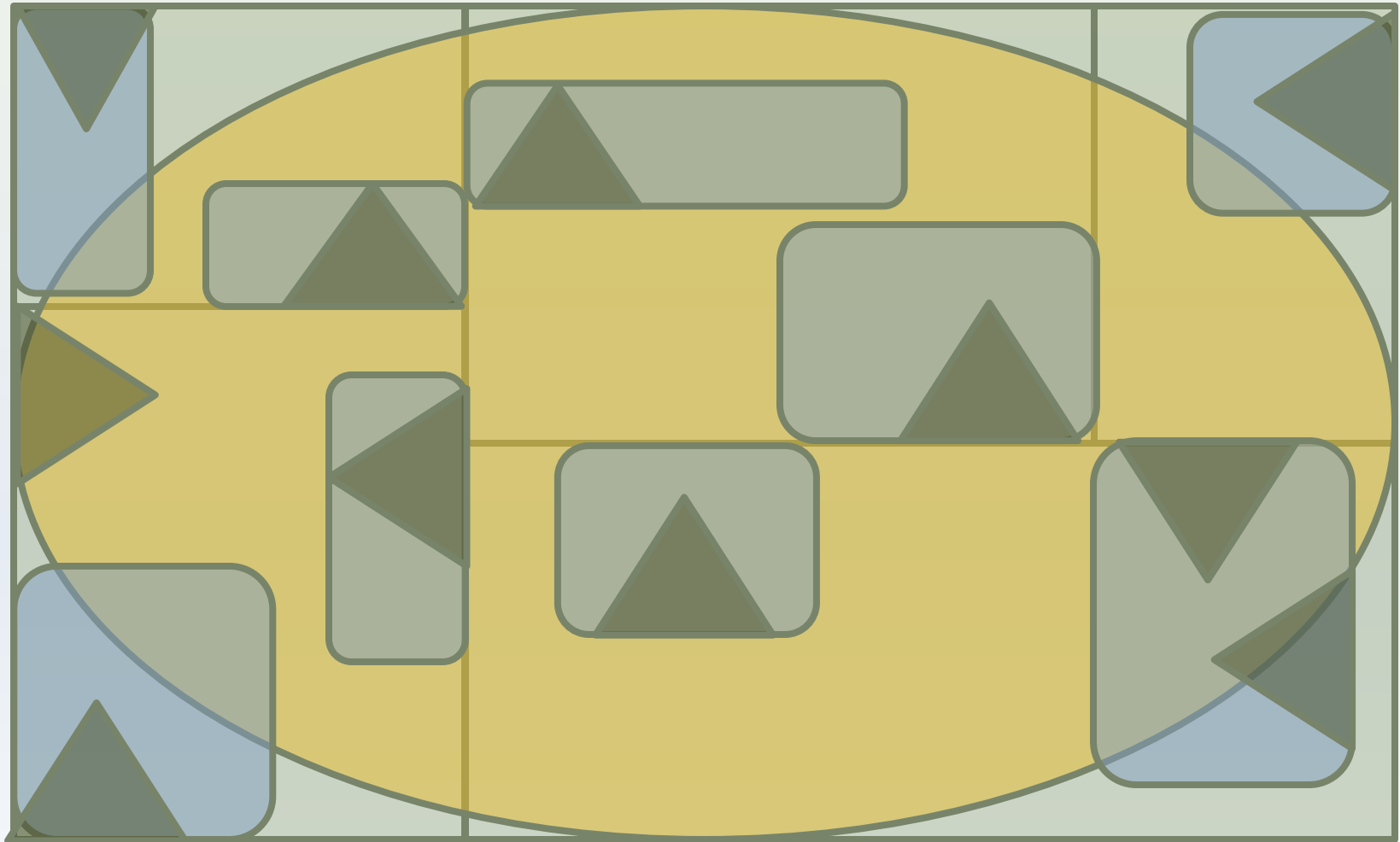
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SMA



Decision



EIS



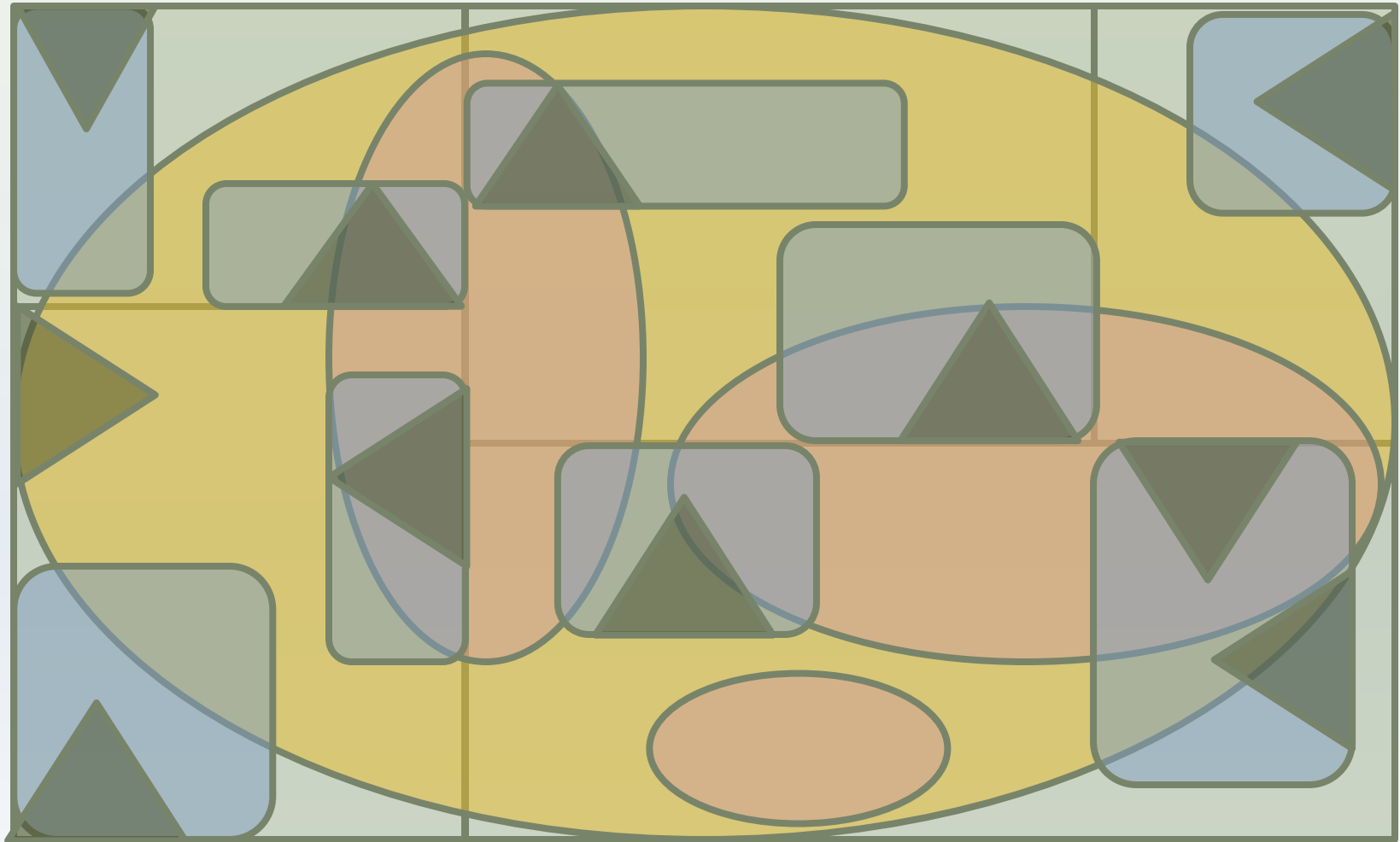
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Decision



MZ



EIS



SMA



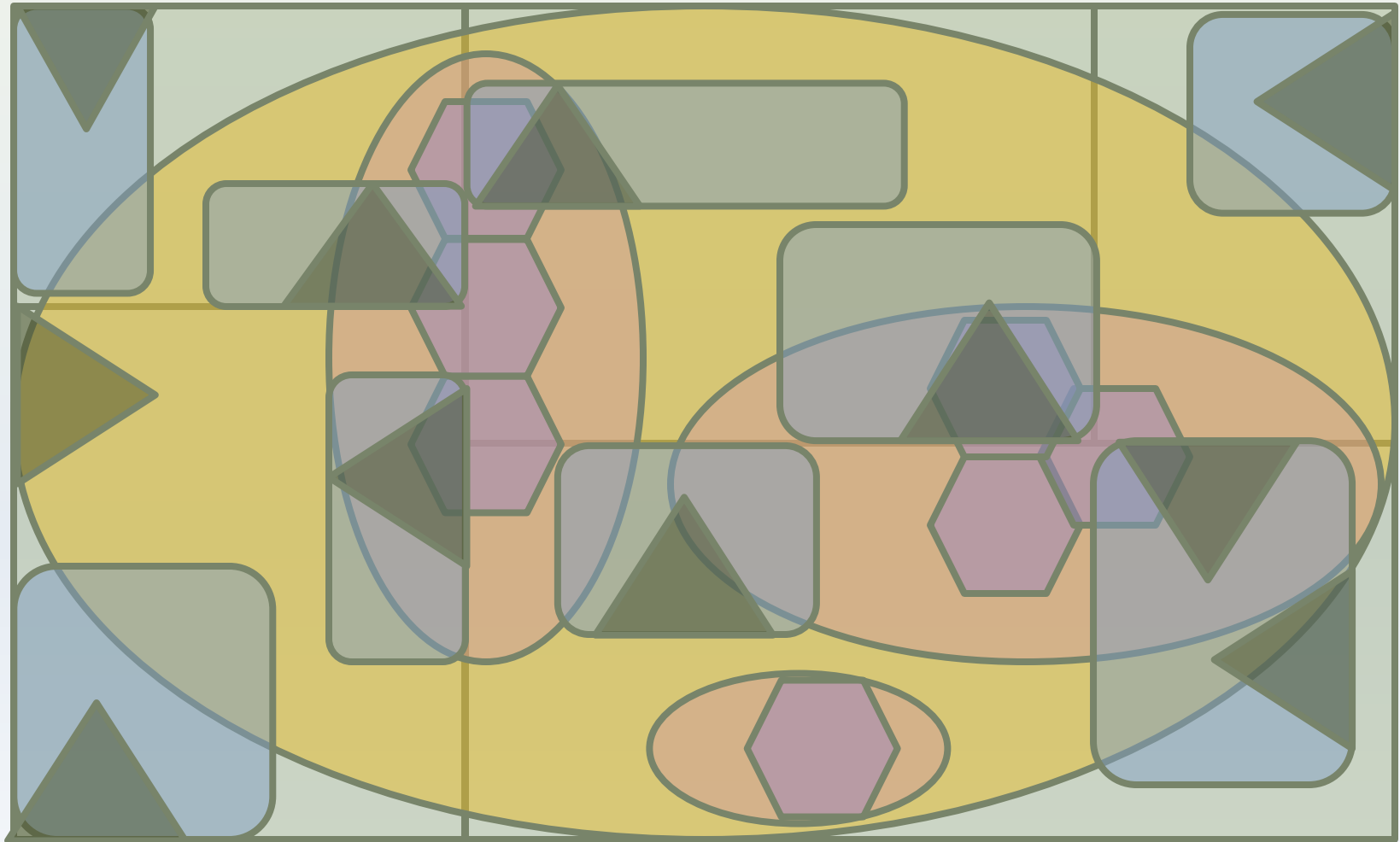
Decision



MZ



Population



EIS



SMA



Decision



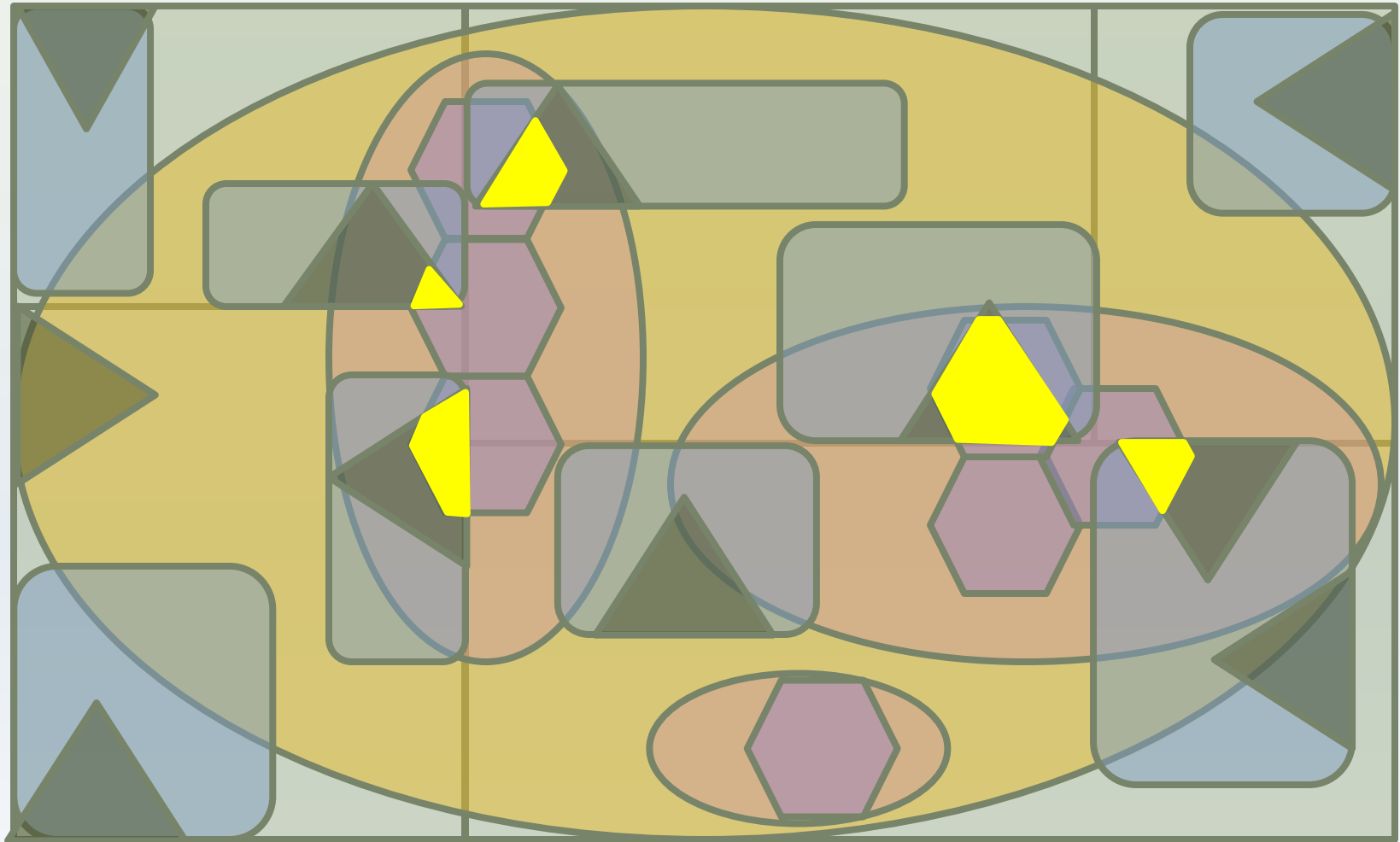
MZ



Population



PAC



EIS



SMA



Decision



MZ



Population



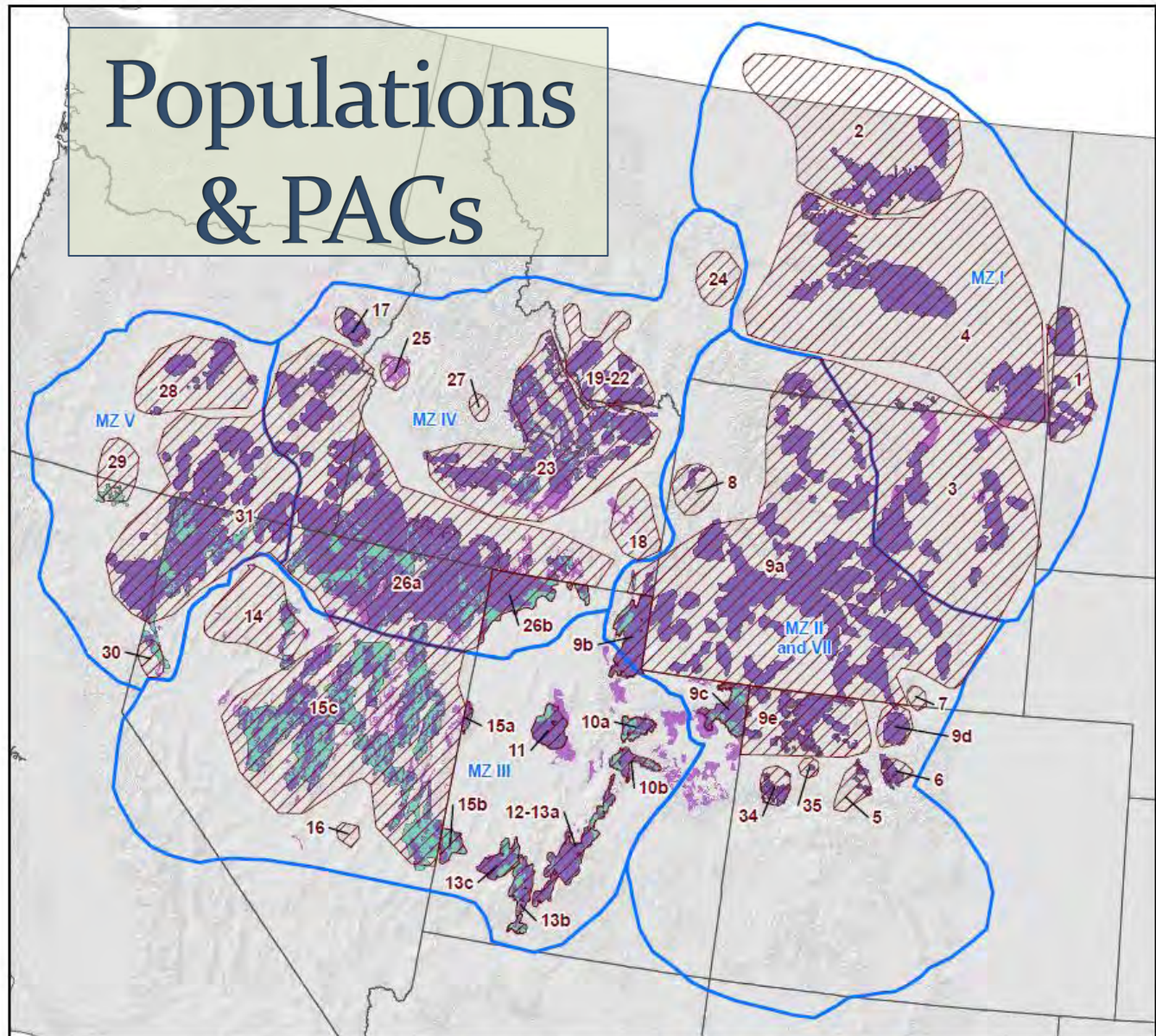
PAC

MZ I	Miles City RMP/EIS Alternative A No	Miles City RMP/EIS Alternative B	Miles City RMP/EIS Alternative C	Miles City RMP/EIS Alternative D	Miles City RMP/EIS Alternative E
Non Habitat	1,358	0	1,521	1,521	80
Air Force Base	0	0	0	0	0
Bonneville Power Administration	0	0	0	0	0
Bureau of Indian Affairs	0	0	0	0	0
Bureau of Land Management	1,356	0	1,519	1,519	80
Bureau of Reclamation	0	0	0	0	0
Corps of Engineers	0	0	0	0	0
Department of Agriculture	0	0	0	0	0
Department of Defense	0	0	0	0	0
Department of Energy	0	0	0	0	0
Department of the Interior	0	0	0	0	0
Department of Veterans Affairs	0	0	0	0	0
Empty Admin Agency Field	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Aviation Administration	0	0	0	0	0
Fish and Wildlife Service	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Service	0	0	0	0	0
General Services Administration	0	0	0	0	0
Geological Survey	0	0	0	0	0
Local Government	0	0	0	0	0
NA	0	0	0	0	0
National Park Service	0	0	0	0	0
Other Federal Agencies	0	0	0	0	0
Private Lands	1	0	2	2	0
SMA Gap	0	0	0	0	0
State Lands	3	0	0	0	0
Undetermined	568	0	0	0	0
General Habitat	75,260	30,714	64,249	64,249	44,076
Air Force Base	0	0	0	0	0
Bonneville Power Administration	0	0	0	0	0
Bureau of Indian Affairs	0	0	0	0	0
Bureau of Land Management	52,683	26,676	51,930	51,930	33,472
Bureau of Reclamation	0	0	0	0	0
Corps of Engineers	0	0	0	0	0
Department of Agriculture	0	0	0	0	0
Department of Defense	0	0	0	0	0
Department of Energy	0	0	0	0	0
Department of the Interior	0	0	0	0	0
Department of Veterans Affairs	0	0	0	0	0
Empty Admin Agency Field	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Aviation Administration	0	0	0	0	0
Fish and Wildlife Service	23	1	4	4	4
Forest Service	0	0	0	0	0
General Services Administration	0	0	0	0	0
Geological Survey	0	0	0	0	0
Local Government	0	0	0	0	0
NA	0	0	0	0	0
National Park Service	0	0	0	0	0
Other Federal Agencies	0	0	0	0	0
Private Lands	20,624	3,265	10,455	10,455	0
SMA Gap	0	0	0	0	0
State Lands	1,918	3	1,281	1,281	0
Undetermined	0	569	0	0	0
Priority Habitat	1,521	89,946	54,85		
Air Force Base	0	0	0		
Bonneville Power Administration	0	0	0		
Bureau of Indian Affairs	0	0	0		
Bureau of Land Management	1,519	60,404	33,82		
Bureau of Reclamation	0	0	0		
Corps of Engineers	0	0	0		
Department of Agriculture	0	0	0		
Department of Defense	0	0	0		
Department of Energy	0	0	0		
Department of the Interior	0	0	0		
Department of Veterans Affairs	0	0	0		
Empty Admin Agency Field	0	0	0		
Federal Aviation Administration	0	0	0		
Fish and Wildlife Service	0	28	25		
Forest Service	0	0	0		
General Services Administration	0	0	0		
Geological Survey	0	0	0		
Local Government	0	0	0		
NA	0	0	0		
National Park Service	0	0	0		
Other Federal Agencies	0	0	0		
Private Lands	2	25,673	18,47		
SMA Gap	0	0	0		
State Lands	0	3,842	2,55		
Undetermined	0	0	0		

Tier II Cumulative Effects Analysis Output

	No Action	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Pref. Alt
Priority Habitat					
By SMA					
General Habitat					
By SMA					
Non-Habitat					
By SMA					

Populations & PACs



Greater Sage-grouse Populations, Preliminary Priority Habitat, and Priority Areas for Conservation

LEGEND

-  Sage-Grouse PAC
-  PPH
-  Areas Where PPH & PAC Overlap
-  COT Revised Sage-Grouse Populations

Roll-up Toolbox

1. Proposed Plan Maps (by Program/Subject Area)
2. GIS of data (with potentially other data layers)
3. COT Report
4. "Stoplight" matrices

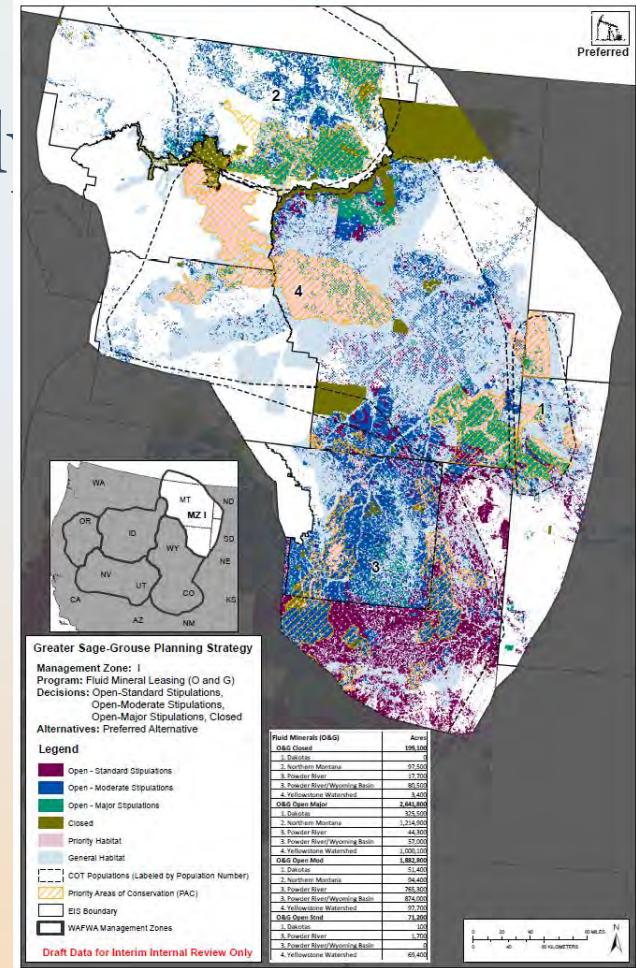


Greater Sage-grouse Integrative Roll-Up - Management Zone I
Conservation Objectives from Report Excerpt and Table of Threats

Threat	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
Population Loss (N)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
Southern Yellowlegs (Y)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
Greater Sage-Grouse (S)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
Yellowthroat Vireo (V)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
Yellowthroat Warbler (W)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50

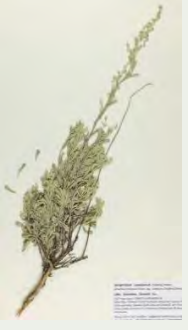
1. Risks
The risks to populations are due to the multiple effects of the range of sage-grouse. Most of the population is in the Snake River Basin (SRB) and is the focus of the population recovery plan. The SRB population is the most vulnerable to the effects of the range of sage-grouse. The SRB population is the most vulnerable to the effects of the range of sage-grouse. The SRB population is the most vulnerable to the effects of the range of sage-grouse.

2. Northern Population
The Northern Population is geographically separated from the other two populations. It is located in the northern part of the range and is the most vulnerable to the effects of the range of sage-grouse. The Northern Population is the most vulnerable to the effects of the range of sage-grouse. The Northern Population is the most vulnerable to the effects of the range of sage-grouse.



Inter-agency Roll-up

1. WAFWA Management Zone
2. Administrative Proposed Data
 - After RMT Meeting
 - When submitted for WO review
 - Same data as used for Tier II CEA
3. Conducted when all EISs in a MZ have an Administrative Proposed Plan



Consistency Products Review

1. Baseline Environmental Report
 - Treats, Current Management Situation
2. Tier II Cumulative Effects Analysis
 - Decision stats/tables at a biologically meaningful scale
3. Monitoring Framework
 - Standard methodology for monitoring at the broad & mid-scales
4. Interagency Roll-up Toolbox
 - Same Proposed data as Tier II CEA, but GIS/maps instead of tables
5. Landscape Report
 - ROD Data in a summary report with maps to FWS

Discussion



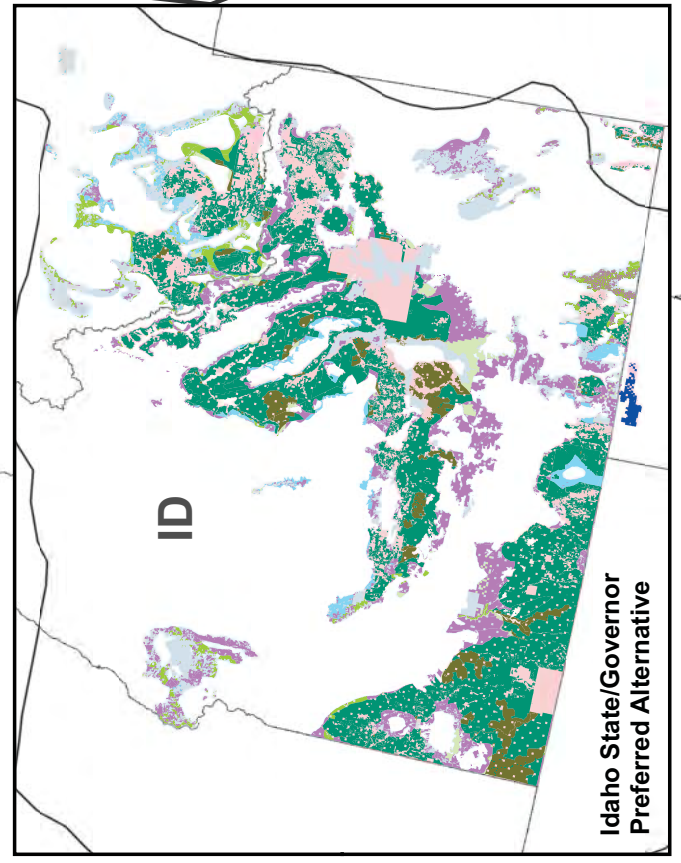
Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy

Management Zone: III, IV, and V
Program: Fluid Mineral Leasing (O and G)
Decisions: Open-Standard Stipulations, Open-Moderate Stipulations, Open-Major Stipulations, Closed Alternatives: Preferred Alternative

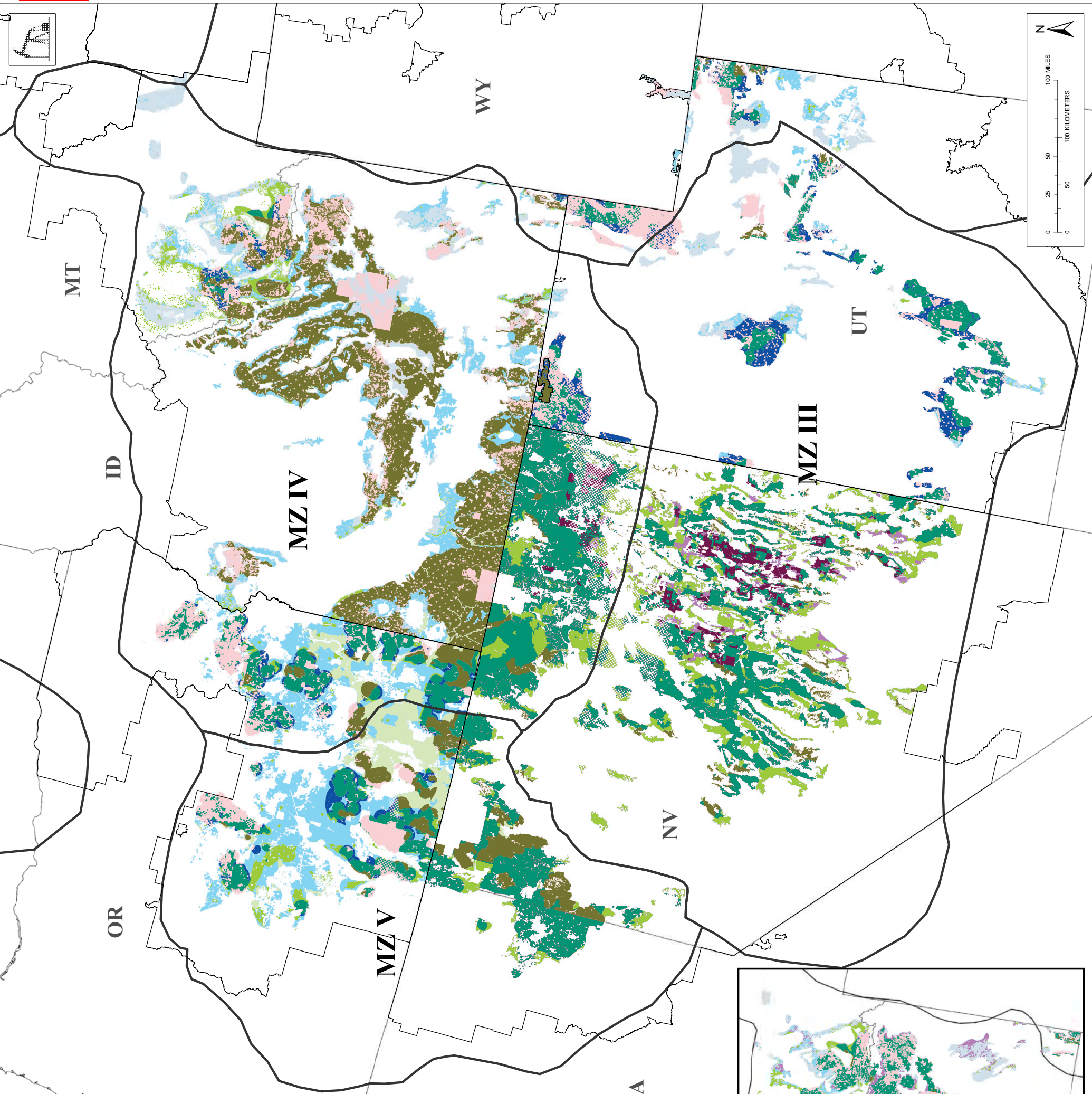
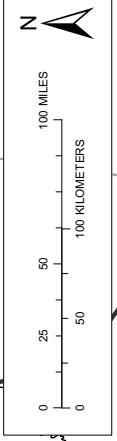
Legend

- Open - Standard Stipulations in Priority Habitat
- Open - Standard Stipulations in General Habitat
- Open - Moderate Stipulations in Priority Habitat
- Open - Moderate Stipulations in General Habitat
- Open - Major Stipulations in Priority Habitat
- Open - Major Stipulations in General Habitat
- Closed in Priority Habitat
- Closed in General Habitat
- Priority Habitat
- General Habitat
- EIS Boundary
- WAFWA Management Zones

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Idaho State/Governor Preferred Alternative



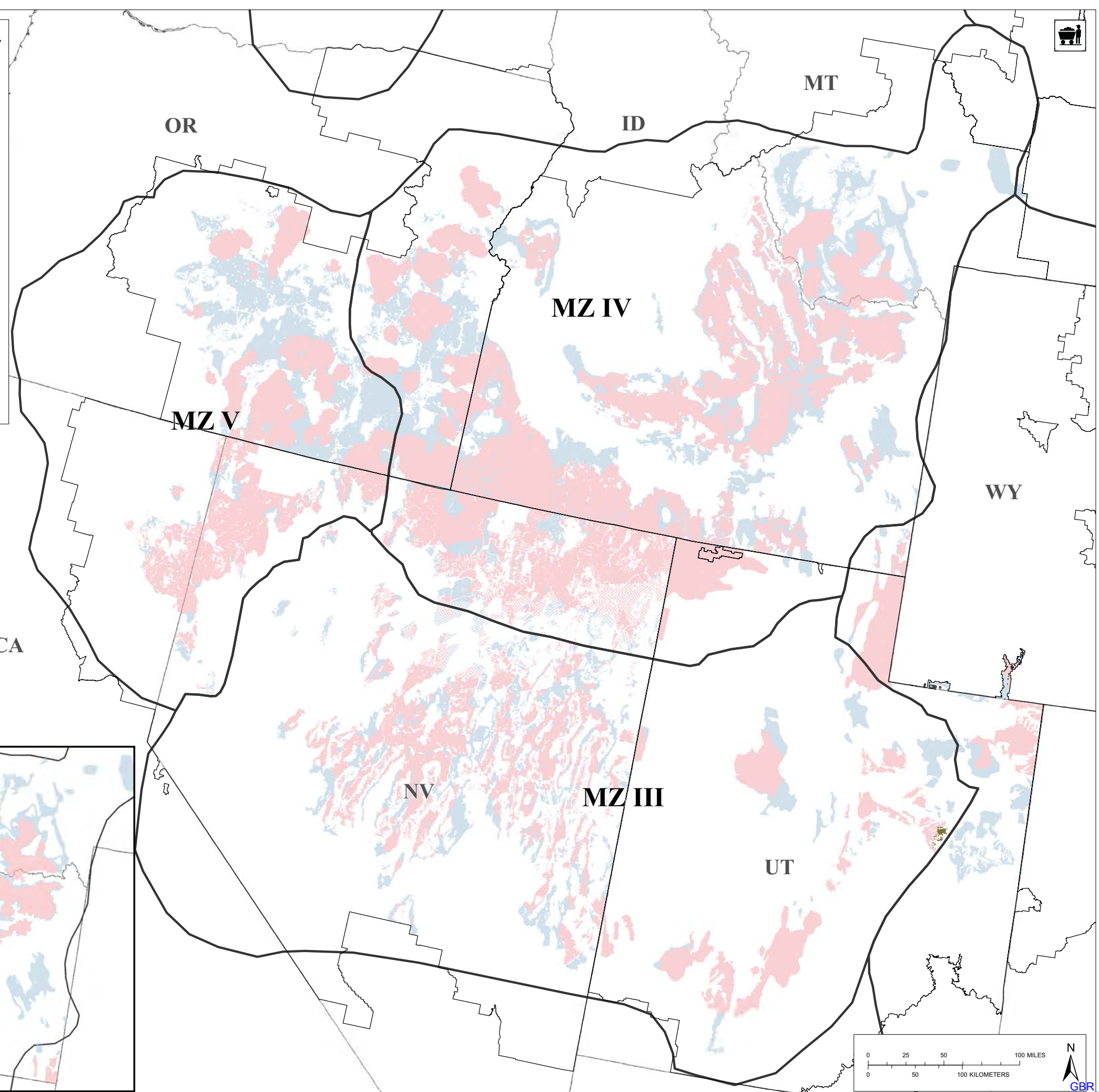
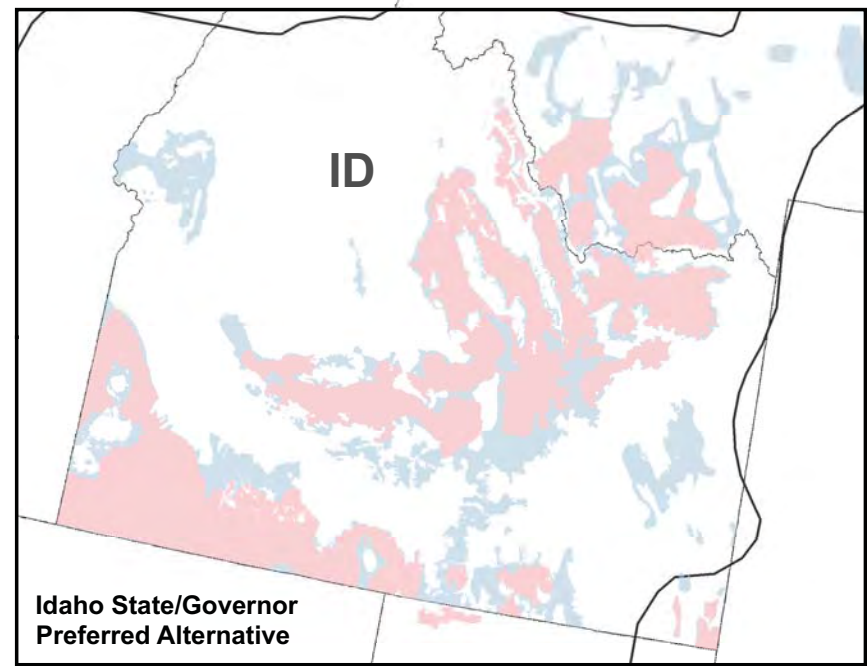
Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy

Management Zone: III, IV, and V
Program: Coal Leasing
Decisions: Suitable and Unsuitable
Alternatives: Preferred Alternative

Legend

- Suitable in Priority Habitat
- Suitable in General Habitat
- Unsuitable in Priority Habitat
- Unsuitable in General Habitat
- Priority Habitat
- General Habitat
- EIS Boundary
- WAFWA Management Zones

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Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy

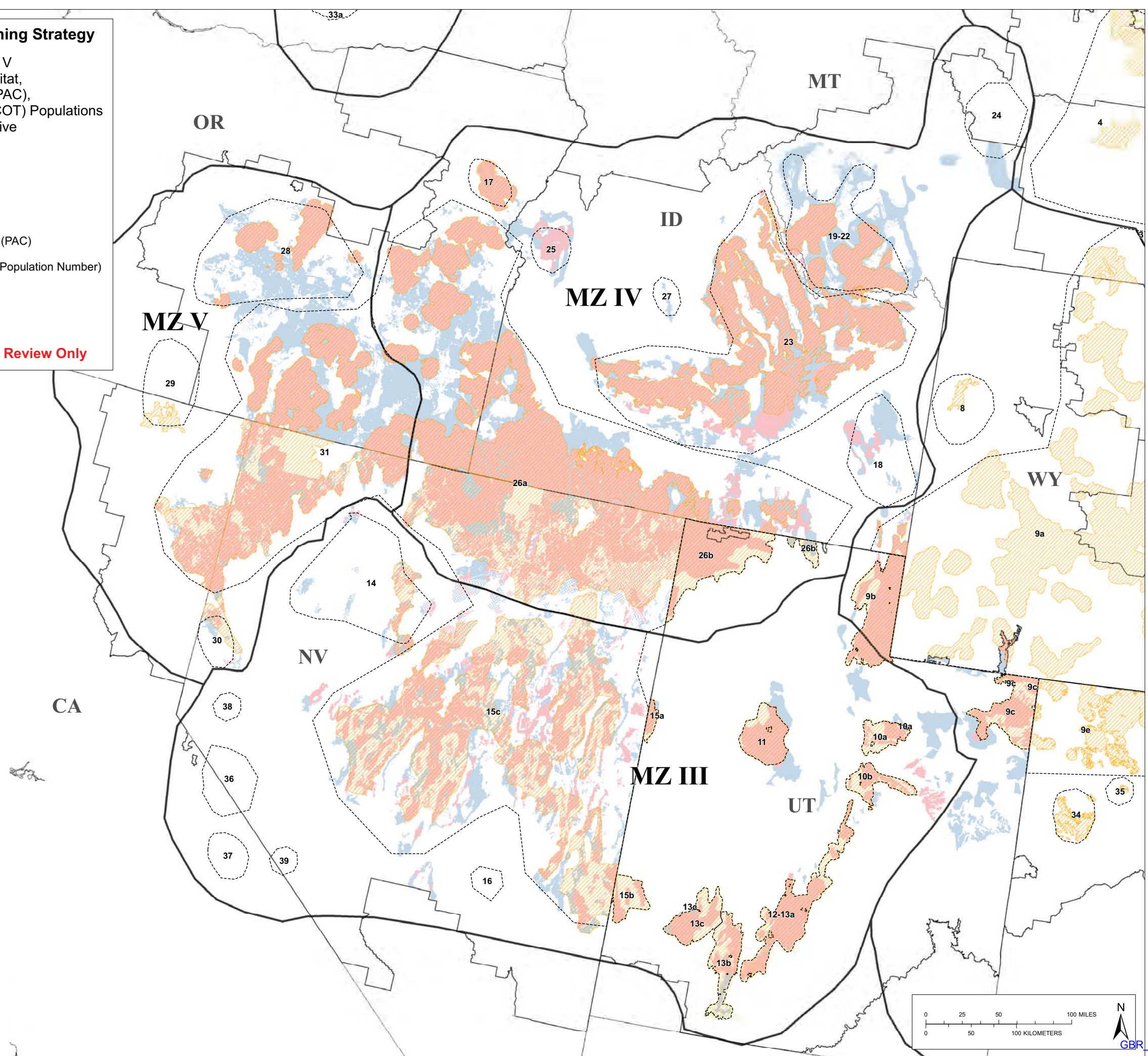
Management Zone: III, IV, and V
GRSG Priority and General Habitat,
Priority Areas of Conservation (PAC),
Conservation Objective Team (COT) Populations
Alternatives: Preferred Alternative

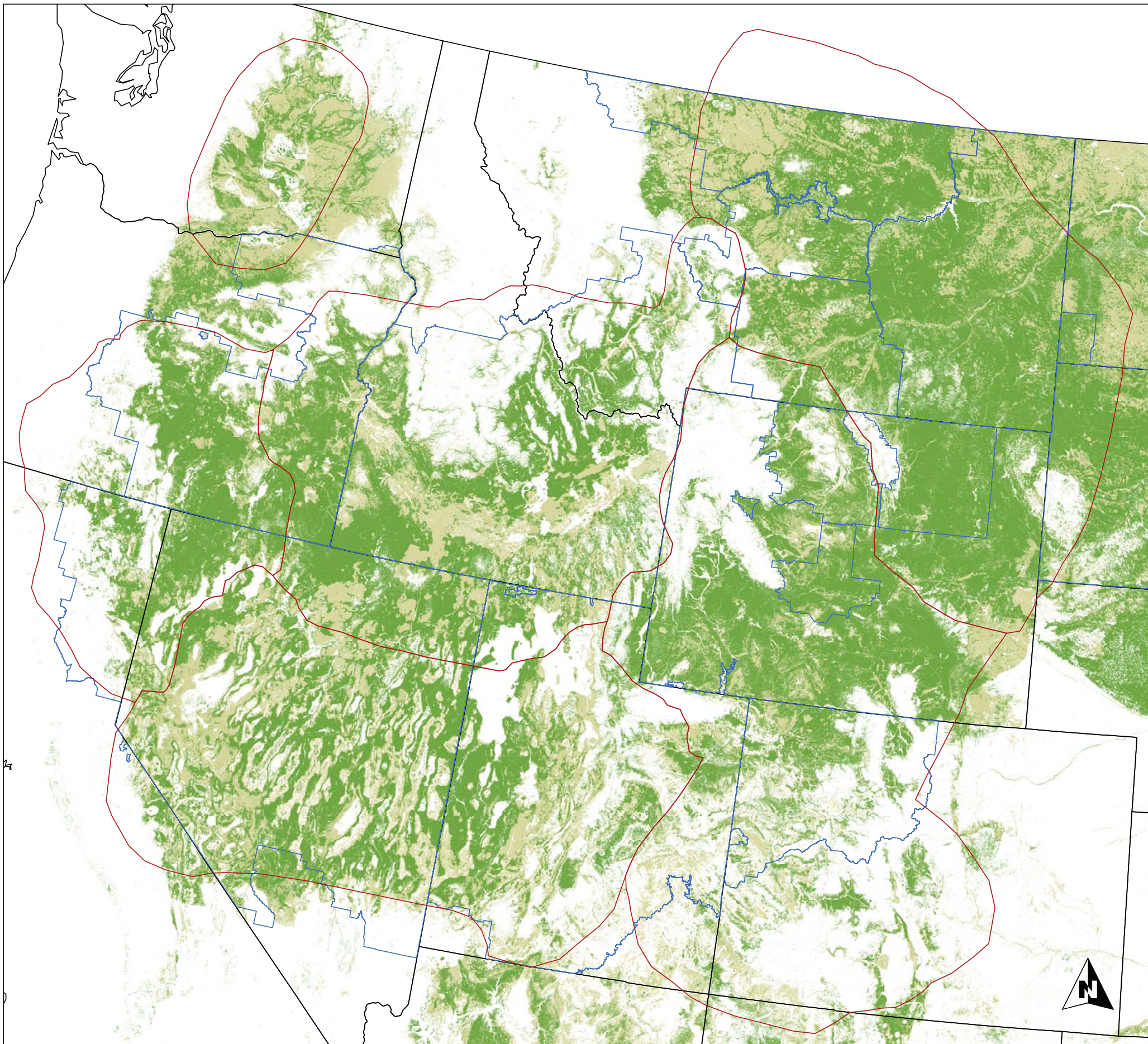
Legend

- Priority Habitat
- General Habitat
- Priority Areas of Conservation (PAC)
- COT Populations (Labeled by Population Number)
- EIS Boundary
- WAFWA Management Zones

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


Unit Number	Population
1	Dakotas
2	Northern Montana
3	Powder River
4	Yellowstone watershed
5	Eagle/S Routt CO
6	Middle Park CO
7	Laramie WY
8	Jackson Hole WY
9a	Wyoming Basin
9b	Rich-Morgan-Summit
9c	Uintah
9d	North Park
9e	NW Colorado
10a	Strawberry
10b	Carbon
11	Sheeprock Mountains
12-13a	Parker Mountain-Emery
13b	Panguitch
13c	Bald Hills
14	NW-Interior NV
15a	Ibapah
15b	Hamlin Valley
15c	Southern Great Basin
16	Quinn Canyon Range NV
17	Baker OR
18	E-Central ID
19-22	SW Montana
23	Snake, Salmon, and Beaverhead
24	Belt Mountains MT
25	Weiser ID
26a	Northern Great Basin
26b	Box Elder
27	Sawtooth ID
28	Central OR
29	Klamath OR/CA
30	Warm Springs Valley NV
31	Western Great Basin
32a	Moses Coulee
32b	Crab Creek
33a	Yakama Indian Nation
33b	Yakima Training Center
34	Parachute Piceance Roan
35	Meecker - White River
36	N Mono Lake CA/NV
37	S Mono Lake CA
38	Pine Nut NV
39	White Mountains NV/CA





Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Monitoring Framework Percent Sagebrush

LEGEND

-  WAFWA Management Zones
-  EIS Boundaries
-  US State Boundaries
-  LANDFIRE Existing Vegetation Type (EVT) Sagebrush Final (2010)
-  LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting (BpS) Sagebrush Base

The current geographic extent of sagebrush vegetation within the rangewide distribution of sage-grouse populations was ascertained using the most recent version of the Existing Vegetation Type (EVT) layer in LANDFIRE (2010). The ecological systems included on this map include those that have the capability of supporting sagebrush vegetation, and also could provide suitable seasonal habitat for the greater sage-grouse. Sagebrush vegetation was defined as including sagebrush species that provide habitat for the greater sage-grouse and are sagebrush species that are included in the Sage-Grouse Habitat Assessment Framework (Stiver et al. 2013). This map does not represent Sage-Grouse habitat, rather it is a map of existing and potential sagebrush distribution.

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Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy

Management Zone: III, IV, and V

Program: Wind Energy





Decisions: Open

Avoidance

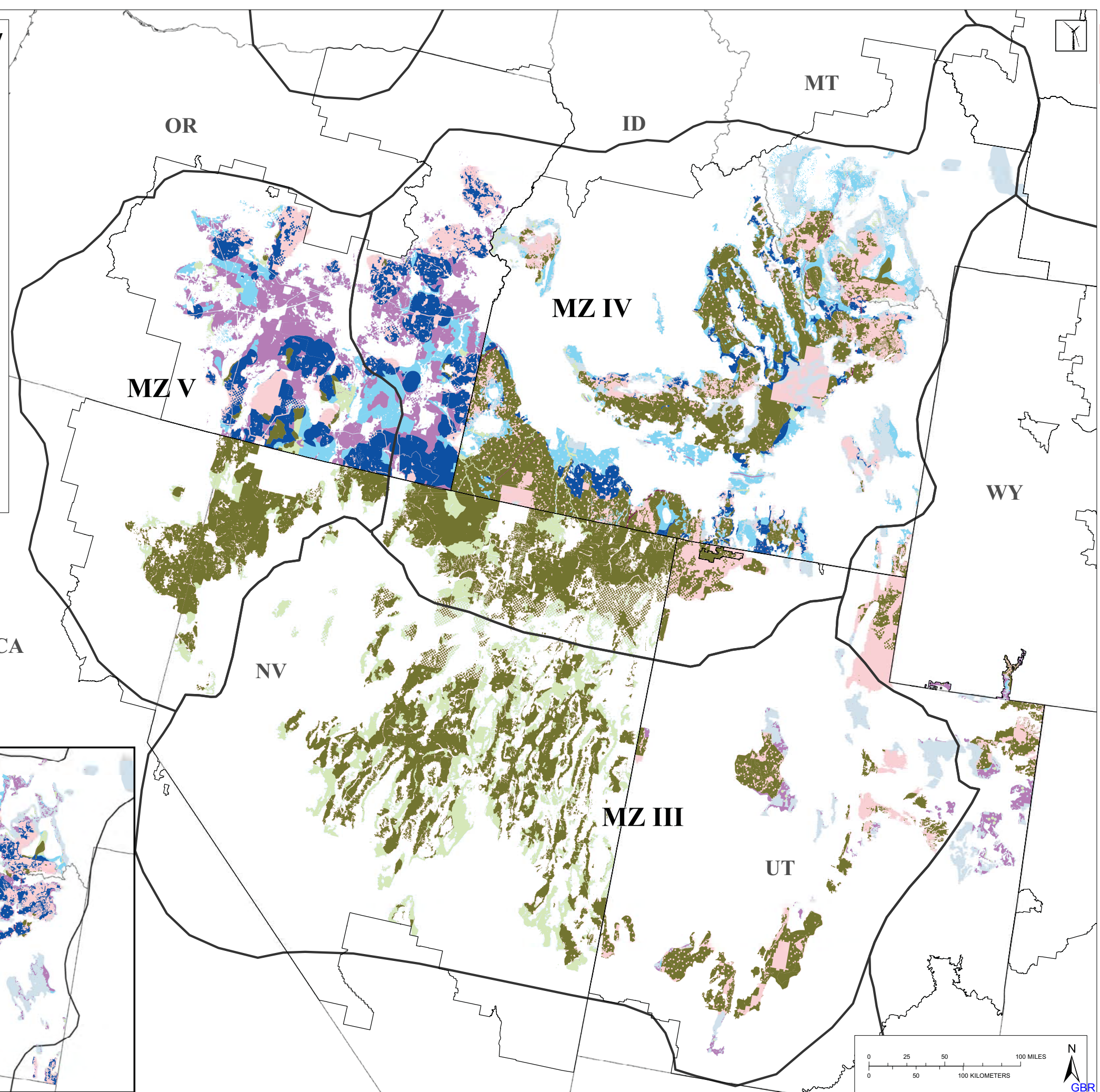
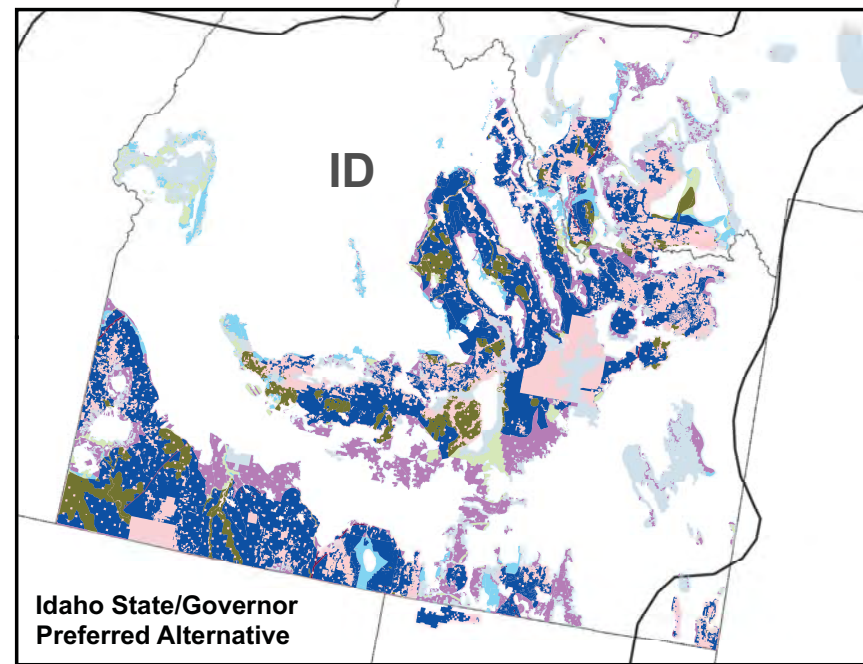
Exclusion

Alternatives: Preferred Alternative

Legend

-  Open in Priority Habitat
-  Open in General Habitat
-  Avoidance in Priority Habitat
-  Avoidance in General Habitat
-  Exclusion in Priority Habitat
-  Exclusion in General Habitat
-  Priority Habitat
-  General Habitat
-  EIS Boundary
-  WAFWA Management Zones

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Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy

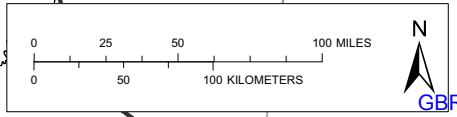
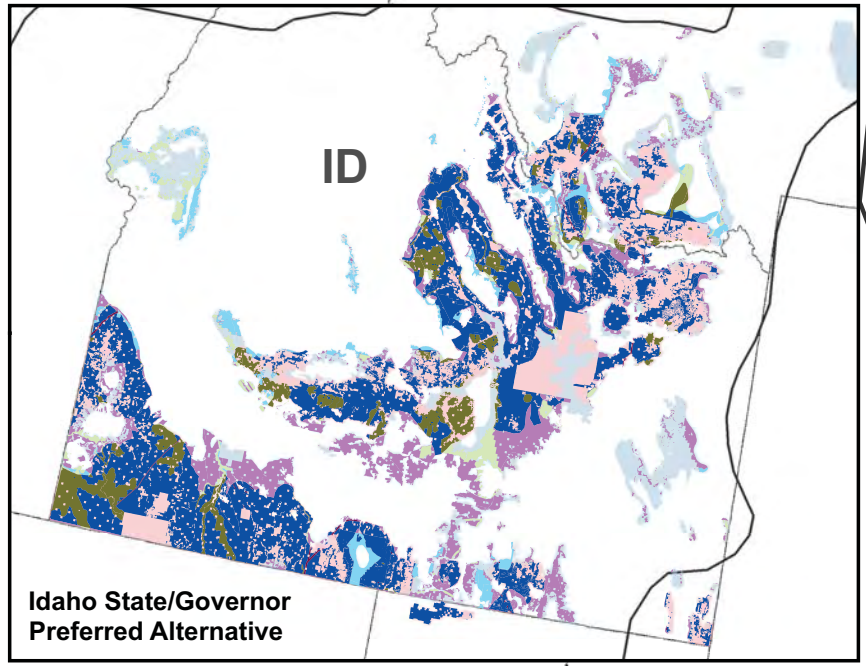
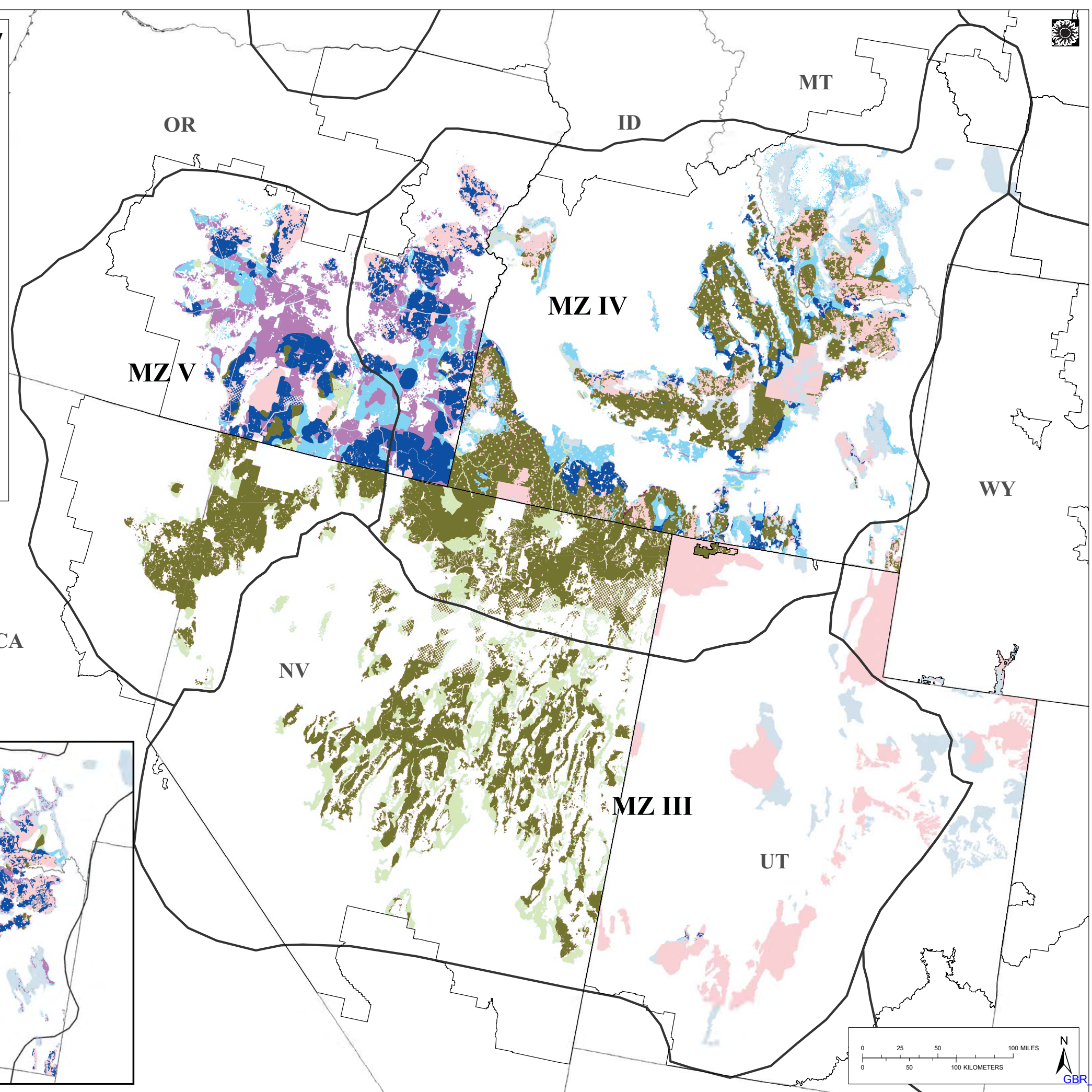
Management Zone: III, IV, and V
Program: Solar Energy
Decisions: Open Zone
Avoidance Variance
Exclusion

Alternatives: Preferred Alternative

Legend

- Open Zone in Priority Habitat
- Open Zone in General Habitat
- Avoidance Variance in Priority Habitat
- Avoidance Variance in General Habitat
- Exclusion in Priority Habitat
- Exclusion in General Habitat
- Priority Habitat
- General Habitat
- EIS Boundary
- WAFWA Management Zones













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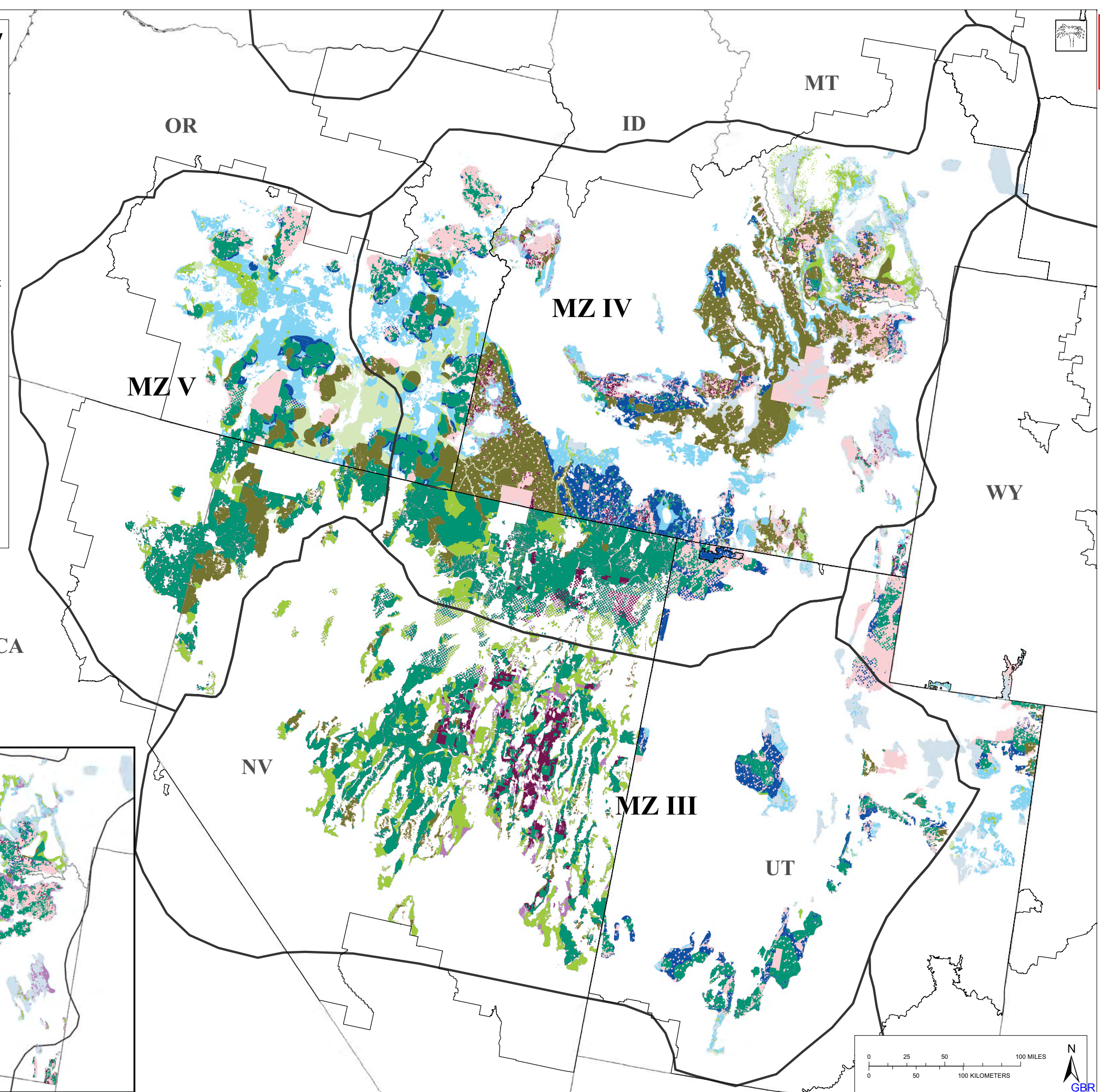
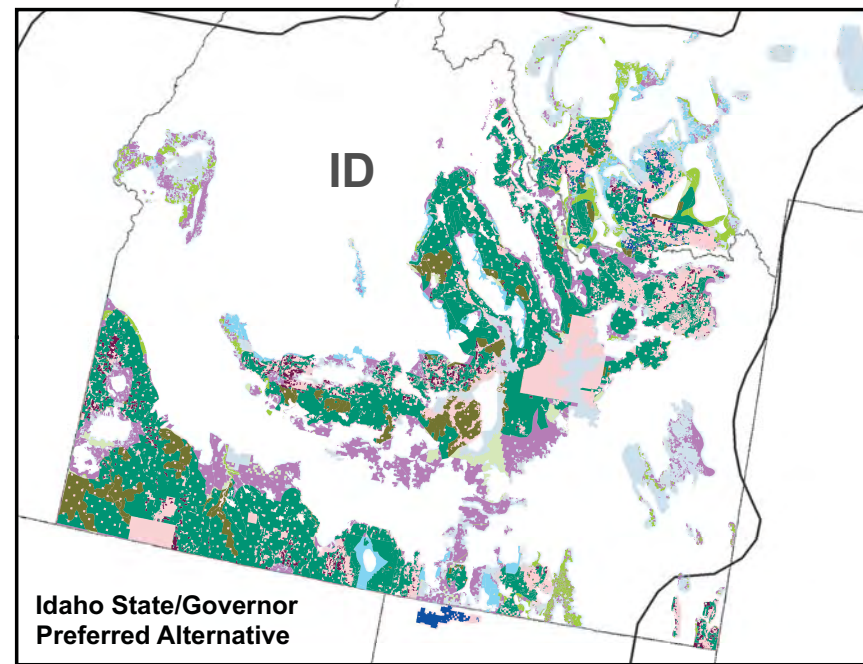
Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy

Management Zone: III, IV, and V
Program: Geothermal Energy Constraints
Decisions: Open-Standard Stipulations,
Open-Moderate Stipulations,
Open-Major Stipulations, Closed
Alternatives: Preferred Alternative

Legend

-  Open - Standard Stipulations in Priority Habitat
-  Open - Standard Stipulations in General Habitat
-  Open - Moderate Stipulations in Priority Habitat
-  Open - Moderate Stipulations in General Habitat
-  Open - Major Stipulations in Priority Habitat
-  Open - Major Stipulations in General Habitat
-  Closed in Priority Habitat
-  Closed in General Habitat
-  Priority Habitat
-  General Habitat
-  EIS Boundary
-  WAFWA Management Zones

Draft Data for Interim Internal Review Only



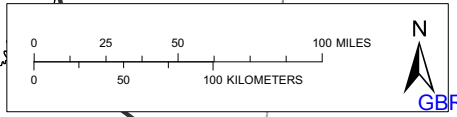
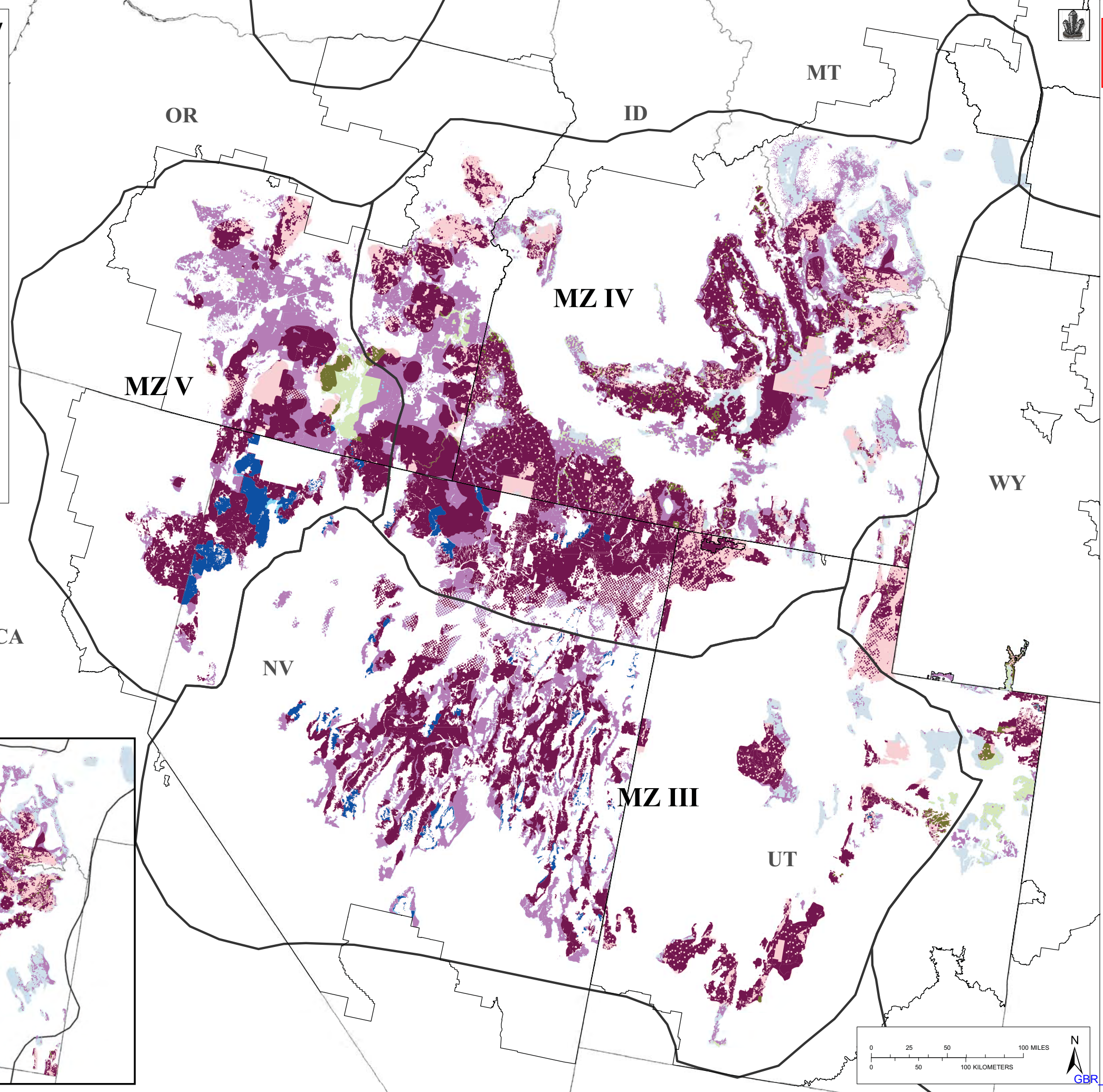
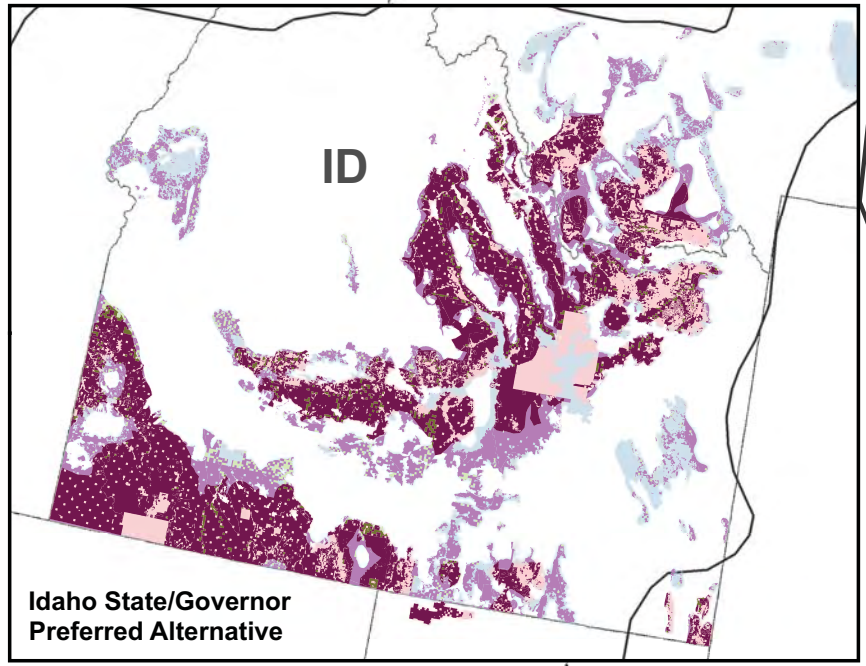
Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy

Management Zone: III, IV, and V
Program: Locatable Minerals
Decisions: Open
Recommended Withdrawals
Existing Withdrawals
Alternatives: Preferred Alternative

Legend

- Open in Priority Habitat
- Open in General Habitat
- Recommended Withdrawals in Priority Habitat
- Recommended Withdrawals in General Habitat
- Existing Withdrawals in Priority Habitat
- Existing Withdrawals in General Habitat
- Priority Habitat
- General Habitat
- EIS Boundary
- WAFWA Management Zones









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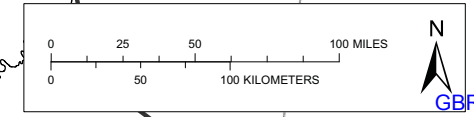
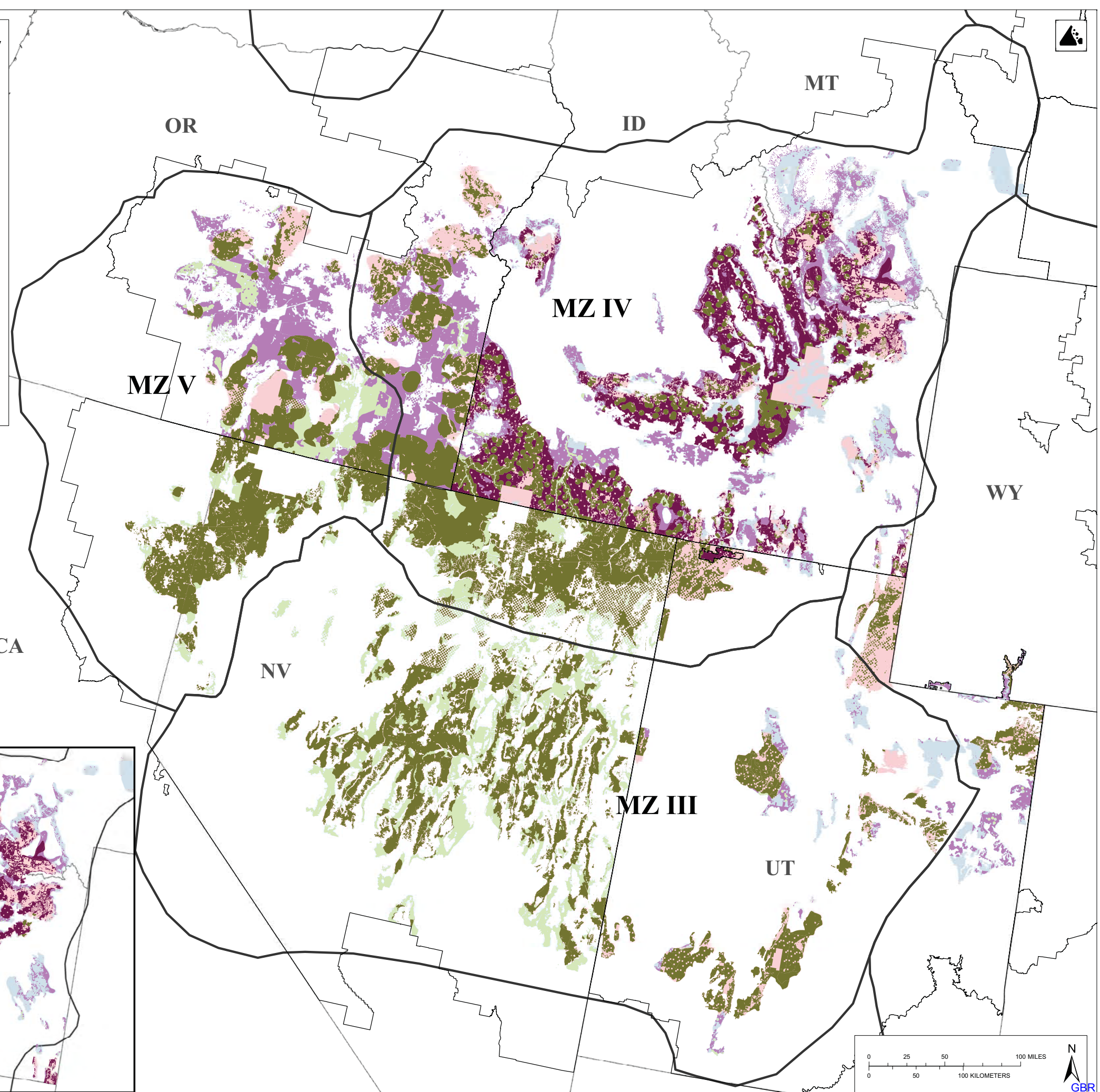
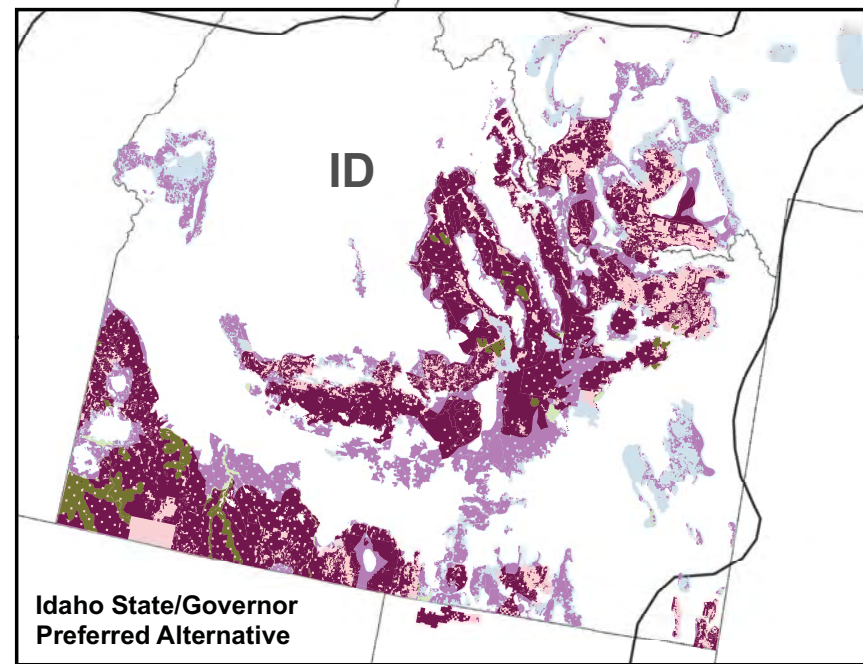
Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy

Management Zone: III, IV, and V
Program: Salable Minerals (Materials Disposals)
Decisions: Open and Closed
Alternatives: Preferred Alternative

Legend

-  Open in Priority Habitat
-  Open in General Habitat
-  Closed in Priority Habitat
-  Closed in General Habitat
-  Priority Habitat
-  General Habitat
-  EIS Boundary
-  WAFWA Management Zones

Draft Data for Interim Internal Review Only



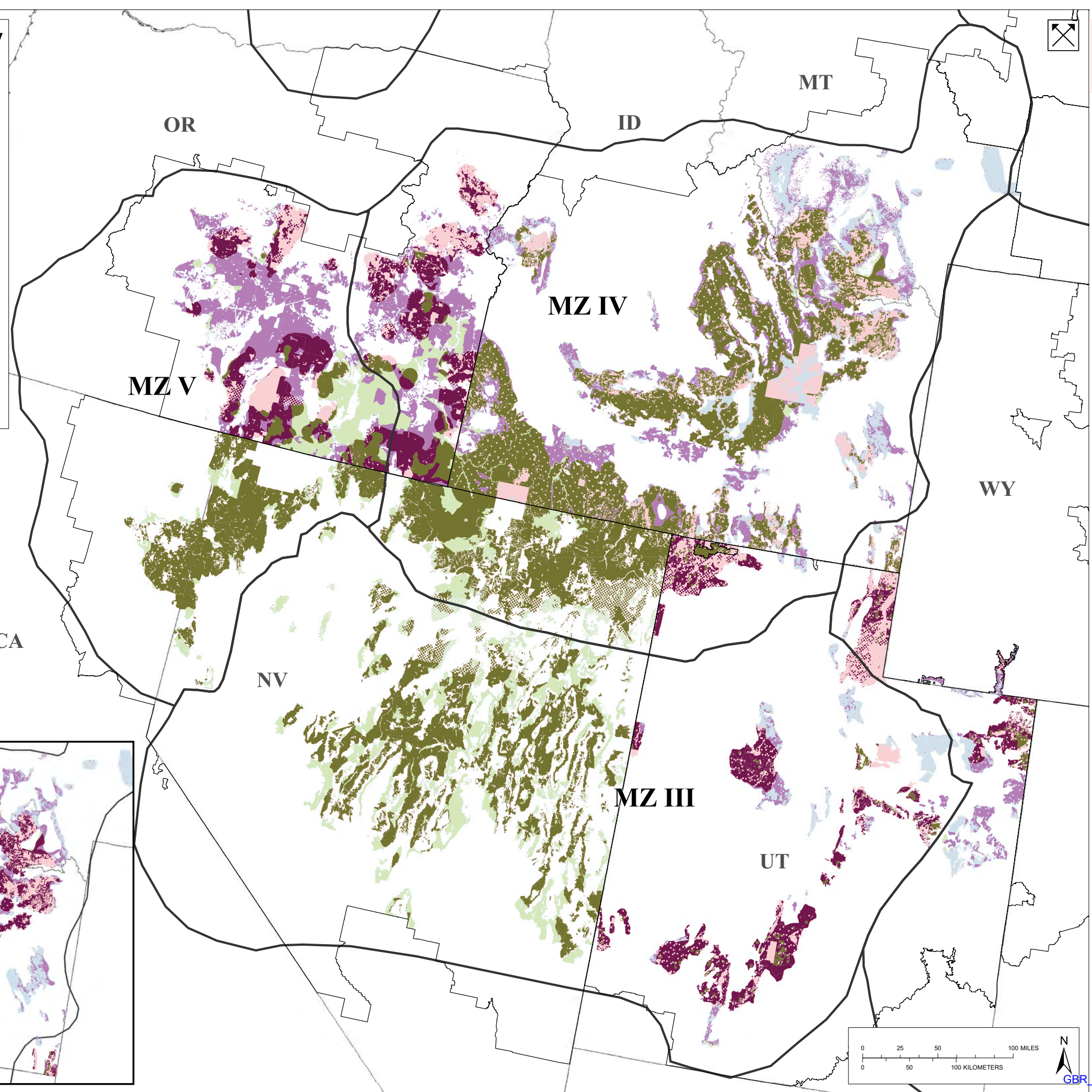
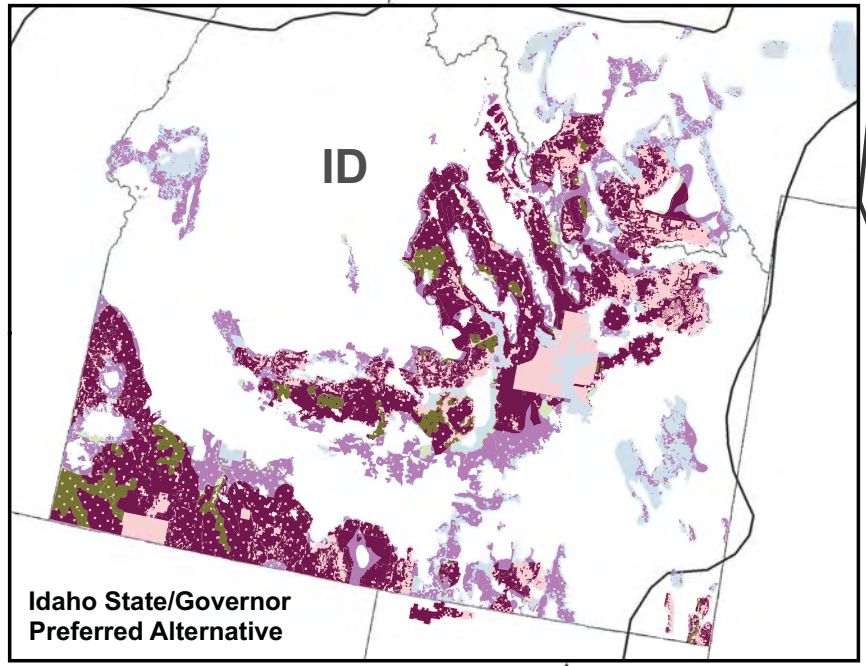
Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy

Management Zone: III, IV, and V
Program: Non-Energy Leasable Minerals
Decisions: Open and Closed
Alternatives: Preferred Alternative

Legend

- Open in Priority Habitat
- Open in General Habitat
- Closed in Priority Habitat
- Closed in General Habitat
- Priority Habitat
- General Habitat
- EIS Boundary
- WAFWA Management Zones

Draft Data for Interim Internal Review Only



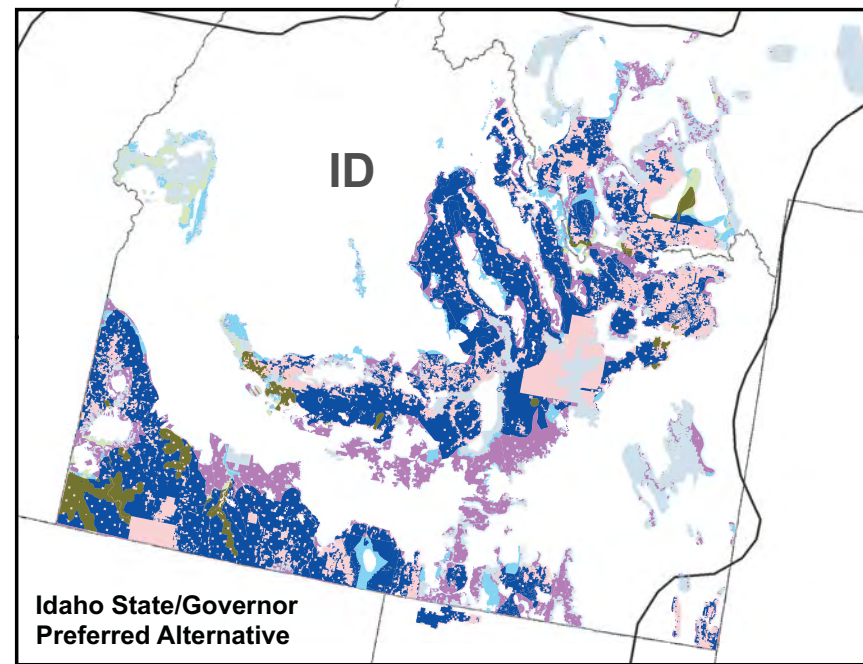
Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy

Management Zone: III, IV, and V
Program: Right-Of-Ways
Decisions: Open
Avoidance
Exclusion
Alternatives: Preferred Alternative

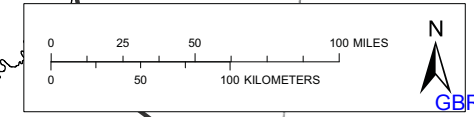
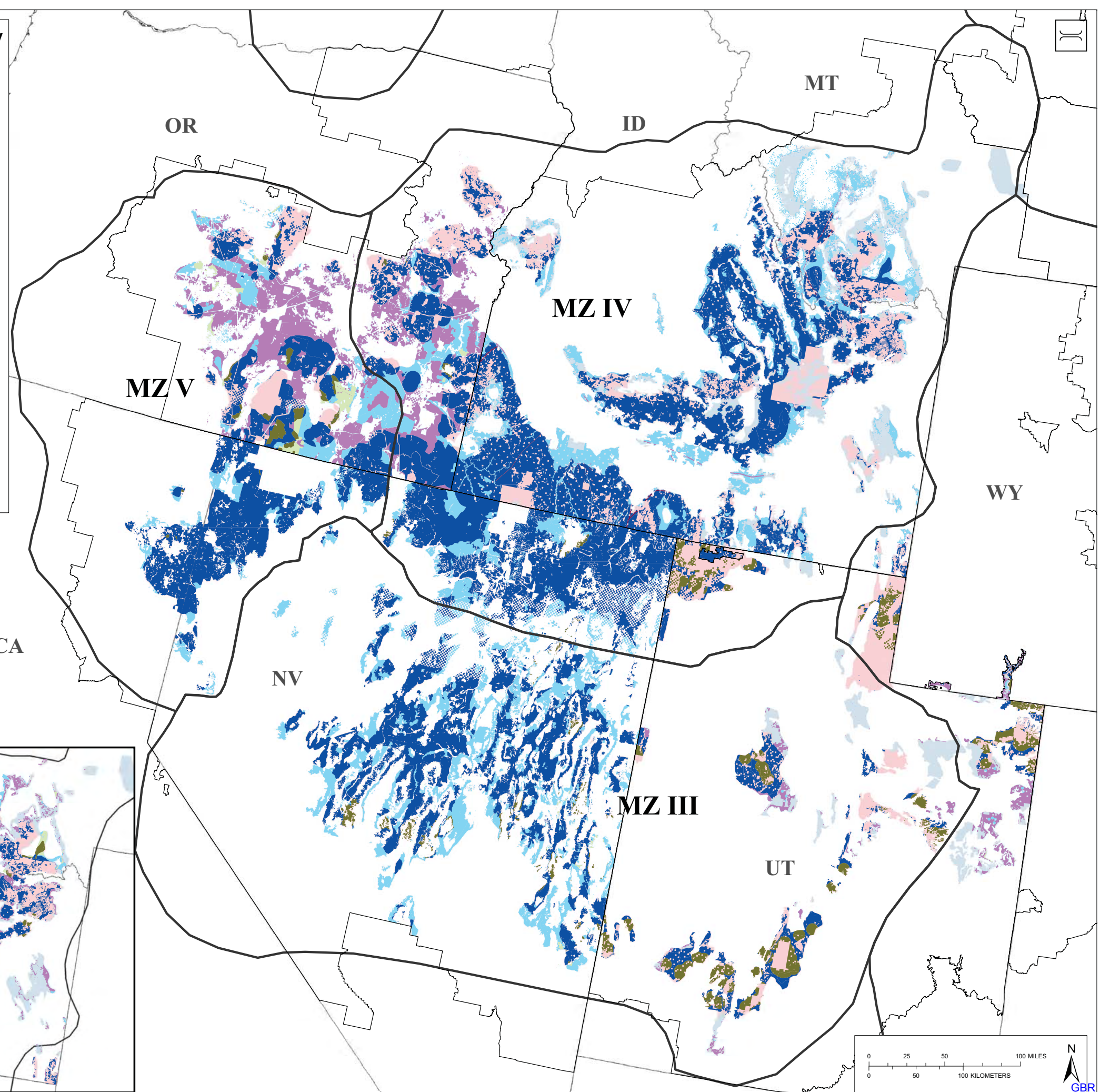
Legend

- Open in Priority Habitat
- Open in General Habitat
- Avoidance in Priority Habitat
- Avoidance in General Habitat
- Exclusion in Priority Habitat
- Exclusion in General Habitat
- Priority Habitat
- General Habitat
- EIS Boundary
- WAFWA Management Zones

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Idaho State/Governor
Preferred Alternative



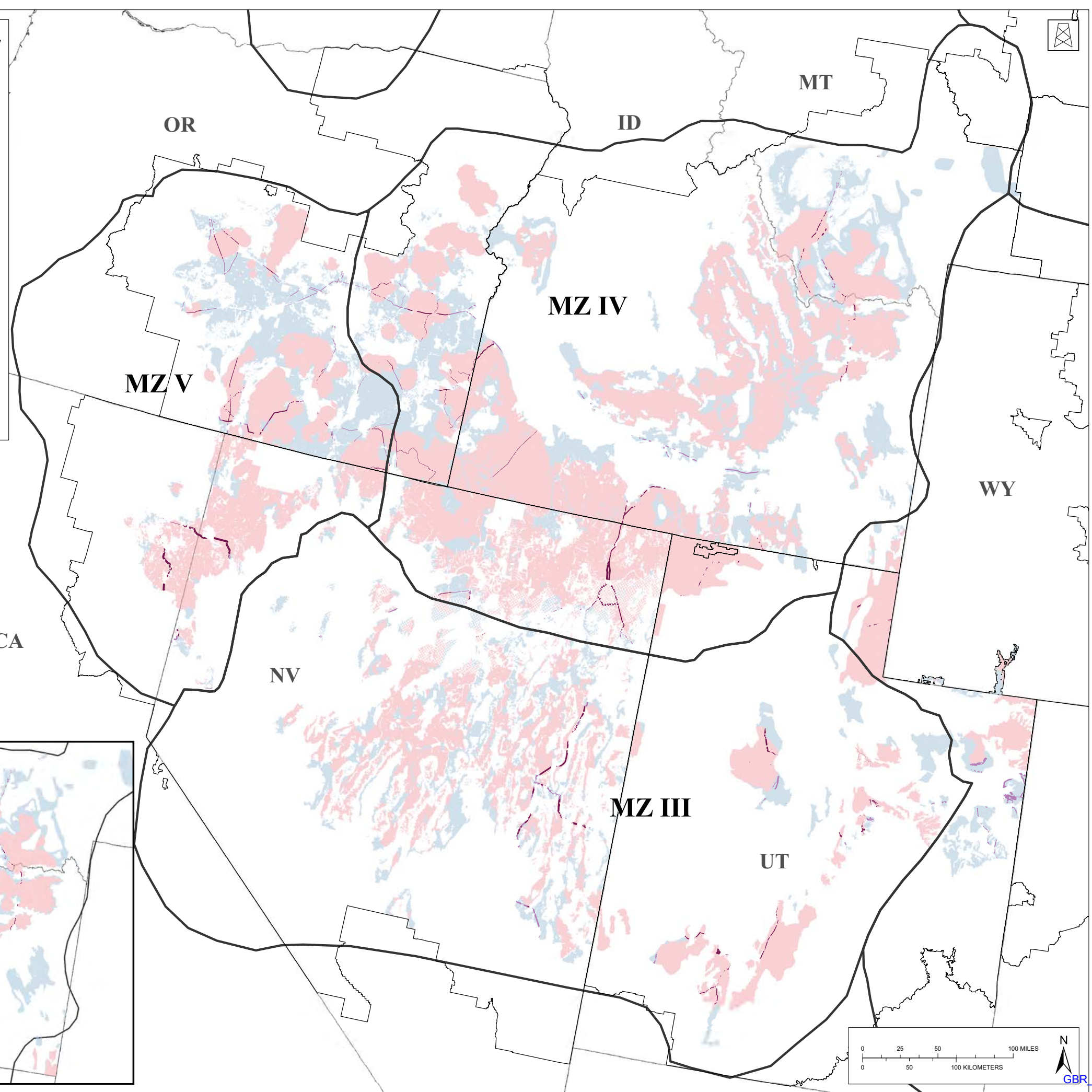
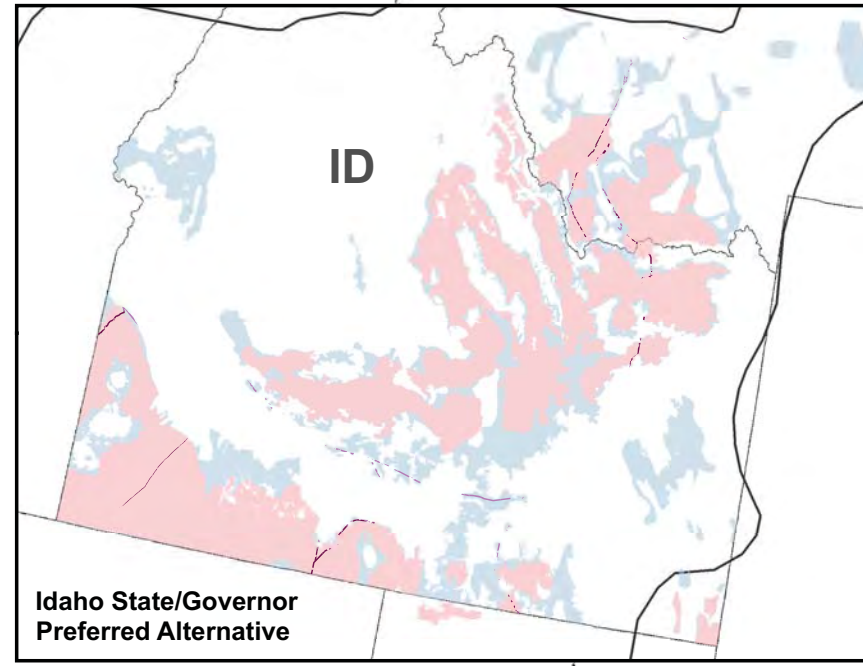
Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy

Management Zone: III, IV, and V
Program: Utility Corridors
Decisions: Existing and Proposed
Alternatives: Preferred Alternative

Legend

- Existing in Priority Habitat
- Existing in General Habitat
- Proposed in Priority Habitat
- Proposed in General Habitat
- Priority Habitat
- General Habitat
- EIS Boundary
- WAFWA Management Zones

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Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy

Management Zone: III, IV, and V

Program: Livestock Grazing

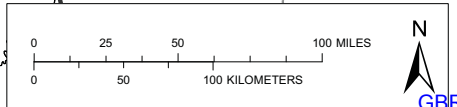
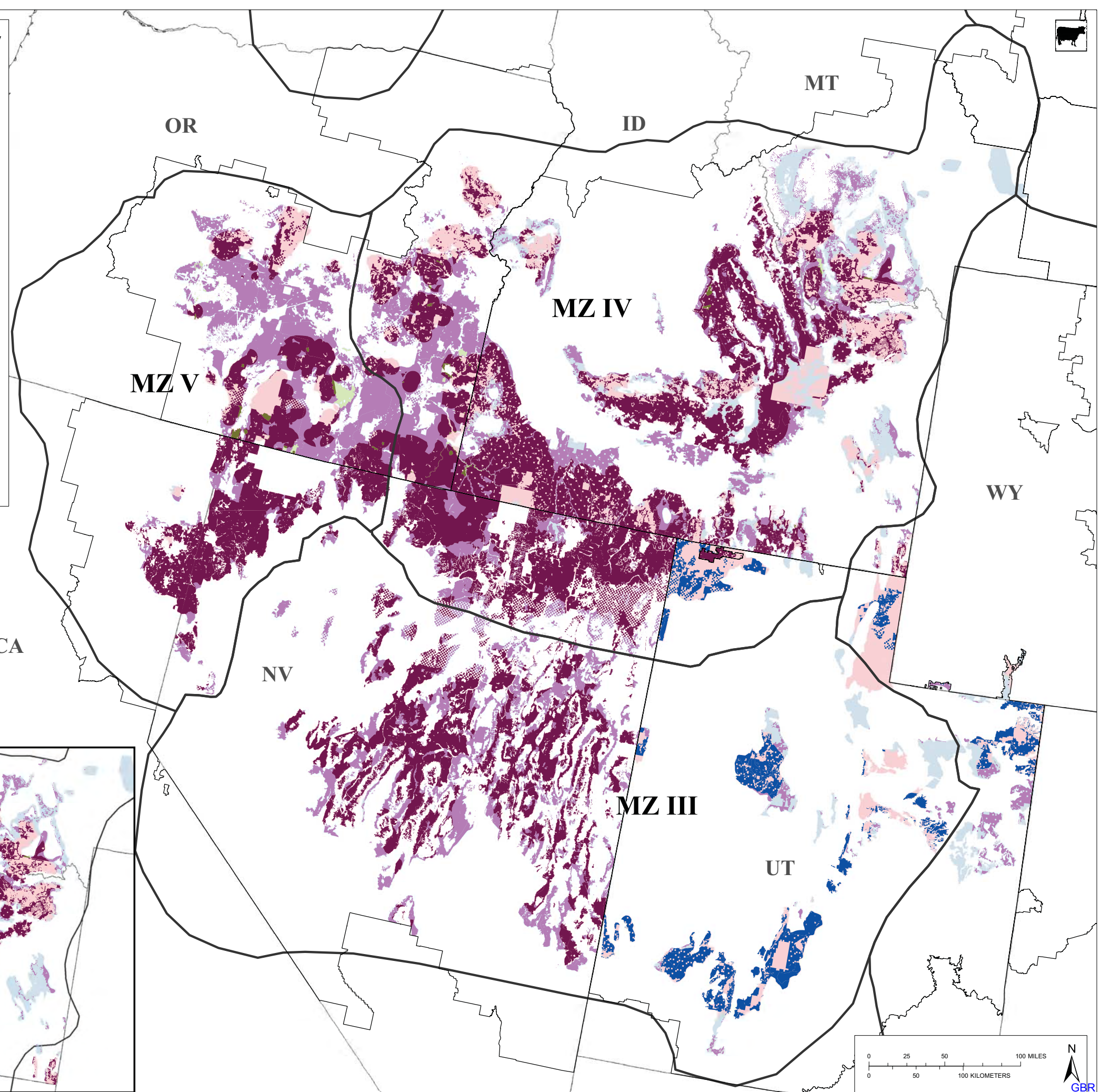
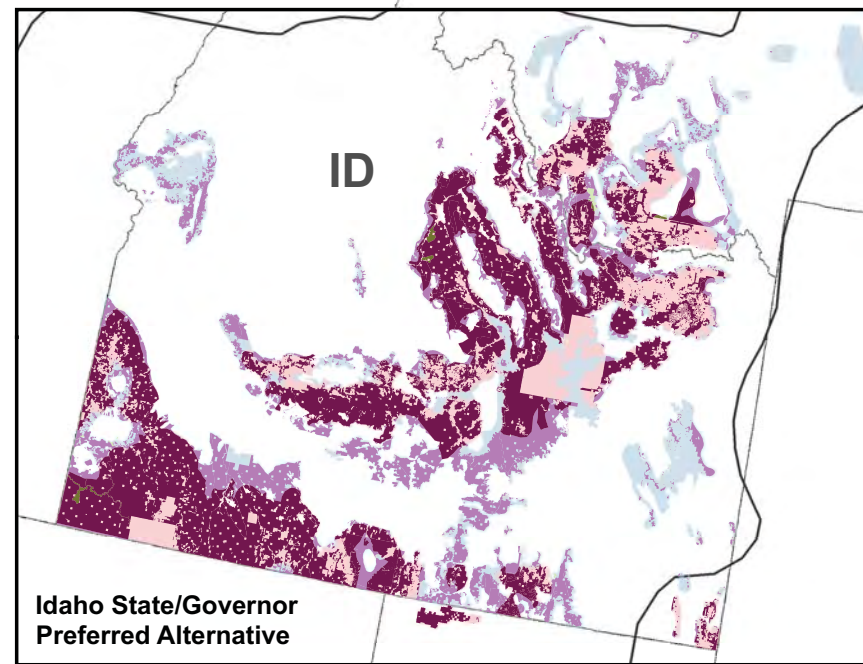
Decisions: Available,
Available With Modification,
Unavailable

Alternatives: Preferred Alternative

Legend

- Available in Priority Habitat
- Available in General Habitat
- Available With Modification in Priority Habitat
- Available With Modification in General Habitat
- Unavailable in Priority Habitat
- Unavailable in General Habitat
- Priority Habitat
- General Habitat
- EIS Boundary
- WAFWA Management Zones

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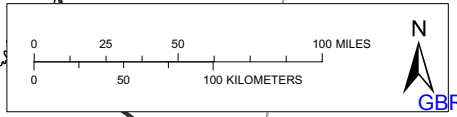
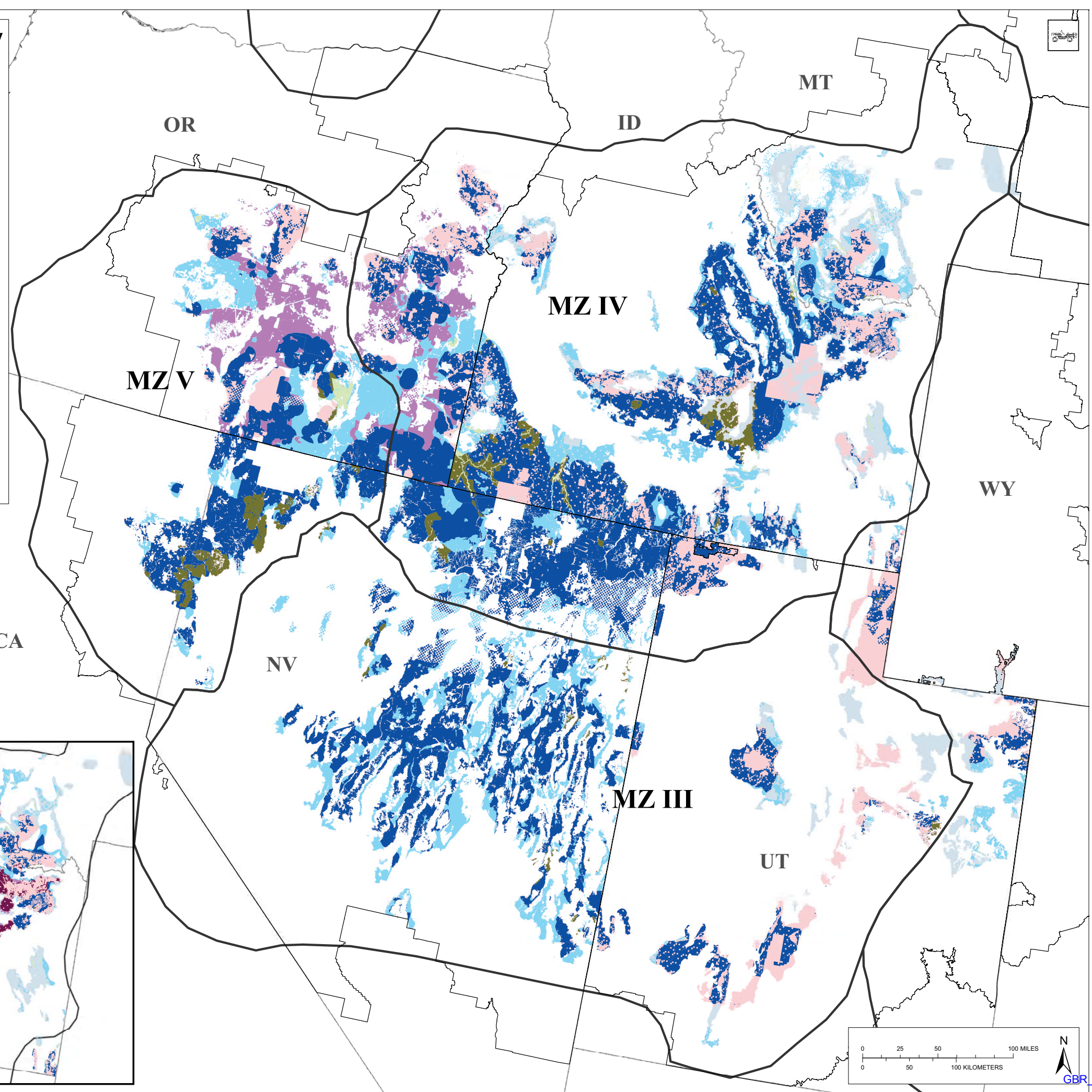
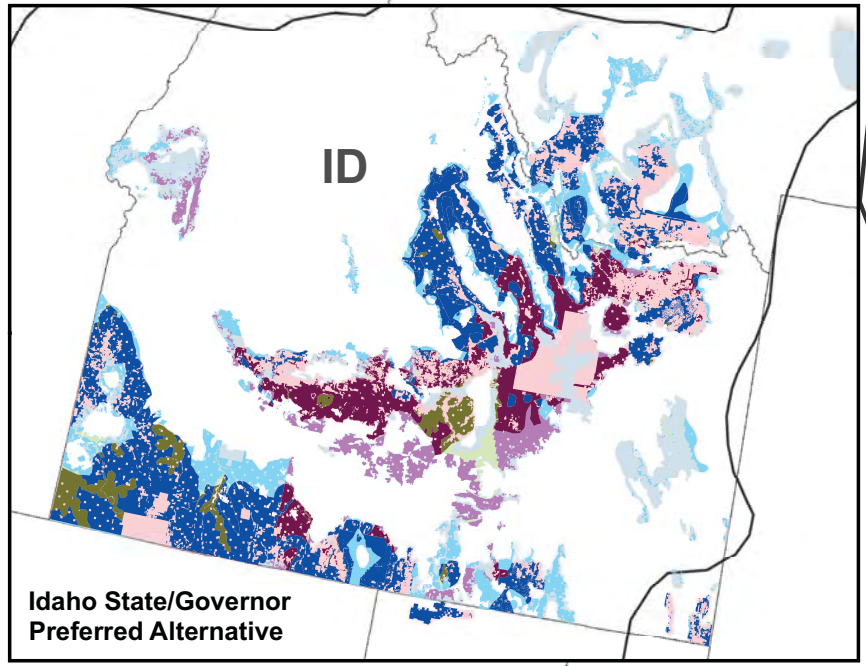
Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy

Management Zone: III, IV, and V
Program: Trails and Travel Management
Decisions: Open
 Limited
 Closed
Alternatives: Preferred Alternative

Legend

- Open in Priority Habitat
- Open in General Habitat
- Limited in Priority Habitat
- Limited in General Habitat
- Closed in Priority Habitat
- Closed in General Habitat
- Priority Habitat
- General Habitat
- EIS Boundary
- WAFWA Management Zones









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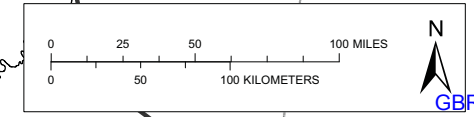
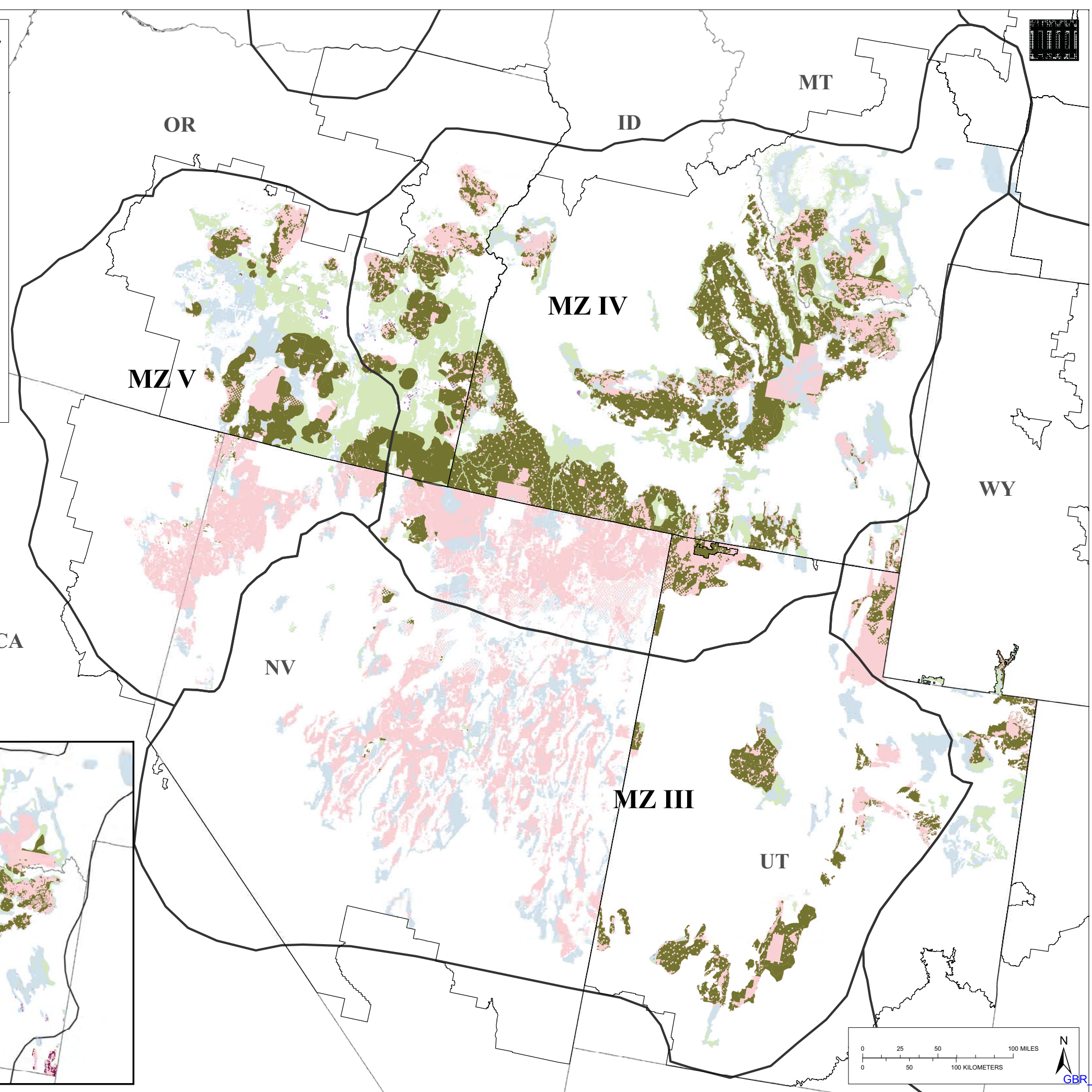
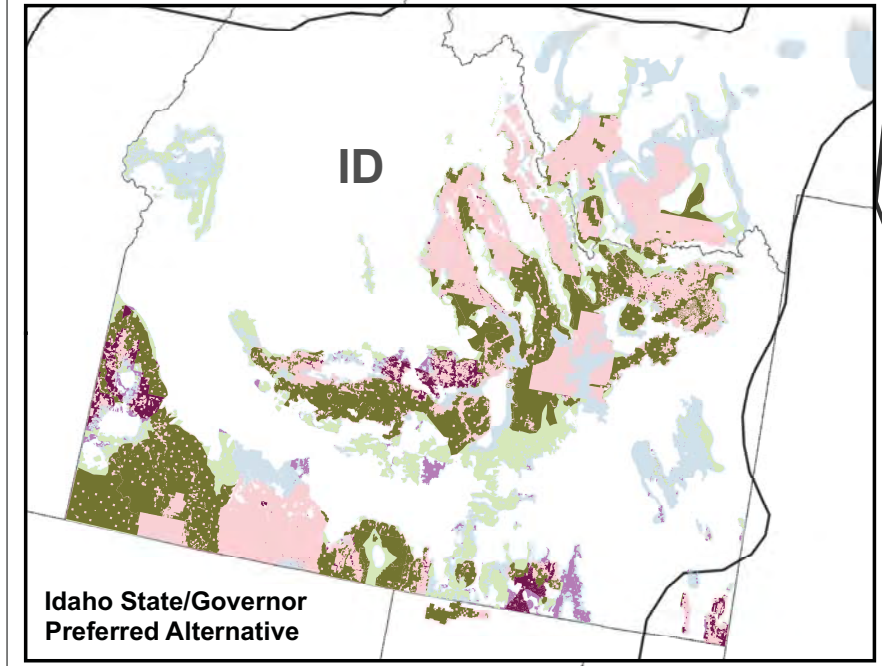
Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy

Management Zone: III, IV, and V
Program: Land Tenure
Decisions: Disposal and Retention
Alternatives: Preferred Alternative

Legend

-  Disposal in Priority Habitat
-  Disposal in General Habitat
-  Retention in Priority Habitat
-  Retention in General Habitat
-  Priority Habitat
-  General Habitat
-  EIS Boundary
-  WAFWA Management Zones

Draft Data for Interim Internal Review Only



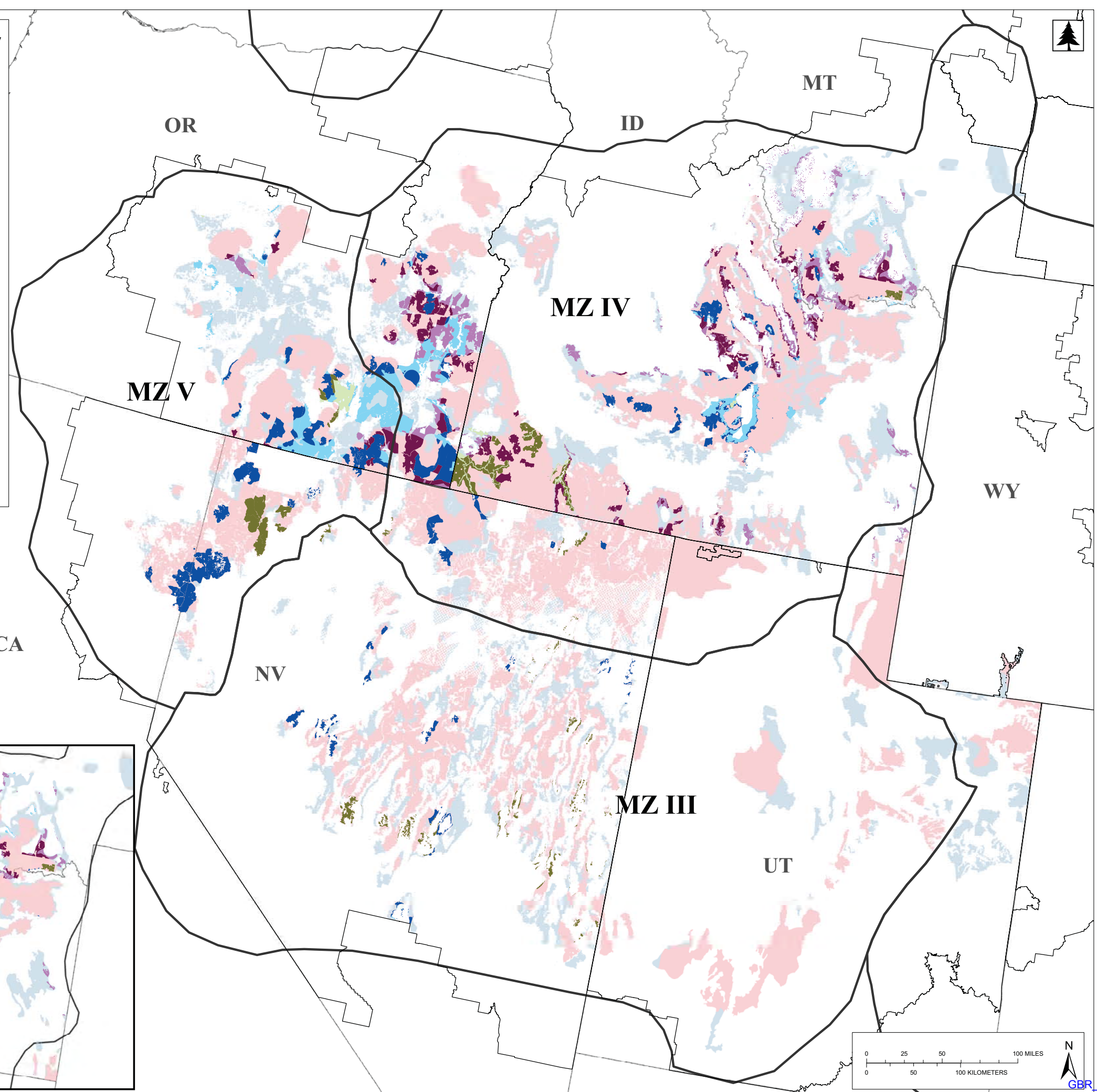
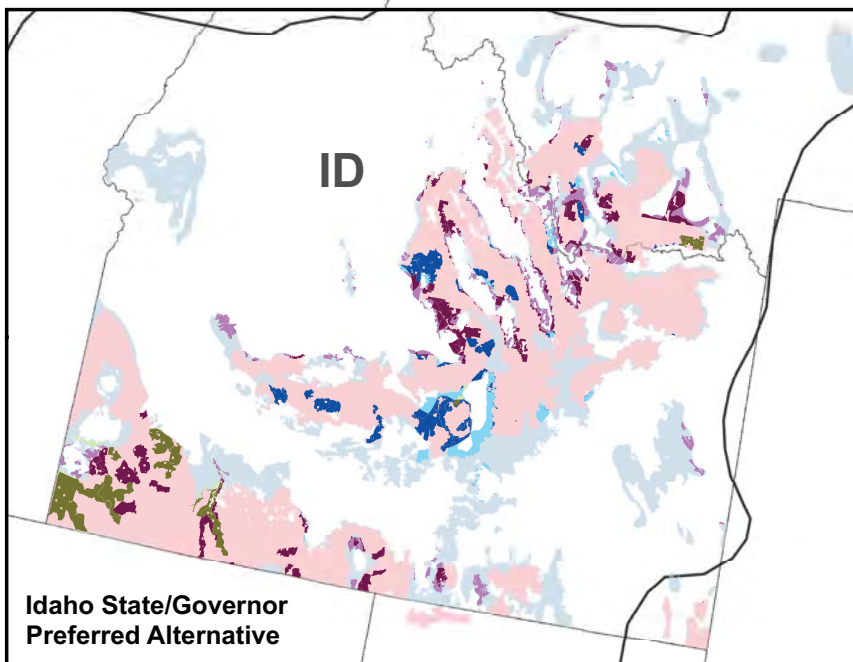
Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy

Management Zone: III, IV, and V
Program: Wilderness
Decisions: Characteristics
Designated
Study Areas
Alternatives: Preferred Alternative

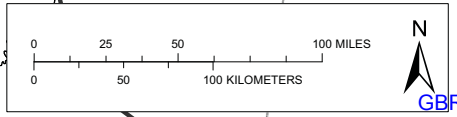
Legend

- Characteristics in Priority Habitat
- Characteristics in General Habitat
- Study Areas in Priority Habitat
- Study Areas in General Habitat
- Designated in Priority Habitat
- Designated in General Habitat
- Priority Habitat
- General Habitat
- EIS Boundary
- WAFWA Management Zones

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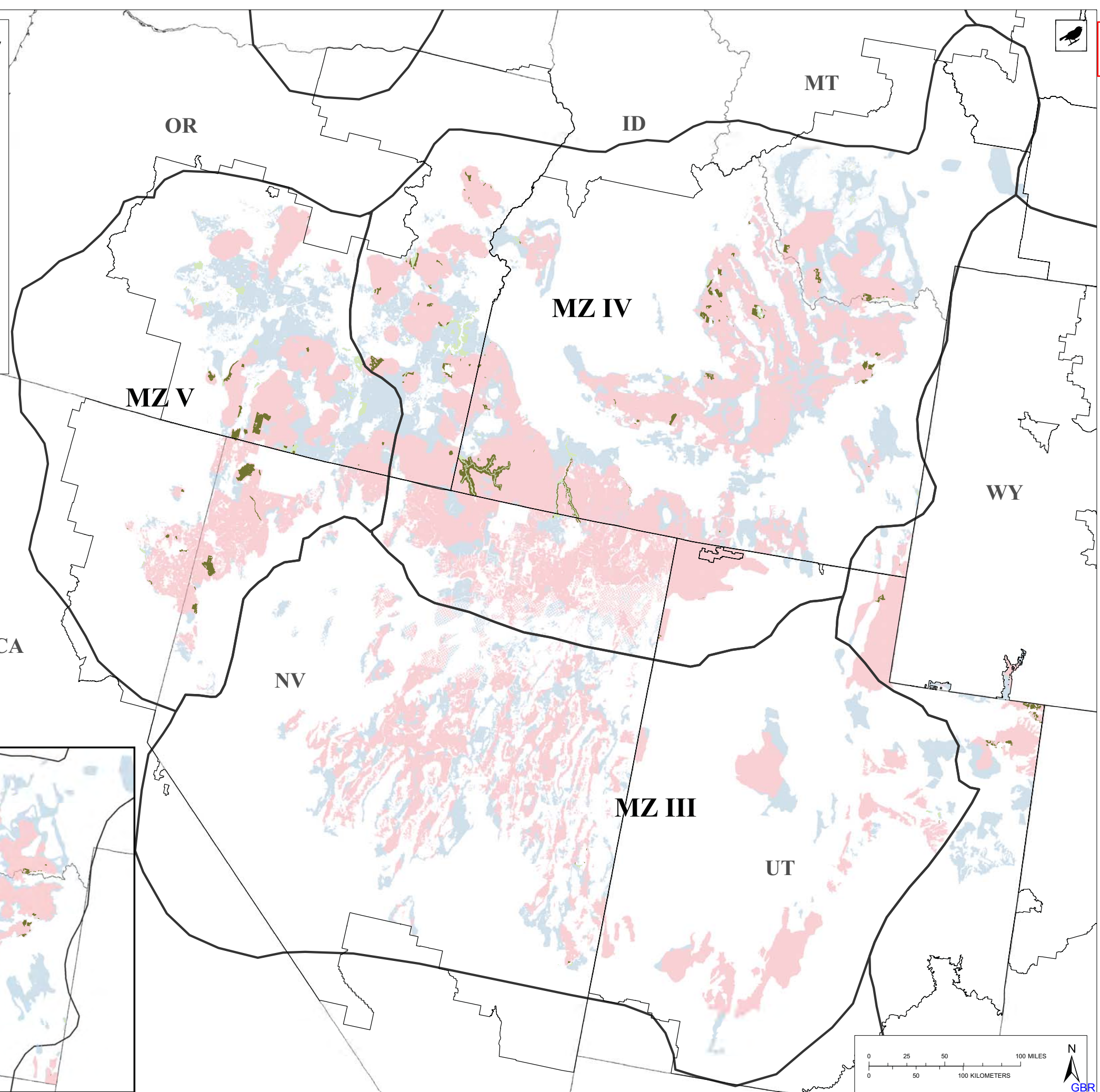
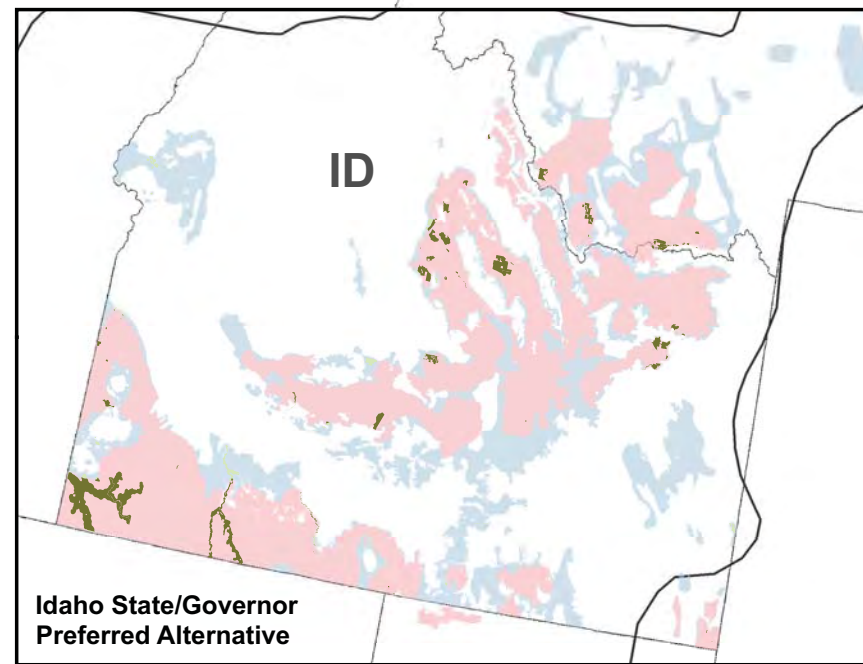
Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy

Management Zone: III, IV, and V
Program: ACECs/Zoological Areas
Decisions: Proposed Existing
Alternatives: Preferred Alternative

Legend

- Proposed Existing in Priority Habitat
- Proposed Existing in General Habitat
- Priority Habitat
- General Habitat
- EIS Boundary
- WAFWA Management Zones

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USFWS/FS/IDFG/OSC/BLM Draft EIS Alternative Review Matrix
 BLM Plan: Idaho and Southwestern Montana DRMP/DEIS
 Program Area: Mainly "Sage-Grouse" Actions; see Footnote 3
 GSG Population(s):

Issue ¹	Conservation Objective from COT Report	Conservation Measures / Options from COT Report	Preliminary Assessment of Proposed Action Consistency with COT Report ^{2,3,4}						Management Common to All Alternatives (Unclear if PPA, RA, or GH actions apply to Alt. A, as no PPAs, RAs, or GH is designated) & Misc. Comments
			Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E	Alternative F	
PACs	Retain sage-grouse habitats within PACs (pertains to PAC designation; actions below this line are evaluated independent of PAC designation for each Alternative)	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	Limited Conservation Measures, None Specific to PACs	Conservation Measures in PACs	Same as B	Same as B	Same as B. CHZ & IHZ designations which are inclusive of the PACs	Same as B	
	If PACs are lost to catastrophic events, implement appropriate restoration efforts	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	Restoration actions identified, but no prioritization for PACs	Lack of specificity to conservation measures, prioritization not specific to PACs	Passive restoration not as effective, prioritization not specific to PACs	Restoration and prioritization of restoration activities focus work on PACs	Mapping focuses prioritization for restoration. Implementation team through adaptive management could institute early response	Same as B	
	Restore and rehabilitate degraded sage-grouse habitat within PACs.	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	Restoration actions identified, but no prioritization for PACs	Lack of specificity to conservation measures, prioritization not specific to PACs	Passive restoration, prioritization not specific to PACs	Restoration and prioritization of restoration activities focus work on PACs	Same as Above.	Same as B	
	Identify areas and habitats outside of PACs which may be necessary to maintain viability of sage-grouse. If development or vegetation manipulation activities outside of PACs are proposed, the project proponent should work with federal, state or local agencies and interested stakeholders to ensure consistency with sage-grouse habitat needs.	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	No PAC or other habitat delineation consistent across subregion. Several LUPs have delineated habitat. Subsequent site specific NEPA would be required to address project proposals.	Identifies areas outside PACs for conservation measures addressing GRSG	Same as B, with additional areas outside PACs	Identifies areas outside PACs for conservation measures addressing GRSG	No areas outside of PACs identified for conservation measures. Does not specifically address areas outside PACs. There are actions that could occur outside of PACs (fire and invasives) that would serve to maintain PACs. Subsequent site specific NEPA would be required to address project proposals.	Same as B	

	Re-evaluate the status of PACs and adjacent sage-grouse habitat at least once every 5-years, or when important new information becomes available.	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	No PAC or other habitat delineation consistent across subregion. Several LUPs have delineated habitat	No specific re-evaluation identified	Same as B	Adaptive Management Strategy achieves re-evaluation	Adaptive management strategy achieves re-evaluation. Missing re-evaluation in areas adjacent to PACs - habitat does not get evaluated but populations do, but pops outside PACs are not used in trigger evaluation.	Same as B	
	Actively pursue opportunities to increase occupancy and connectivity between PACs.	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	No PAC or other habitat delineation consistent across subregion. Several LUPs have delineated habitat	Identifies areas outside PACs for conservation measures addressing GRSG	Same as B	Same as B	Not specifically addressed. Some measures in GHZ but limited - may have indirect benefits to this objective	Same as B	
	Maintain or improve existing habitat conditions in areas adjacent to burned habitat.	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	Not specifically addressed.	Not specifically addressed.	Not specifically addressed.	Adaptive management addresses management in medial habitats adjacent to habitat lost in priority areas.	Soft and Hard adaptive management triggers that could propose or address management in IHZ adjacent burned CHZ.	Not specifically addressed.	
Fire - YW = L; PRB = L	Retain and restore healthy native SB communities within GSG range	Restrict or contain fire within the normal range of fire activity (assuming a healthy native perennial sagebrush community), including size and frequency, as defined by the best available science.	Current guidance suppresses fires adequately under normal fire conditions	Same as A	Removal of grazing leads to additional fuel loading increasing rate of spread	Contains actions to address additional suppression activities	Same as D	Same as A	
		Eliminate intentional fires in sagebrush habitats, including prescribed burning of breeding and winter habitats.	Prescribed fire still allowed in GRSG habitat	Prescribed fire eliminated in low precipitation zones	Same as B	Prescribed fire limited by RDFs/BMPs	Prescribed fire allowed to respond to resource conditions - lack of specific criteria.	Same as B	
		Design and implement restoration of burned sagebrush habitats to allow for natural succession to healthy native sagebrush plant communities.	No decisions to prevent planting of species that may inhibit succession	Decisions support recovery of GRSG	Passive restoration can inhibit recovery of sagebrush	Same as B	Same as B	Same as B	
		Implement monitoring programs for restoration activities. To ensure success, monitoring must continue until restoration is complete, with sufficient commitments to make adequate corrections to management efforts if needed.	Fire rehab is monitored for 3 years by policy	Contains a monitoring framework	Same as B	Implementation of the adaptive management strategy and associated monitoring	Same as D	Same as B	

		Immediately suppress fire in all sagebrush habitats.	Direction is to immediately suppress fire except in fire use areas, which are identified to achieve resource objectives - including GRSG	Same as A	Same as A	Same as A	Same as A	Same as A	
		Which (if any) of Options 1a - d were applied?							
		Which (if any) of Options 2a - j were applied?							
		Which (if any) of Options 3a - e were applied?							
		Was Option 4 applied?							
Non-native, Invasive Plant Species - Weeds/Annual Grasses YW = Y; PRB = Y	Maintain and restore healthy, native SB communities	Retain all remaining large intact sagebrush patches, particularly at low elevations.	No focus on large intact sagebrush areas	Objective to retain 50-70% sagebrush habitat	Same as B	Same as B	Contains actions to maintain sagebrush.	Same as B	
		Reduce or eliminate disturbances that promote the spread of these invasive species.	Some direction but not consistent across subregion	Actions reduce disturbance to GRSG habitat	Same as B	Same as B	Same as B	Same as B	
		Monitor and control invasive vegetation post-wildfire for at least three years.	No requirement to monitor untreated areas.	Same as A	Same as A	Adaptive management strategy monitors yearly.	Same as D. p. D-60 2ii	Same as A	
		Require best management practices for construction projects in and adjacent to sagebrush habitats to prevent invasion.	Limited RDFs and BMPs to address GRSG	RDFs for development	Same as B	RDFs and BMPs	BMPs. P. D-61 2iv	Same as B	
		Restore altered ecosystems such that non-native invasive plants are reduced to levels that do not put the area at risk of conversion if a catastrophic event were to occur.	No direction specific to GRSG habitat.	Lacks specific direction about areas for restoration	Passive restoration make extend timeframes for recovery.	Contains BMPs for active restoration along with adaptive management habitat triggers	Contains BMPs and active restoration actions. Adaptive management habitat trigger, managing to desired conditions. p. D-55, D-61, 3 I,ii.	Same as B	
Energy Development YW = Y; PRB = Y	Energy development should be designed to insure that it will not impinge upon stable or increasing GSG population trends	Avoid energy development in PACs.	Does not avoid development in PACs	PPH - Exclusion/Avoidance. LR-3, LR-7, LR-10, LR-11, LR-12	PPH - Exclusion/Avoidance	PPMA/PMMA - Avoidance, commercial exclusion. LR-3, LR-5, LR-6, LR-7, LR-8, LR-9	CHZ/IHZ avoidance - need further clarification on exception process and criteria. LR-3, LR-4	PPH - Exclusion/Avoidance	

		If avoidance is not possible in PACs due to pre-existing valid rights, adjacent development, or split estate issues, development should only occur in non-habitat areas, including all appurtenant structures, with an adequate buffer that is sufficient to preclude impacts to sage-grouse habitat from noise, and other human activities.	Limited RDFs and BMPs to address GRSG	RDFs for development	Same as B	RDFs and BMPs. NSO/closed for majority of Idaho planning area.	BMPs. Disturbance cap 3% - CHZ, 5% - IHZ, 1 km NSO	Same as B	
		If development must occur in sage-grouse habitats due to existing rights and lack of reasonable alternative avoidance measures, the development should occur in the least suitable habitat for sage-grouse and be designed to ensure at a minimum that there are no detectable declines in sage-grouse population trends (see row below and COT report for measures to implement to facilitate this).	Limited RDFs and BMPs to address GRSG	RDFs for development	Same as B	RDFs and BMPs	BMPs. Adaptive management strategy - D-56 4iv; D-62 4ii.	Same as B	
		Which (if any) of Measure 3a - 3e were applied?							
Sagebrush Removal / Elimination YW = L; PRB = L	Avoid SB removal or manipulation in GSG breeding or wintering habitats	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	No specific direction	Fuels prescription. GOA-91 & GOA-92	Same as B	FM-1 & RDFs	No actions that directly address this.	Same as B	
Grazing YW = Y; PRB = Y	Conduct grazing management for all ungulates in a manner consistent with local ecological conditions that maintains or restores healthy SB shrub and native perennial grass and forb communities and conserves the essential habitat components for GSG (shrub and nesting cover). Areas which do not currently meet this standard should be managed to restore these components. Adequate monitoring of grazing strategies and their results, with necessary changes in strategies, is essential to ensuring that desired ecological conditions and GSG response are achieved. Livestock and wild ungulate numbers must be	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	No specific GRSG management objectives for grazing	Implementation of Rangeland Health - specifically Standard 6 with inclusion of GRSG Habitat management objectives	Decreased recovery of shrubs and increase of cheatgrass	Same as B	Same as B	Same as C, slow shrub recovery	
		Which (if any) of Options 1 - 5 were applied?							
Range Management Structures (no ratings)	Avoid or reduce the impact of RMS on GSG	Range management structures should be designed and placed to be neutral or beneficial to sage-grouse.	Various BMPs in existing plans	Implementation of BMPs and RDFs to reduce impacts. RM-34	No range improvement structures	Same as B	Not all beneficial or neutral. D-56 5iv; D-63 5iv, RM-43, RM-37	Same as B	
		Structures that are currently contributing to negative impacts to either sage-grouse or their habitats should be removed or modified to remove the threat.	Limited evaluation and retrofitting of existing structures	RM-35 & RM-44	No new structures, remove existing structures.	RM-35 & RM-43	RM-36, RM-43, RM-44, RM-46, D-56 5iv, D-63 5iv, D-65 5iv.	RM-36 & RM-43	
FR Equid Management (NA in Montana)	Protect sage-grouse from the negative influences of grazing by free roaming equids.	Develop, implement, and enforce adequate regulatory mechanisms to protect sage-grouse habitat from negative influences of grazing by free-roaming equids.	Need to meet Rangeland Health Standards but not specific to GRSG	WHB-1 & WHB-2	Same as A	Same as B	Same as A	Same as A	
		Manage free-roaming equids at levels that allow native sagebrush vegetative communities to minimally achieve PFC (for riparian areas) or RHS (for uplands).	Need to meet Rangeland Health Standards and manage to AML.	Same as A	Same as A	Same as A	Same as A	Same as A	

Pinyon-juniper Expansion / Conifers YW = L; PRB = L	Remove pinyon-juniper from areas of SB that are most likely to support GSG (post-removal) at a rate at least equal to the rate of p-j incursion	No conservation measures specified. Is conservation objective addressed applying locally-derived measures?	Does not address juniper removal consistently across subregion	Does not specifically address conifer removal; could be included as part of habitat restoration.	Limited conifer removal	Addresses removal but does not specify rate	Same as D	Same as D	
		Which (if any) of Options 1 - 4 were applied?							
Agricultural Conversion YW = Y; PRB = N	Avoid further loss of sagebrush habitat for agricultural activities (both animal and plant production) and prioritize restoration. In areas where taking agricultural lands out of production has benefited GSG, the programs supporting these actions should be targeted and continued (e.g., CRP/SAFE). Threat amelioration activities should, at a minimum, be prioritized within PACS, but should be	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	Lands still available for exchange or disposal	Retention of GRS habitat. LR-19	Same as B	Same as B	Does not address land tenure and retention - adaptive management strategy monitors.	Same as B	
		Which (if any) of Options 1 - 4 were applied?							
Mining YW = N; PRB = Y	Maintain stable to increasing GSG populations and no net loss of GSG habitats in areas affected by mining	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	No conservation measures for locatables, no conservation measures for salable	Mineral withdrawal and mitigation, BMPs. MLM-1, MLM-2, MSM-1, MSM-2, MNM-2	Same as B	Mitigation reduces impacts. MSM-2, MSM-3, MNM-1	Mitigation reduces impacts	Same as B	
		Which (if any) of Options 1 - 4 were applied?							
Recreation YW = L; PRB = N	In areas subjected to recreational activities, maintain healthy native SB communities based on local ecological conditions and with consideration of drought conditions, and manage direct and indirect human disturbance (including noise) to avoid interruption of normal GSG behavior.	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	Lacks current, consistent direction to avoid disturbance	Limited Designation with follow-up travel management. TM-1, TM-3, TM-4	Same as B	Same as B. TM-1, TM-5	Same as B	Same as B	
		Which (if any) of Options 1 - 2 were applied?							
Ex-Urban Development / Urbanization YW = N; PRB = L	Limit urban and exurban development in GSG habitats and maintain intact native SB communities	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	Lands still available for exchange or disposal	Retention of GRS habitat	Same as B	Same as B	See Ag Conversion Alt E above.	Same as B	
		Which (if any) of Options 1 - 5 were applied?							
Infrastructure YW = Y; PRB = Y	Avoid development of infrastructure within PACS	No new development of infrastructure within PACS. Designated, but not yet developed infrastructure corridors should be re-located outside of PACS unless it can be demonstrated that these corridors will have no impacts on the maintenance of neutral or positive sage-grouse population trends or habitats. New infrastructure should be avoided where individual state plans have identified key connectivity corridors outside of PACS.	Does not avoid development in PACS	PPH - Exclusion/Avoidance. LR-3, LR-7, LR-10, LR-11, LR-12	PPH - Exclusion/Avoidance	PPMA/PMMA - Avoidance, commercial exclusion. LR-3, LR-5, LR-6, LR-7, LR-8, LR-9	CHZ/IHZ avoidance - need further clarification on exception process and criteria. LR-3, LR-4	PPH - Exclusion/Avoidance	
		Where state sage-grouse management plans provide an effective strategy for infrastructure those strategies should be implemented. In all other situations the conservation options in the COT report should be considered.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Same as Above.	Not Applicable	
		Which (if any) of Options 1 - 10 were applied?							

Fences (no ratings)	Minimize the impact of fences on GSG populations	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	Various BMPs in existing plans	Implementation of BMPs and RDFs to reduce impacts. RM-34, RM-35, RM-36	No range improvement structures	Same as B	RM-36, RM-37, RM-38, RM-40, RM-41	Same as B
		Which (if any) of Options 1 - 3 were applied?						

¹Threat Ratings from COT Report ²Subjective Consistency (with COT Report) Rating Continuum

Y: Pres. and Widespread	High Concern &/or Very Low Consistency
L: Pres. and Localized	↑
N: Not Known to be Pres.	Lower Concern &/or Higher Consistency
NA	NA

³Actions as Labeled in Table 2-18 of DEIS

FM/PF = Fuels Management/Prescribed Fire
GH = Sage-Grouse Habitat - General Habitat Areas
GSG ACEC = Greater Sage-Grouse Area
HC = Sage-Grouse - Habitat Compensation
IS = Invasive species
LG = Livestock Grazing
LTA = Land Tenure Adjustment
PPA = Sage-Grouse Habitat - Protection Priority Areas
RA = Sage-Grouse Habitat - Restoration Areas
RE = Renewable Energy
RWA = Riparian and Wetland Areas
SG = Sage-Grouse
TM/OHV = Travel Management/Off-Highway Vehicle
V = Vegetation

⁴Other Abbreviations

COT = Conservation Objectives Team
N = No, action appears to be inconsistent with objective
NA = Not Applicable
PAC = Priority Areas for Conservation
PRB = Powder River Basin Population
U = Unknown / unclear from EIS as to whether action is consistent with objective
Y = Yes, action appears to be consistent with objective
YW = Yellowstone Watershed Population

IDAHO			Preliminary Assessment of Proposed Action Consistency with COT Report ²					
Issue ¹	Conservation Objective from COT Report	Conservation Measures / Options from COT Report	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (NTT)	Alternative C (Citizen 1)	Alternative D (Subregion)	Alternative E (State)	Alternative F (Citizen 2)
PACs: Snake-Salmon-Beaverhead (SSB), 23; Northern Great Basin (NGB), 26a.	Retain sage-grouse habitats within PACs (pertains to PAC designation; actions below this line are evaluated independent of PAC designation for each Alternative)	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	No consistent GRSG habitats identified in LUPs. Limited or no conservation measures specific to GRSG habitat.	Priority and General habitats identified.	Priority habitats identified.	Priority, Medial, and General habitats identified.	Core, Important, and General habitats identified.	Priority, General, and Restoration habitats identified.
	If PACs are lost to catastrophic events, implement appropriate restoration efforts.	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	No consistent GRSG habitats identified in LUPs. Limited or no conservation measures specific to GRSG habitat.	Inadequate certainty of implementation and effectiveness. Lacks prioritization, time, and location specifics. Lacks adequate monitoring and adaptive management (AM).	Active restoration was not identified as a tool. Prioritization not specific to areas within PACs.	Passive and active conservation measures identified for restoration and prioritization of restoration activities. Adaptive management (AM) will ensure appropriate prioritization.	Passive and active conservation measures identified for restoration and prioritization of restoration activities. Adaptive management (AM) will ensure appropriate prioritization.	Inadequate certainty of implementation and effectiveness. Lacks prioritization, time, and location specifics. Lacks adequate monitoring and adaptive management (AM).
	Restore and rehabilitate degraded sage-grouse habitat within PACs.	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	No consistent GRSG habitats identified in LUPs. Restoration actions identified, but not specific to GRSG habitat.	Inadequate certainty of implementation and effectiveness. Lacks prioritization, time, and location specifics. Lacks adequate monitoring and adaptive management (AM).	Active restoration was not identified as a tool. Prioritization not specific to areas within PACs.	Passive and active conservation measures identified for restoration and prioritization of restoration activities. Adaptive management (AM) will ensure appropriate prioritization.	Passive and active conservation measures identified for restoration and prioritization of restoration activities. Adaptive management (AM) will ensure appropriate prioritization.	Inadequate certainty of implementation and effectiveness. Lacks prioritization, time, and location specifics. Lacks adequate monitoring and adaptive management (AM).
	Identify areas and habitats outside of PACs which may be necessary to maintain viability of sage-grouse. If development or vegetation manipulation activities outside of PACs are proposed, the project proponent should work with federal, state or local agencies and interested stakeholders to ensure consistency with sage-grouse habitat needs.	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	No consistent GRSG habitats identified in LUPs. Limited or no conservation measures specific to GRSG habitat.	PACs not identified. GRSG habitats identified outside of PACs, but lacks specific discussion of habitats necessary for viability.	Priority areas include habitats outside of PACs, but lacks specific discussion of habitats necessary to maintain viability.	Priority, Medial, and General areas include habitats outside of PACs, but lacks specific discussion of habitats that may or may not be necessary outside of PACs.	Core and Important Habitat Zones directly overlay with the PACs. General habitats outside of PACs. Lacks specific discussion of habitats that may or may not be necessary outside of PACs.	Priority, General, and Restoration areas include habitats outside of PACs, but lacks specific discussion of habitats necessary to maintain viability.
	Re-evaluate the status of PACs and adjacent sage-grouse habitat at least once every 5-years, or when important new information becomes available.	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	No consistent GRSG habitats identified in LUPs. No commitments to re-evaluate GRSG habitats.	No commitment to re-evaluate GRSG habitats.	No commitment to re-evaluate GRSG habitats.	Adaptive Management strategy identifies a population and habitat re-evaluation process.	Adaptive Management strategy identifies a population and habitat re-evaluation process.	No commitment to re-evaluate GRSG habitats.

Efforts were made to ensure consistency with formal comments provided to BLM/FS on 1/31/14. Please refer those comments where these issues have been more adequately described.

IDAHO			Preliminary Assessment of Proposed Action Consistency with COT Report ²					
Issue ¹	Conservation Objective from COT Report	Conservation Measures / Options from COT Report	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (NTT)	Alternative C (Citizen 1)	Alternative D (Subregion)	Alternative E (State)	Alternative F (Citizen 2)
	Actively pursue opportunities to increase occupancy and connectivity between PACs.	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	No consistent GRSG habitats identified in LUPs. Limited or no conservation measures specific to GRSG habitat.	PACs not identified. GRSG habitats identified outside of PACs, but lacks specific discussion of habitats necessary for increased occupancy or connectivity.	Priority areas include habitats outside of PACs, but lacks specific discussion of habitats necessary for increased occupancy or connectivity.	Priority and Medial areas include habitats outside of PACs, but lacks specific discussion of habitats necessary for increased occupancy or connectivity.	Core and Important Habitat Zones directly overlay with the PACs. No habitats outside of PACs identified. Lacks specific discussion of habitats necessary for increased occupancy or connectivity.	Priority, General, and Restoration areas include habitats outside of PACs, but lacks specific discussion of habitats necessary for increased occupancy or connectivity.
	Maintain or improve existing habitat conditions in areas adjacent to burned habitat.	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	Lacks conservation measures to adequately address this objective. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Lacks conservation measures to adequately address this objective. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Lacks conservation measures to adequately address this objective. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Lacks conservation measures to adequately address this objective. Lacks specific measures for habitats adjacent to burned areas or integration with AM process.	Lacks conservation measures to adequately address this objective. Lacks specific measures for habitats adjacent to burned areas or integration with AM process.	Lacks conservation measures to adequately address this objective. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.
Fire - SSB = Y; NGB = Y	Retain and restore healthy native SB communities within GSG range	Restrict or contain fire within the normal range of fire activity (assuming a healthy native perennial sagebrush community), including size and frequency, as defined by the best available science.	Conservation measures identified, but lack certainty of implementation and effectiveness needed to meet this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified, but lack certainty of implementation and effectiveness needed to meet this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified may result in increased fire frequency and size.	Conservation measures identified, but lack certainty of implementation and effectiveness needed to meet this measure. Includes adequate monitoring and AM. Increased specificity and integration of conservation measures for prevention, suppression, and restoration.	Conservation measures identified, but lack certainty of implementation and effectiveness needed to meet this measure. Includes adequate monitoring and AM. Increased specificity and integration of conservation measures for prevention, suppression, and restoration. Fire Actions table (D-156) provides some good examples.	Conservation measures identified, but lack certainty of implementation and effectiveness needed to meet this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.

Efforts were made to ensure consistency with formal comments provided to BLM/FS on 1/31/14. Please refer those comments where these issues have been more adequately described.

IDAHO			Preliminary Assessment of Proposed Action Consistency with COT Report ²					
Issue ¹	Conservation Objective from COT Report	Conservation Measures / Options from COT Report	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (NTT)	Alternative C (Citizen 1)	Alternative D (Subregion)	Alternative E (State)	Alternative F (Citizen 2)
		Eliminate intentional fires in sagebrush habitats, including prescribed burning of breeding and winter habitats.	Lacks conservation measures to adequately address this objective. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Lacks conservation measures to adequately address this measure. Should include conservation measures that directly address appropriate use of prescribed burning. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.
		Design and implement restoration of burned sagebrush habitats to allow for natural succession to healthy native sagebrush plant communities.	Conservation measures identified, but lack certainty of implementation and effectiveness needed to meet this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified may result in unhealthy non-native plant communities.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.
		Implement monitoring programs for restoration activities. To ensure success, monitoring must continue until restoration is complete, with sufficient commitments to make adequate corrections to management efforts if needed.	Conservation measures identified, but lack certainty of implementation and effectiveness needed to meet this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified, but lack certainty of implementation and effectiveness needed to meet this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified, but lack certainty of implementation and effectiveness needed to meet this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified, but lack certainty of implementation and effectiveness needed to meet this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.
		Immediately suppress fire in all sagebrush habitats.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.

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Issue ¹	Conservation Objective from COT Report	Conservation Measures / Options from COT Report	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (NTT)	Alternative C (Citizen 1)	Alternative D (Subregion)	Alternative E (State)	Alternative F (Citizen 2)
Non-native, Invasive Plant Species - Weeds/Annual Grasses SSB = Y; NGB = Y	Maintain and restore healthy, native SB communities	Retain all remaining large intact sagebrush patches, particularly at low elevations.	Conservation measures identified, but lack certainty of implementation and effectiveness needed to meet this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified, but lack certainty of implementation and effectiveness needed to meet this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified may result in increased fire frequency and size and unhealthy non-native plant communities.	Conservation measures identified, but lack certainty of implementation and effectiveness needed to meet this measure. Increased specificity and integration of conservation measures for prevention, suppression, and restoration. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified, but lack certainty of implementation and effectiveness needed to meet this measure. Increased specificity and integration of conservation measures for prevention, suppression, and restoration. Fire Actions table (D-156) provides some good examples. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified, but lack certainty of implementation and effectiveness needed to meet this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.
		Reduce or eliminate disturbances that promote the spread of these invasive species.	Lacks conservation measures to adequately address this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.
		Monitor and control invasive vegetation post-wildfire for at least three years.	Lacks conservation measures to adequately address this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Lacks conservation measures to adequately address this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Lacks conservation measures to adequately address this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this objective. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this objective. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Lacks conservation measures to adequately address this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.
		Require best management practices for construction projects in and adjacent to sagebrush habitats to prevent invasion.	Lacks conservation measures to adequately address this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this objective. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this objective. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.
		Restore altered ecosystems such that non-native invasive plants are reduced to levels that do not put the area at risk of conversion if a catastrophic event were to occur.	Lacks conservation measures to adequately address this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified, but lack certainty of implementation and effectiveness needed to meet this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Lacks conservation measures to adequately address this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified, but lack certainty of implementation and effectiveness needed to meet this measure. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified, but lack certainty of implementation and effectiveness needed to meet this measure. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified, but lack certainty of implementation and effectiveness needed to meet this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.

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IDAHO			Preliminary Assessment of Proposed Action Consistency with COT Report ²					
Issue ¹	Conservation Objective from COT Report	Conservation Measures / Options from COT Report	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (NTT)	Alternative C (Citizen 1)	Alternative D (Subregion)	Alternative E (State)	Alternative F (Citizen 2)
Energy Development SSB = Y; NGB = L	Energy development should be designed to insure that it will not impinge upon stable or increasing GSG population trends	Avoid energy development in PACs.	Lacks conservation measures to adequately address this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified, but lack certainty of implementation and effectiveness needed to meet this measure. "No net habitat loss" versus 3% disturbance cap. Further clarity of "no net habitat loss". Application across all PACs.	Conservation measures identified, but lack certainty of implementation and effectiveness needed to meet this measure. Application of 3% across all PACs and inclusion of other infrastructure (as discussed in letter).	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.
		If avoidance is not possible in PACs due to pre-existing valid rights, adjacent development, or split estate issues, development should only occur in non-habitat areas, including all appurtenant structures, with an adequate buffer that is sufficient to preclude impacts to sage-grouse habitat from noise, and other human activities.	Lacks conservation measures to adequately address this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified, but lack certainty of implementation and effectiveness needed to meet this measure. Includes adequate monitoring and AM. See specific comments above.	Conservation measures identified, but lack certainty of implementation and effectiveness needed to meet this measure. Includes adequate monitoring and AM. See specific comments above.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.
		If development must occur in sage-grouse habitats due to existing rights and lack of reasonable alternative avoidance measures, the development should occur in the least suitable habitat for sage-grouse and be designed to ensure at a minimum that there are no detectable declines in sage-grouse population trends (see row below and COT report for measures to implement to facilitate this).	Lacks conservation measures to adequately address this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.
Sagebrush Removal / Elimination SSB = L; NGB = L	Avoid SB removal or manipulation in GSG breeding or wintering habitats.	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	Lacks conservation measures to adequately address this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Lacks conservation measures to adequately address this measure. Should include conservation measures that directly address appropriate removal or manipulation of sagebrush in GRSg habitats. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.

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IDAHO			Preliminary Assessment of Proposed Action Consistency with COT Report ²					
Issue ¹	Conservation Objective from COT Report	Conservation Measures / Options from COT Report	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (NTT)	Alternative C (Citizen 1)	Alternative D (Subregion)	Alternative E (State)	Alternative F (Citizen 2)
Grazing SSB = Y; NGB = Y	Conduct grazing management for all ungulates in a manner consistent with local ecological conditions that maintains or restores healthy SB shrub and native perennial grass and forb communities and conserves the essential habitat components for GSG (shrub and nesting cover). Areas which do not currently meet this standard should be managed to restore these components. Adequate monitoring of grazing strategies and their results, with necessary changes in strategies, is essential to ensuring that desired ecological conditions and GSG response are achieved. Livestock and wild ungulate numbers must be managed at levels that allow native sagebrush vegetative communities to minimally achieve Proper Functioning Conditions (PFC; for riparian areas) or Rangeland Health Standards (RHS; uplands).	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	Conservation measures identified, but lack certainty of implementation and effectiveness needed to meet this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified, but lack certainty of implementation and effectiveness needed to meet this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified, but lack certainty of implementation and effectiveness needed to meet this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.
Range Management Structures (no ratings)	Avoid or reduce the impact of RMS on GSG.	Range management structures should be designed and placed to be neutral or beneficial to sage-grouse.	Lacks conservation measures to adequately address this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.
		Structures that are currently contributing to negative impacts to either sage-grouse or their habitats should be removed or modified to remove the threat.	Lacks conservation measures to adequately address this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.

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IDAHO			Preliminary Assessment of Proposed Action Consistency with COT Report ²					
Issue ¹	Conservation Objective from COT Report	Conservation Measures / Options from COT Report	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (NTT)	Alternative C (Citizen 1)	Alternative D (Subregion)	Alternative E (State)	Alternative F (Citizen 2)
FR Equid Management SSB = Y; NGB = L	Protect sage-grouse from the negative influences of grazing by free roaming equids.	Develop, implement, and enforce adequate regulatory mechanisms to protect sage-grouse habitat from negative influences of grazing by free-roaming equids.	Conservation measures identified, but lack certainty of implementation and effectiveness needed to meet this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified, but lack certainty of implementation and effectiveness needed to meet this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	This alternative meets the objective for this issue, but lacks specificity to adequately meet this measure. Should include conservation measures that specifically address FR equids and GRSG habitat.	Conservation measures identified, but lack certainty of implementation and effectiveness needed to meet this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.
		Manage free-roaming equids at levels that allow native sagebrush vegetative communities to minimally achieve PFC (for riparian areas) or RHS (for uplands).	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.
Pinyon-juniper Expansion / Conifers SSB = L; NGB = Y	Remove pinyon-juniper from areas of SB that are most likely to support GSG (post-removal) at a rate at least equal to the rate of p-j incursion	No conservation measures specified. Is conservation objective addressed applying locally-derived measures?	Lacks conservation measures to adequately address this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified, but lack certainty of implementation and effectiveness needed to meet this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Lacks conservation measures to adequately address this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified, but lack certainty of implementation and effectiveness needed to meet this measure. Conservation measures should include a commitment to a "rate" or a "no net gain" of p-j. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified, but lack certainty of implementation and effectiveness needed to meet this measure. Conservation measures should include a commitment to a "rate" or a "no net gain" of p-j. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified, but lack certainty of implementation and effectiveness needed to meet this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.
Agricultural Conversion SSB = L; NGB = L	Avoid further loss of sagebrush habitat for agricultural activities (both animal and plant production) and prioritize restoration. In areas where taking agricultural lands out of production has benefited GSG, the programs supporting these actions should be targeted and continued (e.g., CRP/SAFE). Threat amelioration activities should, at a minimum, be prioritized within PACS, but should be considered in all GSG habitats.	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	Lacks conservation measures to adequately address this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Lacks conservation measures to adequately address this measure. Should include conservation measures that directly address loss of sagebrush/GRSG habitats to Ag Conversion. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.

Efforts were made to ensure consistency with formal comments provided to BLM/FS on 1/31/14. Please refer those comments where these issues have been more adequately described.

IDAHO			Preliminary Assessment of Proposed Action Consistency with COT Report ²					
Issue ¹	Conservation Objective from COT Report	Conservation Measures / Options from COT Report	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (NTT)	Alternative C (Citizen 1)	Alternative D (Subregion)	Alternative E (State)	Alternative F (Citizen 2)
Mining SSB = L; NGB = L	Maintain stable to increasing GSG populations and no net loss of GSG habitats in areas affected by mining	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	Lacks conservation measures to adequately address this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Recognizing that this threat has limited and localized impacts, this alternative meets the objective for this issue pending increased specificity on the mitigation strategy.	Recognizing that this threat has limited and localized impacts, this alternative meets the objective for this issue pending increased specificity on the mitigation strategy.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.
Recreation SSB = L; NGB = Y	In areas subjected to recreational activities, maintain healthy native SB communities based on local ecological conditions and with consideration of drought conditions, and manage direct and indirect human disturbance (including noise) to avoid interruption of normal GSG behavior.	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	Conservation measures identified, but lack certainty of implementation and effectiveness needed to meet this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.
Ex-Urban Development / Urbanization SSB = N; NGB = Y	Limit urban and exurban development in GSG habitats and maintain intact native SB communities.	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	Lacks conservation measures to adequately address this measure. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Lacks conservation measures to adequately address this measure. Should include conservation measures that directly address loss of sagebrush/GRSG habitats to ex-urban development. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.
Infrastructure SSB = L; NGB = Y	Avoid development of infrastructure within PACs.	No new development of infrastructure within PACs. Designated, but not yet developed infrastructure corridors should be re-located outside of PACs unless it can be demonstrated that these corridors will have no impacts on the maintenance of neutral or positive sage-grouse population trends or habitats. New infrastructure should be avoided where individual state plans have identified key connectivity corridors outside of PACs.	Lacks conservation measures to adequately address this objective. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this objective. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified, but lack certainty of implementation and effectiveness needed to meet this objective. Increased clarity regarding the exemption process and associated mitigation. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.

Efforts were made to ensure consistency with formal comments provided to BLM/FS on 1/31/14. Please refer those comments where these issues have been more adequately described.

IDAHO			Preliminary Assessment of Proposed Action Consistency with COT Report ²					
Issue ¹	Conservation Objective from COT Report	Conservation Measures / Options from COT Report	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (NTT)	Alternative C (Citizen 1)	Alternative D (Subregion)	Alternative E (State)	Alternative F (Citizen 2)
		Where state sage-grouse management plans provide an effective strategy for infrastructure those strategies should be implemented. In all other situations the conservation options in the COT report should be considered.					Conservation measures identified, but lack certainty of implementation and effectiveness needed to meet this objective. Increased clarity regarding the exemption process and associated mitigation. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	
Fences (no ratings)	Minimize the impact of fences on GSG populations	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	Conservation measures identified, but lack certainty of implementation and effectiveness needed to meet this objective. Lacks adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this objective. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this objective. Includes adequate monitoring and AM.	Conservation measures identified that adequately address this measure.

¹ Threat Ratings from COT Report	² Subjective Consistency (with COT Report) Rating Continuum
Y: Pres. and Widespread	High Concern &/or Very Low Consistency
L: Pres. and Localized	↑
N: Not Known to be Pres.	Lower Concern &/or Higher Consistency
NA	NA

Efforts were made to ensure consistency with formal comments provided to BLM/FS on 1/31/14. Please refer those comments where these issues have been more adequately described.

Appendix A. USFWS BLM/FS Land Use Plan Amendment Alternative Review Matrix

BLM/FS Plan: **Nevada / Northeastern California LUPA/EIS**

Program Area: **All**

GSG Population(s): **Management Zones III, IV and V**

COT Threat *	Conservation Objective from COT Report	Conservation Measures / Options from COT Report **	Preliminary Assessment of Proposed Action Consistency with COT Report (see abbreviations & color coding below)						Comments / Notes ***
			Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D (Preferred Alternative)	Alternative E	Alternative F	
PACs	Retain sage-grouse habitats within PACs (<i>pertains to PAC designation; actions below this line are evaluated independent of PAC designation for each Alternative</i>)	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	N	Includes all mapped GRSG habitat within the PACs, but does not include non-habitat areas	Includes all mapped GRSG habitat within the PACs, but does not include non-habitat areas	Includes all mapped GRSG habitat within the PACs, but does not include non-habitat areas	State of Nevada SGMAs are the same at the COT PACs and include non-habitat areas	Includes all mapped GRSG habitat within the PACs, but does not include non-habitat areas	
	If PACs are lost to catastrophic events, implement appropriate restoration efforts	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	This Conservation Objective is addressed within specific actions & discussed under various threats listed below
	Restore and rehabilitate degraded sage-grouse habitat within PACS.	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	This Conservation Objective is addressed within specific actions & discussed under various threats listed below
	Identify areas and habitats outside of PACs which may be necessary to maintain viability of sage-grouse. If development or vegetation manipulation activities outside of PACs are proposed, the project proponent should work with federal, state or local agencies and interested stakeholders to ensure consistency with sage-grouse habitat needs.	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	N	N	N	Implements RDFs in areas outside of PPMA & PGMA where GRSG has been observed or suspected, and where it may be necessary to maintain populations within PPMA/PGMA	N	N	
	Re-evaluate the status of PACs and adjacent sage-grouse habitat at least once every 5-years, or when important new information becomes available.	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	N	N	N	Habitat use and categorization will be re-evaluated every 5 years and based on monitoring, Adjustments at this time up to 10% can be made without further NEPA analysis.	N	N	
	Actively pursue opportunities to increase occupancy and connectivity between PACs.	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	N	NSO within 4 miles of lek, if within 4 miles limit disturbance to 1/section and no more than 3% of the area, require unitization	Closes ACECs and PPMA to solar projects and fluid mineral development	There are only Objectives listed to increase connectivity, although some actions lend themselves to facilitating connectivity. For instance, D considers fragmentation and connectivity in fuels treatment plans	N	NSO within 4 miles of lek, if within 4 miles limit disturbance to 1/section and no more than 3% of the area, require unitization	Several specific actions to other COT threats address occupancy and connectivity. For instance, NSO in PPMA/PGMA with regard to alternative energy has the effects of maintaining occupancy and connectivity.

	Maintain or improve existing habitat conditions in areas adjacent to burned habitat.	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	N	N	N	In PGMA near where PPMA has burned, the PGMA habitat will be managed as PPMA until the habitat objectives have been met.	N	N	
Fire (Y)	Retain and restore healthy native sagebrush communities within greater sage-grouse range	Restrict or contain fire within the normal range of fire activity (assuming a healthy native perennial sagebrush community), including size and frequency, as defined by the best available science.	No new actions, uses existing varied treatment options	Establish firebreaks, design fuels management in PPMA to reduce threat to largest area	No direct actions to reduce wildfires	Establish firebreaks (can use non-natives), treat cheatgrass and disturbed areas, seasonal travel restrictions, design fuels treatment within interdisciplinary framework, prioritize PPMA for fire fighting,	Manage fire to reduce escapes to 2-3% in 10 years, manage to restore natural role of fire, establish fuel breaks, design fuel treatments with GRSG in mind, evaluate road closures, ID high fire areas near SGMA	Establish firebreaks, design fuels management in PPMA to reduce threat to largest area	Only Alternative E directly addresses establishing natural fire regimes.
		Eliminate intentional fires in sagebrush habitats, including prescribed burning of breeding and winter habitats.	No new actions, uses existing varied treatment options	No winter fuels treatments, no use of fire in <12" PPT zones, seasonal restrictions, rest treatment areas for 2 seasons, evaluate permanent road closures	No direct actions to reduce wildfires	Develop wildfire prevention programs, allows prescribed fire, develop new travel management plans to reduce potential fires	Limit use of fire in SB areas, in SGMA's eliminate burn-outs and backfires,	No winter fuels treatments, no use of fire in <12" PPT zones, seasonal restrictions, evaluate road closures	Alternative D & E continue to allow use of prescribed fire, although both indicate its use to be carefully evaluated and controlled.
		Design and implement restoration of burned sagebrush habitats to allow for natural succession to healthy native sagebrush plant communities.	No new actions anticipated	No winter fuels treatments, no use of fire in <12" PPT zones, seasonal restrictions, rest treatment areas for 2 seasons, manage post burn sites to insure survival of seedings and surviving natives, prioritize restoration areas for best success, establish seed harvest areas close to PPMA	Relies on passive restoration, no specific restoration actions proposed other than to perform "pilot" restoration programs and to restore crested wheatgrass with seedings	Design restorations in a interdisciplinary manner, monitor and manage restoration sites, rest allotments one season prior to veg treatments, rest treated areas for two seasons, restore and enhance riparian areas and winter range, grazing in treatment areas only after habitat objectives are working (& require changes in grazing plans), use native seeds, establish GRSG restoration areas	Complete burn severity evaluations, expand State native seed bank program, prioritize seed allocation to GRSG areas, restore/replace habitat at same rate as fires, include habitat objectives in PPMA/PGMA restorations, establish seed harvest areas	No winter fuels treatments, no use of fire in <12" PPT zones, seasonal restrictions, manage post burn sites to insure survival of seedings and surviving natives, prioritize restoration areas for best success, establish seed harvest areas close to PPMA	All action alternatives except Alternative C provide for active restoration of post-fire sites. Alternative A, while no new actions are specified, would continue to utilize the Emergency Stabilization & Rehabilitation program
		Implement monitoring programs for restoration activities. To ensure success, monitoring must continue until restoration is complete, with sufficient commitments to make adequate corrections to management efforts if needed.	N	Mentions monitoring only for invasives	N	Maintains post-fire monitoring until habitat objectives have been met.	No specific actions regarding monitoring except for completing burn severity evaluations	No specific action regarding monitoring	

		Immediately suppress fire in all sagebrush habitats.	No new actions, continues existing fire suppression operations	Prioritizes suppression in PPMA/PGMA	No direct actions to reduce wildfires	Prioritizes suppression in PPMA	Increase funding for SB firefighting include acquiring additional aerial tankers, etc., continue coordination with State of Nevada Fire Planning Assessment System & Wildland Fire Protection Program,	No specific actions regarding suppression activities	All action alternatives except Alternatives C & F provide some increase in fire suppression and prevention. restoration of post-fire sites.
		Which (if any) of Options 1a - d were applied?	N	A, B, C	A, B, C	A, B, C, D	A, B, C	A, B, C, D	
		Which (if any) of Options 2a - j were applied? (LUPA/EIS: Options C, D, F & G applicable)	F	C	C	C, D, F, G	C, D, F	N	
		Which (if any) of Options 3a - e were applied? (LUPA/EIS: Options C & D applicable)	N	C, D	C, D	C, D	C, D	C, D	
		Was Option 4 (IM 2011-138) applied?	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Non-native, Invasive Plant Species - Weeds/ Annual Grasses (Y)	Maintain and restore healthy, native sagebrush communities	Retain all remaining large intact sagebrush patches, particularly at low elevations.	N	N	N	In PPMA/PGMA perform veg treatments for intact large areas & limit invasives ,coordinate fire response, interdisciplinary approach to restoration, prioritize PPMA for fire operations - then PGMA, continue to update Landscape Wildfire & Invasive Species Habitat Assessments, manage PGMA near burned PPMA as PPMA until recovery	N	N	
		Reduce or eliminate disturbances that promote the spread of these invasive species.	N	N	Disturbed areas to be reseeded with native seeds	Implement RDFs, monitor & manage fuels management sites, seedings and plantings, no new roads constructed for vegetation treatments, in PPMA/PGMA rest treatment areas two growing seasons before grazing	Continue to utilize State of Nevada vegetation plans and resources	Install post-fire grazing exclosures at act as "controls" for veg treatments, exclude grazing from burned areas until plants meet habitat objectives, if fencing is not possible then close the entire area to grazing until habitat objectives are met	
		Monitor and control invasive vegetation post-wildfire for at least three years.	N	Manage grazing, monitor invasives	N	Ensure long-term persistence of restoration areas, continue monitoring until habitat objectives have been met	No specific actions proposed other than to utilize the SETT for analyses, and continue to focus on demonstration projects for invasives control	Exclude grazing from burned areas until habitat objectives are met (implies monitoring), manage post-burn sites to insure persistence of seedlings	

		Require best management practices for construction projects in and adjacent to sagebrush habitats to prevent invasion.	N	N	N	Implement RDFs	N	N	
		Restore altered ecosystems such that non-native invasive plants are reduced to levels that do not put the area at risk of conversion if a catastrophic event were to occur.	N	Prioritizes seed allocation to GRSG habitat areas, allows non-native seeds in areas where native success will be low, manage post-burn sites to insure persistence of seedlings and surviving natives	N	Implement RDFs, ID areas for treatment needs, give priority for native seed, complete annual landscape assessments, for wet meadows - ID, monitor & control invasives,	U	Prioritizes seed allocation to GRSG habitat areas, allows non-native seeds in areas where native success will be low, manage post-burn sites to insure persistence of seedlings and surviving natives, establish seed growing network	For Alternative E, Appendix I lists actions which are not found in Table 2-5. Cannot determine if Alternative E addresses this COT Option.
Energy & Fluid Mineral Development (Y)	Energy development should be designed to insure that it will not impinge upon stable or increasing greater sage-grouse population trends	Avoid energy development in PACs. Identify areas where leasing is not acceptable, or not acceptable without stipulations for surface occupancy that maintains SG habitats.	Only Congressionally designated areas (ACECs, WSAs) are excluded	Renewable energy and fluid mineral development excluded in PPMA, and avoided in PGMA, allows exploration within PPMA for areas outside of PPMA	No renewable energy or fluid mineral development in [proposed] ACECs and GRSG habitat, recommends 5 to 10 mile buffer between excluded habitat and any new wind developments.	No renewable energy development in PPMA & PGMA, allows renewable energy development at existing sites to power existing facility	Follows State of Nevada "Avoid, Minimize, Mitigate" strategy, oversight provided by SETT, this is essentially an "avoidance" strategy in SGMA/PPMA/PGMA	Renewable energy and fluid mineral development excluded in PPMA and PGMA, allows exploration within PPMA for areas outside of PPMA	
		If avoidance is not possible in PACs due to pre-existing valid rights, adjacent development, or split estate issues, development should only occur in non-habitat areas, including all appurtenant structures, with an adequate buffer that is sufficient to preclude impacts to sage-grouse habitat from noise, and other human activities.	N/A	NSO within 4 miles of lek	N/A	NSO without waivers, exceptions or modification on unleased PPMA, allows exceptions on PGMA if consistent with conservation objectives, regulates exploration techniques, imposes seasonal restrictions, PGMA = avoidance area for new communication sites unless RDFs followed	New developments to be sited in non-habitat areas whenever possible	NSO within 4 miles of lek	
		If development must occur in sage-grouse habitats due to existing rights and lack of reasonable alternative avoidance measures, the development should occur in the least suitable habitat for sage-grouse and be designed to ensure at a minimum that there are no detectable declines in sage-grouse population trends (see row below and COT report for measures to facilitate this).	N/A	If within 4 miles limit disturbance to 1/section and no more than 3% of the area	N/A	"No net unmitigated loss" in PPMA, seasonal restrictions, mitigation required, RDFs required	No infrastructure with 0.6-mile of springs, seeps, and wet meadows	If within 4 miles limit disturbance to 1/section and no more than 3% of the area	

		<p>Which (if any) of Measure 3a - 3e were applied?</p> <p>a. Reduce and maintain the density of energy structures below which there are not impacts on the function of the GRSG habitats and do not result in decline in GRSG populations within the PACs.</p> <p>b. Design development outside PACs to maintain populations within adjacent PACs and allow for connectivity among PACs.</p> <p>c. Consolidate structures and infrastructure associated with energy development.</p> <p>d. Reclamation of disturbance resulting from a proposed project should only be considered mitigation and not portrayed as minimization.</p> <p>e. Design development to minimize tall structures or other features associated with the development.</p>	N	A	A	A, C, E	A, C, E	A	
<p>Sagebrush Removal / Elimination (L)</p>	<p>Avoid SB removal or manipulation in greater sage-grouse breeding or wintering habitats</p>	<p>No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?</p>	<p>BLM has stated that no large-scale SB removal is anticipated in the foreseeable future.</p>	<p>No SB reduction below 15% coverage, no use of fire in areas with <12" precipitation, rest treatment areas for 2 seasons, use BMPs (from NTT), no new ROWs in PPMA, co-locate roads, limit disturbance to 3%, require unitization</p>	<p>No new corridors, ROWs, towers, facilities in ACECs and PPMA</p>	<p>No new roads for vegetation treatments, consider fragmentation and connectivity in fuels treatment plans, follows "no net unmitigated loss" policy, , co-locate with existing ROWs</p>	<p>Eliminate backfires, limit use of fire in SB, follow "avoid, minimize, mitigate" strategy, co-locate & if >32 acres per section will need SETT coordination</p>	<p>No new ROWs in PPMA and PGMA, limit road construction to existing roadbeds, NSO within 4 miles of leks, require unitization, make BMPs (from NTT) mandatory part of permits</p>	
<p>Grazing (Y)</p>	<p>Conduct grazing management for all ungulates in a manner consistent with local ecological conditions that maintains or restores healthy sagebrush shrub and native perennial grass and forb communities and conserves the essential habitat components for greater sage-grouse (shrub and nesting cover). Areas which do not currently meet this standard should be managed to restore these components. Adequate monitoring of grazing strategies and their results, with necessary changes in strategies, is essential to ensuring that desired ecological conditions and greater sage-grouse response are achieved. Livestock and wild ungulate numbers must be managed at levels that allow native sagebrush vegetative communities to minimally achieve Proper Functioning Conditions (PFC; for riparian areas) or Rangeland Health Standards (RHS; uplands).</p>	<p>No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?</p>	<p>No new grazing plans are instituted, and it is therefore likely that grazing would continue to impact GRSG populations in ways similar to that occurring now.</p>	<p>Incorporates habitat objectives in all AMPs, prioritizes LHS evaluations, addresses seasonal issues and drought issues, manages wet meadows for PFC, addresses range improvements and fences</p>	<p>Closes ACECs and PPMA to all grazing</p>	<p>Rests grazing in areas not meeting LHS, manages wet meadows, reduces hot season grazing when necessary, restricts grazing in treatment areas (unless part of the treatment plan), locates all range improvements at least 1/2 mile from leks, addresses fencing, addresses changing grazing prescriptions upon transfers or renewals & requires GRSG evaluation prior to approval, addresses drought, incorporates lekking provisions to prevent disturbances</p>	<p>Incorporates habitat objectives but does not provide these, manages riparian areas to obtain PFC, allows some exceptions for new fencing, focuses on the use of livestock grazing as a habitat tool.</p>	<p>Incorporates habitat objectives in all AMPs, prioritizes LHS evaluations, addresses seasonal issues and drought issues, manages wet meadows for PFC, addresses range improvements and fences</p>	<p>Alternative E, while indicating that grazing will maintain and enhance GRSG habitat, does not provide specific habitat characteristics' goals.</p>

		<p>Which (if any) of Options 1 - 5 were applied? (LUPA/EIS: Only Options 1, 3 & 4 applicable)</p> <p>1. Ensure that allotments meet ecological potential and wildlife habitat requirements, and that the health and diversity of the native perennial grass community is consistent with the ecological site.</p> <p>3. Incorporate GRSG habitat needs or habitat characteristics into relevant resource and allotment plans, including the desired conditions.</p> <p>4. Conduct habitat assessments and, where necessary, determine factors causing any failure to achieve the habitat characteristics. Make adjustments as appropriate.</p>	N	1, 3, 4	N/A	1, 3, 4	1, 4	1, 3, 4	
Range Management Structures (L)	Avoid or reduce the impact of RMS on greater sage-grouse	Range management structures should be designed and placed to be neutral or beneficial to sage-grouse.	N	Allows new water developments only if benefitting GRSG, use BMPs (from NTT) to help mitigate structures	Although not specifically stated, it is assumed that since this alternative excludes all grazing, it likewise would exclude all range management structures.	Only allows new structures in PPMA when benefitting GRSG, locates all improvements at least 1/2 mile from wetlands	No specific actions provided. Alternative only lists those existing activities exempt from state agency review (existing fence maintenance & those > 1.25 miles from leks), allows new fencing within 1.25 miles of leks if fence is marked	Allows new water developments only if benefitting GRSG, use BMPs (from NTT) to help mitigate structures	
		Structures that are currently contributing to negative impacts to either sage-grouse or their habitats should be removed or modified to remove the threat.	N	Analyzes existing water structures for modifications, remove, modify or mark fences in high risk areas	Remove all troughs, pipelines, and wells, remove waterlines from springs, promote natural healing of headcuts, rehabilitate and restores roads	Evaluates existing structures to ensure GRSG benefits, removes, modifies or marks fences in high risk areas within PPMA/PGMA	No specific actions are listed to remove fences	Analyzes existing water structures for modifications, remove, modify or mark fences in high risk areas	
Free-Roaming Equids (Y)	Protect sage-grouse from the negative influences of grazing by free roaming equids.	Develop, implement, and enforce adequate regulatory mechanisms to protect sage-grouse habitat from negative influences of grazing by free-roaming equids.	N	Conduct LHS evaluations & prioritize these evaluations for WHB areas	No actions provided	In PPMA/PGMA manage WHBs within established AML, adjust AML if not meeting LHS for GRSG thought NEPA	N	Conduct LHS evaluations & prioritize these evaluations for WHB areas, immediately reduce WHBs by 25%	
		Manage free-roaming equids at levels that allow native sagebrush vegetative communities to minimally achieve PFC (for riparian areas) or RHS (for uplands).	N	Within PPMA amend WHB management plans to address concerns of GRSG, address GRSG concerns through NEPA amendments	No actions provided	Adjust AML if management area is not meeting LHS	Manage WHB at AML levels. No specific actions provided.	Within PPMA amend WHB management plans to address concerns of GRSG, address GRSG concerns through NEPA amendments	
Conifer Expansion (Y)	Remove pinyon-juniper from areas of sagebrush that are most likely to support greater sage-grouse (post-removal) at a rate at least equal to the rate of p-j incursion	No conservation measures specified. Is conservation objective addressed applying locally-derived measures?	Current PJ removal activities would continue	No specific actions proposed for PJ removal, but limits the use of prescribed fire	N	Provides general vegetation actions, retains the use of prescribed fire, provides several actions for PJ management, but does not commit to no net gain in PJ expansion	Provides general vegetation actions, retains the use of prescribed fire, inventories and prioritizes Phase I and II PJ areas, incentivizes PJ removal for biomass business, does not commit to no net conifer gains	No specific actions proposed for PJ removal, but limits the use of prescribed fire	Both Alternatives D and E provide actions addressing PJ removal, however both fail to state a commitment to obtain the COT objective of no net gain of conifers in GRSG habitat.

		<p>Which (if any) of Options 1 - 4 were applied?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Favor the use of mechanical treatments for removing pinion and/or juniper as they are more selective in removal of invading plants and allows understory habitats to remain intact. 2. Use prescribed fire in high elevation mountain big sage sites with caution to prevent fire escape and any subsequent establishment of invasive annual grasses or other weeds. 3. Reduce juniper cover in GRSG habitats to less than 5 percent but preferably eliminate entirely. . 4. Employ all necessary actions to maintain the benefit of pinyon and/or juniper removal for GRSG habitats 	U	2	N	2, 4	2, 4	2	<p>None of the alternatives specifically state actions to use mechanical means, but imply that limited fire is to be used carefully. (See text for description of recommended costs-benefits analysis prior to prescribed fire use)</p> <p>100% of conifers should be removed from a distance of at least 1000 meters from any lek or other critical habitat areas (e.g., wet meadows)</p>
<p>Agricultural Conversion (N/A)</p>	<p>Avoid further loss of sagebrush habitat for agricultural activities (both animal and plant production) and prioritize restoration. In areas where taking agricultural lands out of production has benefited GSG, the programs supporting these actions should be targeted and continued (e.g., CRP/SAFE). Threat amelioration activities should, at a minimum, be prioritized within PACS, but should be considered in all greater sage-grouse habitats.</p>	<p>No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?</p>	N/A						<p>This threat not specifically discussed except in Appendix I. LUPA/EIS indicates that this is primarily a State issue and BLM/FS have no jurisdiction to implement this. BLM has stated that no federal lands sagebrush lands will be converted to agricultural uses.</p>
<p>Mining (Y)</p>	<p>Maintain stable to increasing greater sage-grouse populations and no net loss of greater sage-grouse habitats in areas affected by mining</p>	<p>No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?</p> <p>Which (if any) of Options 1 - 4 were applied?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Avoid new mining activities and/or any associated facilities within occupied habitats, including seasonal habitats. 2. Avoid leasing in GRSG habitats until other suitable habitats can be restored to habitats used by GRSG. 3. Reclamation plans should focus on restoring areas disturbed by mining and associated facilities to healthy sagebrush 4. Reclamation of abandoned mine lands should focus on restoring areas to healthy sagebrush ecosystems where possible. 	N	Closes PPMA to mineral sales, closes PPMA to non-energy leasable (including expansions), restores salable mineral pits	Excludes all occupied habitat from mining, including locatables	Closes PPMA/PGMA to new mineral sales and non-energy leasables, PPMA/PGMA retained as open for locatables, reclaims salable mineral sites	All habitat retained as open for all mining activities following AMM policy, seeks to rehabilitate unused sites, encourages conservation ethics in mining community	Closes PPMA to mineral sales, closes PPMA to non-energy leasables (including expansions), restores salable mineral pits	
			N	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2	1, 3, 4	1, 3, 4	1, 2, 3, 4	

Recreation (Y)	In areas subjected to recreational activities, maintain healthy native SB communities based on local ecological conditions and with consideration of drought conditions, and manage direct and indirect human disturbance (including noise) to avoid interruption of normal greater sage-grouse behavior.	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	N	Limits travel in PPMA to existing routes until TMPs are completed (within 5 years), evaluated permanent and seasonal closures, use existing routes for existing rights entry, if new roads necessary and >3% of area require mitigation, restore roads not designated in TMPs	Limits motorized travel to existing roads and trails, considers closing roads intruding into leks	Limits travel in PPMA/PGMA to existing routes only, creates new TMPs in PPMA/PGMA to evaluate closures, noise levels and re-routing,, no new recreations facilities to be constructed in PPMA/PGMA	Relies on AMM for travel & recreation, proposes to study interaction between GRSG and OHVs, oversight to be provided by the SETT, allows new facilities but site to avoid GRSG conflicts or in non-habitat whenever possible.	Seasonally prohibits camping and other recreations within 4 miles of leks, Limits travel in PPMA to existing routes until TMPs are completed (within 5 years), evaluated permanent and seasonal closures, use existing routes for existing rights entry, if new roads necessary and >3% of area require mitigation, restore roads not designated in TMPs	
		Which (if any) of Options 1 - 2 were applied? 1. Close important GRSG use areas to off-road vehicle use. 2. Avoid development of recreational facilities in GRSG habitats.	N	1	1	1, 2	N	1, 2	
Ex-Urban Development / Urbanization (N)	Limit Urban and Ex-Urban development in GRSG habitats and maintain intact native sagebrush communities	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	N	Maintain public ownership of PPMA, allow land exchanges, if not restorable seek exchanges, donations or purchases, make PPMA ROW exclusion areas with exceptions, remove, bury or modify existing powerlines	Retain public ownership seek to acquire inholdings, no new corridors or ROWs in ACECs and PPMA	Retain public ownership of PPMA/PGMA, if PPMA is not restorable seek exchanges, donations or purchases, designates PPMA as ROW avoidance areas but development could occur if using RDFs, co-locate for existing rights, bury new or existing powerlines	Use conservation easements and covenants to acquire lands (no purchases), site new linear features in existing corridors (if >32 acres/section require mitigation), use AMM policies, aggressively engage in reclamation, no actions address public ownership	Retain public ownership but don't allow exchanges, make PPMA ROW exclusion areas with exceptions, remove, bury or modify existing powerlines	
		Which (if any) of Options 1 - 5 were applied? (LUPA/EIS: Only Options 2, 3, and 5 are applicable) 2. Acquire and manage GRSG habitat to maintain intact ecosystems. 3. Consolidate infrastructure that supports urban and ex-urban development. 5. Do not relinquish public lands for the purpose of urban development in GRSG habitat.	N	2, 3, 5	2, 3, 5	2, 3, 5	2, 3, 5	3, 5	

Infrastructure (L)	Avoid development of infrastructure within PACs	No new development of infrastructure within PACs. Designated, but not yet developed infrastructure corridors should be re-located outside of PACs unless it can be demonstrated that these corridors will have no impacts on the maintenance of neutral or positive sage-grouse population trends or habitats. New infrastructure should be avoided where individual state plans have identified key connectivity corridors outside of PACs.	N	PPMA/PGMA to be exclusion zones for new infrastructure, relocate existing power line when possible, reclaim facilities no longer in use, relocate existing corridors currently in PPMA whenever possible	No new corridors, ROWs, towers, facilities in ACECs and PPMA	PPMA would be managed as ROW avoidance areas, development in PPMA allowed only if using RDFs and insures no unmitigated loss of PPMA/PGMA, strives to bury utility lines, addresses predator perching, no new utility corridors in PPMA/PGMA, no new road ROWs in PPMA/PGMA unless for public safety, manages landfills	No infrastructure with 0.6 mile of springs, seeps, and wet meadows, site new linear features in existing corridors, follow AMM policy, apply measures to avoid raptor perching, locate new facilities in non-habitat areas whenever possible, manage landfills, limit vehicle travel seasonally, worker education proposed	PPMA/PGMA to be exclusion zones for new infrastructure, relocate existing power line when possible, reclaim facilities no longer in use, relocate existing corridors currently in PPMA whenever possible	
		Where state sage-grouse management plans provide an effective strategy for infrastructure those strategies should be implemented. In all other situations the conservation options in the COT report should be considered.	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	State of Nevada plan is currently under revision. It is anticipated that significant changes will be incorporated in the final revised plan.
		Which (if any) of Options 1 - 10 were applied? 1. Avoid construction of these features in GRSG habitat, both within and outside of PACs. 2. Power transmission corridors which cannot avoid PACs should be buried, if technically feasible, and disturbed habitat restored. a. If avoidance is not possible, consolidate new structures with existing features and/or preclude development of new structures within locally important GRSG habitats. b. Consolidate with existing features should not result in a cumulative corridor width of greater than 200 m. c. Habitat function lost from placement of infrastructure should be replaced. 3. Infrastructure corridors should be designed and maintained to preclude introduction of invasive plant species. 4. Restrictions limiting use of roads should be enforced. 5. Remove transmission lines and roads that are duplicative or not functional. 6. Transmission line towers should be constructed to severely reduce or eliminate nesting and perching by avian predators. 7. Avoid installation of compressor stations in PACs or other GRSG habitats 8. All commercial pipelines should be buried and habitat that is disturbed needs to be reclaimed with current and future emphasis placed on suppression of non-native invasive plant species. 9. Mitigate impacts on habitat from development of these features. 10. Remove or decommission non-designated roads within sagebrush habitats.	N/A	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10	1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	1, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10	

Fences (L)	Minimize the impact of fences on greater sage-grouse populations	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	N	Remove, mark or modify all high-risk fences in PPMA based on lek proximity, reclaim/remove fences in areas where they are no longer needed	Remove all range improvement structures	Evaluate and modify existing fences in PPMA/PGMA, remove, modify or mark fences in high-risk areas, allow no fences across leks, attempt to get ROAs relinquished for fences no longer in use and remove.	No specific actions provided. Alternative only lists those existing activities exempt from state agency review (existing fence maintenance & those > 1.25 miles from leks), allows new fencing within 1.25 miles of leks if fence is marked	Avoid any new range improvements in PPMA/PGMA unless peer-reviewed and found to be beneficial to GRSG, remove, mark or modify all high-risk fences in PPMA based on lek proximity, reclaim/remove fences in areas where they are no longer needed
		Which (if any) of Options 1 - 3 were applied? 1. Mark fences that are in high risk areas for collision. 2. Identify and remove unnecessary fences. 3. Placement of new fences and livestock management facilities should consider their impact on GRSG and be placed at least 1 km from occupied leks.	N	1, 2, 3	2	1, 2, 3	1	1, 2, 3

* Threat Ratings for LUPA/EIS	Subjective Consistency (with COT Report) Rating
Plan Area	Continuum
Y: Pres. and Widespread	High Concern &/or Very Low Consistency
L: Pres. and Localized	↑
N: Not Known to be Pres.	Lower Concern &/or Higher Consistency
N/A: Not Applicable	N/A

Action Abbreviations	Other Abbreviations
ACEC = Area of Critical Environmental Concern	COT = Conservation Objectives Team
AML = Appropriate Management Level	N = No, action appears to be inconsistent with COT Report objective
AMM = Avoid, Minimize, Mitigate policy	N/A = Not Applicable
ID = Identify	SETT = Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team (State of Nevada)
GRSG = Greater Sage-Grouse	U = Unknown / unclear from EIS as to whether action is consistent with Cot Report objective
LHS = Land Health Standards	Y = Yes, action appears to be consistent with COT Report objective
NEPA = National Environmental Policy Act	
NSO = No Surface Occupancy	
PFC = Property Functioning Condition	
PPMA = Proposed Priority Management Areas	
PGMA = Proposed General Management Areas	
RDF = Required Design Features (BMP for locatable minerals)	
ROW = Right of Way	
SB - Sage Brush Habitat	
TMP = Travel Management Plan	
WHB = Wild Horse & Burro	

** NOTE: The LUPA/EIS indicates that some COT Options are beyond the jurisdiction or scope of this planning effort. Some COT Options are not applicable to some local threat categories and not discussed.

*** See comments letter for specific recommendations to strengthen Alternative D

USFWS BLM RMP Alternative Review Matrix (DRAFT version 01132014)

BLM Plan: Oregon Subregion DRMP/DEIS

Program Area:

GSG Populations: Central Oregon, Western Great Basin, Northern Great Basin, Baker

NOTE: Action codes from the preliminary draft, not the DEIS

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5.1

Issue ¹	Conservation Objective from COT Report	Conservation Measures / Options from COT Report	Alternative A	Alternative B (NTT)	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E	Alternative F	Management Common to All Alternatives & Misc. Comments
<p>PACs: Central Oregon (COR), #28 Western Great Basin (WGB), #31 Northern Great Basin (NGB), #26a Baker (BAK), #17</p>	<p>Retain sage-grouse habitats within PACs (<i>pertains to PAC designation; actions below this line are evaluated independent of PAC designation for each Alternative</i>)</p>	<p>No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?</p>	<p>No PACs designated. Avoid new ROWs in breeding habitat (Lakeview). Action A-LR 5; Action A-LR 6; Action A-SD 1</p>	<p>Designate PPH, which is equivalent to PPMA. Sage-grouse habitats within PACs would be exclusion areas for new ROW authorizations. Development could occur within the avoidance areas not to exceed 3 percent. Habitat loss would be mitigated. However, fuel treatments can occur, so short-term and possibly long-term habitat loss can occur. Action B-WFM 1; Action B-WFM 23; Action B-WFM 5; Action B-LG/RM 2; Action B-LR 1; Action B-LR 4; Action B-LR 7; Action B-MLS 5; Action B-MLM 1;</p>	<p>Designate PPH, which is equivalent to PPMA. "Prohibit" establishing new ROWs in ACECs and occupied habitats. Action C-LR 1; Action C-LR 7; Action C-MLS 3; Action C-SD 1:</p>	<p>Designate PPH, which is equivalent to PPMA. Sage-grouse habitats within PACs would be avoidance areas for new ROW authorizations. Development could occur within the avoidance areas not to exceed 3 percent. Habitat loss would be mitigated to meet the "no net loss" objective. Action D-LR 1; Action D-LR 5; Action D-MLS 1; Action D-LR 7; Action D-SD 1. [improve this alt by adding more restrictions to fuel treatments such as no Rx burns in low elev/big sage, recommend mineral withdrawals, and create ROW exclusion zone]</p>	<p>Note: PACs are equivalent to Core Areas which are equal to PPMA. Recommend no development in core habitat areas if it is sage-grouse habitat and there has been evidence of sage-grouse presence. Action E-TM 2; Action E-LR 1; Action E-LR 7; Action E-LR 10; Action E-MC 1; Action E-MLS 16; Action E-MLM 1; Action E-MSM 1; Action E-AQ/CC 1;</p>	<p>Designate PPH, which is equivalent to PGMA. Sage-grouse habitats within PACs would be avoidance areas for new ROW authorizations. Development could occur within the avoidance areas not to exceed 3 percent. Habitat loss would be "offset." Action F-LR 1; Action F-LR 4; Action F-LR 7; Action F-SD 1; Action F-VG 18; Action F-TM 2;</p>	
	<p>If PACs are lost to catastrophic events, implement appropriate restoration efforts</p>	<p>No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?</p>	<p>Action A-VG 5; Action A-WFM 17; Action A-WFM 19</p>	<p>Action B-VG 5; Action B-VG7; Action B-VG 10; Action B-VG 11; Action B-WFM 17; Action B-WFM 23;</p>	<p>Action C-VG 5; Action C-WFM 17</p>	<p>Action D-VG 30; Action D-WFM 2; Action D-WFM 9; Action D-WFM 17</p>	<p>Action E-WFM 9; Action E - WFM 10; Action E-WFM 17; Action E-WFM 19; Action E-WFM 20; Action E-WFM 21;Action E-WFM 22; Action E-WFM 25;</p>	<p>Action F-WFM 17; Action F-WFM 25</p>	
	<p>Restore and rehabilitate degraded sage-grouse habitat within PACs.</p>	<p>No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?</p>	<p>Action A-VG 17; Action A-VG 22; Action A-VG 27</p>	<p>Action B-VG 1; Action B-VG 2; Action B-VG 9; B-VG7; Action B-VG 10; Action B- WHB 1; Action B-WHB 2; Action B-LG/RM 8</p>	<p>Action C-VG 16; Action C-VG 17</p>	<p>Action D-VG 1; Action D-VG 22; Action D-VG 24; Action D-VG 27; Action D-VG 44; Action D-LG/RM 8; Action D-SD 1 [this alt has juniper and invasive species treatments using a variety of methods; close and rehabilitate roads. For grazing, meeting HAF indicators is strong, but could have more certainty about what happens if indicators are not met.]</p>	<p>Action E-VG 15; Action E-VG 22; 24, 25, 26, 27, 37, 43; Action E-LG/RM 17; Action E-LG/RM 31;</p>	<p>Action F-VG 1; Action F-VG 2; Action F-VG 44</p>	

Issue ¹	Conservation Objective from COT Report	Conservation Measures / Options from COT Report	Alternative A	Alternative B (NTT)	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E	Alternative F	Management Common to All Alternatives & Misc. Comments
PACs Continued:	Identify areas and habitats outside of PACs which may be necessary to maintain viability of sage-grouse. If development or vegetation manipulation activities outside of PACs are proposed, the project proponent should work with federal, state or local agencies and interested stakeholders to ensure consistency with sage-grouse habitat needs.	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	Action A-VG 2; Action A-LG/RM 32; Action A-RC 4:	Designate PGH, which is equivalent to PGMA. Action B-VG 2; Action B-VG 10; Action B-VG 9; Action B-LG/RM 24; Action B-LR 5; Action B-LR 6:	Designate PGH, which is equivalent to PGMA. Action C-VG 2; Action C-LR 5; Action C-LR 6:	Designate PGH, which is equivalent to PGMA. Action D-VG 1: Action D-VG 2; Action D-VG 12; Action D-VG 20; Action D-VG 22; Action D-WFM 7; D-WFM 8; D-LG/RM 5; Action D-LG/RM 24; Action D-LG/RM 30; Action D-LR 5; Action D-LR 6; Action D-SD 1	Note: Low Density is sage-grouse habitat outside PACs, but it does not include all of PGMA/PGH. Action E-VG 2; Action E-WFM 7; Action E-WFM 8; Action E-WFM 10, Action E-LR 5; Action E-LR 6:	Designate PGH, which is equivalent to PGMA. Action F-LG/RM 23; Action F-LG/RM 24; Action F-LG/RM 30	
	Re-evaluate the status of PACs and adjacent sage-grouse habitat at least once every 5-years, or when important new information becomes available.	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	Action A-VG 1; Action A-LG/RM 32; Action A-SD 1	Action B-VG 2; Action B-LG/RM 5; Action B-LG/RM 8; Action B-LG/RM 14; Action B-LG/RM 24; Action B-TM 3; Action B-TM 4:	Action C-VG 2;	Action D-VG 2; Action D-LG/RM 5; Action D-LG/RM 8; Action D-LG/RM 24; Action D-RC 3; Action D-SD 1; Action D-TM 1:[Monitoring Framework will track status (disturbance levels, sagebrush cover, #energy facilities) of PACs within populations]	NOTE: Not an action in Table 2-6, but the Oregon Sage-grouse Strategy states "Core Area maps will be updated as new information is obtained on winter habitat use, lek distribution, disturbance thresholds from various types of development, and success of mitigation measures. It is anticipated that such maps will be reviewed and potentially updated as new and substantial biological information is acquired or concomitant with updates of this Plan." Pg 85. Action E-VG 2;	Action F-LG/RM 5; Action F-LG/RM 14; Action F-LG/RM 24; Action F-LG/RM 32; Action F-TM 3; Action F-TM 4;	
	Actively pursue opportunities to increase occupancy and connectivity between PACs.	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	Action A-VG 1; Action A-LR 5; Conservation Measure A-MLS 7; Action A-MLM 1; Action A-SD 1	Action B-VG 1; Action B-LR 2; Conservation Measure B-MLS 7; Action B-MLM 1	Action C-VG 1; Conservation Measure C-MLS 7; Action C-MLM 1; Action C-SD 1:	Action D-VG 1; Action D-LR 2; Conservation Measure D-MLS 7; Action D-MLM 1; Action D-SD 1: [insert more proactive mgmt in PGMA would make this alt even more consistent]	Action E-AQ/CC 1; Action E-VG 2; Action E-MLM 1:	Action F-VG 1; Action F-LR 2; Conservation Measure F-MLS 7; Action F-MLM 1; Action F-SD 1	
	Maintain or improve existing habitat conditions in areas adjacent to burned habitat.	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	Action A-VG 12; Action A-SD 1	Action B-WFM 16:	Action C-WFM 16	Action D-VG 1; Action D-VG 12; Action D-WFM 2; Action D-WFM 9; Action D-WFM 15; Action D-WFM 16; Action D-SD 1 [add direction to protect unburned areas adjacent to burned area; this could be to prohibit certain development within a burn buffer area]	Action E-VG 12; Action E-WFM 9;	Action F-WFM 16; Action F-WFM 28:	

Issue ¹	Conservation Objective from COT Report	Conservation Measures / Options from COT Report	Alternative A	Alternative B (NTT)	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E	Alternative F	Management Common to All Alternatives & Misc. Comments
Fire - COR = Y WGB = Y NGB = Y BAK = Y	Retain and restore healthy native SB communities within GSG range	Restrict or contain fire within the normal range of fire activity (assuming a healthy native perennial sagebrush community), including size and frequency, as defined by the best available science.	Action A-WFM 1	Action B-WFM 7; Action B-WFM 8	Action C-WFM 1; Action D-WFM 2	Objective D-WFM 1; Action D-WFM 1; Action D-WFM 7 [catch fires early, but nothing can realistically be done to reduce size of the large fires; what is the new "normal"? Yellow may be the best we can do.]	Action E-WFM 1; Action E-WFM 7	Action F-WFM 1	
		Eliminate intentional fires in sagebrush habitats, including prescribed burning of breeding and winter habitats.		Action: do not use fire to treat sagebrush in areas with <12" ppt; however, can allow Rx burning for fuel breaks		D-WFM-1; D-WFM-8 [allows use of fire to reduce probability of large homogeneous burns; however, seasonal limitations and excluding certain seasonal habitats could be imposed to make this alt more consistent with COT objectives]	E-WFM-8; E-WFM-2 [allow fire to create mosaics with exceptions where cheat grass and other issues occurs]	Action F-WFM 1	
		Design and implement restoration of burned sagebrush habitats to allow for natural succession to healthy native sagebrush plant communities.	Action A-VG 5; Action A-WFM 17; Action A-WFM 19	Action B-VG 5; Action B-WFM 17	Action C-VG 5; Action C-WFM 17	Action D-VG 30; Action D-WFM 2; Action D-WFM 9; Action D-WFM 17	Action E-WFM 9; Action E-WFM 17; Action E-WFM 19	Action F-WFM 17	
		Implement monitoring programs for restoration activities. To ensure success, monitoring must continue until restoration is complete, with sufficient commitments to make adequate corrections to management efforts if needed.	Action A-WFM 22; Action A-VG 2	Action B-WFM 1; Action B-WFM 23	Action C-VG 2	Action D-VG 29; FUELS-5 [Monitoring & Disturbance Framework should describe how veg treatments and restored burned areas can be added back as sagebrush habitat; however, it may not make commitment to monitor "until restoration is complete." Could also include adaptive mgmt for burned area treatments.]	Action E-VG 2; Action E-WFM 22 [strategy requires monitoring postfire to determine if rehab fails due to drought]	Action F-WFM 23	
		Immediately suppress fire in all sagebrush habitats.	Action A-WFM 1	Action B-WFM 7; Action B-WFM 8	Action C-WFM 1; Action D-WFM 2	Objective D-WFM 1; Action D-WFM 1; Action D-WFM 7; FM-3	Action E-WFM 1; Action E-WFM 7; Action E-WFM 11	Action F-WFM 1	
		Which (if any) of Options 1a-d were applied?	Action A-WFM 1 (1a); Action A-LG/RM 9 (a, c)	Action B-WFM 6 (b); Action B-LG/RM 9 (a, c)	Action C-VG 3 (a); Action C-WFM 3 (a, c)	Action D-VG 3 (a); Action D-LG/RM 6 (1c) [could be strengthened by focusing management in highly susceptible areas such as sagebrush with cheat grass understory]	Action E-LG/RM 6 (1c)	Action F-LG/RM 9 (a, c)	

Issue ¹	Conservation Objective from COT Report	Conservation Measures / Options from COT Report	Alternative A	Alternative B (NTT)	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E	Alternative F	Management Common to All Alternatives & Misc. Comments
		Which (if any) of Options 2a-j were applied?	Action A-WFM 1 (2f); Action A-VG 22 (f)	Action B-WFM 1 (2c); [only one of 10 suggested options]	Action C-WFM 29 (2c) [only one of 10 suggested options]	Action FM-PRE 2 (2b); Action D-VG 15 (c); Action D-VG 22 (f); Action D-WFM 1 (c); Action D-WFM 2 (g); Action D-WFM 7: (b, e); Action D-WFM 10 (2b); Action D-WFM 29 (2c)	Action E-VG 15 (c); Action E-VG 22 (f); Action E-WFM 7 (b, e); Action E-WFM 10 (2b, 2d,); Action E-WFM 11 (2b); Action E-WFM 29 (2c)	Action F-WFM 1 (2c); [only one of 10 suggested options]	
		Which (if any) of Options 3a-e were applied?	Action A-VG 5 (3c)	Action B-VG 5 (3c); Action B-VG 11 (3b)	Action C-VG 5 (3c) [only one of 5 options]	Action D-VG 5 (3c); Action D-VG 11 (3b); Action D-VG 27 (3c); Action D-VG 29 (a, d) [establish seed harvest areas; PPMA is priority locations]	Action E-WFM 25 (3b); Action E-VG 27 (3c);	Action F-WFM 25 (3b); Action F-VG 11 (3b)	

Issue ¹	Conservation Objective from COT Report	Conservation Measures / Options from COT Report	Alternative A	Alternative B (NTT)	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E	Alternative F	Management Common to All Alternatives & Misc. Comments
Fire Continued		Was Option 4 applied?				Yes: IM-2013-128	NA	NA	
Non-native, Invasive Plant Species Weeds/Annual Grasses COR = Y WGB = Y NGB = Y BAK = Y	Maintain and restore healthy, native SB communities	Retain all remaining large intact sagebrush patches, particularly at low elevations.	Action A-VG 2; Action A-VG 12	Action B-VG 2:	Action C-VG 2:	Goal D-VG 1; Action D-VG 12 [add this to the sentence: "Priorities for sagebrush treatment to retain all remaining large intact sagebrush patches are: ...]	Action E-VG 2	same as Alt. A	
		Reduce or eliminate disturbances that promote the spread of these invasive species.	no actions	Action B-MLM 2; Action B-MNL 2; Action B-MSE 2 [Fire "no similar action as D" ; no HAF but include GRSG indicators in PPMA]	Action C-MLM 2; Action C-MNL 2; Action C-MSE 2; C-LG/RM 1 [removes grazing]	Action D-VG 12; Action D-VG 39; Action D-VG 40; Action D-VG 41; Action D-VG 42; (all in relation to fire); Action D-SD 1; Action D-MLM 2; Action D-MNL 2; Action D-MSE 2; LG/RM 2, 6, 7 [cannot guarantee fires will be within natural range (yellow); grazing effects will be within acceptable range by implementing HAF indicators with RLH when renewing permits (green); treatments to remove sagebrush to protect sagebrush over long term (yellow)]	Action E-WFM 1; Action E-WFM 21; Action E-VG 12;	Action F-MLM 2; Action F-MNL 2; Action F-MSE 2; F-LG/RM 1: [reduces grazing (yellow)];	
		Monitor and control invasive vegetation post-wildfire for at least three years.	varies	Action B-WFM 1 [states, "monitor and control ..." but does not specify how long.]	Action C-WFM 1 [same as Alt. B]	Action D-VG 29; Action D-VG 41 (fire); Action D-SD 1 (ACEC); Action D-WFM 2; [see July 2013 ADEIS action D-VG 29 to "follow guidance in the BLM ESR Handbook or its successor in determining rehabilitation needs, timing of rehabilitation treatments, treatment methods, and monitoring requirements." Specify "at least three years" to meet COT. Also add time period to Action D-WFM 22 to define "long-term success."]	Action E-VG 32; Action E-WFM 22 {says to monitor post-treatment but doesn't specify time}	no similar actions	

Issue ¹	Conservation Objective from COT Report	Conservation Measures / Options from COT Report	Alternative A	Alternative B (NTT)	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E	Alternative F	Management Common to All Alternatives & Misc. Comments
		Require best management practices for construction projects in and adjacent to sagebrush habitats to prevent invasion.	varies	Action B-VG 44; Action B-LG/RM 25; Action B-LG/RM 28; Action B-WFM 16; Conservation Measure B-MLS 9; Action B-MLM 2; Action B-MNL 2; Action B-MSE 2:	Action C-VG 44; Action C-WFM 16; Conservation Measure C-MLS 9; Action C-MLM 2; Action C-MNL 2; Action C-MSE 2 [similar actions to Alt. B]	Action D-VG 6; Action D-VG 12; Action D-VG 32; Action D-VG 34; Action D-VG 36; Action D-VG 39; Action D-VG 44; Action D-LG/RM 25; Action D-WFM 16; Conservation Measure D-MLS 9; Action D-MLS 16; Action D-MLS 17; Action D-MLM 2; Action D-MNL 2; Action D-MSE 2; [BMPs for fire suppression, fluid mineral exploration/extraction, locatables, solid minerals]	Action E-VG 12; Action E-VG 27; Action E-VG 32; Action E-VG 35; Action E-VG 36; Action E-VG 37; Action E-VG 44; Action E-WFM 2; Action E-MLS 16:	Action F-VG 18; Action F-VG 31; Action F-VG 44; Action F-LG/RM 25; Action F-LG/RM 28; Action F-WFM 16; Conservation Measure F-MLS 9; Action F-MLS 16; Action F-MLS 17; Action F-MLM 2; Action F-MNL 2; Action F-MSE 2:	
		Restore altered ecosystems such that non-native invasive plants are reduced to levels that do not put the area at risk of conversion if a catastrophic event were to occur.	Action A-VG 9:	Action B-VG 5; Action B-VG 9;	Action C-VG 5; Action C-VG 9:	Action D-VG 5; Action D-VG 17; Action D-VG 21; Action D-VG 33; Action D-SD 1; Action D-VG 9; Action D-VG 12 [use native species; could strengthen Action D VG 1 by adding this bullet: "sites at risk of conversion to non-native species if a catastrophic event were to occur."]	Action E-VG 27; Action E-VG 33; Action E-VG 43; Action E-VG 9	Action F-VG 5: [no similar action]	

Issue ¹	Conservation Objective from COT Report	Conservation Measures / Options from COT Report	Alternative A	Alternative B (NTT)	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E	Alternative F	Management Common to All Alternatives & Misc. Comments
Energy Development COR = L WGB = L NGB = L BAK = L	Energy development should be designed to insure that it will not impinge upon stable or increasing GSG population trends	Avoid energy development in PACs.	Action A-LR 1; Action A-LR 5 [varies among RMPs]	Action B-LR 1; Action B-LR 5 [Conservation Measure B-MLS 1]	Action C-LR 1; Action C-LR 5 [C-LR-1 prohibits new development in ACECs and occupied habitat.]	Action D-LR 1 [Conservation Measure D-MLS 1 establishes NSO stipulations in PPMA, but within 4 miles of an occupied lek, with timing restrictions; Action D-LR-1 allows disturbance if below 3%; could be more COT consistent if said "no energy development within a PAC."]	Action E-LR 1 [all Core/PAC are exclusion areas if it's habitat]	Action F-LR 1 [occupied habitat shall be exclusion areas for new ROWs, with certain exceptions for new development within the existng ROW]	
		If avoidance is not possible <u>in PACs</u> due to pre-existing valid rights, adjacent development, or split estate issues, development should only occur in <u>non-habitat areas</u> , including all appurtenant structures, with an adequate buffer that is sufficient to preclude impacts to sage-grouse habitat from noise, and other human activities.	varies	Allowable disturbance ≤3%. Action B-LR 5: [B-MLS 1 would direct the development in areas farthest from the lek and least likely to impact GRSG.]	Action C-LR 1 (ACEC) [prohibited in ACEC and occupied habitat]	Allowable disturbance ≤3%. Action D-LR 1; Action D-LR 5 [Conservation Measure D-MLS 1 establishes NSO stipulations in PPMA, but within 4 miles of an occupied lek, with timing restrictions; Action D-LR-1 allows disturbance if below 3%; could be more COT consistent if said "no energy development within a PAC."]	Action E-LR 1: [all Core/PAC are exclusion areas if it's habitat]	Action F-LR 1 [occupied habitat shall be exclusion areas for new ROWs, with certain exceptions for new development within the existng ROW]	
		If development must occur in sage-grouse habitats due to existing rights and lack of reasonable alternative avoidance measures, the development should occur in the <u>least suitable habitat</u> for sage-grouse and be designed to ensure at a minimum that there are no detectable declines in sage-grouse population trends (see row below and COT report for measures to implement to facilitate this).	varies	Action B-LR 1; Action B-LR 4; Action B-LR 6 [Action B-LR 2 would identify structures that could be removed]	Action C-LR 6 ["same as Alt A"; Action C-LR 9; does not address this COT conservation measure]	Action D-LR 5; Action D-LR 6 [Conservation Measure D-MLS 1 stips for tall structures; Action D-LR 1; Action D-LR 2 would identify structures that could be removed; to make this more COT consistent would have to prohibit new (exclusion areas) and require removal of some energy structures from PPMA]	Action E-LR 5; Action E-LR 6; [Action E-LR 1; all occupied habitat within PAC/CORE is exclusion area; development could be permitted in non-habitat within a PAC, but State Strategy does not address development of least suitable habitat]	Action F-LR 1; Action F-LR 4 [Action F-LR 7 and 8; all occupied GRSG habitat are exclusion areas]	
		Which (if any) of Measure 3a-3e were applied?	varies	Action B-LR 1 (3c); Action B-LR 4 (3a); Action B-LR 6 (3c)	Action C-LR 6 (3c)	Action D-LR 6 (3c) [Conservation Measure D-MLS 1 (3e)]	Action E-LR 6 (3c)	Action F-LR 1 (3c); Action F-LR 4 (3a)	

Issue ¹	Conservation Objective from COT Report	Conservation Measures / Options from COT Report	Alternative A	Alternative B (NTT)	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E	Alternative F	Management Common to All Alternatives & Misc. Comments
Sagebrush Removal / Elimination COR = L WGB = L NGB = L BAK = Y	Avoid SB removal or manipulation in GSG breeding or wintering habitats	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	Action A-WFM 8; ;	Action B-WFM 1 [allows fuel treatments in winter range, but COT does not allow for this]	Action C-WFM 1: same as B	Action D-WFM 1; Action D-WFM 8 [addresses protection of winter range and nesting/breeding; however, Action D-WFM 1 allows fuel treatments in winter range. Action D-VG 12 identifies sagebrush treatments that include crested/desert wheatgrass seedings, which could be interpreted to be for range improvement. The purpose of these actions should be clarified. Suggest copying Action F-VG 18 into D-VG 18 if it applies.	Action E-VG 1; Action E-VG 2; Action E-VG 18; Action E-VG 19; Action E-AQ/CC 1	Action F-VG 18 [avoid sagebrush treatments for livestock forage improvement]; Action F-WFM 1 allows sagebrush treatment in winter range to reduce wildfire risk	

Issue ¹	Conservation Objective from COT Report	Conservation Measures / Options from COT Report	Alternative A	Alternative B (NTT)	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E	Alternative F	Management Common to All Alternatives & Misc. Comments
Grazing COR = Y WGB = Y NGB = Y BAK = U	Conduct grazing management for all ungulates in a manner consistent with local ecological conditions that maintains of restores healthy SB shrub and native perennial grass and forb communities and conserves the essential habitat components for GSG (shrub and nesting cover). Areas which do not currently	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	Action A-LG/RM 32; Action A-LG/RM 24	Action B-LG/RM 2; Action B-LG/RM 3; Action B-LG/RM 4; Action B-LG/RM 5; Action B-LG/RM 8	Action C-LG/RM 1 [no grazing in occupied GRSg habitat, so no grazing impacts would occur and no grazing management actions would be taken]	Action D-LG/RM 2; Action D-LG/RM 5; Action D-LG/RM 6; Action D-LG/RM 8 [reference to HAF, should clarify meaning of "consistent with HAF"; this does not mean HAF protocol on every pasture, but the indicators would be evaluated]	Action E-LG/RM 6; Action E-LG/RM 16	Action F-LG/RM 2; Action F-LG/RM 3; Action F-LG/RM 4; Action F-LG/RM 5	
		Which (if any) of Options 1 - 5 were applied?	Action A-LG/RM 32 (4)	Action B-LG/RM 2 (3); Action B-LG/RM 3 (2); Action B-LG/RM 4 (5); Action B-LG/RM 5 (5); Action B-LG/RM 8 (3)	Action C-LG/RM 1 (1);	Action D-LG/RM 2 (3); Action D-LG/RM 5 (5); Action D-LG/RM 6 (1, 4); Action D-LG/RM 8 (3) [#2 is not addressed but easily could be]	Action E-LG/RM 6 (1, 4); Action E-LG/RM 16 (2)	Action F-LG/RM 2 (3); Action F-LG/RM 3 (2); Action F-LG/RM 4 (5); Action F-LG/RM 5 (5)	
Range Management Structures	Avoid or reduce the impact of RMS on GSG	Range management structures should be designed and placed to be neutral or beneficial to sage-grouse.	varies	Action B-LG/RM 17; Action B-LG/RM 18; Action B-LG/RM 25; Action B-LG/RM 26	No grazing; [does not specify modification or removal of range structures that are impacting GRSg]	Action D-LG/RM 6; Action D-LG/RM 17; Action D-LG/RM 19; Action D-LG/RM 21; Action D-LG/RM 22; Action D-LG/RM 25; Action D-LG/RM 26 [water developments, playa restoration, mitigate for WNV, salting,]	Action E-LG/RM 7; Action E-LG/RM 17; Action E-LG/RM 18; Action E-LG/RM 19; Action E-LG/RM 20	Action F-LG/RM 17; Action F-LG/RM 18; Action F-LG/RM 25; Action F-LG/RM 26 ["avoid all new structural range improvements; however, overall fewer conservation actions proposed or "no similar action"]	
		Structures that are currently contributing to negative impacts to either sage-grouse or their habitats should be removed or modified to remove the threat.	varies		No grazing; [does not specify modification or removal of range structures that are impacting GRSg.]	Action D-LG/RM 17 (1, 2); Action D-LG/RM 19 (1, 2); Action D-LG/RM 21 (2); Action D-LG/RM 22(2); Action D-LG/RM 25 (1); Action D-LG/RM 26 (1)	Action E-LG/RM 17 (1, 2); Action E-LG/RM 18 (1, 2); Action E-LG/RM 19 (1, 2); Action E-LG/RM 20 (1, 2); Action E-LG/RM 21 (2)	Action F-LG/RM 17 (1); Action F-LG/RM 18 (2); Action F-LG/RM 25 (1); Action F-LG/RM 26 (1, 2)	
FR Equid Management COR = U WGB = Y NGB = L BAK = N	Protect sage-grouse from the negative influences of grazing by free roaming equids.	Develop, implement, and enforce adequate regulatory mechanisms to protect sage-grouse habitat from negative influences of grazing by free-roaming equids.	no similar action	Action B-WHB 1; Action B-WHB 4; Action B-WFM 23 [no monitoring and no explanation of management within AML]	no similar action	Action D-VG 7; Action D-WHB 1 [reference to HAF in evaluating and possibly modifying AML is good; however, monitoring is not identified, nor is how BLM will respond to situations where AML is not met. This action would be more consistent with COT if included commitment to consistently monitor habitat and horse numbers and <u>manage within AML.</u>]	Action E-WHB 2; [BLM "should" evaluate AML and manage within AML; however, it does not identify long-term monitoring.]	Action F-WHB 1 [same as Alt B, except an immediate 25% reduction in AML.]	

Issue ¹	Conservation Objective from COT Report	Conservation Measures / Options from COT Report	Alternative A	Alternative B (NTT)	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E	Alternative F	Management Common to All Alternatives & Misc. Comments
		Manage free-roaming equids at levels that allow native sagebrush vegetative communities to minimally achieve PFC (for riparian areas) or RHS (for uplands).	no similar action	Action B-WHB 2; Action B-WHB 3	no similar action	Action D-WHB 2 [DEIS makes commitment to conduct RLH within priority areas; again, however, no commitment to manage the herds at AML. FWS recommends AML be based on drought conditions.]	Action E-WHB 2	Action F-WHB 3	

Issue ¹	Conservation Objective from COT Report	Conservation Measures / Options from COT Report	Alternative A	Alternative B (NTT)	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E	Alternative F	Management Common to All Alternatives & Misc. Comments
Pinyon-juniper Expansion / Conifers COR = Y WGB = Y NGB = Y BAK = L	Remove pinyon-juniper from areas of SB that are most likely to support GSG (post-removal) at a rate at least equal to the rate of p-j incursion	No conservation measures specified. Is conservation objective addressed applying locally-derived measures?	Action A-VG 22; Action A-WFM 1: [varies with RMP area, some have juniper removal, while others don't; no commitment to "no net gain."]	"no similar actions"	Action C-WFM 1: [fuels reduction actions do not specify juniper}	Action D-VG 22; Action D-VG 23; Action D-VG 24; Action D-VG 25; Action D-WFM 2; Action D-WFM 14 [VG 22 sets highest priority is to remove phase 1 and 2 juniper in PPMA. DEIS removed the identification of methods that was in ADEIS. VG 23 identifies a suite of methods for invasive species. FWS feels this is not COT consistent because it does NOT have a commitment to "no net gain of juniper." Action would be consistent with COT (green) if it included this commitment.]	Action E-VG 22; Action E-VG 24; Action F-VG 25; Action E-VG 26; Action E-VG 28; Action E-WFM 2 [Similar to Alt. D, the actions are all about treatment without any commitment to "no net gain." This is yellow.]	no actions to remove juniper	
		Which (if any) of Options 1 - 4 were applied?	Action A-VG 22; Action A-WFM 1: [varies with RMP area, some have juniper removal, while others don't; no commitment to "no net gain."]	"no similar actions"	Action C-WFM 1:	Action D-VG 22 (1); Action D-VG 23 (1,2) [(1) need to indicate that mechanical treatment is the priority - see COT language; (2) need to insert or create new action the <i>BLM Guidelines for Juniper Management in OR/WA</i> , May 2013. This will address use of broadcast burning, among other treatments; (3) no mention of % juniper cover; (4) need to insert or create new action "to maintain the benefit of juniper removal for GRSG habitats, monitor treatments for long-term (>30 yrs) with appropriate management responses should the resultant	Action E-VG 26 (2); Action E-VG 28 (4)[essentially same as Alt. D, but VG 26 identifies broadcast burning as a treatment]	no actions to remove juniper	
Agricultural Conversion COR = L WGB = L NGB = L BAK = Y	Avoid further loss of sagebrush habitat for agricultural activities (both animal and plant production) and prioritize restoration. In areas where taking agricultural lands out of production has benefited GSG, the programs supporting these actions should be targeted and continued (e.g., CRP/SAFE).	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	Action A-LR 8 (Deschutes only, prioritize only)	Action B-LR 7; Action B-LR 8 (PPMA only; retain and acquire)	Action C-LR 7 (ACEC; occupied habitat; Retain only); Action C-LR 8 (Acquire in ACEC only)	Action D-LR 7; Action D-LR 8 (PPMA only); [LR 11 and 12 in DEIS is land exchanges; however, cannot achieve a green because BLM does not deal with the incentives identified in COT. FWS feels it's acceptable for this action to be colored yellow.]	Action E-LR 7 (Maintain only)	Action F-LR 7 (Retain only)	
		Which (if any) of Options 1 - 4 were applied?	NA	NA	NA	NA to BLM	NA	NA	

Issue ¹	Conservation Objective from COT Report	Conservation Measures / Options from COT Report	Alternative A	Alternative B (NTT)	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E	Alternative F	Management Common to All Alternatives & Misc. Comments
<p>Mining COR = Y WGB = L NGB = L BAK = Y Note: Threat level in COT report was based on older data. BLM has more recent data on mining claims indicating threat level for the COR population should be "L". Overall, the mining threat is localized.</p>	<p>Maintain stable to increasing GSG populations and no net loss of GSG habitats in areas affected by mining</p>	<p>No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?</p>	<p>Net loss of habitat may occur. NSO within 0.65 to 2.0 miles of leks. Action A-MLS 1; Action A-MLS 6; Action A-MLS 16; Action A-MLM 4</p>	<p>Net loss of habitat may occur, with 3% disturbance permitted. Action B-MLS 1; Action B-MLS 16; Action B-MLS 20; Action B-MLM 1; Action B-MSM 1; Action B-MSE 1; Action B-MSE 2; Action B-MNL 1; Action B-MLS 5; Action B-MLS 8 [NTT report recommends withdrawal of all Priority Habitat with exceptions]</p>	<p>Action C-MLM 2; Action C-MLS 16; Action C-MNL 1; Action C-MSM 1; Action C-MLM 1 [all occupied habitat would be recommended for withdrawal]</p>	<p>No net loss of habitat in PPMA; 3% disturbance allowed. Mining RDFS and BMPs apply. Action D-MLS 1; Action D-MLS 2; Action D-MLS 18; Action D-MLM 2; Action D-MSM 1; Action D-MSE 1; Action D-MSE 2; Action D-MNL 1; Action D-MNL 2; Action D-MLS 1; Action D-MLS 5; Action D-MLS 4; Action D-MLS 8 [the only way to fully meet the COT objective is to propose withdrawal of all PACs from mineral development]</p>	<p>No loss of Core Area habitat. Action E-MLS 6; Action E-MLS 16; Action E-MLM 1; Action E-MSM 1; Action E-MNL 1 [however, mining can be allowed on occupied habitat outside of PACs]</p>	<p>Action F-MLS 16; Action-MLS 18; Action F-MSM 1; Action F-MNL 1; Action F-MLM 1 [close occupied to fluid mineral leasing with exceptions; recommend withdrawal for locatables]</p>	
		<p>Which (if any) of Options 1 - 4 were applied?</p>		<p>Action B-MLS 1 (1); Conservation Measure B-MLS 9 (3, 4); Action B-MLS 16 (1); Action B-MLS 20 (1); Action B-MLM 1 (1); Action B-MLM 2 (3, 4); Action B-MSM 1 (1); Action B-MSE 1 (1); Action B-MSE 2 (1); Action B-MNL 1 (1); Action B-MLS 5 (2); Action B-MLS 8 (3)</p>	<p>Action C-MLM 2 (3, 4); Conservation Measure C-MLS 9 (3, 4)</p>	<p>Action D-MLS 1 (1); Action D-MLS 2 (1); Action D-MLS 18 (1); Action D-MLM 2 (1, 2, 3); Action D-MSM 1 (1); Action D-MSE 1 (1); Action D-MSE 2 (1); Action D-MNL 1 (1); Action D-MNL 2 (1); Action D-MLS 1 (2); Action D-MLS 5 (2); Action D-MLS 4(3); Action D-MLS 8 (3)[3% disturbance cap but there could be a net loss in limited situations, so this cell could be green]</p>	<p>Conservation Measure F-MLS 9 (3, 4); Action E-MLS 6 (1); Action E-MLS 16 (1); Action E-MLM 1 (1); Action F-MLM 2 (3, 4); Action E-MSM 1 (1); Action E-MNL 1 (1) [ODFW mitigation policy requires no net loss of occupied GRSG habitat outside of Core/PPH]</p>		

Issue ¹	Conservation Objective from COT Report	Conservation Measures / Options from COT Report	Alternative A	Alternative B (NTT)	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E	Alternative F	Management Common to All Alternatives & Misc. Comments
Recreation COR = L WGB = U NGB = Y BAK = L	In areas subjected to recreational activities, maintain healthy native SB communities based on local ecological conditions and with consideration of drought conditions, and manage direct and indirect human disturbance (including noise) to avoid interruption of normal GSG behavior.	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	YES Action A-ARC 4; Action A-ARC 8; Action A-ATM 1; Action A-ATM 6 [varies]	YES Action B-TM 1; BMPs to control noise and seasonal activity [same as D, would limit "motorized" travel to existing roads and trails (green); could be made greener if restrictions applied to all occupied habitat; silent to new construction or design to avoid impacts]	NO [in occupied habitat, limit motorized travel to existing roads and trails (green); same as A, which varies with avoidance of new rec development in sage grouse habitat]	YES Action D-DTM 1; Action D-RC 2; Action D-RC 7; Action D-RC 8 [limiting off-road vehicles to existing roads and trails essentially would "close important GRSG areas to off-road vehicle use" in PPMA (green); TM plan would limit use to identified roads; could be made greener if restrictions applied to all occupied habitat; development of new rec facilities would or should avoid nesting/early brood rearing habitat; COT recommends "avoid" development in GRSG habitat, which is everywhere (to make this more consistent, need to replace "should" with "would" and, more importantly, avoid any new rec development in sage grouse habitat)]	YES Action E-TM-1; Action E-RC 7; Action E-RC 8 [restricts OHV to existing roads and trails within 2 mi of leks (all leks) during breeding season (green); in final need to change July 15 to June 30; to make this more COT consistent, need to replace "should" with "would" and, more importantly, avoid any new rec development in sage grouse habitat]	YES Action F-RC 2; Action F-TM 1 [same as B (green); could be made greener if restrictions applied to all occupied habitat; same as B with no mention of avoiding new development in GRSG habitat]	
		Which (if any) of Options 1 - 2 were applied?	[varies; some plans (Upper Deschutes) design to avoid conflicts with GRSG;	Action B-TM 1 (1, 2) (limit to existing roads, no mention of new recreation facilities)	#1: no closures or limits to travel #2: no mention of new recreation facilities	Action D-TM 1 (1); Action D-RC 2 (2); Action D-RC 7 (2); Action D-RC 8 (2)	Action E-TM 1 (1); Action E-RC 7 (2); Action E-RC 8 (2)	Action F-RC 2; Action F-TM 1	
Ex-Urban Development / Urbanization COR = L WGB = N NGB = Y BAK = L	Limit urban and exurban development in GSG habitats and maintain intact native SB communities	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	Action A-LR 8 (Deschutes only, prioritize only)[vaires and does not specify GRSG habitat]	Action B-LR 7; Action B-LR 8 (PPMA only; retain and acquire)	Action C-LR 7 (ACEC; occupied habitat; Retain only); Action C-LR 8 (Acquire in ACEC only)	Action D-LR 7; Action D-LR 8 (PPMA only) [could be green if the retention/acquistion extends to all sage-grouse habitat, not only PPMA]	Action E-LR 7 (Maintain only) [E LR-11 applies to all sage grouse habitat]	Action F-LR 7 (Retain only) [same as B]	
		Which (if any) of Options 1 - 5 were applied?	[Varies]	Action B-LR 8 (2)	Action C-LR 8 (2)	Action D-LR 7 (2); Action C-LR 8 (2)	[E LR-11 (2, 5)]	[F LR-11 (2, 5)]	Option #3 is evaluated under Infrastructure

Issue ¹	Conservation Objective from COT Report	Conservation Measures / Options from COT Report	Alternative A	Alternative B (NTT)	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E	Alternative F	Management Common to All Alternatives & Misc. Comments
Infrastructure COR = L WGB = L NGB = Y BAK = L	Avoid development of infrastructure within PACs	There should be no new development of infrastructure within PACs. Designated, but not yet developed infrastructure corridors should be re-located outside of PACs unless it can be demonstrated that these corridors will have no impacts on the maintenance of neutral or positive sage-grouse population trends or habitats. New infrastructure should be avoided where individual state plans have identified key connectivity corridors outside of PACs.	Avoidance in breeding habitat; Exceptions for non-conflicting ROWs. Action A-LR 1; Action A-MLM 4; Action A-TM 1 [varies but much of the GRSG habitat area is currently open]	Exclusion with exceptions for colocation in existing ROWs; if new road required, build to minimum standards and count disturbance. Action B-LR 1; Action B-LR 2; Action B-LR 3; Action B-LR 4; Action B-LR 5; Action B-TM-1; Action B-TM 5; Action B-TM 6; Action B-TM 7 ["mitigate on a case-by-case basis" reduces COT consistency (yellow)]	"Prohibit" new ROWs in occupied habitat and ACECs. Action C-LR-1; Action C-TM 1	PACs are avoidance areas, with allowable disturbance ≤ 3%. Direct unavoidable disturbance to non-habitat or, if this isn't possible, to the least suitable habitat. Co-locate "where possible." Action D-LR 1; Action D-LR 2; Action D-LR 3; Action D-LR 6; Action D-TM 1 [interpret COT to "avoid" new development is not recommending exclusion areas because the conservation options include "if avoidance is not possible" -- minization measures; ODFW has identified connectivity "areas" (16 km buffers) around leks but not "corridors" in the process of identifying core; no proposal to move designated corridors	Core is exclusion area; Low Density is avoidance area. Action E-LR 1; Action E-TM 1; Action E-TM 2; Action E-LR 6; Action E-LR 5 [conservation guidelines for Energy Development and Transmission and Realty pp. 111-114]	Exclusion with exceptions (= avoidance) Action F-LR 1; Action F-TM 1; Action F-TM 2; Action F-TM 5; Action F-TM 6; Action F-TM 7	

Issue ¹	Conservation Objective from COT Report	Conservation Measures / Options from COT Report	Alternative A	Alternative B (NTT)	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E	Alternative F	Management Common to All Alternatives & Misc. Comments
Infrastructure Continued		Where state sage-grouse management plans provide an effective strategy for infrastructure those strategies should be implemented. In all other situations the conservation options in the COT report should be considered.			Action C-TM 1	does this alternative address the conservation options that are not addressed in the state strategy?	[alternative is the state strategy; Core includes some connectivity habitat;]	Action F-TM 5; Action F-TM 6; Action F-LR 1	
		Which (if any) of Options 1 - 10 were applied?	varies [many areas are open to new authorizations]	Action B-LR 5 (1); Action B-LR 1 (1); Action B-LR 2 (2,3,6); Action B-LR 3 (5,10); Action B-TM 6 (9) [addresses TMP and has the RDFs and BMPs; PPMA would be "excluded" from new authorizations]	[no new construction in occupied habitat (1); does not address existing roads, trails through TMP; same RDFs and BMPs as Alt. B, C, D and F]	Action D-LR 2 (2); Action D-LR 3 (5); Action D-LR 6 (9) Also, RDFs and BMP [avoidance is only within PACs: D LR-1 (1); identify existing lines that should be buried if feasible, or consolidate structures and mitigate: Action D-LR 2 (2) = green; BPs and RDFs (3, 6, 7, 8);	Action E-LR 1 (1); Action E-LR 6 (1); Action E-LR 5 (7,9)	Not All Action F-TM 2 (1,9); Action F-TM 5 (1,9); Action F-TM 6 (1,9); Action F-TM 7 (1,9) [addresses TMP and has the RDFs and BMPs; all occupied habitat would be "excluded" from new authorizations with exceptions]	
Fences	Minimize the impact of fences on GSG populations	No conservation measures specified. Are locally-derived actions/measures consistent with conservation objective?	Action A-LG/RM 27 [no mention of fence strike avoidance in DEIS Appendix B]	Action B-LG/RM 25 [LG/RM 24, 25 and 26 in DEIS]	no similar actions	Action D-LG/RM 27; Action D-LG/RM 25 [LG/RM 24, 25 and 26 in DEIS]	Action E-LG/RM 27; Action E-LG/RM 20; Action E-LG/RM 25 [LG/RM 24 and 26 in DEIS]	Action F-LG/RM 25 [LG/RM 24, 25 and 26 in DEIS]	
		Which (if any) of Options 1 - 3 were applied?	Action A-LG/RM 27 (1,2,3)	Action B-LG/RM 25 (3)	no similar actions	Action D-LG/RM 27 (1); Action D-LG/RM 25 (3)	Action E-LG/RM 27 (1); Action E-LG/RM 20 (3); Action E-LG/RM 25 (3)	Action F-LG/RM 25 (3)	

¹Threat Ratings from COT Report

²Subjective Consistency (with COT Report) Rating Continuum

Y: Pres. and Widespread	High Concern &/or Very Low Consistency
L: Pres. and Localized	
N: Not Known to be Pres.	Lower Concern &/or Higher Consistency
NA	NA

³Other Abbreviations

- COT = Conservation Objectives Team
- N = No, action appears to be inconsistent with objective
- NA = Not Applicable
- PAC = Priority Areas for Conservation

Issue ¹	Conservation Objective from COT Report	Conservation Measures / Options from COT Report	Alternative A	Alternative B (NTT)	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E	Alternative F	Management Common to All Alternatives & Misc. Comments
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NOTES:
1. Action numbers are from the Preliminary Draft EIS and need to be updated to the DEIS.
2. All text within brackets is from the DEIS.
3. All text within parens refers to COT "conservation options."

U = Unknown / unclear from EIS as to whether action is consistent with objective

Y = Yes, action appears to be consistent with objective

Sage-Grouse Great Basin Region Project Management Team Weekly Call

February 10, 2015 10:00 a.m. PST

Attendance

BLM: Lauren Mermejo, NV; Randy Sharp, NV; Quincy Bahr, UT; Jon Beck, ID; Jessica Rubado, OR; Sarah Shattuck, SOL; Michael Hildner, WO; Matt Magaletti, WY

USFS: Madelyn Dillon

EMPSi: David Batts; Chad Ricklefs; Meredith Zaccherio; Holly Prohaska; Derek Holmgren; Peter Gower; Drew Vankat; Carol-Anne Garrison

Handouts

- VDDT language from plans

Action Items

Sub regional PMs and Forest Service

- National comment response team to reconvene and review national responses in light of the new guidance.

EMPSi

- Review comment response reports to determine which responses may change based on new guidance.

Meeting Minutes

Update from the WO

- New direction provided yesterday. Any questions ask Michael.
- Tribal consultation write-up also provided yesterday which summarizes tribal consultation to date and identifies future steps for tribal consultation.

Mapping

- ID/MT is done and reviewed and will get Deputy State Directory approval today.
- UT is making progress, hoping to finish today and have been reviewing as they go along.
- Oregon sent their maps yesterday but they have some revisions to do.
- Lauren would like PMs and GIS staff to be available over the next couple of days in case they need to make changes.
- Lauren would like a separate map of habitat with PHMA, GHMA, and SFAs, but do not include these habitats on the allocation maps.

VDDT Language

- Randy sent this out earlier today. ID/MT and UT are very similar and both have VDDT broken down by population areas. Population area information was provided by the VDDT outputs.
- Joe was concerned about presenting population area data given that this is a model that may not be accurate at that scale. He wanted to present the data on a statewide basis. Forest Service will be presenting the VDDT by Forest.
- Decision was made to move forward however sub-regions would like to incorporate the data. Some differences between sub-regions is acceptable.

CEA Update

- EMPSi updated the Buffalo CEA working template based on feedback from Oregon. The Solicitor is reviewing now. If project leads have any comments, they can send them to EMPSi by the end of the month.
- The CEA approach and review protocol will be re-sent with the call notes.
- Matt set up a call with David next week, so there might be some additional direction related to the CEAs.

Schedule

- Comment response reports will need to be finalized. Need the national comment response team to review the national responses to see if they need to change based on the new guidance. Deadline is to have it done by 3/27 when direct/indirect is complete.
- If national team makes significant changes, would need to get another SOL review.
- EMPSi will review comment reports to determine which responses may need to be revisited based on new guidance.
- Unsure if Solicitors (BLM and FS) will be able to review complete set of comment responses before WO review, but we will try to make this happen.

Chapter 2

- Due date is 2/20, though some sub-regions may not have all datasets compiled, some may be incomplete. This is a hard date that was used to set up direct/indirect impacts timeframe. If you cannot make 2/20 date, ensure clear/effective communication of information. Do not piecemeal the transfer of Chapter 2. Instead, look into breaking it into bigger segments, such as all the text and then all the data.
- Expectation is that the ADPP will be done by 2/20, not necessarily all of Chapter 2. Need to make sure everything necessary for analysis is ready by that date.

Chapter 1

- Lauren is working to develop a Chapter 1 template that the other sub-regions can use. The Chapter 1 template for the DEIS focused on the DEIS but now needs to be tailored to the FEIS. Also need consistent discussion of the COT, BER, and other guiding documents.

Conservation in Brief

- Summary that addresses each threat and how alleviated in proposed plan. This will go in RODs.

Printing

- Sub-regions should coordinate with Sherry regarding their printing needs.
- Lauren will forward the list from Sherry of what she needs from each sub-region.

Executive Summary

- Michael is working on the template.

Internal review document

Draft Concept for CAPs:

BLM and FS are committed to no unmitigated loss for anthropogenic disturbances in all identified sage grouse habitat and have processes in their plans to achieve it. - BLM and FS will adhere to a maximum 3% cap on all anthropogenic disturbance in biologically significant unit (as defined by FWS, BLM, FS, and state, likely closely related to PACs) PACs throughout the planning area. In addition, all anthropogenic losses below that 3% cap will be fully mitigated (avoid, minimize, and compensate) to strive to achieve the standard of net positive conservation. Additionally adaptive management strategies will be put in place to account for habitat losses due to natural causes (fire and invasives) and/or population declines at the appropriate localized scale.

Mitigation for all sagebrush habitat. CAP for biologically significant units. How it is implemented would vary by subregion. Prioritize mitigation.

~~A lower disturbance cap across more sage grouse habitat, with mitigation for all losses would further ameliorate the threats to sage grouse.~~

Considerations:

FS does not have a mitigation policy, so FS may not be able to commit to no unmitigatable loss.

define where cap applies. Scale

Commented [DB1]: FS: may need a policy level discussion.

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Commented [DB2]: Scale is the issue. Meaningful scale

definition of anthropogenic disturbance (what counts,
needs to be all encompassing)

direct only????

should include all lands (not just federal)

space

time

baseline (existing included?)

all habitats? (PACS, general, etc)

monitoring

Idaho definition of anthropogenic (comm towers?)

Oregon Greater Sage-Grouse Land Use Plan Amendments Draft Environmental Impact Statement

BLM
Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy

Greater Sage-Grouse Great Basin Region
Regional IDT Meeting

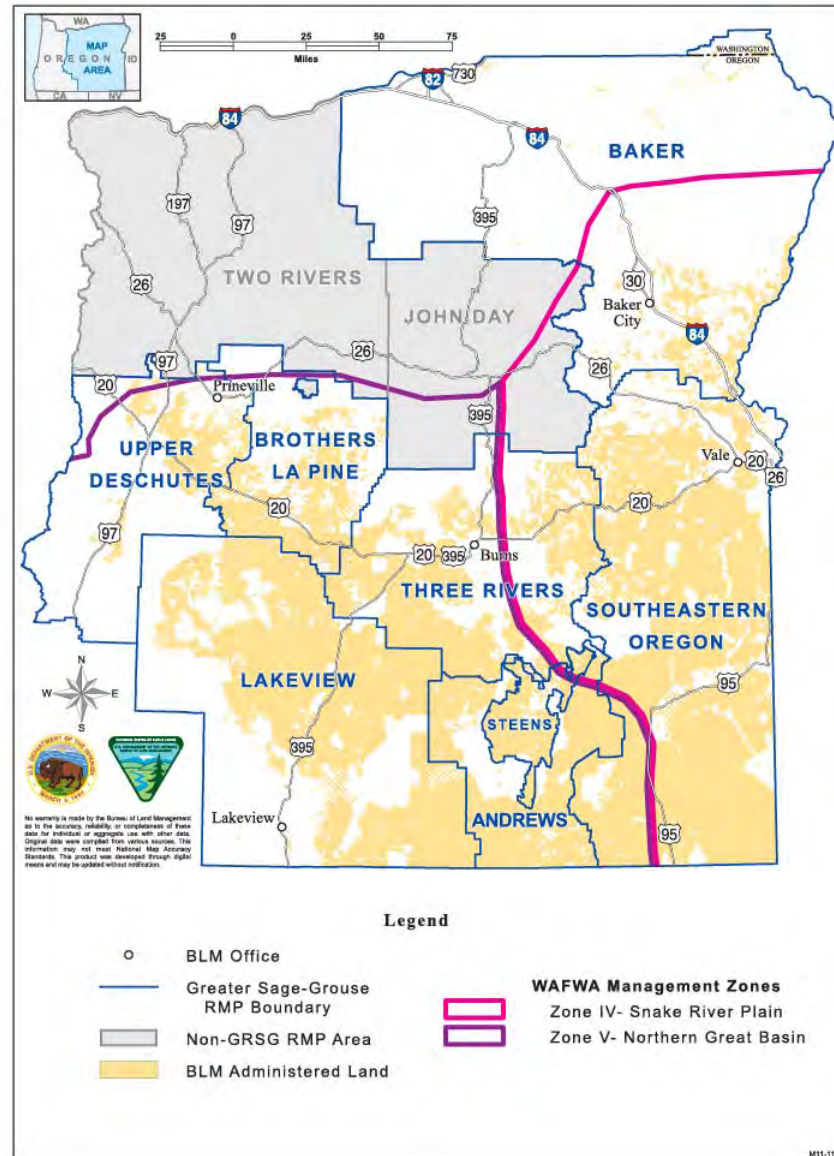


Objectives of Meeting

- **Demonstrate that conservation measures are incorporated and analyzed in the DEIS**
- **Demonstrate how the EIS meets the intent of the NTT and COT Report, and is consistent with WO IM 2012-044**
- **Discuss how comments from Cooperating Agencies have been incorporated into the DEIS**
- **Obtain endorsement from Regional IDT to move the DEIS forward to Regional Management Team review**



Planning Area

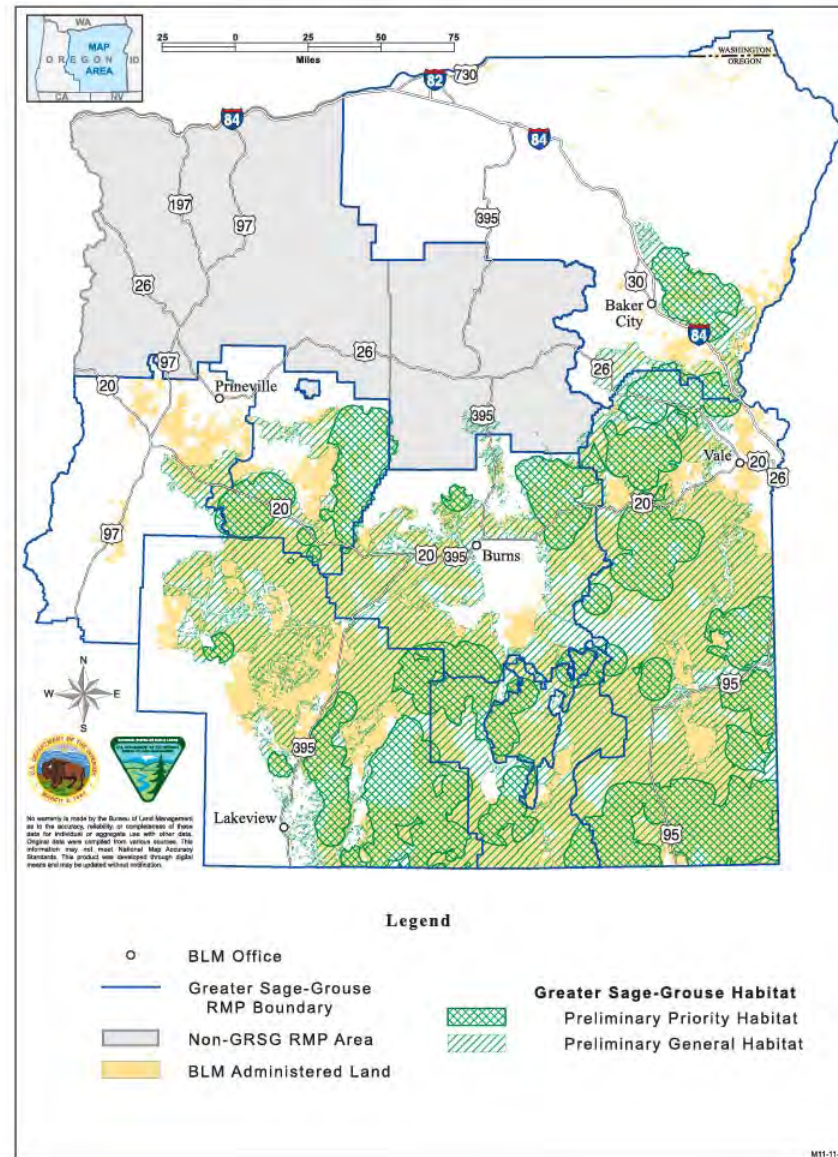


Summary of Planning History

- **Notice of Intent Issued December 2011**
- **Scoping Summary Document Issued May 2012**
- **Cooperating Agencies Sign MOU**
 - **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**
 - **U.S. Forest Service**
 - **Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife**
 - **Deschutes County**
 - **Harney County**
 - **Harney Soil and Water Conservation District**
 - **Lake County**
 - **Malheur County**
- **Cooperating Agencies Review:**
 - **Preliminary draft Alternatives: Feb/March 2013**
 - **Administrative DEIS: June 26 – August 9, 2013**

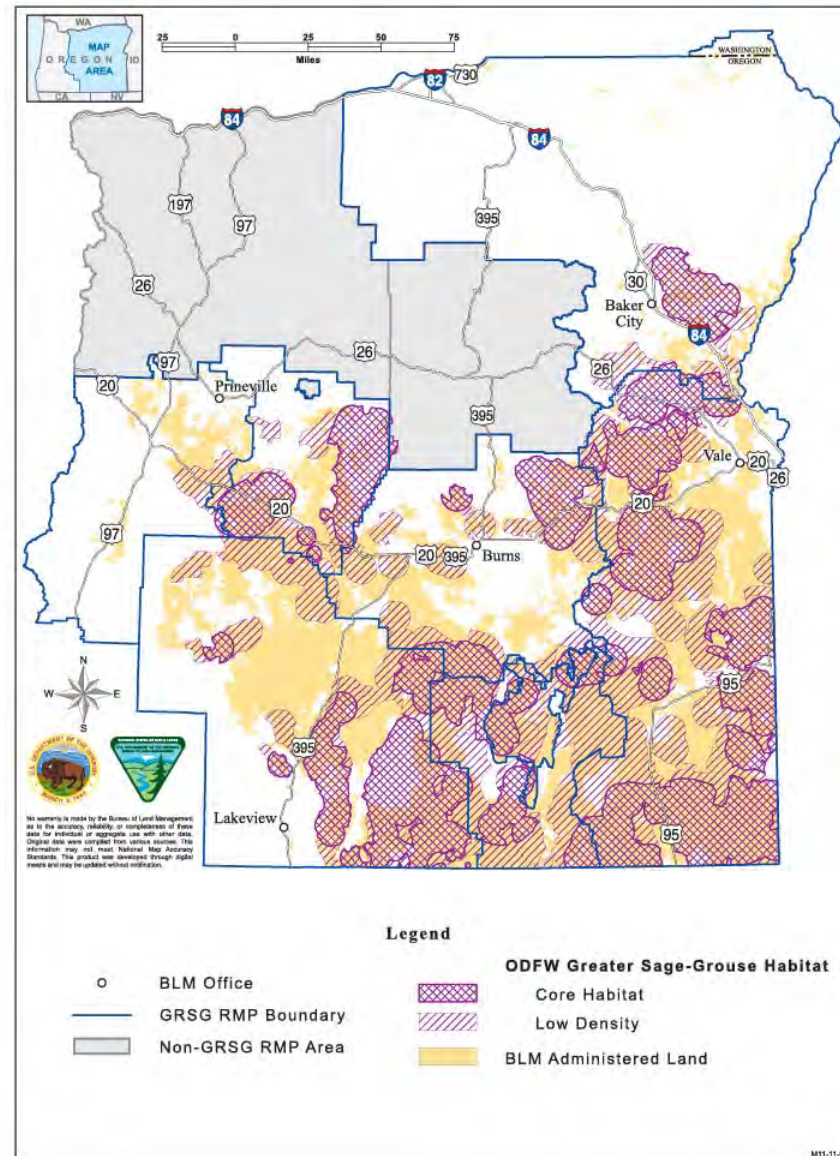


Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat (PPH and PGH)





Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat State of Oregon (Core and Low Density)



Alternatives and Disturbance Cap

Alternatives	Threshold
Alternative A (Current Management-No Action)	None
Alternative B (NTT Report)	3%
Alternative C (Citizen Proposed Conservation Alternative- Western Watersheds Project)	0%
Alternative D (BLM Oregon Developed Alternative)	3%, mitigation mandatory, no net loss
Alternative E (based on Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation and Assessment Strategy (2011) (ODFW Strategy))	Unable to mitigate, essential and irreplaceable
Alternative F (Citizen Proposed Alternative-Wild Earth Guardians; includes fire as a disturbance)	3%



Alternative Comparison

Program	A	B	C	D	E	F
<u>Habitat</u>						
PPMA	0	4,547,043	Same as B	Same as B	0	Same as B
PGMA	0	5,662,632	Same as B	Same as B	0	Same as B
Low Density	0	0	Same as B	Same as B	4,547,043	Same as B
Core	0	0	Same as B	Same as B	3,923,539	Same as B
<u>Right-of Way</u>						
PPMA	Varies	Exclusion	Exclusion	Avoidance-with 3% rule and mitigation	Exclusion	Exclusion
PGMA	Varies	Avoidance	Exclusion	Same as Alt. A w/ mitigation	Same as Alt. A w/ mitigation	Exclusion
<i>*Includes Wind Energy</i>						
<u>Travel</u>						
PPMA	Varies	Limited	Same as A	Limited	Limited with seasonal 2-mile buffers	Limited w/ 4- mile buffers
PGMA	Varies	Same as A	Same as A	Same as A	Same as A	Same as A
	<i>Note: mostly open or limited</i>					



Alternative Comparison

Program	A	B	C	D	E	F
<u>Fluid Minerals</u> PPMA PGMA	Varies Varies	Closed Same as A	Closed Closed	NSO and CSU NSO w/exception	Closed Same as Alt A – w/ mitigation	Closed Closed
<u>Locatable</u> PPMA PGMA	Open Open	Withdrawn Open	Same as A Same as A	Open Open	Withdrawn Same as Alt A – w/ mitigation	Withdrawn Withdrawn
<u>Land Tenure</u> PPMA PGMA	Varies Varies	Zone 1 Same as Alt A.	Zone 1 Zone 1	Zone 1 Same as Alt A	Zone 1 Zone 1	Zone 1 Same as Alt A
<u>Livestock Use</u> PPMA PGMA	Varies Varies	Same as Alt A Same as Alt A	Closed Closed	Standards added Standards added	Same as Alt A Same as Alt A	25% reduction 25% reduction



Alternative Comparison (Cont.)

Resource	A	B	C	D	E	F
ACEC (acres)						
PPMA	200,399	Same as A	1 new ACEC in PPH (4.57 M)	Same as A – w/ GRSG consideration	Same as A	17 new ACECs in PPH/PGH (3.9 M)
PGMA	251,233	Same as A			Same as A	



Cooperating Agency Comments

- **Submitted Comments**
 - Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Service
 - U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, BLM
 - Deschutes, Harney, Lake, and Malheur Counties
 - Harney Soil and Water Conservation District
- **Type of Comments**
 - Edits
 - Requesting Clarification
 - Identifying Contradictions
 - Opinions
 - Requesting Additional Information/Analysis



Threats

Population	% Chance <500 Birds/200 Males in 2107	Isolated/Small Size	Sagebrush Elimination	Agriculture Conversion	Fire	Conifers	Weeds/Annual Grasses	Energy	Mining	Infrastructure	Grazing	Free-Roaming Equids	Recreation Urbanization	Urbanization
Management Zone IV														
Northern Great Basin	99.7	N	L	L	Y	Y	Y	L	L	Y	Y	L	Y	Y
Management Zone V														
Western Great Basin (OR, CA, NV)	99.1	N	L	L	Y	Y	Y	L	L	L	Y	Y	U	N

Threats are characterized as: Y = threat is present and widespread, L = threat present but localized, N = threat is not known to be present and U = unknown.



Questions and Discussion



From: Mermejo, Lauren [lmermejo@blm.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, September 02, 2015 2:27 PM
To: nvca sagegrouse
Subject: Fwd: Map Template Conference Call Summary

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Lauren Mermejo <lmermejo@blm.gov>
Date: Wed, Jul 1, 2015 at 5:15 PM
Subject: RE: Map Template Conference Call Summary
To: Frank Quamen <fquamen@blm.gov>, Stephanie Carman <scarman@blm.gov>, Anthony Titolo <atitolo@blm.gov>, Johanna Munson <jmunson@blm.gov>, Matthew Magaletti <mmagalet@blm.gov>

The Nevada/NE California data needs to include OHMA as well.

The Idaho data will need to include IHMA.

Not sure how that gets incorporated....and what color should we use?

Lauren

From: Quamen, Frank [mailto:fquamen@blm.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 01, 2015 3:49 PM
To: Stephanie Carman; Anthony Titolo; Lauren Mermejo; Johanna Munson; Matthew Magaletti
Subject: Map Template Conference Call Summary

Hi all,

Here are my notes from the call:

1. General Framing/Legend template is OK'd (with addition of data of September 2015)
2. Follow PHMA/GHMA/SFA color standards
3. Any ancillary data is okay to place in the maps (roads, county lines, townships, FOs)
4. Background data of terrain is also optional

5. Four General Maps (planning area):
 - SMA
 - Subsurface
 - PHMA/GHMA unclipped (with SMA underneath)
 - PHMA/GHMA clipped

6. Allocation Decisions –
 - Stoplight coloration
 - clipped to decision space
 - any ancillary ok
 - NO SMA in background
 - Clipped to only PHMA & GHMA
 - GHMA shown in shaded color

7. This is a modification of the OR, ID, & NV maps in the EISs

Let me know if I mischaracterized anything! We will get you templates with this additional guidance soon.

Thanks,

Frank

Frank Quamen, PhD, Wildlife Biology

BLM National Operations Center

Denver Federal Center Building 40

303-236-6310

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Lauren L. Mermejo
Great Basin Greater Sage-Grouse Project Mgr.
BLM, Nevada State Office
775 861-6580

Sage-Grouse Great Basin Region Project Management Team Weekly Call

February 17, 2015 10:00 a.m. PST

Attendance

BLM: Lauren Mermejo, NV; Quincy Bahr, UT; Skye Sieber, UT; Jon Beck, ID; Joan Suther, OR; Frank Quamen, NOC; Stephanie Carman, WO; Michael Hildner, WO; Matt Magaletti, WY

USFS: Glen Stein; Madelyn Dillon

EMPSi: Chad Ricklefs; Meredith Zaccherio; Holly Prohaska; Derek Holmgren; Peter Gower

ICF: Alex Uriarte

Handouts

- None.

Action Items

Sub regional PMs and Forest Service

- Alex send Lauren list of socioeconomic analysis questions by Friday.
- Lauren: follow up regarding consistent FIAT appendix.
- Lauren and Carol-Anne: Coordinate to reconvene the national comment response team.
- Madelyn: coordinate with Rob Mickelsen regarding consistent VDDT appendix.

Meeting Minutes

Questions on National Guidance

- Drop-in language should be used verbatim. Subregions should consolidate similar or related management together.

Coordination and Incorporation of Socioeconomic Analysis

- Similar to the process for the DEIS, ICF will be asking various resource specialists for their input regarding the socioeconomic analysis. Alex will be developing a list of questions that he will send to Lauren by the end of this week. Since the schedule is tight, will need to make sure ICF can work closely with specialists and that the document is consistent throughout.
- There are 37 resource areas among the 5 EISs.
- The socioeconomic impacts will be prepared concurrent with the other direct/indirect impacts. Their work should not be too complicated since the model is already set up, just depends how different the proposed plan is from the preferred alternative. What took time for the DEIS was understanding the nuances between alternatives.
- Subregional project leads should be Alex's first point of contact on the sub-regional level.
- Will determine timeframes next week.

Critical Path: Data to the NOC

- NOC has all data for NV/CA and OR.
- Have most of ID/MT – waiting on two data layers needing Forest Service input. Forest Service will be resolving issues today.
- UT – Lauren and Forest Service are reviewing right now.
- Hope to have all GBR submitted by COB today. Lauren would like to be involved with any QA/QC issues. Frank has a google tracking sheet so all call see the current status.

Critical Path: Comment Response Team

- Lauren and others will talk offline to determine when the national comment team will reconvene.

Critical Path: Chapter 2

- Subregions would like consistent appendices for the FIAT and VDDT. Lauren will follow up regarding the FIAT appendix.
- VDDT appendix: Will not likely need a unique VDDT appendix for each sub-region as the methodology was standardized for the FEIS. Madelyn will follow up with Rob.

September 26, 2014 Telecom Agenda

10:00 PM - 11:00 AM PST

866-713-7870

Participant Access Number: 4680937#

GBR_PUB_1454
5.1

	ITEM	ITEM LEAD
	Purpose of Call	Joe
	Fish and Wildlife Service Need	Ted
	Overview of Table 2	Joe
	Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Programs to Include• Categories of Status (Existing, Projected)	All
	Methodology to Calculate	All
	Next Steps	All

Brent Ralston

From: Havlina, Douglas
Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 2:58 PM
To: gemerson@fs.fed.us; irickert@fs.fed.us; Vanessa Stepanek; Adamski, Joseph; Andrew Johnson; Bobo, Matthew; Bradley Washa; Bridget Clayton; Clinton McCarthy; Craig Goodell; Crane, Mace; David Repass; Dawn M Davis; Doug Havlina; Earl (Tom) Rinkes; Erin Jones; Frank Quamen; Gina Ramos; Glen Burkhardt; Gordon Toevs; Herren, Vicki; Ielmini, Michael -FS; Jason Pyron; Jay Kerby; Jeanne Chambers; Jeremy Maestas; Johanna Munson; John Carlson; John Wilson; Jolie Pollet; Karen Prentice; Katie Powell; Kenneth Collum; Kit Muller; Krista Gollnick; Lauren Mermejo; Laurie -FS Kurth; Leao, Duncan S -FS; Louis Brueggeman; Major, Donald; Melvin Tague; Metzger, Timothy J -FS; Michael Pellant; Nyman, Mesia -FS; Pamela Murdock; Pence, Dusty L -FS; Peter Gower; Quincy Bahr; Ralston, Brent E; Randall Sharp; Rex McKnight; Sandra Gregory; Smith-Campbell, Victoria; Stephen Small; Susan Goodman; Suther, Joan M; tburcsu; Tom Rinkes; Tucker, James P -FS; William Brown; Wuenschel, Amarina E -FS
Subject: FIAT info call #14 minutes
Attachments: Call_14_Action Items.docx

Hello:

Attached are the discussion points from today's FIAT call. Basic summary is that all teams are charging hard to get their draft reports assembled.

Thanks, Doug



Bureau of Land Management

FIAT Info call minutes, action items

Call #14

1/6/2014

Folks Calling In: Mike Pellant, Tom Rinkes, Doug Havlina, Andrew Johnson, Joe Adamski, Sandy Gregory, Krista Gollnick-Waid, Dave Repass, Louis Bruggeman, John Wilson, Ken Collum, Victoria Smith-Campbell

Key Messages from FIAT call 14:

FIAT Team Updates:

- Central Oregon FIAT (Craig Goodell) – No report: Team working on assessment in Prineville
- Northern GB and Snake/Salmon/Beaverhead (Joe Adamski) – Joe rolled out very draft, internal assessments to districts and partners for their edits. Working on getting maps together. Will meet 1/16 deadline.
- Southern Great Basin (Sandy Gregory) - Team will meet next week to type in remaining sections. Approx. 85% done with draft. Need fire risk data for Sonoma area.
- Western Great Basin (Ken) – Working hard to corral all parts of section IV this week.

Program Lead Updates:

- Fuels Mgmt (Krista Gollnick-Waid) – Not much to report.
- Fire Operations (Rex McKnight) – No report.
- Habitat Restoration and Recovery (Vicki and Gina) – Vicki: thanked teams for their good work.
- ESR (Dave Repass) – Folks in DC are ready to start the review when drafts come out.



General Topics:

- NOC: There will be a “Draft FIAT Assessments” tab at the top of the sharepoint site by 1/16 where reviewers will access the documents. Also, Victoria will work with the FIAT GIS analysts to attempt to get the web viewer functionality going for all 5 assessments to augment the review process.
- Spatial Data consistency: Andrew Johnson will lead a call with the team GIS leads to discuss consistency in labeling among the reports
- The next FIAT info call will be Tuesday 1/13 at 1300 mountain

Action Item	Responsible	Due Date
Get fire threat data for Sonoma area in S. Great Basin FIAT	Sandy, Michael Boomer, and Victoria	asap
Set up call with team GIS analysts re: data consistency	Andrew J.	asap
Discuss data viewer with other staff at the NOC	Victoria	asap

Brent Ralston

From: Havlina, Douglas
Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2015 6:39 AM
To: gemerson@fs.fed.us; irickert@fs.fed.us; Vanessa Stepanek; Adamski, Joseph; Andrew Johnson; Bobo, Matthew; Bradley Washa; Bridget Clayton; Clinton McCarthy; Craig Goodell; Crane, Mace; David Repass; Dawn M Davis; Doug Havlina; Earl (Tom) Rinkes; Erin Jones; Frank Quamen; Gina Ramos; Glen Burkhardt; Gordon Toevs; Herren, Vicki; Ielmini, Michael -FS; Jason Pyron; Jay Kerby; Jeanne Chambers; Jeremy Maestas; Johanna Munson; John Carlson; John Wilson; Jolie Pollet; Karen Prentice; Katie Powell; Kenneth Collum; Kit Muller; Krista Gollnick; Lauren Mermejo; Laurie -FS Kurth; Leao, Duncan S -FS; Louis Brueggeman; Major, Donald; Melvin Tague; Metzger, Timothy J -FS; Michael Pellant; Nyman, Mesia -FS; Pamela Murdock; Pence, Dusty L -FS; Peter Gower; Quincy Bahr; Ralston, Brent E; Randall Sharp; Rex McKnight; Sandra Gregory; Smith-Campbell, Victoria; Stephen Small; Susan Goodman; Suther, Joan M; tburcsu; Tom Rinkes; Tucker, James P -FS; William Brown; Wuenschel, Amarina E -FS
Subject: FIAT weekly information call TODAY

Folks:

We will have a FIAT information call this afternoon from 1300-1400 mountain. Note that this may be the last call for a while due to marginal participation. This is a call only with no webex or live meeting. The topics to be covered include:

- Status of each assessment
- Comments from the field and partners on the draft assessments
- the course of action for the next month

Conference Call # [REDACTED]

Participant passcode: [REDACTED]

You will receive an email notification an hour before the call.

thanks, doug

Executive Summary

Sagebrush Restoration/Rehabilitation Science Coordination in the Great Basin

BLM Headquarters • Washington, D.C. 20003 • Tuesday, July 29 – Thursday, July 31, 2014

Introduction

The BLM and USGS organized this meeting to 1) identify and prioritize short, mid, and long-term management questions and related science needs regarding risks to, and improvement of, sagebrush habitat for the benefit of Greater Sage-grouse in the Great Basin, and to 2) increase effective collaboration between science consumers and science providers. Thirty-two individuals representing six organizations participated in the meeting (Attachment 1).

The following are the meeting outcomes. *Please see page 2 and the attachments for important context.*

Criteria for Prioritizing Short-term Management Questions (top 3 – see Attachment 2 for the complete list/ranking)

- Contributes to the 2015 listing decision, especially for evaluating risk of habitat impacts
- Conserves or restores sagebrush ecosystems
- Addresses information needs that will support conserving existing GRSB populations, including direct links to size, viability, etc

Top Five Priority Management/Science Needs (top five – see Attachment 3 for the complete information table)

- Multi-Scale decision support tool that considers habitat, fire risk, potential for treatment effectiveness and durability
- Spatial risk analysis developed through mapped projections of fire probability
- Spatially and temporally explicit objectives developed with associated monitoring protocol
- Better fuels information and fire behavior models to inform where best to place fire breaks
- Better evaluation of equipment and seeding practices that lead to successful treatments, especially establishing sagebrush

Opportunities to Increase Collaboration and Leverage Existing Efforts

- Increase opportunities for interaction among intentionally-organized groups of scientists and land managers and define methods for how their work gets disseminated (e.g. Joint Ventures)
- Build agency relationships that facilitate the delivery of useful science to managers in a manner that can inform decisions.
- Increase the utility of existing databases/clearinghouses by organizing content around management needs and demonstrating the science that supports them
- Ensure collaboration supports the needs of both scientists and managers (two-way communication).

Next Steps/Action Plan

Convene a small work group¹ to:

1. Characterize and prioritize identified management and science needs and relevant timeframes
2. Develop an implementation plan that differentiates actions in short, mid, and long-term timeframes, with the goal to move quickly on actions relevant to the upcoming listing decision.
3. Develop an internal and external communication strategy
4. Identify and refine potential fall/winter meeting topics
5. Design and administer an Assessment by Fall 2014 that solicits feedback on Items 1-4 from meeting participants and others. Utilize the Assessment results and other appropriate tools as the foundation of an iterative conversation.

¹ Membership of this small group to include planning team members, one representative from each breakout group, at least one participant core to FIAT implementation, and with membership balanced with respect to scientists and resource managers.

Attachment 1: Participants

Sagebrush Restoration/Rehabilitation Science Coordination in the Great Basin

BLM Headquarters • Washington, D.C. 20003 • Tuesday, July 29 – Thursday, July 31, 2014

1. **Cam Aldridge**, Research Ecologist, USGS (CO)
2. **John Bradford**, Research Ecologist, USGS (AZ)
3. **Jeanne Chambers**, Research Ecologist, USFS (DC)
4. **Kevin Doherty**, Spatial Ecologist, USFWS (CO)
5. **Danielle Flynn**, National Biologist, NRCS (DC)
6. **Joe Freeland**, Senior Program Advisor, Office of Fire and Aviation, BLM (DC)
7. **Mike Gregg**, Demonstration Biologist, USFWS (WA)
8. **Heidi Hadley**, Science Advisor, BLM (DC)
9. **Jack Hamby**, Acting ES/BAR Coordinator, BLM (CA)
10. **Steve Hanser**, Wildlife Biologist, USGS (ID)
11. **Collin Homer**, Land Characterization Project Manager, USGS/EROS (ID)
12. **Anne Kinsinger**, Assistant Director, Ecosystems, USGS (DC)
13. **Steve Knick**, Supervisory Research Ecologist, USGS (ID)
14. **Ted Koch**, State Supervisor, Nevada, USFWS (NV)
15. **Laurie Kurth**, Applied Fire Ecologist, USFS (DC)
16. **Harbin Li**, Ecologist, Rangeland Management, USFS (DC)
17. **McKinley Ben Miller**, Acting Division Chief, Forest, Rangeland, Riparian and Plant Conservation, BLM (DC)
18. **Génie MontBlanc**, Coordinator, Great Basin Science Delivery Project (NV)
19. **Kit Muller**, Landscape Initiatives Coordinator, BLM (DC)
20. **Peggy Olwell**, National Plants Material Program Lead, BLM (DC)
21. **Dave Pilliod**, Supervisory Research Ecologist, USGS (ID)
22. **Karen Prentice**, National Healthy Landscapes Coordinator, BLM (DC)
23. **David Pyke**, Supervisory Research Ecologist, USGS (OR)
24. **Frank Quamen**, Wildlife Biologist, BLM (CO)
25. **Ed Roberson**, Assistant Director, Renewable Resources & Planning, BLM (DC)
26. **Matt Rollins**, Director of Fire and Fuels R&D, USFS
27. **Carol Schuler**, Center Director-Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center, USGS (OR)
28. **Doug Shinneman**, Supervisory Research Fire Ecologist, USGS (ID)
29. **Steve Small**, Division Chief, Division of Fish & Wildlife Conservation, BLM (DC)
30. **Carol Spurrier**, Rangeland Ecologist, BLM (DC)
31. **Kathy Stangl**, Sage-Grouse Coordinator, BLM (DC)
32. **San Stiver**, Sage-Grouse Coordinator, WAFWA (AZ)

Facilitation Team:

Susan Hayman, Facilitator, EnviroIssues (ID)

Melissa Thom, Project Coordinator, EnviroIssues (ID)

Attachment 3: Breakout Group Top 1-3 Priorities, with Full Group Top 5 (priorities shaded)

Sagebrush Restoration/Rehabilitation Science Coordination in the Great Basin

BLM Headquarters • Washington, D.C. 20003 • Tuesday, July 29 – Thursday, July 31, 2014

Breakout Group	Management Questions (What do managers need to know?)	Science Requirements/Needs (What data is needed/required to answer the question?)
* Habitat Indicators	We need a decision support tool to identify where, when and how to invest limited resources within the GB within the next 12 months, but also long-term. This should have measures of success, hopefully developed by Habitat Manipulation Group	Decision Support Tool: 1) Habitat - a) shrub-grass sagebrush maps, telemetry data collated to develop seasonal models, more? b) sage-grouse population responses - breeding density, population numbers, PVA. c) Connectivity - Knick Product, SB maps connectivity, Genetic Connectivity; 2) Fire risk - Some models, what to use, FIAT, USFWS cheatgrass mapping - Mike Gregg; 3) Treatment potential on site, FIAT, ESDs, soil moisture, risk of type conversion, climate, grazing, etc.
* Change agents	Where and under what conditions will fire pose the greatest risk to existing SG habitat? What are the key interactions between fire and other factors (e.g., climate change, invasive spp.) that lead to undesirable conditions for sage-grouse?	Develop spatial risk analysis relative to conservation of sage-grouse habitat through mapped projections of fire probability.
Change agents	How do land managers stop cheatgrass dominance?	Evaluate potential management actions that address cheatgrass as a fuel to be treated (pre-fire vs post-fire).
Change agents	How do SG specific management actions influence SG populations?	Provide ecological cost-benefit analyses of green strips/fuel breaks in relation to landscapes supporting sage grouse populations.
* Habitat Manipulation	How do we build, manage and restore resilient and resistant landscapes? What management actions are successful? Objectives, efficacy and adaptive management - through time	Need to develop measurable objectives with associated monitoring protocol. How does spatial distribution and relative abundance of herbaceous/shrub cover and density differ over soil, temperature and moisture regimes (site scale pattern)? What are measurable objectives? Are we monitoring what we need to monitoring? Monitoring techniques for measuring success, what are criteria for measuring success, do grouse use areas that have been managed (restored/rehabbed, etc.)

Notes for CASTLE

SUBJECT: Healthy Lands, Sage-Grouse, and Wildland Fire Policy to Benefit Sage-Grouse in the Great Basin DATE: August 1, 2014

I. INTRODUCTION

One of the BLM's top priorities goals is habitat protection, conservation, and restoration for all species of sage-grouse. BLM is taking a landscape based, risk reduction approach to meeting this priority and need good science at multiple scales to support the approach.

In the Western part of the range, invasives, fire, and conifer encroachment have been identified as primary threats and direct vegetation treatments have been identified as primary tools to address these threats. BLM has a variety of programs that can effect direct vegetation treatments. *can be more beneficial if used in an integrated fashion than if used alone*

- MLR funded programs such as 1020 Weed are often used to implement projects in both pre-fire and post-fire environments. These funds need to be used in a manner that benefits the subactivity but are relatively unrestricted.
- Fuels: Treatments can alter vegetation structure, composition, or fuel loading. In recent years, these treatments have been prioritized for WUI. With the National Cohesive Fire Strategy landscape resilience goal, this priority is shifting. In the BLM Fuels funding for proactive projects is being shifted to areas prioritized by the FIAT. These activities are currently reviewed and prioritized on a treatment by treatment level.
- ES: Are available within one year of containment for activities that stabilize the site and the resources (site, critical habitat, invasives)
- Healthy Lands: Individually, these programs ~~can support a scatter shot approach to project work~~, to "random acts of restorations" that are both random and subject to unpredictable interannual funding shifts. The Focal Area approach integrates the various funding streams and facilitates coordination with partners. Transmits funding priorities to the field in a manner that allows them to work with partners to prepare multi-year programs of work. This allows the national organization to focus on identifying national priorities and the organizations with solid approaches and capacity to meet those objectives. We will identify training and capacity needs when we have national priorities and weak organization or skills.

Multiple conditions must be met in order to put the right treatment, in the right place, and under the right circumstances on the ground.

Number 1 Manager Need: Multi-scale decision support tool. Get the polygons on the right place on the map.

Number 2 Manager Need: Do the right thing once you get there. Have clear objectives, good monitoring, and close the adaptive management loop.

We need to make science informed decisions that help us meet clearly articulated objectives. This means science must be delivered in a way we can use. 1st - any must dos or stop doing. Guidance on what we do this summer



**Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center
Sagebrush Rehabilitation Studies and Management Strategy
USGS Briefing**

August 1, 2014

10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

Meeting Location: Main Interior Building, Washington D.C., Room 6340

Teleconference Access: DOI locations: 703-648-4848; Non-DOI locations: 855-547-8255

Security Code: 93659#

Web Meeting Info: Topic: Sagebrush Rehabilitation Studies and Management Strategy

Host: Bill Lukas

<https://usgs.webex.com/usgs/j.php?ED=194626158&UID=1424116278&T=MiM0>

	Subject
1000 – 1005	OPENING COMMENTS <u>Presenter:</u> Anne Kinsinger, Associate Director for Ecosystems, USGS
1005 – 1015	BLM REHABILITATION PROGRAM: Overview <u>Presenter:</u> BLM
1015 – 1040	SAGEBRUSH MANAGEMENT IN LIGHT OF SAGE-GROUSE, FIRE AND INVASIVE SPECIES: Presentation and Discussion <u>Presenter:</u> David Pyke, Lead Scientist, FRESC-USGS
1040 – 1100	VEGETATION ASSESSMENT OF POST-FIRE SEEDING TREATMENTS IN THE GREAT BASIN : Presentation and Discussion <u>Presenter:</u> David Pyke, Lead Scientist, FRESC-USGS
1100 – 1120	SAGEBRUSH RESTORATION FOR SAGEBRUSH-OBLIGATE BIRDS: Presentation and Discussion <u>Presenter:</u> Steven Knick, Lead Scientist, FRESC-USGS
1120 – 1130	GENERAL DISCUSSION <u>Presenter:</u> Carol Schuler, Director, FRESC-USGS

Invited Attendees:	Michael Bean, DOI	Richard Kearney, BLM	Anne Kinsinger, USGS
	Lori Caramanian, DOI	Neil Kornze, BLM	Steven Knick, USGS
	Anne Castle, DOI	Edwin Roberson, BLM	Nancy Lee, USGS
	Aristotle Evia, DOI	Stephen Small, BLM	Sue Phillips, USGS
	Sarah Greenberger, DOI	Kathryn Stangl, BLM	David Pyke, USGS
	Thomas Iseman, DOI		Carol Schuler, USGS
	Kerry Rae, DOI	Dan Ashe, FWS	Michael Tupper, USGS
	James Lyons, DOI	Gary Frazer, FWS	Suzette Kimball, USGS
		Paul Souza, FWS	

Sagebrush Management

Treatment Effectiveness and Decision Support

Background

In support of the scientific needs for land managers to make informed sagebrush management decisions, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has conducted several studies evaluating



the effectiveness of management actions aimed at rehabilitating sagebrush ecosystems, and developed a decision tool to assist agencies in prioritizing management actions for the benefit of Greater sage-grouse.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which manages most of the public lands supporting sagebrush habitat in the range of the Greater-sage grouse, conducts numerous management treatments to eliminate or reduce vegetative species not representative of an ideal sage-grouse habitat, such as pinyon and juniper, and to conduct emergency stabilization and rehabilitation (ESR) of areas lost to wildfire. While some pinyon and juniper treatments focused explicitly on creating suitable sage-grouse habitat, most vegetation removal and wildfire rehabilitation treatments are conducted for other goals.

The first publication introduces a decision tool that combines the ecological requirements of Greater Sage-grouse with physical and biological factors that contribute to a productive sagebrush habitat in a matrix to help land managers determine appropriate management strategies for restoring or maintaining sage-grouse habitats. Two additional publications specifically looked at the effectiveness of the management treatments in 1) determining long-term effects of ESR treatments on enhancing native plant cover and reducing non-native plants, and 2) creating or restoring sagebrush where pinyon and juniper have been removed. The information contained in these three publications may help managers adaptively manage a resilient and resistant landscape.



Citations

Sagebrush Management in Light of Sage-Grouse, Fire, and Invasive Species: Chambers, J.C., Pyke, D.A., Maestas, J.D., Pellant, M., Boyd, C.S., Campbell, S.B., Espinosa, S., Havlina, D., Mayer, K.E., and Wuenschel, A., *in press*, Using resistance and resilience concepts to reduce impacts of invasive annual grasses and altered fires regimes on the sagebrush ecosystem and greater sage-grouse—A strategic multi-scale approach. U.S. Forest Service General Technical Report.

Vegetation Assessment of Post-Fire Seeding Treatments in the Great Basin: Knutson, K.C., Pyke, D.A., Wirth, T., Arkle, R.S., Pilliod, D.S., Brooks, M.L., Chambers, J.C., Grace, J.B., 2014, Long-term effects of seeding after wildfire on vegetation in Great Basin shrubland ecosystems. DOI- 10.1111/1365-2664.12309: *Journal of Applied Ecology*, v. 51.

Sagebrush Restoration for Sagebrush-Obligate Birds: Knick, S.T., Hanser, S.E., Leu, M., 2014, Ecological scale of bird community response to pinyon-juniper removal. DOI- 10.2111/REM-D-13-00023.1: *Rangeland Ecology and Management*.



Contacts

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Definitions

Resilience - Capacity of an ecosystem to *regain* its fundamental structure, processes and functioning when altered by stresses like drought and disturbances like wildfire

Resistance - Capacity of an ecosystem to *retain* its fundamental structure, processes and functioning (or remain largely unchanged) despite stresses, disturbances or invasive species

Sagebrush Management in Light of Sage-Grouse, Fire, and Invasive Species

To effectively manage sagebrush lands, land managers are challenged to consider threats associated with spread of invasive annual grasses and altered fire regimes. An upcoming U.S. Forest Service (USFS) General Technical Report, co-authored by USGS introduces an innovative decision tool for guiding land management decisions. The tool uses information on 1) factors that influence sagebrush ecosystem resilience to disturbance (fire) and resistance to invasive annual grasses, and 2) distribution, relative abundance, and persistence of sage-grouse populations to develop management strategies at both landscape and site scales. A sage-grouse habitat matrix links the ability for sagebrush lands to resist invasions of exotic species and the resilience of lands to recover from natural disturbances with sage-grouse habitat requirements. The matrix will help decision makers determine the most effective conservation and management strategies.

This research was authored by the USFS, USGS, BLM, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Agricultural Research Service, Nevada Division of Wildlife, and Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Vegetation Assessment of Post-Fire Seeding Treatments in the Great Basin

Vegetation composition at 88 BLM Emergency Stabilization & Rehabilitation (ESR) sites were studied 8-21 years after application of ESR seeding treatments. The primary goal of the study was to determine long-term effects of these treatments on different types of vegetation cover. Seeding did not increase cover of native shrubs, such as sagebrush, over the long-term. Seeding of native grasses was not effective in the long-term, except at 8 sites where native perennial grasses were sown without non-native species. Areas where ESR treatments provided an increase in perennial grass cover and a decrease in cheatgrass were primarily limited to drill-seeded treatments sown with non-native grasses located at high elevation. Cheatgrass cover was highest in dry, low elevation areas and seeding treatments at these locations were not effective in reducing cheatgrass.

This study can help inform adaptive management strategies in areas where cheatgrass reduction goals are not being met. Results highlight the benefits of focusing treatments at higher elevations where success is more likely. Seeding at lower, drier locations would likely require multiple rehabilitation strategies to be successful.

This research was conducted in collaboration with the USFS, and funded by the Joint Fire Sciences Program (JFSP) and USGS.

Sagebrush Restoration for Sagebrush-Obligate Birds

Prescribed fire and mechanical treatments, conducted primarily by the BLM during 2006 to 2008, in areas of Utah, Nevada, Idaho, and Oregon where pinyon-juniper woodlands have expanded into sagebrush ecosystems were studied. The response of the sagebrush-obligate bird community (as a surrogate for sage-grouse) was evaluated on 126 sites and compared to 94 untreated sites. Researchers collected data from one or two years prior to treatments and three to five years afterwards.

Treatments decreased pinyon and juniper; however, overall tree cover was still too high to create the sagebrush-dominated community required by obligate birds. Less than 2 percent of treatment plots showed any post-treatment colonization by sagebrush birds. Colonization only occurred where mechanical treatments completely removed trees and where plots were located adjacent to sagebrush expanses. The researchers concluded that it might be unrealistic to expect birds, particularly sage-grouse, to respond to changes in vegetation within three to five years following treatments; however, an environment suitable for sagebrush birds may not result after longer periods following treatment if trees remain in the landscape. The greatest success will likely occur when trees are completely removed and where plots are adjacent to sagebrush expanses.

The work is a contribution from a large experimental study in the Great Basin called SageSTEP. It was funded by the JFSP, BLM, National Interagency Fire Center, and USGS.

A Strategic Approach to Sagebrush Management



Select Figures from: Chambers, J. C.; Pyke, D. A.; Maestis, J. D.; Pellant, M.; Boyd, C. S.; Campbell, S. B.; Espinosa, S.; Havlina, D. W.; Mayer, K. E.; Wuenschel, A. 2014. Using resistance and resilience concepts to reduce impacts of invasive annual grasses and altered fire regimes on the sagebrush ecosystem and greater sage-grouse – A strategic multi-scale approach. Gen. Tech. Rep. RMRS-GTR-XXX. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. *in press*.

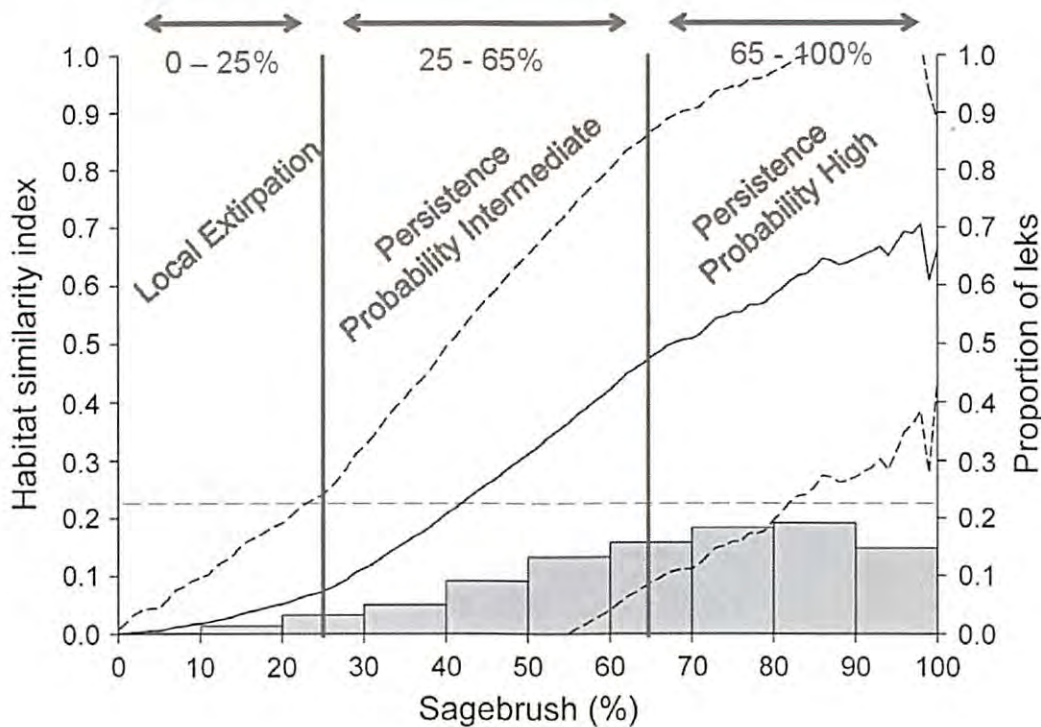


Figure 1. The proportion of sage-grouse leks and habitat similarity index (HSI) as related to the % landscape cover of sagebrush. The HSI indicates the relationship of environmental variables at map locations across the western portion of the range to minimum requirements for sage-grouse defined by land cover, anthropogenic variables, soil, topography and climate. HSI is the solid black line + 1 SD (stippled lines). Proportion of leks are the grey bars. Dashed line indicates HSI values above which characterizes 90% of active leks (0.22). The categories at the top of the figure and the interpretation of lek persistence were added based on Aldridge et al. 2008, Wisdom et al. 2011, and Knick et al. 2013 (figure modified from Knick et al. 2013).

Proportion of Landscape Dominated by Sagebrush

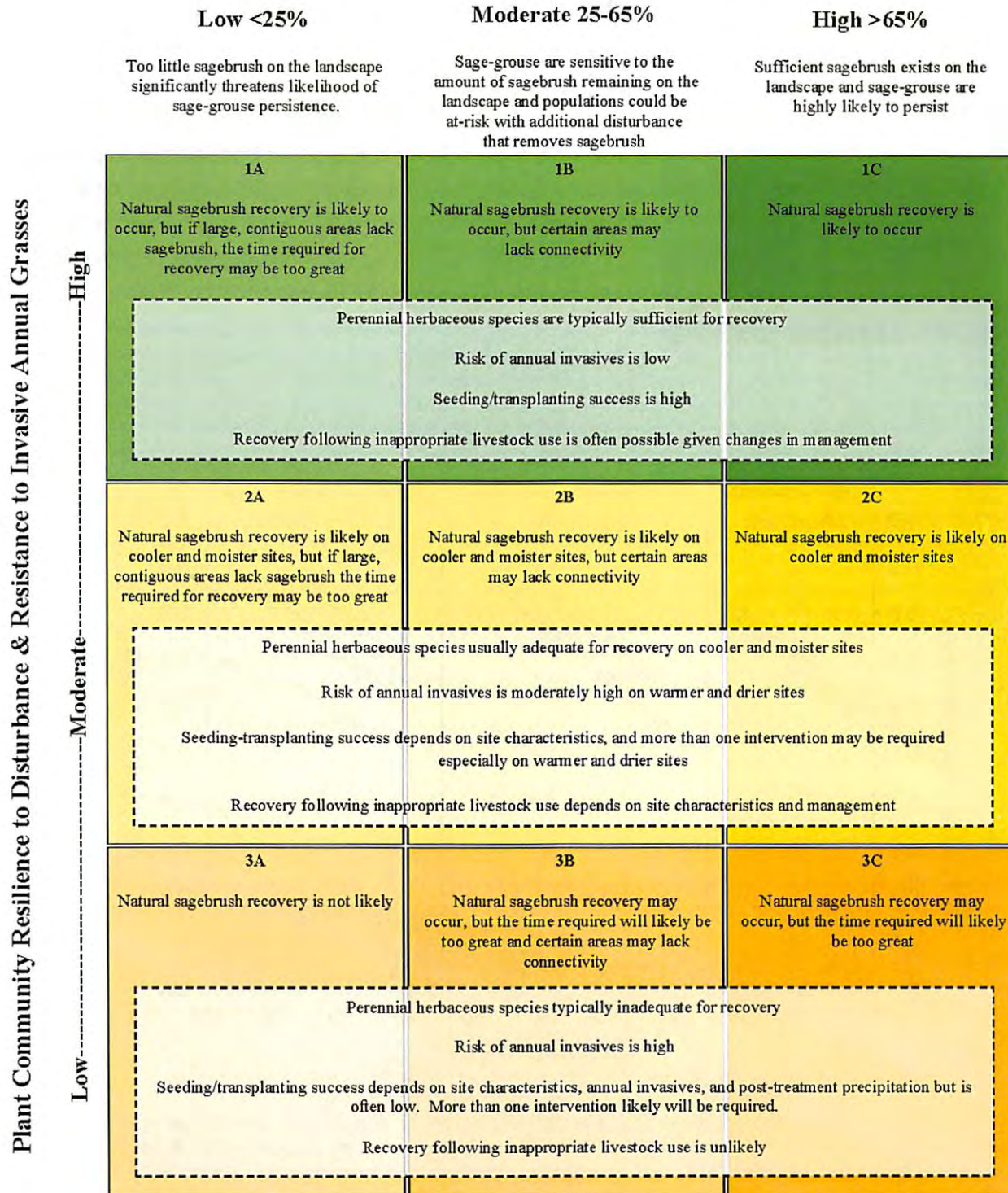


Figure 2. Potential management strategies based on resilience to disturbance, resistance to annual grass invasion, and sage-grouse habitat requirements based on Aldridge et al. 2008, Wisdom et al. 2011, and Knick et al 2013 (adapted from Chambers et al. 2014).

J Lyons – comments_7.22.14

B – SERVICES AND PRICES/COSTS

B.1 GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has a requirement for analyzing the west-wide aggregate economic impacts and characterizing the economic benefits associated with proposed Greater Sage-grouse (GRSG) conservation measures.

The purpose of this Request for Quote is to solicit quotes from all four BLM Socioeconomic Services BPA Holders.

C - STATEMENT OF WORK

INTRODUCTION

Overview

In 2011, the (BLM) and the US Forest Service (USFS) initiated planning actions to conserve and enhance GRSG habitat across 11 states, from California to Wyoming. This effort includes the preparation of 98 plan amendments and revisions, through 15 sub-regional environmental impact statements (EISs). The measures proposed through these planning actions may reduce ground-disturbing activities that could adversely impact GRSG habitat. This translates to potential changes in authorized uses of federal lands, by reducing the footprint or intensity of commodity production, for example, oil and gas development and livestock grazing. To date the agencies have completed the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Lander, Wyoming planning area. The agencies continue to work on the remaining 14 final EISs (FEISs).

The scale and controversy of these proposed actions have drawn public interest on the overall effect of GRSG conservation actions on local and regional economies, and on the value society gains from conserving this habitat. While the 15 EISs analyze and disclose economic impacts (including impacts to values associated with population of GRSG) consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a west-wide consideration of economic impacts and economic benefits is beyond the scope required by NEPA. However, in response to public interest, the BLM has determined that a west-wide analysis would provide valuable information to the public at large and to those groups most interested in the proposed GRSG conservation management direction.

It is important to emphasize that this west-wide effort is outside and independent from the BLM/USFS planning effort that is analyzing alternatives in 15 EISs. While the inputs to this west-wide analysis will come primarily from the 15 EISs, it should be viewed as a synthesis of information intended to characterize aggregate economic impacts/economic benefits. This aggregate overview will facilitate the public's understanding of this unprecedented conservation effort from an economic perspective.

The BLM is also undertaking a complementary effort "to tell the story" of BLM and USFS' efforts in GRSG conservation over the last decade. This "Landscape Report" is intended to synthesize information to help the public, as well as the US Fish and Wildlife Service, understand the history and proposed direction of the BLM and USFS efforts for protecting the GRSG and its habitat.

Comment [JRL1]: Not relevant to this scope of work

The BLM is targeting mid-January to Work on this economic analysis and report as outlined in this Statement of Work is to be completed by December 31, 2014 with a draft of the final product presented for review by December 1, 2014. the bulk of the work outlined in this Statement of Work in order for the results to be incorporated into the Landscape Report. This compressed timeframe is an important consideration in developing an approach for the Tasks outlined below. It is possible that this timeframe may be extended 1-2 months depending on factors that are currently not known and will not be known until this project is well underway.

Comment [JRL2]: This report should stand on its own regardless of whether or not BLM elects to include it in the Landscape Report.

Comment [JRL3]: I would strike. You always have the ability to extend. But, if you say this now, you can expect the report to be delayed another 1-2 months.

Comment [JBS4]: Joe – what do you think about this sentence?

Economic Impacts

Following the release of all the draft EISs (DEISs), a report prepared by attorneys Lowell Baier and Christopher Segal in March 2014 (the "Baier report") attempted to "aggregate economic impacts" for GRSG conservation measures considered in various alternatives.¹ This report did not provide additional analysis, but simply combined data from all GRSG-related plan amendments and revisions to provide aggregated estimates of changes in employment, personal income, and other economic measures. Using this approach, the report identifies the following annual economic impacts west-wide:

- preferred alternatives: a loss of 5,600 jobs and \$839 million in economic output;
- "most restrictive" alternatives: a loss of 31,000 jobs and \$5.6 billion in output.

There was, and continues to be, understandable public interest in identifying the overall economic consequences of GRSG conservation measures. The BLM did not provide such a west-wide estimate; the Baier report tries to fill the gap. However, the approach taken in this report, aggregating economic impacts calculated separately for 15 unique study areas, is not analytically sound. While the economic impact estimates for each sub-regional all relied on versions of the same modeling tool (IMPLAN), it is not appropriate to aggregate the results. Key requirements of a west-wide analysis would include estimating the impacts using one model defined for the appropriate area of study and ensuring all data inputs are aggregated accurately and consistently.

The BLM anticipates similar public interest for an estimate of aggregated economic impacts following the release of the FEISs. In response, the BLM is seeking a Contractor to assist the BLM in development of these estimates using an analytically sound modelling approach. To supplement this west-wide economic impact analysis, the BLM has identified three additional tasks that will allow for a more complete description of potential economic impacts:

¹ Available online at:

<http://www.westernenergyalliance.org/sites/default/files/Sage%20Grouse%20Economic%20Report%20-%20Final%20from%20Minuteman%20Press.pdf>

- Discuss the economic impacts that could not be quantified, but could potentially arise during implementation of GRSG conservation measures;
- Characterize potential agency-funded environmental conservation activities, such as habitat restoration or fuel ~~reduction~~ reduction; and
- Assess the economic benefits associated with employing this approach to planning for resource use and development, including the potential benefits associated with developing a rangewide conservation strategy that could avoid the need to list the species as threatened or endangered. Such benefits may include reduced need for additional biological analysis, cost savings associated with not having to do Section 7 consultations for each project on public land should the species not be listed, and savings to development interests and other BLM resource users should the conservation strategy employed help to avoid a listing of the Greater sage-grouse as threatened or endangered.

Economic Benefits

The economic effects of GRSG conservation efforts are not limited to the economic impacts estimated by IMPLAN. A formal cost benefit analysis is not required by NEPA and is not included in the 15 EISs. However, as described in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the BLM's mission is to manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield, and the objective of BLM planning is to maximize resource values for the public (43 CFR §1601.0-2). The BLM anticipates public interest in the benefits provided by GRSG actions, including both the direct benefits of maintaining healthy GRSG populations and the co-benefits generated by the conservation actions. These benefits largely reflect non-market values and are difficult to assess. The BLM is seeking a Contractor to assist in the development of a rigorous, scientifically-based assessment of the benefits that will be created by the proposed GRSG conservation actions.

TASKS

There are two primary and distinct tasks for this requirement (Tasks 2 and 3): (1) west-wide GRSG economic impacts and (2) key economic benefits of the GRSG conservation. Both tasks will be conducted concurrently and the results will be documented together in one stand-alone report.

A third task (Task 1) is characterized as project kickoff and coordination.

Task 1 – Project Kickoff and Coordination

Within two weeks of award, a project kickoff conference call will be held between the BLM and the Contractor to introduce project participants and to discuss the project generally including reviewing the Contractor's proposal. Specific topics to be addressed include:

- Review timeline and milestones and discuss strategies for ensuring this project is successfully completed within a very compressed schedule.

- Relationship between Task 2 and Task 3 and identification of opportunities for coordination between the two tasks.
- For both Tasks 2 and 3, agree on frequency of informal reports (see Administrative Tasks) to ensure adequate BLM involvement and oversight while allowing for efficient and rapid progress.

Additional topics for the kickoff call will be identified by the BLM or the Contractor prior to the call. The Contractor will develop an agenda in coordination with the BLM.

Task 2 – West-wide Estimate of GRSG Economic Impacts

This task will:

1. provide an estimate of the effects of proposed GRSG conservation measures on employment, economic output and other indicators of economic activity west-wide (“Quantified Economic Impacts”);
2. discuss the economic impacts that could not be quantified, but could potentially arise during implementation of GRSG conservation measures (“Unquantifiable Economic Impacts”; and
3. characterize potential agency-funded environmental conservation activities, such as habitat restoration or fuel reduction (“Potential Agency-funded Economic Impacts”).

These components are described in more detail below.

Task 2a. Quantified Economic Impacts: This component will involve estimating the potential west-wide economic impacts based on the proposed alternatives from each of the 15 sub-regional EISs (relative to the “no action” alternative). This component will include an input-output analysis using IMPLAN and possibly one of NREL’s JEDI models. An alternative input-output model is acceptable as long as the level of effort and required resources are no greater than that required for IMPLAN. To complete this component, the Contractor is expected to:

Comment [JRL5]: Just the proposed alternative from each plan, correct?

- Review Chapter 2 (description of alternatives) for each of the 15 sub-regional EISs focusing the proposed alternatives and the no action alternative. This review will provide the Contractor with an understanding of the specific management actions that could affect authorized uses and ultimately impact economic activity.
- Review economic impact analysis (Chapter 4) and any corresponding technical appendix for each of the 15 sub-regional EISs. Each of the sub-regional EISs includes an IMPLAN-based economic impact analysis to estimate the impacts in the study area associated with that specific sub-regional planning effort. This review will provide the Contractor with an idea of the authorized uses that were determined to be potentially impacted by GRSG conservation measures and a quantitative estimate of that potential impact could be made. This review should also assist the Contractor in developing a data request.
- Determine how to incorporate data into the west-wide analysis from EISs covering Resource Management Planning (RMP) revisions. These RMP

revisions are broad plan revisions that address many other management issues. As a result, the economic impacts reported for those plans are shaped by far more than GRSG conservation.

- Determine and justify the definition of the area of study. This planning effort directly affects BLM administered land in 11 states. The Contractor should determine- recommend to the BLM what area of analysis is most appropriate for capturing the aggregate west-wide impacts, benefits and impacts of GRSG conservation. Note: the BLM recognizes that the area of analysis might extend beyond the 11 directly affected states or involve a regional aggregation of plans. The final decision with regard to the unit(s) of analysis for this economic study will be determined by the BLM based upon recommendations from the contractor.
- Prepare a detailed data request and facilitate the collection of these data. "Facilitation" refers to the potential need for clarifying specific data needs to BLM staff through email or conference calls. This analysis will require data on estimated commodity production levels for authorized uses over the planning horizon under the no action alternative (e.g., Reasonable Foreseeably Development of number of gas wells) and how these production levels could potentially change under the proposed alternative. The study should also consider the additional costs and consequences of failing to implement the preferred alternative and the potential effects of a listing as threatened or endangered for the Greater sage-grouse on future commodity production (e.g., additional environmental review, consultation requirements under Sec 7, and delays or denials of leases and permits. Data requirements may also include unit expenditures associated with each authorized use or information/assumptions associated with authorized uses (for example, representative nameplate capacity of geothermal energy plants in Nevada).
- Prepare a detailed data request and facilitate the collection of data (per above) for other non-commodity benefits of the proposed action such as improved recreation opportunities, expanded hunting for mule deer and other game, and related benefits (e.g., maintenance of sage steppe as a carbon sink).
- Conduct the economic impact analysis.

Comment [JRL6]: Study should assess benefits AND impacts. This implies they are all negative.

Comment [JRL7]: Important input into the study design and an opportunity for an intermediate check on the overall design before the contractor proceeds.

Comment [JRL8]: Analysis of costs and benefits should not be limited to analysis of commodity impacts alone. Analysis must consider the spectrum of benefits and costs associated with the preferred management action, which, if it should lead to a decision NOT to list by the FWS, are considerable.

Deliverables from Task 2a include:

- Documentation discussing the rationale and justification for the area of study (to be incorporated into the final report – see Task 3d).
- Data request. The Contractor will provide a draft version of the data request to be reviewed by the BLM. A final data request will incorporate BLM comments.
- Methodology. Prior to beginning the analysis, the Contractor will outline the proposed methodology including, for each authorized use, a description of data inputs, key assumptions, and sources of uncertainties. The Contractor will provide a draft methodology to be reviewed by the BLM. A final methodology will incorporate BLM comments. This outline will serve as the basis for the technical appendix for the final report – see Task 3d.
- Conduct analysis. The Contractor conduct the analysis based on the accepted methodology.
- The target due date for Task 2a is mid-December 1.

Task 2b - Unquantified Economic Impacts: This component will involve a discussion of the economic impacts to authorized uses that have not been quantified, but could potentially arise during implementation of GRSG conservation measures. The primary reason these economic impacts have not been quantified is uncertainty and lack of data on commodity production levels over the planning horizon and how those level could be impacts under the proposed alternative. A common example is potential economic impacts associated with land authorizations such as the construction of transmission lines. To complete this component, the Contractor is expected to:

Comment [JRL9]: THIS ANALYSIS SHOULD NOT BE LIMITED TO COMMODITY PRODUCTION LEVELS. That is not an appropriate economic analysis for purposes of this report.

- Review Chapter 2 (description of alternatives) for each of the 15 sub-regional EISs focusing the proposed alternatives and the no action alternative. This review will provide the Contractor with an understanding of the specific management actions that could affect authorized uses and ultimately affect impact economic activity.
- Review economic impact analysis (Chapter 4) and any corresponding technical appendix for each of the 15 sub-regional EISs. Unquantifiable economic impacts were also characterized in the sub-regional EISs. The characterization varies across analyses for a variety of reasons including availability of information, extent of potential impact to the authorized use, and whether the public or the BLM identified the potential impact as an issue.
- Determine the most effective approach to providing a comprehensive characterization of unquantifiable economic impacts in coordination with the BLM. This characterization should consider the use of both quantitative and qualitative information.

Comment [JRL10]: Positive and negative.

Deliverable from Task 2b includes:

- Documentation. The Contractor will develop a comprehensive discussion of unquantifiable economic impacts. The Contractor will provide a draft document to be reviewed by the BLM. A final document will incorporate BLM comments and be incorporated into the final report – see Task 3d.
- The target due date for Task 2b is mid-December for draft and early-January for final document.

Task 2c - Potential Agency-funded Economic Impacts: This component will involve characterizing potential agency-funded (including funding from other than the BLM including the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and state natural resource agencies) environmental conservation activities, such as habitat restoration or fire prevention and/or suppression fuel reduction and how these activities could result in an economic impact or contribution. The 15 sub-regional EISs generally do not address this topic primarily because a planning effort does not prescribe project-level or site-specific activities on BLM or USFS managed lands. Therefore, the agencies' selection of an alternative does not authorize funding to any specific project or activity nor does it directly tie into the agencies' budgets as appropriated annually through the Federal budget process. However, many of the GRGS conservation measures being considered such as other associated with fire, invasive plants, and vegetation (e.g., Pinyon-Juniper) encroachment on GRSG habitat would likely have direct impacts on local economies of communities. To complete this component, the Contractor is expected to:

Comment [JRL11]: Should consider other funding sources. Should also consider funding by project developers to mitigate specific project impacts which will benefit GSG habitat.

Comment [JRL12]: Seems more applicable to sage grouse.

- Review Chapter 2 (description of alternatives) for each of the 15 sub-regional EISs focusing the proposed alternatives and the no action alternative. This review will provide the Contractor with an understanding of the specific management actions that could require agency-funds to implement.
- Review impact sections for relevant resources including, but not limited to:
 - Special Status Species – Greater Sage-Grouse
 - Vegetation
 - Wild Horse and Burro Management
 - Wildland Fire Management
- Review other relevant BLM and USFS documents.
- Determine the most effective approach to characterize agency-funded and private for profit and non-profit environmental conservation activities and associated potential economic impacts or contributions in coordination with the BLM. This characterization should consider the use of both quantitative and qualitative information.

Comment [JRL13]: To consider benefits associated with mitigation activities funded by developers and contributions from non-profit organizations that contribute to GSG conservation.

Deliverable from Task 2c includes:

- Documentation. The Contractor will develop a characterization of agency-funded environmental conservation activities and associated potential economic impacts or contributions. The Contractor will provide a draft document to be reviewed by the BLM. A final document will incorporate BLM comments and be incorporated into the summary and final report – see Task 3d.
- The target due date for Task 2c is mid-December 1 for draft and December 31/early January for final document.

Task 2d – Summary Section and Final Report

Deliverable from Task 2d includes a summary section and final report building from and pulling together the deliverables generated from Tasks 2a, 2b, and 2c.

The summary section will be a relatively short (~15-20 pages) and concise document describing the results of Tasks 2a, 2b, and 2c. for inclusion in the Landscape Report. The target due date for the summary section is late-December 1 for draft and mid-January-December 31 for a final summary section.

Comment [JRL14]: This document should stand on its own as a summary of the economic analysis irrespective of whether the BLM elects to fold it into the landscape report or not.

A comprehensive report will, at a minimum, consist of the following components:

- Introduction
- West-wide GRSG Economic Impacts Effects
 - Purpose
 - Overview of Method
 - Results
- Discussion of Unquantified Economic Impacts Effects
- Characterization of Potential Agency-funded Economic Impacts Effects
- Technical Appendix

Comment [JRL15]: Impacts are "negative". Effects can be either positive or negative.

The Technical Appendix is a critical piece of this report. In Task 2a, the Contractor will outline the proposed methodology including, for each authorized use, a description of data inputs, key assumptions, and sources of uncertainties. This technical appendix will elaborate on this outline such that an interested reader can learn and understand the details of this complex analysis. This technical appendix will also document the challenges encountered as part of this analysis.

The target due date for the draft report is mid-~~January~~February for draft and mid-March 1 for the final report.

Task 3 – Economic Benefits

The objective of this task is to assess the benefits provided by GRSG conservation, including those co-benefits not directly related to GRSG but generated by the GRSG conservation activities. This task includes four subtasks.

Tasks 3b, 3c, and 3d are options. Given the compressed timeframe of this requirement, the BLM is uncertain about the ability to produce high-quality and useful products for these tasks. Determination of exercising these options will be based on evaluation of Contractor proposals or during project implementation of Task 3a.

Task 3a: Review literature, policy context, and data availability. This step includes review of the 15 sub-regional EISs, the relevant scientific literature, and other available BLM work products related to GRSG conservation, including information generated for the Cumulative Effects Analysis (CEA) and Landscape Report (LR). The goals of this step are to 1.) Summarize how the benefits of GRSG actions have been described in the sub-regional EISs, and 2.) Outline the structure for describing the benefits west-wide. For example, which ecosystem services are most relevant? Which ecosystem services will be affected by the proposed alternative? This review should consider both the benefits of GRSG protection directly, as well as other ecosystem services that will benefit from conservation actions, such as protection of other species of interest, changes in water quantity or quality, ~~or~~ recreation benefits, and the benefits of avoiding a listing of the species as threatened or endangered to future project development (see above).

Deliverable from Task 3a: No more than 4 weeks after the project start date, the Contractor will provided a summary report of Task 3a to BLM. This report will:

- Describe how benefits of GRSG conservation actions are described in the 15 sub-regional EISs.
- Describe and synthesize the literature reviewed.
- Identify the methods that will be used to assess the west-wide benefits of GRSG conservation actions. This description will include:
 - A comprehensive list of the ecosystem services that will be affected by GRSG actions, indicating how each service will be evaluated or a justification for why a service will not be considered further.

Comment [JRL16]: THIS STUDY CANNOT BE DONE WITHOUT THIS SECTION. FOR THIS REASON, I FOLDED INTO THE ABOVE TASK, NOT AS A SEPARATE EXERCISE.

Comment [JBS17]: The CO will have to help with this language.

- [A comprehensive assessment of the benefits of the conservation strategy for Greater sage-grouse, should it lead to a decision by the Fish and Wildlife Service not to list the species as threatened or endangered, in terms of the development of future projects, enhanced recreation opportunities \(including sport hunting\), conservation of water resources, and other social, ecological, and economic outcomes.](#)
- A summary of data (e.g., GIS data layers, sources of non-market values for benefit transfer) and models (e.g., ecological models relating sagebrush conservation to other ecosystem services) that are available and relevant for assessing the benefits of GRSG conservation. BLM's efforts to develop a Cumulative Effects Analysis (CEA) and a Landscape Report (LR) related to GRSG actions may provide aggregated data sets relevant to this project. The Contractor will work with BLM to identify available resources and not duplicate efforts.

Comment [JRL18]: These are likely to be too late for completion of the report.

Task 3b: Data collection and analysis (optional). This step includes gathering and analyzing available information in order to describe as completely as possible the benefits of GRSG conservation actions. For each of the ecosystem services identified in Task 3a, this analysis should address the following questions:

- Who benefits from the ecosystem service? Describe the characteristics of beneficiary groups, including the size of the group, the location of the group, sociodemographic characteristics, and any known preference or value data.
- What is the current production of ecosystem services by the landscape and how does this production depend on ecological conditions? This step should clearly articulate the relationship between ecosystem structure, function, processes, and services. Visual depictions of this relationship, as with a means-end diagram or flow chart, would be particularly useful for illustrating complex joint production of ecosystem services. Where quantitative descriptors are not feasible, production should be described qualitatively in a manner that clearly conveys the relative magnitude of the ecosystem services produced by the landscape. This question is specifically focused on ecosystem services, not the underlying ecological structure or function. As such, it will build from BLM's work on the CEA and LR. The Contractor will work with BLM to identify available resources and not duplicate efforts.
- How is the production and value of ecosystem service expected to change under the proposed alternatives? Where quantitative values are not feasible, values should be described qualitatively in a way that clearly conveys the relative magnitude of the change.

Comment [JRL19]: Good but only one facet of the potential benefits of this strategy.

Task 3c (optional): Develop maps of ecosystem service production, benefits, and/or values. This step uses the results from the analysis in Task 3b to describe the spatial distribution of the change in ecosystem service benefits under GRSG activities. The maps developed will visually depict areas with larger or smaller expected changes (hotspots), and will be useful for communicating the benefits of GRSG conservation. These maps should focus on ecosystem services, not the underlying ecological structure or function. As such, it will build

from work done to develop the CEA and LR. The contractor will work with BLM to identify available resources and not duplicate efforts.

Deliverable from Tasks 3b and 3c: Tasks 3b and 3c should be approached together and be completed no later than 6 months from the project start date. Completion of these tasks will produce an organized electronic folder of relevant data, descriptions of ecosystem service production and value, and multiple maps. These products will be used to develop the final report for the project (Task 3d).

Task 3d: Develop summary section and final report (optional).

Deliverable for Task 3d includes two documents reporting on this task.

The summary section will be a relatively short (~15-20 pages) and concise document describing the results of Tasks 3a, 3b, and 3c for inclusion in the Landscape Report. The target due date for the summary section is late-December for draft and mid-January for a final summary section.

A comprehensive report will, at a minimum, consist of the following components:

- Purpose and objectives
- Overview of methods
- Results, including maps
- Technical appendix

The target due date for the draft report is mid-February for draft and mid-March for the final report.

Comment [JRL20]: I'm not sure how this would work and provide the economic data required for the report. What is the intent of this effort?

Comment [JRL21]: Nuff said about this.

Sage-Grouse Great Basin Region Project Management Team Weekly Call

June 3, 2015 9:30 a.m. PST

Attendance

BLM: Lauren Mermejo, NV; Quincy Bahr, UT; Johanna Munson, ID; Erin Jones, CO; Joan Suther, OR; John Carlson, MT; Ruth Miller, MT; Sandy Leach, MT; Frank Quamen, NOC; Aaron Moody, SOL; Sarah Shattuck, SOL; Stephanie Carman, WO; Michael Hildner, WO; Mitch Snow, WO; Matt Magaletti, WO; Pam Murdoch, WY

USFS: Glen Stein; Madelyn Dillon

EMPSi: Meredith Zaccherio; Holly Prohaska; Kate Krebs; Derek Holmgren; Peter Gower

Handouts

- None.

Action Items

Sub regional PMs and Forest Service

- ALL PLs: Review landscape reports by COB Thursday.
- ALL PLs: Email Stephanie by 5 pm EST Wednesday if your plan has grazing closures or AUM reductions.

Meeting Minutes

WO Updates, Next Steps and Schedule

- Landscape report is under preparation by Frank and a team of staff. Will be completed by COB today and sent to Jim and project leads tonight. Project leads should review the summary of decisions and maps for accuracy. Comments due by COB Thursday.
- Protest period is open. Michael is leading the protest resolution task, which will be completed by the WO by July 27. Not much state office involvement expected.
- Stephanie will send a schedule of upcoming tasks when it is completed. Most tasks are at the WO level, but will be informative to the states.
- WO also working on RODs. Matt Magaletti is leading this task. SOL, Department and others are determining how many RODs will be prepared. Hope to have resolution by the end of this week. GRSg portion of RODs will be drafted by a team comprised of Matt, Karen Kelleher, Stephanie, Johanna and Lauren.
- BLM and FS will write their own RODs, but will use the same template. Draft RODs anticipated mid-July. Likely RODs will be signed by late summer.
- BAs are moving along.

Communications and Congressional Inquiries

- WO has received several congressional inquiries. Common request is for the habitat shapefiles. Encourage all states to post data on their websites. Most states have a data link on ePlanning.
- Another congressional inquiry related to impacts on grazing in the plans. Project leads should email Stephanie by 5 pm EST if your plan has grazing closures or AUM reductions.
- Department holding a meeting with industry, scientists, press, interested parties.
- Keep Stephanie informed of public outreach, meetings, etc., especially if the meeting does not go well.

Implementation Strategy Status

- WGA GRSG task force meeting this week will include a discussion about implementation. Meeting with ELT the week after next, which will include a whole day for GRSG. Expect to see some implementation products soon (e.g., business proposals).

Development of the Approved RMP

- Project leads should plan to develop their own approved RMP based on a template. Can work with contractors to complete this.
- Quincy reviewed the BPA and feels that this work would be covered under Task 10. Description of the task ties to the ROD.

BLM/FS Coordination

- Madelyn will send crosswalk tables to project leads by COB Friday. EMPSi can help make 508 compliant for posting to the websites.

Sage-Grouse Great Basin Region Project Management Team Weekly Call

July 22, 2015 9:00 a.m. PST

Attendance

BLM: Lauren Mermejo, NV; Quincy Bahr, UT; Jon Beck, ID; Paul Makela ID; John Carlson, MT; Sandy Leach, MT; Joan Suther, OR; Frank Quamen, NOC; Anthony Titolo, NOC; Stephanie Carman, WO; Michael Hildner, WO; Vicki Herren, WO; Mitch Snow, WO; Matt Magaletti, WO

USFS: Glen Stein

EMPSi: David Batts; Chad Ricklefs; Meredith Zaccherio; Derek Holmgren; Peter Gower

Handouts

- None.

Action Items

Sub regional PMs and Forest Service

- ALL: Metadata revisions are due this Friday.

Meeting Minutes

Maps

- Decision area in minerals maps should include subsurface, which includes Forest Service. Forest Service will also show their consent to this in their ROD. It's okay to have double-counting of these restrictions. Nevada has a data issue in this regard.
- No allocation decisions shown outside of Priority, General, or other habitat category. Utah has an exception to this rule.
- Map 1-3, Decision Area – show the minerals decision area (include surface and subsurface estate), not just surface lands. Nevada will show only surface, since they don't have subsurface data.
- For tables of acres, note whether the acres display only surface or whether it includes subsurface.

Data

- Metadata revisions are due this Friday.

Schedule

- Updated schedule was sent out today. Three main tasks, highlighted in blue where project leads and State Directors have particular tasks. Dates provided are due dates.

Protest

- SOL review of protest done by this Friday. Team resolving SOL comments and getting comments to PMs and Department by 7/30. Comments will be due back from PMs in about a week and Michael will prepare final resolution by mid-August. Then will be briefed to Steve Ellis and ready by 8/17.

Governor's Consistency

- Governor's consistency ends 7/29. Department would like to turn around responses in a week to begin 30-day appeal period by 8/5. Then final response a week after the appeal period ends, then publish RODs.
- Template language for response to Governor's consistency review will be sent to PMs by Friday. Focus is that BLM is meeting their purpose and need and conservation objectives with the plans. Department is reviewing the template language now.
- Hoping States can reach out to Governors to get letters.

RODs/Approved Plans

- Approved plans are under review and will be sent back by this Friday. They are inserting drop-in language where it is available. Matt and Stephanie will send a list of what they're checking for.
- RODs – Department is working on the Great Basin ROD. They will have it back by Friday. Then can move forward with RMR ROD. Great Basin ROD will be done by early August.
- First draft of RMR ROD by 8/7. Would like help to develop this.
- Can leave mention of Forest Service in the appendices.
- Approved plans done by 8/28 and both RODs done by 9/11. Protest report will also be done by this date. Actual publication date is under discussion at the department level. 9/11 is the earliest, but will likely be before September 21st.
- Forest Service does not want RODs signed on 9/11.
- Please do not share the anticipated publication date and any specifics of the schedule outside this group as it is subject to change and for internal discussion only.
- Keep the term "ARMPA" even if sub-regions have MFPs.

Printing

- Everyone will be responsible for doing their own printing.

Sage-Grouse Great Basin Region Project Management Team Weekly Call

July 29, 2015 9:00 a.m. PST

Attendance

BLM: Lauren Mermejo, NV; Quincy Bahr, UT; Jon Beck, ID; Paul Makela, ID; Brent Ralston, ID; Johanna Munson, WY; Erin Jones, CO; Bridget Clayton, CO; Ruth Miller, MT; Sandy Leach, MT; Joan Suther, OR; Jennifer Fleuret, OR; Frank Quamen, NOC; Anthony Titolo, NOC; Stephanie Carman, WO; Matt Magaletti, WO; Pam Murdoch, WY

USFS: Glen Stein

EMPSi: David Batts; Chad Ricklefs; Meredith Zaccherio; Holly Prohaska; Derek Holmgren; Peter Gower

Handouts

- None.

Action Items

Sub regional PMs and Forest Service

- ALL: Send Governor's consistency letters to Stephanie.
- ALL: Send Governor's consistency response letters to Stephanie by Friday.
- ALL: Send populated template for changes between Proposed and ROD to Matt by 8/7.
- ALL: Remove the implementation guide appendix from the ARMP/ARMPA template.

Meeting Minutes

Governor's Consistency

- All PMs should send their Governor's consistency letters to Stephanie. Letters need to be post-marked today.
- UT is anticipating a letter stating they are not consistent.
- Brian Amme's review of ND and NW CO did not identify any consistency issues.
- PMs must send draft response letters to WO by Friday. If you want to discuss potential responses, give Stephanie a call. There is some common language that is being developed (e.g., changes between proposed RMP and ROD, fire, grazing regarding preference transfers, habitat mapping).
- Template letter says that BLM will only respond to consistency comments. Other issues could be addressed outside of the consistency process.
- The Department will be reviewing the draft letters from 9a-1p on Monday.
- The Secretary will be in UT next Wednesday and placing calls to all Governors in advance of them receiving the response letters. May send letters on Thursday but we should still be ready on Wednesday.

- BLM is expecting appeals and WO will craft responses. There will be one FR notice addressing all appeals. This is anticipated in early September.
- Do not expect major changes based on Governor's consistency, but probably clarifications.

Protest

- Michael will send protest resolution reports to everyone by tomorrow. Need to match up protest reports with Governor's consistency responses.
- No major changes based on protest, but some clarifications to be made. Most reports will have an editorial section that outlines these. These changes would go in the ROD too.

Maps

- The NOC has received edits from a few plans, but nothing has been received from Utah.

ARMPA/ARMP Templates

- Matt will send the section of the ROD that summarizes changes (what is the change, why was it made, was it a result of Governor's consistency review, protest, or internal BLM review) between Proposed RMP and ROD. He will also add forthcoming drop-in language. PMs should send the populated template back by 8/7 with updated ARMP.
- Regarding the implementation guide appendix: this will be developed, but will not be included in the ROD. Everyone should strike out this appendix from the ARMPA/ARMP.
- WY implementation guide the state is creating will be renamed.

Forthcoming Language

- Should have mapping language this Friday.
- Still working on adaptive management language, but it should be available soon.
- Also looking at language to clarify that the high priority transmission lines will have GRSG measures to achieve a net conservation gain through their separate NEPA processes.
- The may be clarification for SFAs as well.

Forest Service

- Pam and Glen will discuss the Governor's consistency letter after it's received. Pam will find the latest adaptive management language.

Other

- There is conflict for the next two meetings due to the Steppe Forward series. Call will be rescheduled for Tuesday at the same time. EMPSi will send a meeting invite.

Sage-Grouse Great Basin Region Project Management Team Weekly Call

August 4, 2015 9:00 a.m. PST

Attendance

BLM: Lauren Mermejo, NV; Quincy Bahr, UT; Jon Beck, ID; Brent Ralston, ID; Johanna Munson, WY; Tyson Finnicum, WY; Erin Jones, CO; Bridget Clayton, CO; John Carlson, MT; Ruth Miller, MT; David Wood, MT; Joan Suther, OR; Jennifer Fleuret, OR; Frank Quamen, NOC; Anthony Titolo, NOC; Sarah Shattuck, SOL; Stephanie Carman, WO; Michael Hildner, WO; Mitch Snow, WO; Matt Magaletti, WO

USFS: Glen Stein; Madelyn Dillon

EMPSi: Chad Ricklefs; Meredith Zaccherio; Holly Prohaska; Derek Holmgren

Handouts

- None.

Action Items

Sub regional PMs and Forest Service

- PMs: Send revised Governor's consistency response letters to WO by noon Tuesday, 8/4.
- PMs: Send comments on the protest reports to WO by 8 am Eastern, Monday, 8/10.
- PMs: Revised ARMPAs due 8/14.
- PMs: Administrative record files due to EMPSi 8/7.

Meeting Minutes

Governor's Consistency

- Governor's consistency letters were received from everyone on Friday. PMs should have received edits from WO yesterday. Revisions are due by noon local time today. WO will review for consistency and send them back by COB tomorrow.
- Everyone received the same comment to state whether they are accepting/rejecting the Governor's recommendations. If any questions on the comments, call Matt Magaletti.
- Do not submit before Thursday morning.
- State Directors should email them and/or hand deliver them. Don't have time to do certified mail. If emailed, need a receipt that it was received.
- Still aiming to have everything completed by 9/11. WO will discuss the appropriate text to include regarding the 30 day timeframe, as this would end on the Sunday before Labor Day.
- Subregions can add additional text to the letters, such as greetings or thanks, but don't change major decisions.

Protest

- Comments on protest reports are due by Monday 8 am Eastern.

Approved Plans

- Due date has been extended until 8/14. This will include the list of what has changed between Final and ROD. WO will send a SharePoint link where they can be uploaded

Maps

- Salable minerals are administered by the FS, and they have their own regulations. BLM should not show FS salable minerals on BLM decision space maps.

Data

- Still missing metadata from South Dakota.

Common Language

- WO will send more common language out by this Friday.
- Previously discussed: habitat mapping language; adaptive management; priority transmission line projects.
- Other potential common language may revise the vegetation objectives to reference the ecological site instead of prescribing 10-30 % canopy cover; include reference to native bunchgrasses.
- For SFAs, will include additional management actions that address/prioritize SFAs, not just grazing.
- Based on the Governor's consistency letters, may change density cap language from “facilities” to “permitted facilities”. For RDFs, another reason not to do an RDF is if there is already state protection. WAFWA management zones – provide clarification that WAFWA management zones will work with existing management structures and will be used for interstate coordination, but it won't be another layer of management.
- Land exchanges in GHMA
- Many plans has a list of potential modifications to grazing practices, may use Idaho text.

RODs

- All ROD discussions on hold until COB tomorrow. Meeting on Monday to review the Great Basin ROD.

Other

- The first episode in the Steppe Forward Series is tomorrow.
- Administrative records due this Friday, though it is a somewhat flexible deadline.

Forest Service

- FS was wondering if they will have a separate AR. They have not been separated on the sub-regional level, but BLM suggests the BLM WO and FS Regional ARs should be separate.

Sage-Grouse Great Basin Region Project Management Team Weekly Call

August 19, 2015 9:00 a.m. PST

Attendance

BLM: Quincy Bahr, UT; Jon Beck, ID; Erin Jones, CO; Bridget Clayton, CO; John Carlson, MT; Ruth Miller, MT; David Wood, MT; Jennifer Fleuret, OR; Frank Quamen, NOC; Anthony Titolo, NOC; Stephanie Carman, WO; Mitch Snow, WO; Matt Magaletti, WO; Johanna Munson, WY

USFS: Glen Stein; Madelyn Dillon

EMPSi: David Batts; Chad Ricklefs; Meredith Zaccherio; Holly Prohaska; Derek Holmgren

Handouts

- None.

Action Items

Sub regional PMs and Forest Service

- PMs: Review Approved Plans when received. Send back to Stephanie that day if possible.

Meeting Minutes

Appeals

- Anticipate no appeal for CO, MT, and WY. There may be appeals from North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Idaho, and Nevada.
- Have not heard anything in OR.
- WO is ready to respond when they come in.

Approved Plans

- WO is nearly done making changes. The Department is reviewing them today but was advised that minimal changes are allowed.
- Stephanie will send them to PMs on Friday. They would like PMs to review and send back on Friday if possible. Solicitors will review all of them next week.
- There are two sections where new language has been added to approved plans: 1) new objective in the lands and realty section in response to comments from scientists and NGOs. Language covers a feedback loop to inform siting of projects in the future based on best available science. 2) Regarding utility corridors, putting in an exception that the 3% may be exceeded under certain circumstances. This is to help encourage development in utility corridors, rather than dispersing the development.
- Call Stephanie with any concerns.
- Stephanie has shared with Forest Service.
- WO will attach a list of the language changes that they made.

RODs

- Still receiving comments from SOL on GBR ROD so it may not be ready to share today. It may be sent out tomorrow. Matt and Bridget worked to prepare the RMR ROD and sent to the Department last night. Department is having a meeting to discuss tomorrow. Hope to clean up and send to SOL shortly thereafter.
- When WO sends the RODs out for PM review, they'll make a list of things for PMs to look for. Primarily this will be any areas where they have misinterpreted what is in the ARMP/ARMPA (e.g., accurately referencing appendices and acres figures).

Printing

- Each subregion will be responsible for printing its own plan. Subregions can use the NOC. Make sure these arrangements are in place.
- Ensure index number on the ROD is the same as the number on the ARMP/ARMPA.
- EMPSi will tech edit all ARMP/ARMPAs. Will generally be a high level edit for grammatical errors so as not to change language that has been vetted.

Administrative Record

- EMPSi has been selected as contractor to help with Administrative Record.
- Due to difficulties with the hydrofracking AR, there will be a lot of focus and scrutiny on this project. SOL made it clear that the record is very important.
- Based on discussions with the SOL, there will be 14 decision records, one for each EIS. There will also be a WO decision record. EMPSi will help to make sure that the decision records are complete and compatible across the range for the 14 EISs, and provide oversight. They will also be assisting with the WO AR.
- Need to discuss EMPSi's role in the AR for the revisions (e.g., Miles City AR is over 12 years old).
- Meeting with SOL again next week and with EMPSi too. Guidance and schedule is forthcoming.
- Rough schedule: hoping to publish RODs on 9/17. Would be sued on 9/18. Have 90 days to prepare AR: 12/18. Would like all records to be finalized at least a month ahead of that. Each subregion probably due by 10/1.
- Working with SOL to set up some trainings. A lot of emails from WO that need to be sorted. Will rely as much as possible on staff to do that rather than the Chief Information Officer.
- Great Basin – umbrella AR common to all four subregions, with each subregion's unique. Umbrella getting larger with the addition of the WO and RMR. Had originally planned to submit decision files by 9/30 since the contract expires on 9/31. With this modification, EMPSi will probably not submit the decision files by that date, but will bill out at 100% and deliver within a given timeframe.

Forest Service

- AM trigger is either in the approved plans or the AM appendix (part of approved plan). This language change will be cited in modification/clarification section in ROD. There may also be text in implementation section of ROD.
- Forest Service has not discussed printing.

Other

- NOC is still waiting on UT decision data. Quincy is working to finish AR, but it is next on the priority list.
- Of 4 priority data that need to be purchased, they have two contracts. Hoping to get the other two contracts this week.

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**Record of Decision and Approved Resource
Management Plan Amendments for the Great Basin
Region including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-
Regions of:**

**Idaho and Southwestern Montana
Nevada and Northeastern California
Oregon
Utah**

Prepared by:

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Washington, DC

September 2015

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MISSION STATEMENT

To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

~~BLM/WO/XX/XX-XX+XXX~~

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[Insert BLM WO Letterhead]

In Reply Refer To:
(WO210)(1610)

Dear [Reader]:

Enclosed are the Record of Decision (ROD) and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments (ARMPAs) for the Great Basin Region Greater Sage-Grouse (GRSG) Sub-regions (Idaho and Southwestern Montana, Nevada and Northeastern California, Oregon, and Utah). The ROD approves the four Great Basin Region ARMPAs, which are part of the National Greater Sage-Grouse **Planning Conservation** Strategy that was initiated on December 11, 2011. The conservation strategy was initiated by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in response to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) March 2010 "warranted, but precluded" Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing petition decision. In this decision, the FWS identified the inadequacy of regulatory mechanisms as a significant threat to GRSG. RMP conservation measures were identified as the BLM's principal regulatory mechanism.

Combined, the BLM and the Forest Service administer approximately 62 % of the GRSG habitat across the remaining range of the species. The National GRSG Conservation Strategy has been coordinated under two administrative planning regions across this landscape: the Rocky Mountain Region and the Great Basin Region. The regions were drawn roughly to correspond with the threats identified by USFWS in the 2010 listing decision, along with the WAFWA Management Zones (MZs) framework (Stiver et al. 2006) (See Figure 1-4).

Rangewide, the BLM prepared 15 environmental impact statements (EISs), with associated proposed RMP amendments and revisions in the Rocky Mountain and Great Basin regions. The Forest Service was involved in the development of 5 EISs: two in the Rocky Mountain Region and three in the Great Basin. Each agency prepared two Records of Decision (RODs): one for the approval of ARMPAs and ARMPs in each of the regions covered by the GRSG Conservation Strategy. Thus, a total of four RODs were prepared by the BLM and the Forest Service to implement the federal GRSG conservation plans across the remaining range of the species.

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Comment [MEM1]: Need to pull text into letter format and have Neil / Janice sign by 9/11 (when we send the draft RODs to EMPSi for tech edit.

Comment [mem2]: EMPSi – pages 3-6 (Dear Reader Letter) will be formatted by the BLM Director's office and we will send you the signed version on Wed. 9/16.

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Comment [MSH3]: EMPSi, probably best to do the RM first since there a fair amount of comments that need to be pulled over.

Comment [mem4]: EMPSi – I incorporated as much as I could, but you may want to cross check with the RM ROD for formatting requests in comment bubbles.

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This ROD applies to the BLM ARMPAs in the Great Region. However, the complete strategy for GRSG conservation on BLM and Forest Service-administered lands across the remaining range of the species consists of this ROD (and associated plans) in conjunction with the BLM ROD for the Rocky Mountain Region and the two Forest Service RODs for each of these regions.

The BLM's ARMPAs provide a landscape-level, science-based, coordinated, collaborative strategy for addressing threats to the Greater Sage-Grouse (GRSG) and its habitat. This strategy was designed to address issues identified in the FWS 2010 "warranted but precluded" decision. In addition, the strategy was guided by over a decade of research, analyses and recommendations for GRSG conservation including the Conservation Objectives Team (COT) Report and the BLM National Technical Team (NTT) Report. Each of these reports was developed through a collaborative effort of state and federal biologists and scientists with extensive experience in GRSG management and research. Science-based decision-making and collaboration with the FWS, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, (Forest Service), and state and other partners were fundamental to the development of these ARMPAs.

It is important to note that this ROD and these ARMPAs apply only to BLM-administered lands, including BLM sub-surface mineral estate. Throughout the GRSG planning process, the U.S. Forest Service has been a Cooperating Agency on the Idaho and Southwestern Montana, Nevada and Northeastern California, and the Utah planning efforts. These Draft RMPAs/Draft EISs and Proposed RMPAs/Final EISs for the Great Basin sub-regions included proposed GRSG management direction for National Forest System lands (in Idaho and Southwestern Montana, Nevada and Northeastern California, and Utah). However As noted above, the U.S. Forest Service has completed at two separate RODRODs and associated Land and Resource Management PlansPlan Amendments under their planning authorities.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) requirerequires the development and maintenance, and, as appropriate, the revision of land use plans for management of public lands. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires Federal agencies to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. In fulfillment of these requirements, the Draft RMP Amendments/Draft EISs incorporated analysis and input provided by the public; local, State, and other Federal agencies and organizations; Native American tribes; Cooperating Agencies, and BLM resource specialists, and were published in the fall of 2013. Ninety -day public comment periods ensued, with more than 4,990 substantive comments from 1,348 unique letters submitted on all four sub-regional proposed LUPAs/Final EISs in the Great Basin Region. These comments were reviewed, summarized and considered in preparing the Proposed RMP Amendments/Final EISs.

The Proposed RMPAs/Final EISs were made available on May 29, 2015, for a 60-day governor's consistency review and 30-day protest period. The BLM received consistency review letters from the States of California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, and Utah in the Great Basin Region and has worked closely with these states to address their concerns and to resolve inconsistencies where possible.

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Across all four sub-regions in the Great Basin Region, 133 protest submission letters were received from government entities, private citizens, ~~NGOs, non-governmental organizations (NGOs)~~, and other stakeholders; 124 of these submissions contained valid protest issues pursuant to 43 CFR 1610.5-2 and were addressed in the Director’s Protest Resolution Reports. These reports are available on line at: http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo/blm_information/rmp.html.

~~The BLM now approves~~The BLM Director and the Assistant Secretary – Land and Minerals Management now approve the attached ARMPAs as the land use plans that will guide future land and resource management within GRSG habitat in the Great Basin Region for the life of the plan amendments. The ARMPAs will benefit GRSG and over 350 other species of wildlife as well as other multiple uses, including grazing and recreation, which depend on healthy sagebrush-steppe landscapes.

Copies of the ROD and ARMPAs can be obtained from the BLM’s National Greater Sage-Grouse webpage at: <http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/sagegrouse.html>.

The BLM extends special appreciation to the public, local, state, and other federal agencies, Native American tribal representatives, and the Cooperating Agencies, all of whom contributed to the completion of these ARMPAs. This participation informed and improved the planning process and the planning documents. Your continued involvement is encouraged as the ARMPAs are implemented.

Sincerely,

~~X~~

Neil Kornze
BLM Director

Enclosure:

1. Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments

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Summary

This Record of Decision (ROD) is the culmination of an unprecedented effort to conserve Greater Sage-Grouse habitat on public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). This effort is consistent with the BLM's multiple-use and sustained-yield mission and the joint objective established by federal and state leadership through the Greater Sage Grouse Task Force to conserve GRSG habitat on federal, state, and private land such that additional protections under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) can be avoided.

In response to a 2010 determination by the ~~FWS~~U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) that the listing of the GRSG under the ESA was “warranted but precluded” by other priorities, the BLM, in coordination with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service (Forest Service), ~~has~~ developed a targeted, multi-tiered, coordinated, collaborative landscape-level management strategy, based on the best available science, ~~that~~. This strategy offers the highest level of protection for GRSG in the most important habitat areas to address the specific threats identified in the 2010 FWS “warranted but precluded” decision and the FWS 2013 Conservation Objectives Team (COT) report.

This ROD and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments (ARMPAs) for the Great Basin Region Greater Sage-Grouse (GRSG) Sub-Regions of Idaho and Southwestern Montana, Nevada and Northeastern California, Oregon, and Utah include management direction that avoids and minimizes additional disturbance in GRSG habitat management areas as well as targets restoration and improvements to the most important areas of habitat. The management direction in the ARMPAs is accomplished through land use allocations that apply to GRSG habitat. These allocations (1) eliminate most new surface disturbance in the most highly-valued sagebrush ecosystem areas identified as Sagebrush Focal Areas (SFAs); (2) avoid or limit new surface disturbance in Priority Habitat

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Management Areas (PHMAs), of which SFAs are a subset; and (3) minimize surface disturbance in

General Habitat Management Areas (~~GHMA~~**GHMAs**). In addition to protective land use allocations in habitat management areas, the ARMPAs include a suite of management actions, such as the establishment of disturbance limits, GRSG habitat objectives, mitigation requirements, monitoring protocols, and adaptive management triggers and responses, and other conservation measures that apply throughout designated habitat management areas. The cumulative effect of these measures is to conserve, enhance, and restore GRSG habitat across the remaining range of the species in the Great Basin and provide greater certainty that BLM land use plan decisions in GRSG habitat in the Great Basin Region can lead to conservation of the GRSG and other sagebrush-steppe associated species in the region.

The targeted land use plan protections presented in this ROD and ARMPAs not only protect the GRSG and its habitat, but also over 350 wildlife species associated with the sagebrush-steppe ecosystem, which is widely recognized as one of the most ~~endangered~~ **imperiled** ecosystems in North America. Reversing the slow degradation of this valuable ecosystem will also benefit local rural economies and a variety of rangeland uses in addition to habitat protection, including recreation and grazing, in a manner that safeguards the long term sustainability, diversity and productivity of these important and iconic landscapes.

This conservation strategy has been developed in conjunction with the 10 states in which the ARMPAs in the Great Basin and the plans in the Rocky Mountain Region apply. In combination with additional state and federal actions underway and in development, the strategy represents an unprecedented, coordinated, and collaborative effort among federal land management agencies and the states to manage an entire ecosystem and associated flora and fauna in order to achieve the COT Report objective of “conserv[ing] the sage-grouse so that it is no longer in danger of extinction or likely to become in danger of extinction in the foreseeable future”. [Dan Ashe. Transmittal letter to COT Report. 2013].

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List of Tables

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List of Figures

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List of Acronyms

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1. INTRODUCTION

This Record of Decision (ROD) approves the BLM’s attached approved resource management plan amendments (ARMPAs) for the Great Basin Region GRSG Sub-regions (Idaho and Southwestern Montana, Nevada and Northeastern California, Oregon, and Utah). This ROD and the attached ARMPAs provide a set of management decisions focused on specific GRSG conservation measures across the Great Basin Region on BLM-administered lands. The BLM prepared the ARMPAs under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) (43 United States Code [U.S.C.] 1701 et seq.), BLM planning regulations (43 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] §1601 et seq.), and other applicable laws. The BLM prepared Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321-4347) as amended (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality’s ~~Regulations and the U.S. Department of the Interior’s regulations~~ for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR §1500.1 ~~et seq.~~ and 43 CFR §46.01 ~~et seq.~~, respectively).

Throughout the GRSG planning process, the Forest Service has been a Cooperating Agency on the Idaho and Southwestern Montana, Nevada and Northeastern California, and the Utah planning efforts. All three of these Draft RMPAs/Draft EISs and Proposed RMPAs/Final EISs included proposed GRSG management direction for National Forest System lands. The Forest Service has completed ~~at two~~ separate ~~ROD and RODs with associated~~ Land and Resource Management ~~Plans~~ ~~Plan Amendments~~ under their planning authorities ~~for the Great Basin Region~~, which ~~is~~ are available at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/r4/>.

This ROD, in conjunction with the ARMPs and ARMPAs approved through the Rocky Mountain ROD, constitute land use planning decisions of the BLM to conserve the GRSG and its habitats throughout that portion of the remaining range of the species that is administered by the BLM under authority of FLPMA. The efforts of the BLM, in coordination with the ~~U.S.~~ Forest Service on National Forest System lands within the remaining range of the species, constitutes a coordinated strategy for conserving the GRSG and the sagebrush-steppe ecosystem on the majority of Federal lands on which the species depends. These decisions complement those implemented by federal agencies through *An Integrated Rangeland Fire Strategy: Final Report to the Secretary of the Interior* and the Sage Grouse Initiative as well as those implemented by state and local governments ~~as well as~~ private land owners, and other partners.

1.1 Great Basin Region Planning Area

The Great Basin Region planning area is composed of four sub-regions: the Idaho and Southwestern Montana, Nevada and Northeastern California, Oregon, and Utah. (see **Figure 1-1** – Great Basin Region Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-regions). A separate EIS was prepared for each of these sub-regions. Each sub-region conducted its own planning effort with input from local cooperators, stakeholders, and members of the public. The sub-regional boundaries were constructed to align with BLM administrative offices, state boundaries, as well as areas that shared common threats to the GRSG and their habitat. The boundaries for these sub-regions largely coincide with zones III, IV, and V identified by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Strategy to delineate management zones with similar ecological and biological issues.

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[Insert **Figure 1-1** - Great Basin Region Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-regions]

The Great Basin Region planning area boundaries include all lands regardless of jurisdiction (see **Figure 1-2** - Great Basin Region Planning Area). **Table 1-1** outlines the amount of surface acres that are administered by specific Federal agencies, states, local governments, and privately-owned lands within the four sub-regions that make up the Great Basin. The planning area also includes other BLM-administered lands that are not identified as habitat management areas for GRSG. The ARMPAs generally do not establish any additional management for these lands outside of GRSG habitat management areas and they will continue to be managed according to the existing land use plans for these planning areas.

[Insert **Figure 1-2** - Great Basin Region Planning Area]

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Table 1-1
Land Management in the Great Basin Planning Area

Surface Land Management	NV/NE CA	ID/SW MT	Utah	Oregon	Great Basin Total
BLM	45,359,000	12,449,000	20,387,200	12,615,900	90,811,100
Forest Service	9,719,900	13,252,400	7,396,300	6,454,800	36,823,400
Private	11,857,800	13,637,700	10,818,200	10,907,900	47,221,600
Bureau of Indian Affairs (tribal)	922,000	343,600	1,140,000	191,900	2,597,500
USFWS FWS	805,900	81,400	121,900	482,500	1,491,700
Other	326,100	414,400	30,400	100,700	871,600
State	195,600	2,646,100	5,137,200	723,100	8,702,000
National Park Service	160,100	511,700	1,365,600	0	2,037,400
Other federal	3,200	562,200	0	61,300	626,700
Bureau of Reclamation	431,200	116,300	800	52,700	601,000
Local government	17,800	0	0	900	18,700
Department of Defense	402,000	127,400	1,812,300	64,500	2,406,200
Total acres	70,200,600	44,142,300	48,209,900	31,656,200	194,208,900

Source: BLM GIS 2015
Acres have been rounded to the nearest hundredth.

The decision area for the Great Basin Region ARMPAs is BLM-administered lands in GRSG habitat management areas (see **Figure 1-3** - Great Basin Region Decision Area, Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management Areas (BLM-administered)), including surface and split-estate lands where the BLM has subsurface mineral rights. For a description of these habitat management areas, refer to **Section 1-5**.

[Insert **Figure 1-3** - Great Basin Region Decision Area, Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management Areas (BLM-administered)]

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1.2 Early GRSG Conservation Efforts

Currently, GRSG occupy an estimated ~~66~~65% of the historically occupied range. The BLM manages the majority of the GRSG habitat on Federal lands (i.e., the range of GRSG not including the Columbia Basin or Bi-State populations). Efforts to conserve GRSG habitat by the BLM and other wildlife conservation agencies and organizations have been ongoing for many years. These efforts provide an important foundation for the GRSG conservation strategy that guides these plans.

The WAFWA 2004 *Range-wide Conservation Assessment for Greater Sage-Grouse and Sagebrush Habitats* was the first range-wide assessment of GRSG using the vast amount of population data collected over the previous 60 years, habitat information spanning the previous 100 years, and literature dating back 200 years. The goal of the assessment, which includes contributions from the BLM, was to present an unbiased and scientific assessment of dominant issues and their effects on GRSG populations and sagebrush habitats.

http://sagemap.wr.usgs.gov/docs/Greater_Sage-grouse_Conservation_Assessment_060404.pdf

In November 2004, the BLM released its *National Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy*, which encouraged GRSG habitat conservation through consultation, cooperation, and communication with WAFWA, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the Forest Service, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), State wildlife agencies, local GRSG working groups, and various other public and private partners.

In 2006, WAFWA completed a *Greater Sage-Grouse Comprehensive Conservation Strategy*, with the assistance of the BLM, the Forest Service, and other contributors. The overall goal of the Strategy was to maintain and enhance populations and distribution of GRSG by protecting and improving sagebrush habitats and ecosystems that sustain those populations. The Strategy outlined the critical need to develop the associations among local, state, provincial, tribal, and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and individual citizens to design and implement cooperative actions to support robust populations of GRSG and the landscapes and habitats upon which they depend. The catalyst for this effort was widespread concern for declining populations and reduced distribution of GRSG.

<http://www.wafwa.org/documents/pdf/GreaterSage-grouseConservationStrategy2006.pdf>

In 2008, the BLM created two national teams to investigate possible BLM management options for GRSG conservation and summarize the BLM's ongoing conservation efforts. A product of this effort was one of the first range-wide priority habitat maps for GRSG that were referred to as "key habitat". At the time, the primary purpose for the key habitat map was to inform and help prioritize fire suppression efforts in GRSG habitat on BLM lands. An additional outcome of this team was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by the WAFWA; the BLM, FWS, USGS in the U.S. Department of the Interior; and the US Forest Service and NRCS in the U.S. Department of Agriculture ~~Forest Service and~~

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NRCS, to provide for cooperation among the participating state and federal land managers and wildlife management and science agencies in the conservation and management of GRSG sagebrush habitats and other sagebrush-dependent wildlife throughout the Western United States.

http://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/wo/Planning_and_Renewable_Resources/fish_wildlife_and/fw/Par.95958.File.dat/SagegrouseMOU.pdf

In 2010, the BLM commissioned an effort to map and model breeding bird densities of GRSG across the West. A conference was convened with state wildlife agencies to coordinate the lek survey data needed for this effort. This modelling project, through an agreement with the FWS, mapped known active leks across the West. This model served as a standard starting point for all states to identify priority habitat for the species.

http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/fish_wildlife_and/sage-grouse-conservation/bird_density_print.html

In March 2010, the ~~US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)~~FWS published its 12-Month Finding for Petitions to List the Greater Sage-Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) as Threatened or Endangered (75 Federal Register 13910 (March 23, 2010)). In that finding, the USFWS concluded that GRSG was “warranted, but precluded” under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This finding indicates that, although the species meets the criteria for listing, immediate publication of a proposed rule to list the species is precluded by higher-priority listing proposals; that is, the species should be listed based on the available science, but listing other species takes priority because they are more in need of protection.

As part of ~~their~~its 2010 finding, the ~~USFWS~~FWS reviewed the status of and threats to the GRSG in relation to the five listing factors provided in Section 4(a)(1) of the ESA. Of the five listing factors reviewed, the ~~USFWS~~FWS determined that Factor A, “the present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of the habitat or range of the GRSG,” and Factor D, “the inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms,” posed “a significant threat to the GRSG now and in the foreseeable future” (75 Federal Register 13910 (March 23, 2010)). In addition, the FWS found that existing local, state and federal regulatory mechanisms were not sufficient to address threats to the habitat. For the BLM, which manages approximately 66 million acres of the remaining habitat for the species (See **Figure 1-4**), the ~~USFWS~~FWS has identified the agency’s Resource Management Plans (RMPs) as the primary regulatory mechanisms.

1.3 Threats to Greater Sage-Grouse in the Great Basin Region

The FWS identified a number of specific threats to GRSG in the Great Basin Region in the context of its 2010 finding. The primary threats identified are the widespread present and potential impacts of wildfire, the loss of native habitat to invasive species, and conifer encroachment. Other threats, some of which are more localized by nature, include habitat fragmentation due to anthropogenic disturbances associated with energy development, mining, infrastructure, recreation, urbanization and sagebrush elimination, as well as impacts to habitat associated with free-roaming equids and improper livestock grazing.

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In 2011, the BLM established the GRSG National Technical Team (NTT), comprised of BLM, USGS, NRCS, and State specialists. The charge of the NTT was to identify science-based management considerations for the GRSG (i.e., conservation measures) ~~necessary~~ to promote sustainable GRSG populations focused on the threats identified in the FWS listing determination (75 FR 13910) in each of the regional WAFWA Sage-Grouse Management Zones (Figure 1-4). The NTT produced *A Report on National Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Measures* (~~The~~ NTT Report) which proposed conservation measures based on habitat requirements and other life history requirements for GRSG. The NTT Report described the scientific basis for the conservation measures proposed within each program area. The NTT Report also emphasized the importance of standardizing monitoring efforts across the WAFWA Sage-Grouse Management Zones.

<http://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/co/programs/wildlife/Par.73607.File.dat/GrSG%20Tech%20Team%20Report.pdf>

In 2012, the ~~USFWS~~**USFWS**, with the support of the Western Governors Association Sage Grouse Task Force, convened the Conservation Objectives Team (COT), comprising state and federal representatives, to produce a peer-reviewed report identifying the principal threats to GRSG survival and the degree to which these threats need to be reduced or ameliorated to conserve the GRSG so that it would no longer be in danger of extinction or likely to become in danger of extinction in the foreseeable future. The COT Report, released in March 2013, also identified Priority Areas for Conservation (PACs) and emphasized that “Maintenance of the integrity of PACs . . . is the essential foundation for sage-grouse conservation”. Finally, the COT report identified present and widespread, as well as localized threats by GRSG population across the West (**Table 1-2**). The BLM also identified and explained additional threats in the Final EISs that were published with proposed plans on May 29, 2015. **Figure 1-4** identifies the PACs, GRSG populations (and their names), and WAFWA Management Zones across the West.

<http://www.fws.gov/greatersagegrouse/documents/COT-Report-with-Dear-Interested-Reader-Letter.pdf>

[Insert **Figure 1-4** - GRSG Priority Areas for Conservation, Populations, and WAFWA Management Zones.]

A summary of the nature and extent of threats identified ~~by~~**in** the COT for each remaining identified population of GRSG in the Great Basin Region ~~—~~as highlighted in the 2013 COT ~~report~~**Report**—~~is~~ provided in **Table 1-2**.

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Population	Unit Number	Isolated Small Size	Sagebrush Elimination	Conversion	Fire	Conifers	Weeds/Annual Grasses	Energy	Mining	Infrastructure	Improper Grazing	Free-Roaming Equids	Recreation	Urbanization	EIS/Plan	
Rich-Morgan-Summit (UT)	9b				Y	Y	Y	Y		Y			Y	Y	UT	
Uintah (UT)	9c				Y	Y	Y	L	Y	Y			Y	Y	UT	
Strawberry Valley (UT)	10a	Y			Y	Y	Y	Y		Y			Y		UT	
Carbon (UT)	10b	Y			Y		Y	Y	Y	Y			Y		UT	
Sheeprock Mountains (UT)	11	Y			Y	L	L	Y	Y	L		Y	L		UT	
Emery (UT)	12	Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			Y		UT	
Greater Parker Mountain (UT)	13a				Y	Y	Y			Y			Y		UT	
Panguitch (UT)	13b			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	L	Y			Y	L	UT	
Bald Hills (UT)	13c	Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	Y	UT
Ibapah (UT)	15a	Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y		UT
Hamlin Valley (UT)	15b	Y			Y	Y	Y			Y			Y	Y		UT
Box Elder (UT)	26b				Y	Y	Y	Y	L	Y	Y		Y			UT

Table 1-2. Threats to GRSG in the Great Basin Region (Utah) as identified by the Conservation Objectives Team (COT; 2013). Threats are characterized as: Y = threat is present and widespread, L = threat present but localized, and U = unknown.

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Population	Unit Number	Isolated Small Size	Sagebrush Elimination	Conversion	Fire	Conifers	Weeds/Annual Grasses	Energy	Mining	Infrastructure	Improper Grazing	Free-Roaming Equids	Recreation	Urbanization	EIS/Plan(s)
N. Great Basin (OR, ID, NV)	26a		L	L	Y	Y	Y	L	L	Y	Y	L	Y	Y	ID/SW MT, OR, NV/CA
Baker (OR)	17	Y	Y	Y	Y	L	Y	L	Y	L	U		L	L	OR
Central Oregon (OR)	28		L	L	Y	Y	Y	L	Y	L	Y	U	L	L	OR
W. Great Basin (OR, CA, NV)	31		L	L	Y	Y	Y	L	L	L	Y	Y	U		OR, NV/CA
Klamath (CA)	29	Y	U	U	Y	Y	Y	L		U	U	U	U	U	NV/CA
Northwest Interior (NV)	14	Y			Y		Y	U	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV/CA
Southern Great Basin (NV)	15c	L	L	L	Y	Y	Y	L	L	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV/CA
Quinn Canyon Range (NV)	16	Y			Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV/CA
Warm Springs Valley (NV)	30	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV/CA
East Central (ID)	18	Y	L	Y	L	Y	L	Y		Y	Y		L		ID/SW MT
Snake-Salmon-Beaverhead (ID)	23		L	L	Y	L	Y	Y		L	Y	Y	L		ID/SW MT
Weiser (ID)	25	Y	L	L	L	L	Y	Y		L	Y		L	L	ID/SW MT
Sawtooth (ID)	27	Y	L		L	U	L			Y	Y		L		ID/SW MT
Southwest Montana (MT)	19-22		L		L	L	Y	L	L	L	Y		L	L	ID/SW MT

Table 1-2. (cont.) Threats to GRSG in the Great Basin Region (OR, CA, NV, ID, SWMT) as identified by the Conservation Objectives Team (COT; 2013). Threats are characterized as: Y = threat is present and widespread, L = threat present but localized, and U = unknown.

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1.4 National Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy

Based on the identified threats to the GRSG, especially inadequate regulatory mechanisms, and the FWS's timeline for making a ~~listing~~ decision on ~~whether to propose~~ this species ~~for listing~~, the BLM recognized the need to incorporate explicit objectives and concrete conservation measures into Resource Management Plans (RMPs) to conserve GRSG habitat and provide robust regulatory mechanisms. In August, 2011, the BLM chartered a ~~strategy plan~~ to revise and amend existing RMPs throughout the range of the GRSG to incorporate management actions intended to conserve, enhance, and restore the species and the habitat on which it depends. Separate planning efforts were initiated to address the conservation needs of the Bi-State population in California and Nevada, and the Washington State distinct population segment.

Comment [SMC10]: Insert footnote: BLM land use plans (LUPs) prepared under the present regulations are generally known as “resource management plans.” See 43 C.F.R. § 1601.0-5(n). Some BLM LUPs, including ones predating the present regulations, are referred to by different names, including “management framework plans.” For purposes of this Record of Decision, we use “LUP” and “RMP” interchangeably to refer to all BLM land use plans.

In light of the 2010 “warranted” determination by the FWS, ~~the recommendations of the BLM NTT~~, and specific conservation measures on federal public lands would be necessary to address the present and anticipated threats to GRSG habitat and to restore habitat where possible. The BLM proposed to incorporate the management direction and conservation measures into the BLM’s land use plans. The goal of incorporating these specific measures into BLM land use plans is to conserve, enhance, and restore GRSG and its habitat and to provide sufficient regulatory certainty such that the need for listing the species under the ESA may be avoided.

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In December 2011, the BLM published a Notice of Intent to prepare EISs and Supplemental EIS to incorporate GRSG Conservation Measures into Land Use Plans (LUPs) across the range of the species. ~~A total of 15 sub-regional planning efforts and associated EISs were initiated to analyze the alternatives developed for each of the plan amendments and revisions across the range of the species.~~[†] ~~Figure 1-5 illustrates the regional and sub-regional planning area boundaries, along with BLM-administered PHMAs and GHMAs across the Western United States.~~

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~~{Insert Figure 1-5 – Regional and Sub-Regional Boundaries with GRSG Habitat Management Areas (BLM-Administered Lands)}~~

The planning efforts associated with the National GRSG Conservation Strategy have been coordinated under two administrative planning regions: the Rocky Mountain Region and the Great Basin Region. The regions were drawn roughly to correspond with the threats identified by ~~USFWS~~FWS in the 2010 listing decision, along with the WAFWA Management Zones (MZs) framework (Stiver et al. 2006). Due to differences in the ecological characteristics of sagebrush across the range of the ~~greater sage-~~

[†]The National GRSG Conservation Strategy consisted of 15 separate EISs. The Bighorn Basin RMP has been split between the two field offices that make up the Bighorn Basin planning area, the Cody Field Office ARMP and the Worland Field Office ARMP. The Billings and Pompeys Pillar National Monument RMP has also been split between the Billings Field Office ARMP and Pompeys Pillar National Monument ARMP. This results in a total of 17 ARMPs and ARMPAs.

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~~grouse~~GRSG, WAFWA delineated seven Management Zones (MZs I-VII) based primarily on floristic provinces. Vegetation found within a ~~MZ~~management zone is similar and ~~sage-grouse~~GRSG and their habitats within these areas are likely to respond similarly to environmental factors and management actions.

The Rocky Mountain Region is comprised of BLM planning efforts (which includes plan revisions and plan amendments) in the states of Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, and portions of Utah. This region falls within WAFWA MZs I (Great Plains), II (Wyoming Basin) and a portion of VII (Colorado Plateau). The Great Basin Region is comprised of planning efforts (plan amendments) in California, Nevada, Oregon, Idaho, and portions of Utah and Montana. ~~This~~That region falls within WAFWA MZs III (Southern Great Basin), IV (Snake River Plain), and V (Northern Great Basin).

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Both the Rocky Mountain and Great Basin regions are further divided into sub-regions. ~~The NEPA EIS analyses were done at the sub-regional level. A total of 15 sub-regional planning efforts and associated EISs were initiated to analyze the alternatives developed for each of the ARMPAs and ARMPs across the range of the species.~~² These sub-regions are based on the identified threats to the GRSG and the WAFWA MZs from the FWS 2010 listing decision with additional detail regarding threats to individual populations and sub-regions from the FWS COT ~~report~~Report. In the Rocky Mountain Region, some sub-regions correspond to BLM field/district office boundaries, specifically for planning efforts that are incorporating GRSG conservation measures through plan revisions that were initiated prior to the start of the National GRSG Conservation Strategy in December 2011. Figure 1-5 illustrates the regional and sub-regional planning area boundaries across the Western United States.

[Insert Figure 1-5 – Regional and Sub-Regional Boundaries with PHMA and GRSG Habitat Management Areas (BLM-Administered Lands)]

The BLM used the best available science, including additional review and analysis from the USGS on specific issues that arose in developing the ARMPAs. Additionally, the BLM considered state GRSG conservation strategies where they existed, as well as ~~state~~State recommendations for measures to conserve GRSG on BLM-administered lands, where relevant, in the planning effort. These are reflected in the approved plans to the extent compatible with GRSG conservation objectives to conserve, enhance and restore GRSG habitat to address the threats identified in the FWS 2010 listing determination and the 2013 COT Report.

² The National GRSG Conservation Strategy consisted of 15 separate EISs. For ease of implementation, the Bighorn Basin RMP has been split between the two field offices that make up the Bighorn Basin planning area, the Cody Field Office ARMP and the Worland Field Office ARMP. The Billings and Pompeys Pillar National Monument RMP has also been split between the Billings Field Office ARMP and Pompeys Pillar National Monument ARMP. This results in a total of 17 ARMPs and ARMPAs.

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1.5 How the Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments Address the Identified Threats to the Conservation of the GRSG

The 2006 WAFWA *Greater Sage Grouse Comprehensive Conservation Strategy* stated goal for management of the GRSG was to “maintain and enhance populations and distribution of GRSG by protecting and improving sagebrush habitats and ecosystems that sustain these populations”. The NTT Report also endorsed this goal “as a guiding philosophy against which management actions and policies of BLM should be weighed”.

In establishing the COT, with the backing of the Sage Grouse Task Force, [the](#) FWS Director ~~Dan Ashe~~ affirmed the commitment to the goal for GRSG conservation originally articulated in the 2006 WAFWA report -- reversing negative population trends and achieving a neutral or positive population trend -- and emphasized the following:

“The Service interprets this recommendation to mean that actions and measures should be put in place now that will eventually arrest what has been a continuing declining trend. Conservation success will be achieved by removing or reducing threats to the species now, such that population trends will eventually be stable or increasing, even if numbers are not restored to historic levels. (WAFWA 2006 Strategy)”

The COT Report emphasized the need to avoid or minimize additional disturbance in GRSG habitat. Specifically, the COT [Report](#) stated, “[m]aintenance of the integrity of PACs ... is the essential foundation for sage-grouse conservation”. To achieve this, the COT [Report](#) recommended “targeted habitat management and restoration” to be achieved by “eliminating activities known to negatively impact sage-grouse and their habitats, or re-designing these activities to achieve the same goal”. The COT [Report](#) emphasized an “avoidance first strategy” and stressed those threats in GRSG habitat “must be minimized to the extent that population trends meet the objectives of the 2006 WAFWA Conservation Strategy.”

The plans were developed to address specific, identified threats to the species in order to conserve GRSG such that the need to list the species under ESA may be avoided. Across ten western States, the Great Basin and Rocky Mountain sub-regional ARMPs/ARMPAs contain land use plan direction on approximately 66 million acres of the remaining habitat for the species (See [Figure 1-5](#)). These plans are the product of extensive coordination between the BLM and the Forest Service and the active engagement of the FWS which informed the BLM and Forest Service land allocation and related management decisions. The plans also benefit from strong collaboration with the states and reflect the unique landscapes, habitats, priorities and approaches in each.

In order to protect the most important GRSG habitat areas, the planning effort began with mapping areas of important habitat across the range of the GRSG. In collaboration with state fish and wildlife agencies, the BLM identified areas as preliminary priority habitat (PPH) and preliminary general habitat (PGH). In Utah, all occupied GRSG habitat was identified as PPH. The draft land use plans used PPH and PGH to analyze the impacts of the decisions the BLM was proposing in the plans. PPH and PGH were identified as Priority Habitat Management Areas (PHMA) and General Habitat Management Areas (GHMA) in the Proposed RMP Amendments/Final EISs to identify the management decisions which apply to those areas

Comment [SJM11]: In both RODs sometimes “see” is capitalized and sometimes lowercase. Pick one for consistency

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(except for Nevada and Utah). The designated GRSG Habitat Management Areas on BLM-administered lands in the decision area include: PHMA, which largely coincide with ~~Priority Areas for Conservation (PACs)~~PACs identified in the COT Report (except for PACs in Nevada and Utah, as specified on page 13 of the COT Report) (See **Figure 1-4**); GHMA; Other Habitat Management Areas (OHMA, applicable only to the Nevada and Northeastern California); and Important Habitat Management Areas (IHMA, applicable only to Idaho). **Table 1-4** identifies surface acres of PHMA, GHMA, OHMA, and IHMA in the decision area for the Great Basin Region.

Habitat maps were based initially on state key habitat maps which identified areas necessary for sage-grouse conservation derived from various data sources including breeding bird density maps and lek counts, nesting areas, sightings, and habitat distribution data including occupied suitable seasonal habitats, nesting and brood rearing areas, and connectivity areas or corridors. This information served as the basis for the development of BLM ~~preliminary priority habitat (PPH)~~ and ~~preliminary general habitat (PGH)~~ maps and, subsequently, for the identification of Priority Habitat Management Areas (PHMAs) and General Habitat Management Areas (~~GHMA~~GHMAs), respectively. The COT also used state key habitat maps as a basis for identifying Priority Areas for Conservation (PACs). The COT report notes that there is substantial overlap between PACs and BLM PPH areas, with the exception of areas in Nevada and Utah [COT Report, p 13]. Figure 1-5 illustrates the regional and sub-regional planning area boundaries, along with BLM-administered PHMA and GHMA across the Western United States.

Comment [JRL13]: Add "s" to GHMA

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PHMA, GHMA, OHMA, and IHMA are defined as follows: The BLM-administered surface and Federal mineral estate of each designation (in acres) in the Decision Area for the Great Basin Region are shown in Tables 1-3.

- **PHMA**— BLM-administered lands identified as having highest habitat value for maintaining sustainable GRSG populations. The boundaries and management strategies for PHMAs are derived from and generally follow the ~~Preliminary Priority Habitat~~PPH boundaries. Areas of PHMAs largely coincide with areas identified as ~~Priority Areas for Conservation (PACs)~~ in the COT report (except for PACs in Nevada and Utah, as specified on page 13 of the COT Report).
- **GHMA**— BLM-administered lands that are occupied ~~seasonal~~seasonally or year-round habitat outside of PHMA where some special management would apply to sustain GRSG populations. The boundaries and management strategies for GHMAs are derived from and generally follow the ~~Preliminary General Habitat~~PGH boundaries.
- **OHMA** —BLM-administered lands in Nevada and Northeastern California, identified as unmapped habitat in the Proposed RMP/EIS that are within the planning area and contain seasonal or connectivity habitat areas. With the generation of updated modeling data (Spatially Explicit Modeling of Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat in Nevada and Northeastern California; Coates et al. 2014,) the areas containing characteristics of unmapped habitat were identified and are now referred to as OHMAs.
- **IHMA** —BLM-administered lands in Idaho that provide a management buffer for PHMAs and connect patches of PHMAs. IHMAs encompasses areas of generally moderate to high- habitat value habitat and/or populations, but that are not as important as PHMAs. These lands serve a critical role in the adaptive management strategy developed by the State of Idaho and adopted in the ARMPA.

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Table 1-3
Surface Acres of PHMA, GHMA, OHMA, and IHMA in the Decision Area for the Great Basin Region

BLM administered surface acres	PHMA	GHMA	OHMA	IHMA
Idaho and Southwestern MT	4,627,200	2,179,700	0	2,737,600
Utah*	2,023,400	502,500	0	0
Oregon	4,547,000	5,660,150	0	0
Nevada and Northeastern CA	9,309,700	5,720,600	5,876,600	0
Total Acres	20,507,300	14,062,950	5,876,600	2,737,600

Source: BLM GIS 2015

*41,200 acres of National Forest System lands in the Anthro Mountain area of Utah would be managed as neither PHMA nor GHMA. These areas would be identified as “Occupied – Anthro Mountain.” In the Utah ARMPA, these areas are considered split-estate, where the BLM administers the mineral estate.

The ARMPAs also identify Sagebrush Focal Areas (SFAs) on a portion of the landscape. SFAs are a subset of PHMAs (see **Figure 1-3** - Great Basin Region Decision Area - Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management Areas). Across the Great Basin Region, there are 8,385,280 acres of BLM administered SFAs. SFAs correspond to the areas identified by the FWS as GRSG “strongholds” and which represent “a subset of priority habitat most vital to the species persistence within which we recommend the strongest levels of protection”.

(<http://www.fws.gov/greaterSageGrouse/documents/ESA%20Process/GRSG%20Strongholds%20memo%20to%20BLM%20and%20USFS%20102714.pdf>).

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SFAs are areas of highest habitat value for GRSG and are managed to avoid new surface disturbance, given that they contain high-quality sagebrush habitat; highest breeding bird densities; have been identified as essential to conservation and persistence of the species; represent a preponderance of current federal ownership and, in some cases, are adjacent to protected areas that serve to anchor the conservation importance of the landscape. SFA management is consistent with the recommendations provided by FWS that these are the areas “where it is most important that the BLM and Forest Service institutionalize the highest degree of protection to help promote persistence of the species.”

~~This tiered habitat management area framework, in associated with the land use plan allocation decisions (explained more fully in Section 1.6.2 of this ROD) in the ARMPs and ARMPAs provide a high degree of certainty that the integrity of PHMAs can be maintained through management decisions to avoid or minimize additional surface disturbance.~~

Remaining habitats in GHMAs and IHMAs (applicable only to BLM-administered lands in Idaho) would be managed consistent with the COT Report recommendation to recognize “that important habitats outside of PACs be conserved to the extent possible”. Thus, land allocations in GHMAs and IHMAs provide for more flexibility for land use activities while minimizing impacts on existing GRSG leks.

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Major components of the -attached ARMPAs that address the specific threats to GRSG and its habitat, as identified in the USFWS 2010 listing decision and 2013 COT Report (many of which were also identified by the BLM’s 2011 NTT Report) are listed and summarized in **Table 1-4**.

This tiered habitat management area framework, associated with the land use plan allocation decisions (explained more fully in Section 1.6.2 of this ROD) in the ARMPs and ARMPAs provides a high degree of certainty that the integrity of PHMAs can be maintained through management decisions to avoid or minimize additional surface disturbance, while recognizing the potential importance of areas outside of PHMAs for maintaining connectivity between highly-important habitats and their potential for addressing seasonal habitat needs (e.g. winter habitat areas not fully incorporated in PHMAs).³

Table 1-4
Key Responses from the Great Basin Region GRSG ARMPAs that Address the COT Report Threats

Threats to GRSG and its Habitat (from COT Report)	Key Management Responses from the Great Basin Region GRSG ARMPAs
All threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implement an Adaptive Management Strategy, which allows for more restrictive management to be implemented if habitat or population hard triggers are met.• Monitor implementation and effectiveness of conservation measures in GRSG habitats in a consistent manner.
All development threats, including	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PHMA: Implement <u>implement</u> an anthropogenic disturbance cap of 3% within the Biologically Significant Unit and proposed project analysis

³ Recently completed analysis by Crist, et al., 2015 highlights the importance of certain key “priority areas” across the species range as well as the importance of connectivity between priority areas as a component of successful GRSG conservation. Generally, these priority areas coincide with PHMAs across the landscape. It is important to note that BLM-administered SFAs also coincide with a number of the areas identified by Crist, et al. as important for maintaining connectivity between the network of conservation areas, essential PHMAs, that are of greatest importance to the integrity of the conservation strategy. In addition, to maintain connectivity between PHMAs across the remaining range, requirements were incorporated into the majority of the ARMPs and ARMPAs for the application of lek buffers, consistent with guidance provided by the USGS; mitigation to a net conservation gain; and the use of required design features for projects in GHMAs, described later in this document. These measures are specifically intended to provide benefits for GRSG in GHMAs that can provide added connectivity and habitat protection consistent with the Crist, et al. findings.

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Comment [JRL14]: The footnote below is important for 2 reasons. It provides an additional rationale for the SFAS and a justification for added habitat protections included in the plans for GHMAs. The edits included here relate specifically to the SFAs and get us beyond the “FWS told us to do it” rationale to one that is based on peer-reviewed science for the more recent USGS studies.

Comment [SS15]: I think the footnote explanation is fine. It will also be important for the agency to have a record showing how it evaluated the USGS studies and why it determined that a supplemental analysis was not warranted.

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Comment [SJM16]: In RM ROD, these are sometimes lower case after a colon. Should be internally consistent and consistent btw RODs. I have not gone through to change them all here. Pls also incorporate other revisions from RM ROD into the table. I also included some periods where those were missing.

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Table 1-4

Key Responses from the Great Basin Region GRSG ARMPAs that Address the COT Report Threats

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Threats to GRSG and its Habitat (from COT Report)	Key Management Responses from the Great Basin Region GRSG ARMPAs
mining, infrastructure, and energy development.	<p>areas in PHMA (slight variations to this management component in the State of Nevada only). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PHMA and IHMA: Apply apply a disturbance density cap of 1 energy and mining facility per 640 acres (except in the State of Nevada). ● IHMA: Implement implement the 3% disturbance cap. Apply Anthropogenic Disturbance Development Criteria- (applicable to Idaho only). ● Apply buffers based on project type and location to address impacts on leks when authorizing actions in GRSG habitat. ● Apply Required Design Features (RDFs) when authorizing actions in GRSG habitat. ● Effects of infrastructure projects, including siting, will be minimized using the best available science, updated as monitoring information on current infrastructure projects becomes available. ● Consider the potential for the development of valid existing rights when authorizing new projects in PHMA. ● When authorizing third-party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation, require and ensure mitigation that provides a net conservation gain to the species. </p>
Energy development—fluid minerals, including geothermal resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PHMA: Open open to fluid mineral leasing subject to a No Surface Occupancy (NSO) stipulation without waiver or modification, and with limited exceptions. In SFAs, a NSO stipulation would be applied without waiver, modification, or exception. In Nevada only, in the portions of the PHMAs outside of SFAs, geothermal projects may be considered for authorization if certain criteria are met. ● IHMA: Open open to fluid mineral leasing subject to NSO stipulation without waiver or modification, and with limited exception- (applicable to Idaho only). ● GHMA: Open open to fluid mineral leasing subject to Controlled Surface Use (CSU) and Timing Limitation (TL) lease stipulations (except in the State of Utah where some portions of GHMA are open with standard lease stipulations). ● Prioritize the leasing and development of fluid mineral resources outside GRSG habitat.
Energy development—wind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PHMA: Exclusion area (not available for wind energy development under any conditions) (except in southeastern counties in the State of Oregon where portions of PHMA are avoidance areas).

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Table 1-4

Key Responses from the Great Basin Region GRSG ARMPAs that Address the COT Report Threats

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Threats to GRSG and its Habitat (from COT Report)	Key Management Responses from the Great Basin Region GRSG ARMPAs
energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IHMA: Avoidance area (may be available for wind energy development with special stipulations) <u>(applicable to Idaho only)</u>. GHMA: Avoidance area (may be available for wind energy development with special stipulations) (except in the States of Utah and Idaho, where these areas are open to wind energy development).
Energy development—solar energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PHMA: Exclusion area (not available for solar energy development under any conditions) (except in southeastern counties in the State of Oregon where portions of PHMA are avoidance areas). IHMA: Avoidance area (may be available for solar energy development with special stipulations) <u>(applicable to Idaho only)</u>. GHMA: Exclusion area (not available for solar energy development under any conditions) (except in the States of Oregon and Montana where these areas are avoidance areas for solar energy development and the State of Idaho, where these areas are open to solar energy development).
Infrastructure—major ROWs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PHMA: Avoidance area (may be available for major ROWs with special stipulations). IHMA: Avoidance area (may be available for major ROWs with special stipulations) <u>(applicable to Idaho only)</u>. GHMA: Avoidance area (may be available for major ROWs with special stipulations) (except in the State of Utah where GHMA is open).
Infrastructure—minor ROWs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PHMA: Avoidance area (may be available for minor ROWs with special stipulations). IHMA: Avoidance area (may be available for minor ROWs with special stipulations) <u>(applicable to Idaho only)</u>.
Mining—locatable minerals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SFA: Recommend withdrawal from the Mining Law of 1872.
Mining—nonenergy leasable minerals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PHMA: Closed area (not available for nonenergy leasable minerals, however, expansion of existing operations could be considered if the disturbance is within the cap and subject to compensatory mitigation).
Mining—salable minerals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PHMA: Closed area (not available for salable minerals) with a limited exception (may remain open to free use permits and expansion of existing active pits if criteria are met).

**Table 1-4
Key Responses from the Great Basin Region GRSG ARMPAs that Address the COT Report Threats**

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Threats to GRSG and its Habitat (from COT Report)	Key Management Responses from the Great Basin Region GRSG ARMPAs
Improper Livestock livestock grazing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize the review and processing of grazing permits/leases in SFAs followed by PHMA. • The NEPA analysis for renewals and modifications of grazing permits/leases will include specific management thresholds, based on the GRSG Habitat Objectives Table, Land Health Standards and ecological site potential, to allow adjustments to grazing that have already been subjected to NEPA analysis. • Prioritize field checks in SFAs followed by PHMA to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of grazing permits.
Free-roaming equid management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize gathers in SFAs, followed by other PHMAs. • Manage Herd Management Areas (HMAs) in GRSG habitat within established Appropriate Management Level (AML) ranges to achieve and maintain GRSG habitat objectives. • Prioritize rangeland health assessment, gathers and population growth suppression techniques, monitoring, and review and adjustment of AMLs and preparation of Herd Management Area Plans in GRSG habitat.
Range management structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow range improvements which do not impact GRSG, or which provide a conservation benefit to GRSG such as fences for protecting important seasonal habitats. • Remove livestock ponds built in perennial channels that are negatively impacting riparian habitats. Do not permit new ones to be built in these areas.
Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PHMA and IHMA: Do not construct new recreation facilities unless required for health and safety purposes or if the construction will result in a net conservation gain to the species. • Allow special recreation permits only if their effects on GRSG and its habitat are neutral or result in a net conservation gain. • PHMA &and GHMA: OHV use limited to existing routes (routes to be designated through future travel management planning). The Utah ARMPA does retain two areas as open to OHV use in PHMA.
Fire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and prioritize areas that are vulnerable to wildfires and prescribe actions important for GRSG protection. • Restrict the use of prescribed fire for fuel treatments. • Prioritize post-fire treatments in SFAs, other PHMAs, IHMAs, and GHMAs.

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**Table 1-4
Key Responses from the Great Basin Region GRSG ARMPAs that Address the COT Report Threats**

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Threats to GRSG and its Habitat (from COT Report)	Key Management Responses from the Great Basin Region GRSG ARMPAs
Nonnative, invasive plant species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve GRSG habitat by treating annual grasses. Treat sites in PHMA, IHMA, and GHMA that contain invasive species infestations through an integrated pest management approach.
Sagebrush removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PHMA: Maintain maintain all lands capable of producing sagebrush (but no less than 70%) with a minimum of 15 percent sagebrush canopy cover, consistent with specific ecological site conditions. All BLM use authorizations will contain terms and conditions regarding the actions needed to meet or progress toward meeting the habitat objectives for GRSG.
Pinyon and/or juniper expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove conifers encroaching into sagebrush habitats, prioritizing occupied GRSG habitat, in a manner that considers tribal cultural values.
Agricultural conversion and exurban development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GRSG habitat will be retained in federal management unless: (1) the agency can demonstrate that disposal (including exchanges) of the lands will provide a net conservation gain to the Greater Sage-Grouse or (2) the agency can demonstrate that the disposal (including exchanges) of the lands will have no direct or indirect adverse impact on conservation of the Greater Sage-Grouse-GRSG.

1.6 Key Components of the BLM Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Strategy

The ARMPAs were developed to meet the purpose and need to conserve, enhance, and restore GRSG and their habitat by eliminating or minimizing threats to GRSG habitat identified in the 2010 listing decision and highlighted in the “background and purpose” section of the COT ~~report~~ Report. Consequently, consistent with guidance contained in the COT and NTT Reports, four essential components of the GRSG conservation strategy were identified: (1) avoiding or minimizing new and additional surface disturbances, (2) improving habitat conditions, (3) reducing threats of rangeland fire to GRSG and sagebrush habitat in the Great Basin, and (4) monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of conservation measures and implementing adaptive management as needed.

The land allocations and management actions included in the ARMPAs incorporate these components and are summarized below.

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1.6.1 Avoid and Minimize Surface Disturbance

Land Allocations and Habitat Protection/Surface Disturbance Measures

The four Great Basin ARMPAs build on the designated habitat management areas described in **Section 1.5** by applying management actions to these areas to avoid and minimize disturbance associated with proposed projects as described below and shown in **Table 1.4**. Land use plan allocations specify locations within the planning area that are available or unavailable for certain uses and also prioritize conservation and restoration management actions applied to habitat management areas.

The COT Report states that “maintenance of the integrity of PACs ... is the essential foundation for sage-grouse conservation” (COT, p 36). Areas of PHMA largely coincide with areas identified as PACs in the COT report. While surface disturbance associated with development in the Great Basin is not as significant a threat to GRSG and its habitat as rangeland fire and invasive species,, the BLM ARMPAs include land allocations and management actions that avoid and minimize surface disturbance in PHMA for identified threats (e.g., energy, mining, infrastructure, improper grazing, free-roaming equids, recreation and urbanization). These land allocations and management actions are necessary because the location and extent of habitat loss to fire is difficult to predict and much of the habitat due to low precipitation in the Great Basin is difficult to restore once lost. Further, even a small amount of development in the wrong place could have an outsized impact in these landscapes.

SFA: The most restrictive allocations include requirements to avoid and minimize additional disturbance in SFAs, which are a subset of **PHMA, where surface lands within PHMA, with the highest habitat value for GRSG. Surface** disturbance from fluid mineral development is avoided by NSO without waiver, modification, or exception. In addition, these areas will be recommended for withdrawal to address the risk of disturbance due to mining.

PHMA: In PHMAs outside of SFAs new fluid mineral leasing would be subject to NSO with no waivers or modifications. Exceptions would be granted only if the proposed action would not have direct, indirect, or cumulative effects on GRSG or its habitat; or, if the action is proposed to be undertaken as an alternative to a similar action occurring on a nearby parcel, and would provide a clear conservation gain to GRSG. This is fully consistent with guidance in the NTT report which states, “Do not allow new surface occupancy on federal lands within priority habitats” (NTT, p. 23).

Similarly, PHMA is closed to non-energy and salable mineral development (this does not apply to locatable minerals governed under the 1872 Mining Law). An exception may be granted for free-use permits and the expansion of existing active pits for salable minerals and expansion of existing non-energy leasable development under certain conditions. This exception is included because of the importance of these materials to local communities and their limited disturbance which will be offset by the mitigation requirements. Because there is no potential for coal development in the Great Basin Region outside of Utah, only the Utah ARMPA addresses the potential disturbance threat from coal development. In Utah, at the time an application for a new coal lease or lease modification is submitted to the BLM, the BLM will determine whether the lease application area is "unsuitable" for

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all or certain coal mining methods pursuant to 43 CFR 3461.5. PHMA is essential habitat for maintaining GRSG for purposes of the suitability criteria set forth at 43 CFR 3461.5(o)(1).

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All PHMAs will be managed as exclusion areas for commercial renewable energy development (solar and wind) with the exception of areas outside of SFAs in three counties in southeastern Oregon. The three counties in Oregon will be managed as avoidance areas, ~~however, with~~ priority ~~would be~~ placed on locating commercial scale wind and solar energy development in non-habitat areas first (i.e., outside of PHMA and GHMA) before approving development in PHMA. New rights-of-ways and development for transmission lines, pipelines, and related infrastructure would be avoided through restrictions on land use authorizations. In avoidance areas, exceptions would only be granted if it can be demonstrated that adverse impacts will be avoided or that residual impacts will be mitigated.

High voltage transmission lines will be avoided in PHMA. ~~However, the planning, siting, and environmental review of a~~ limited number of priority transmission lines (Transwest Express and portions (that are co-located with Transwest Express) of Gateway South, Gateway West and Boardman to Hemingway), ~~which have been underway for several years and are deemed critical~~ proposed to ~~expanding~~expand access to renewable sources of energy and to ~~improving~~improve the reliability of the western grid, ~~will proceed through NEPA analysis of these proposed lines.~~ ~~These projects have been underway for several years, and are currently being analyzed~~ under separate authorization processes. ~~Conservation~~As part of the decision-making process for those projects, ~~conservation~~ measures for GRSG are being analyzed ~~as part of those in the project-specific~~ NEPA processes, which should achieve a net conservation benefit for GRSG.

~~While restrictions on future development in PHMA are intended to avoid or minimize additional surface disturbance, restrictions on development in GHMA are tailored to allow disturbance but with restrictions to ensure compatibility with GRSG habitat needs. In addition, mitigation to avoid, minimize, and compensate for unavoidable impacts will be required for proposed projects in GHMA.~~

~~New~~Disturbance associated with oil and gas development, for example, is subject to a controlled surface use and timing limitation stipulation rather than an NSO stipulation. (See Table 1-3 for more details on GHMA management decisions.) Any disturbance is subject to mitigation, with the objective of first avoiding and minimizing potential impacts to GRSG or its habitat and then compensating for unavoidable impacts to GRSG or its habitat, to a net conservation gain standard for the species. This is consistent with guidance in the COT Report which states: "Conservation of habitats outside of PACs should include minimization of impacts to sage-grouse and healthy native plant communities. If minimization is not possible due to valid existing rights, mitigation for impacted habitats should occur. . . . If development or vegetation manipulation activities outside of PACs are proposed, the project proponent should work with federal, state or local agencies and interested stakeholders to ensure consistency with sage-grouse habitat needs."²²

~~In addition to allocations that limit disturbance in PHMA and GHMA, the ARMPAs prioritize oil and gas leasing and development outside of identified PHMAs, and GHMAs to further limit future surface disturbance and encourage new development in areas that would not conflict with GRSG. This objective is intended to guide development to lower conflict areas and as such, reduce the time and cost associated with oil and gas leasing development by avoiding sensitive areas, reducing the complexity of~~

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~~environmental review and analysis of potential impacts to sensitive species, and decreases the need for compensatory mitigation.~~

~~Additionally, new~~ recreation facilities would not be authorized in PHMAs, unless the development results in a net conservation gain to the GRSG or its habitat, or, unless required for health and safety purposes.

In PHMA ~~and GHMA~~, travel is limited to existing routes until routes are designated through the implementation travel management planning process. Travel management plans, including route inventories, NEPA analysis, and route designation will be completed in a subsequent public planning processes.

~~In general, all forms of new development in PHMAs and GHMAs would either be closed, excluded, avoided, or developed only if the resultant effect is a net conservation gain to the GRSG or its habitat, ensuring that existing habitat would be protected and providing opportunities, through compensatory mitigation.~~

~~While improper livestock grazing can be a threat to GRSG habitat, grazing is not considered a discrete surface disturbing activity for purposes of monitoring and calculating disturbance. The plans address grazing management for the conservation of GRSG and its habitat and is further described in Section 4.6.2.~~

~~Disturbance Caps, Density Caps, Lek Buffers, and Required Design Features~~

~~In addition to the management actions and allocations discussed above, the ARMPAs provide further assurance that anthropogenic disturbances in PHMAs will be limited through the use of disturbance caps, density caps, and lek buffers.~~

A 3% anthropogenic disturbance cap in PHMA has been established in accordance with the recommendations contained in the NTT Report, and peer-reviewed literature from the Great Basin (Knick 2013). Disturbance will be calculated at two scales: first at a Biologically Significant Unit (BSU) scale determined in coordination with the state and second, for the proposed project area. BSUs are geographic units of PHMA that contain relevant and important GRSG habitat. In Oregon, for example, BSUs are synonymous with PACs. These BSUs are used solely for the calculation of anthropogenic disturbance cap and in some ARMPAs, the adaptive management habitat triggers.

If the 3% anthropogenic disturbance cap is exceeded on lands (regardless of land ownership) within PHMA in any given BSU, no further discrete anthropogenic disturbances (subject to valid existing rights) will be permitted on BLM-managed lands within PHMAs in that BSU until restoration of disturbed lands brings the BSU below the cap. If the 3% anthropogenic disturbance cap is exceeded on all lands (regardless of land ownership) within a proposed project analysis area in a PHMA, then no further

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anthropogenic disturbance will be permitted by BLM until disturbance in the proposed project analysis area has been reduced to maintain the area under the cap.

An exception to the 3% disturbance cap is provided in designated utility corridors for purposes of achieving a net conservation gain to the species. This exception is limited to projects which fulfill the use for which the corridors were designated (e.g., transmission lines and pipelines) within the designated width of a corridor. This exception will concentrate future ROW surface disturbance in areas of existing disturbance and avoid new development of infrastructure corridors in PHMAs consistent with guidance in the COT ~~report~~Report. In addition, the Oregon and Nevada/Northeast California ARMPAs include variations to the disturbance cap: -Oregon does not allow more than 1% new anthropogenic disturbance per decade, not to exceed 3% disturbance at any time. In Nevada, permit exceedances of the 3% disturbance cap at the BSU and/or the project level can occur provided that the outcome results in a net conservation benefit to the species with the concurrence of the BLM, Nevada Department of Wildlife, and FWS in each exception.

In -Southwest Montana (the BLM's Dillon Field Office), the BLM will limit disturbance to 3% until the State of Montana's Sage Grouse Plan's -disturbance calculation methodology is instituted and is in effect at which time disturbance will be permitted up to a 5% cap. This is to recognize, as with the Wyoming Core Area Strategy, the importance of the all-lands-all-disturbances strategy that Montana ~~plans to will~~ institute for sage-grouse conservation.

Appendix E of each of the attached ARMPAs includes additional information about the methodology for calculating anthropogenic disturbance at the BSU and project scales.

[Additional information about the methodology for calculating anthropogenic disturbance can be found in Appendix E of each of the attached ARMPAs.](#)

The ARMPAs also incorporate a cap on the density of energy and mining facilities to encourage co-location of structures to reduce habitat fragmentation in PHMA. The limit is an average of one facility per 640 acres in PHMA in a project authorization area, consistent with guidance contained in the NTT Report. If the disturbance density in the PHMA in a proposed project area is, on average, less than 1 facility per 640 acres, the project can proceed through the NEPA analysis incorporating mitigation measures into an alternative. If the disturbance density in the proposed project area is greater than an average of 1 facility per 640 acres, the proposed project will either be deferred until the density of energy and mining facilities is less than the cap or redesigned so facilities are co-located into an existing disturbed area, subject to applicable laws and regulations, such as the 1872 Mining Law and valid existing rights. The one facility per 640 density decision does not apply to Nevada, as described in **Section 1.7**.

[GHMA: While restrictions on future development in PHMA are intended to avoid or minimize additional surface disturbance, restrictions on development in GHMA are intended to allow disturbance but minimize any adverse effects of disturbance with restrictions on development activities to ensure compatibility with GRSG habitat needs. In addition, mitigation to avoid, minimize, and compensate for unavoidable impacts will be required for proposed projects in GHMA as will the application of required design features discussed below. Disturbance associated with oil and gas development, for example, is](#)

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Comment [SJM23]: Cite relevant MT EO/statute for further support

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subject to a controlled surface use and timing limitation stipulation rather than an NSO stipulation. (See Table 1-4 for more details on GHMA management decisions.) Any disturbance is subject to mitigation, with the objective of first avoiding and minimizing potential impacts to GRSG or its habitat and then compensating for unavoidable impacts to GRSG or its habitat, to a net conservation gain standard for the species. This is consistent with guidance in the COT Report which states: “Conservation of habitats outside of PACs should include minimization of impacts to sage-grouse and healthy native plant communities. If minimization is not possible due to valid existing rights, mitigation for impacted habitats should occur. . . .If development or vegetation manipulation activities outside of PACs are proposed, the project proponent should work with federal, state or local agencies and interested stakeholders to ensure consistency with sage-grouse habitat needs.” These conservation measures are intended to ensure that areas of GHMA that can provide connectivity between PHMAs; may be important seasonal habitats not identified or incorporated into previously mapped areas of PHMA; or can provide important habitat to replace areas of important habitat lost to fire or anthropogenic disturbance are protected. This strategy is particularly important given the recent USGS report by Crist, et al., *Range-Wide Network of Priority Aras for Grater Sage-Grouse – A Design for Conserving Connected Distributions or Isolating Individual Zoos*⁴ . For management decisions and allocations associated with IHMA in Idaho, see Table 1-4.

Habitat Protection/Surface Disturbance Measures in PHMA and GHMA

The following measures related to habitat protect and surface disturbance will be applied in both PHMA and GHMA.

Prioritization Objective: In addition to allocations that limit disturbance in PHMA and GHMA, the ARMPAs prioritize oil and gas leasing and development outside of identified PHMAs and GHMAs to further limit future surface disturbance and encourage new development in areas that would not conflict with GRSG. This objective is intended to guide development to lower conflict areas and as such, reduce the time and cost associated with oil and gas leasing development by avoiding sensitive areas, reducing the complexity of environmental review and analysis of potential impacts to sensitive species, and decreases the need for compensatory mitigation.⁵

Grazing: While improper livestock grazing can be a threat to GRSG habitat, grazing is not considered a discrete surface disturbing activity for purposes of monitoring and calculating disturbance. The plans

Comment [SMC24]: Removing this footnote, per SOL review – this reference is not included in the FEISs and citing it here in a footnote for the first time may cause concern.

⁴ Michele R. Crist, Steven T. Knick, and Steven Hanser. Open-File Report 2015-1158. U.S. Department of the Interior. U.S. Geological Survey.

⁵ It is important to note that independent analysis by LeBeau, Fruhwirth, and Boehrs, 2014 indicated approximately 84% of federal lands and minerals within the PACs have zero to low development potential for oil and gas. This further reinforces the value of encouraging future oil and gas development to areas outside of important habitat areas. (See Lebeau, Fruhwirth, and Boehrs. *Analysis of the Overlap Between Priority Sage-Grouse Habitats and Existing and Potential Oil and Gas Development Across the West*. 2014.)

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address grazing management for the conservation of GRSG and its habitat and is further described in Section 1.6.2.

Lek Buffers: In addition to any other relevant information determined to be appropriate, the BLM will further assess and address impacts from certain activities using the lek buffer-distances as identified in the USGS Report *Conservation Buffer Distance Estimates for GRSG – A Review* (Open File Report 2014-1239). Lek buffer distances will be applied at the project specific level as required conservation measures to address the impacts to leks as identified in the NEPA analysis. The lek buffer distances vary by type of disturbance (road, energy development, infrastructure, etc.) and justifiable departures may be appropriate as fully described in Appendix B of the ARMPAs. In both PHMA and GHMA, impacts should be avoided first by locating the action outside of the applicable lek buffer-distance(s) as defined in the ARMPAs. In PHMA, the BLM will ensure that any impacts within the buffer distance from a lek are fully addressed. In GHMA, the BLM will minimize and compensate for any unavoidable impacts to the extent possible. This approach to determining relevant lek buffer distances is consistent with the COT **Report** recommendation that “conservation plans should be based on the best available science and use local data on threats and ecological conditions.”

Additionally,

Required Design Features (~~the~~ RDFs) are required for certain activities in all GRSG habitat, including oil and gas development, infrastructure, and other surface disturbing activities and are fully described in Appendix C of the attached ARMPAs. RDFs establish the minimum specifications for certain activities to help mitigate adverse impacts to GRSG and its habitat from threats (such as those posed by standing water that can facilitate West Nile virus or tall structures that can serve as perches for predators).

~~However, the~~**The** applicability and overall effectiveness of each RDF, **however**, cannot be fully assessed until the project level ~~when the~~ project location and design are known. Because of site-specific circumstances, some RDFs may not apply to some projects (e.g., a resource is not present on a given site) and/or may require slight variations (e.g., a larger or smaller protective area). In Nevada and Northeastern California, RDFs are also applied to their identified OHMAs.

In summary, all forms of new development in PHMAs and GHMAs would either be closed, excluded, avoided, or developed only if the resultant effect is a net conservation gain to the GRSG or its habitat, ensuring that existing habitat would be protected and providing opportunities, through compensatory mitigation.

1.6.2 Improving Habitat Condition

In addition to prescribing land use allocations and managing resource uses in order to minimize and avoid further surface disturbance, the ARMPAs identify management actions to restore and improve GRSG habitat.

Habitat Management: The ARMPAs contain an overall habitat management objective that ~~“In~~“**[i]**n all Sagebrush Focal Areas and Priority Habitat Management Areas, the desired condition is to maintain

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all lands ecologically capable of producing sagebrush (but no less than 70%) with a minimum of 15% sagebrush canopy cover or as consistent with specific ecological site conditions.” To move toward this goal, the ARMPAs specify GRSG habitat objectives to be incorporated into land management programs, including wild horse and burros, grazing, and habitat restoration. These habitat objectives were developed for each of the GRSG’s life history stages within each ARMPA’s sub-region. These objectives will be used to meet the applicable land health standard in GRSG habitats.

The ARMPAs also include specific decisions to improve habitat conditions and meet the habitat objectives through treatment of invasive annual grasses and the removal of encroaching conifers in SFA, PHMA, and GHMA, and restoration of degraded landscapes, including those impacted by fire events (See **Section 1.6.3**)

Livestock Grazing: The BLM recognizes that improper grazing can be a threat to GRSG and its habitat. Because grazing is the most widespread use of the sagebrush steppe ecosystem, the ARMPAs address improper grazing. The COT Report recommendation for grazing states, “~~Conduct~~“**[c]onduct** grazing management for all ungulates in a manner consistent with local ecological conditions that maintains or restores healthy sagebrush shrub and native perennial grass and forb communities and conserves the essential habitat components for sage- grouse (e.g. shrub cover, nesting cover).” To ensure that grazing continues in a manner consistent with the objective of conserving the GRSG and its habitat, the Great Basin ARMPAs include requirements for the incorporation of terms and conditions informed by GRSG habitat objectives into grazing permits, consistent with the ecological site potential of the local areas, prioritize the review and processing of authorizations and field checks of grazing permits, and take numerous actions to avoid and minimize the impacts of range management structures (see **Table 1-4**).

The BLM will prioritize reviews and processing of grazing authorizations, as well as field checks of grazing permits in the habitat that is most important to GRSG populations: first in SFAs, then PHMAs, followed by GHMA, focusing first on riparian and wet meadows. The decision to prioritize in this way does not indicate that grazing is more of a threat or is an incompatible use in any given area, but rather reflects a decision to prioritize resources to ensure permittees and the BLM manage grazing properly in those areas most important to GRSG. If the BLM finds that relevant habitat objectives are not being met due to improper grazing, the BLM will work with the permittee to ensure progress towards habitat objectives.

Wild Horses and Burros: To address the localized threat due to negative influences of grazing by free-roaming equids (wild horses and burros (WHB)), the BLM will focus on maintaining WHB Herd Management Areas in GRSG habitat within established ~~Appropriate Management Level (AML)~~**AML** ranges to achieve and maintain GRSG habitat objectives, including completing rangeland health assessments, prioritizing gathers and population growth suppression techniques, and developing or amending Herd Management Area (HMA) plans to incorporate GRSG habitat objectives and management considerations. The BLM will prioritize WHB management first in SFAs, then the remainder of PHMA, and then GHMA. In SFAs and PHMA, the BLM will assess and adjust AMLs through the NEPA process within HMAs when WHBs are identified as a significant causal factor in not meeting land health standards, even if current AML is not being exceeded.

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Mitigation and Net Conservation Benefit: During the implementation of the ARMPAs, and, consistent with valid existing rights and applicable law, in authorizing third party actions that result in GRSG habitat loss and degradation, the BLM will require and ensure mitigation that provides a net conservation gain (the actual benefit or gain above baseline conditions) to the species including accounting for any uncertainty associated with the effectiveness of such mitigation. This will be achieved by avoiding, minimizing, and compensating for unavoidable impacts by applying beneficial conservation actions to offset remaining impacts associated with the action. This standard is consistent with the recommendation included in the *Greater Sage-Grouse Range-wide Mitigation Framework: Version 1.0* published by the FWS in September, 2014, which states that mitigation “should be strategically designed to result in net overall positive outcomes for sage-grouse”. Mitigation will follow the regulations from the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) NEPA regulatory requirements (40 CFR 1508.20; e.g., avoid, minimize, and compensate) and be implemented on BLM-managed lands in a manner consistent with Departmental guidance for landscape mitigation pursuant to Secretarial Order 3330. If impacts from BLM management actions and authorized third party actions result in habitat loss and degradation that remain after applying avoidance and minimization measures (i.e. residual impacts), then compensatory mitigation projects will be used to provide a net conservation gain to the species. Any compensatory mitigation will be durable, timely, and in addition to that which would have resulted without the compensatory mitigation.

Comment [26]: Hotlink documents throughout

Comment [27]: Hotlink documents throughout

Here is the link for SO 3330:

<https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/migrated/news/upload/Secretarial-Order-Mitigation.pdf>

To help achieve the mitigation goal of net conservation gain across the range, the BLM will establish GRSG Conservation Teams based on WAFWA Management Zones, including members from the respective states, Forest Service, FWS, and NRCS. These Conservation Teams will facilitate cross-state issues, such as regional mitigation and adaptive management monitoring and response. These Teams will convene and respond to issues at the appropriate scale, and will utilize existing coordination and management structures to the extent possible.

Climate Change: With regard to the threat of climate change, the ARMPAs set goals and objectives and describe actions intended to build resilience in the sagebrush steppe landscape to the impacts of climate change through habitat conservation and restoration measures. The coordinated landscape approach to addressing rangeland fire and invasive species described in the *Integrated Rangeland Fire Management Strategy Final Report to the Secretary of the Interior (May, 2015)* will further these goals and objectives. The Fire and Invasives Assessment Team (FIAT) assessments that informed the ARMPAs and supported the development of the Integrated Rangeland Fire Management Strategy were designed to identify landscapes of high resistance and resilience based on research by Chambers (Chambers et al., 2014b). Additionally, by limiting or eliminating anthropogenic surface disturbance, especially in the SFAs, ensuring the integrity of the PHMAs, and restoring habitat through fuels management, post-fire restoration, and mitigation efforts, connectivity and availability of sagebrush habitat will increase, thus contributing to increased climate resilience. The SFAs in particular, were identified as key areas to conserve as climate changes. The Oregon ARMPA commits to use climate change science concerning projected changes in species ranges and changes in site capability to adjust expected and desired native species compositions as that information becomes available.

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As identified by the FWS 2010 listing decision and the COT ~~report~~Report, climate change can impact efforts to conserve the GRSG and its habitat in a number of ways. While several ARMPAs acknowledge the potential impact of climate change on GRSG habitat and conservation efforts, specific strategies to address the impacts of climate change are limited. The BLM and Forest Service, in coordination with the FWS, will continue to assess the potential impacts of climate change on GRSG and its habitat and will develop strategies to mitigate anticipated effects on GRSG conservation efforts, as necessary and appropriate. Changes to management decisions will require a plan revision or amendment, as appropriate, recognizing the need to ensure that future management direction improves the resilience of habitat areas essential to the conservation of the species.

1.6.3 Reducing Threats of Rangeland Fire to GRSG and Sagebrush Habitat

The COT Report emphasized that “rangeland fire (both lightning-caused and human-caused fire) in sagebrush ecosystems is one of the primary risks to the greater sage-grouse, especially as part of the positive feedback loop between exotic invasive annual grasses and fire frequency”. Recent USGS studies by Brooks, et al. (2015) and Coates, et al. (2015) reinforce the importance of a comprehensive management strategy to prevent and suppress rangeland fires in the western part of the range of the GRSG, and to act aggressively to restore habitat areas impacted by fire.

For this reason, the ARMPAs seek to ~~fight the spread of cheatgrass and other invasive species, position wildland fire management resources for more effective rangeland fire response, and improve efforts to strategically develop fuel breaks in collaboration with sage-grouse biologists to reduce potential habitat loss from rangeland fires.~~ accelerate the restoration of fire-impacted landscapes to native grasses and sagebrush. Prescribed, and fight the spread of cheatgrass and other invasive species that increase the frequency and intensity of rangeland fires. However, prescribed fire will not be used in sagebrush steppe except under the following conditions: the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan provides a clear rationale for why alternative techniques were not selected as a viable option, how GRSG habitat management goals and objectives would be met by its use, how the COT Report objectives would be addressed and met, and a risk assessment is prepared to address how potential threats to GRSG habitat would be minimized.

~~The cornerstone of the FIAT protocol is recent~~Recent scientific research on resistance and resilience of Great Basin ecosystems (Chambers, et al., 2014b). ~~The final FIAT process report was completed in June 2014 by the Fire and Invasive Assessment Team.)~~ provides the basis for improved targeting of fire management activities on BLM lands. The BLM, the Forest Service, FWS, and other cooperating agencies agreed to incorporate this approach into the ARMPAs. This information is being used to identify and design projects to change vegetation composition and/or structure to modify potential fire behavior for the purpose of improving fire suppression effectiveness and limiting fire spread and intensity due to invasive grasses and conifer encroachment. The BLM *Greater Sage Grouse Invasive Annual Grasses & Conifer Expansion Assessment* (FIAT 2014) modeled conifer expansion for PACs to provide an initial stratification to determine where conifer removal would benefit important sagebrush habitats.

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Consistent with this assessment, the BLM ARMPAs include management actions to remove invading conifers and other undesirable species, and prioritize vegetation treatments ~~closest to occupied GRSG habitats and near occupied leks.~~ Through guidance in the ARMPAs supplemented by the *Integrated Rangeland Fire Management Strategy*, a commitment has been made to address the invasion and expansion of cheatgrass, medusa head, and other invasive grasses through expanded efforts to treat impacted acres and to accelerate and expand efforts to restore lands impacted by fire with native grasses and sagebrush seedlings. Efforts are underway to increase the acreages to be treated with chemical and biological agents to kill and stem the spread of invasive species and to accelerate the registration of other biologicals useful in addressing the threat of cheatgrass invasion ~~for this purpose closest to occupied GRSG habitats and near occupied leks.~~

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In addition to and complementing the fire management measures in the ARMPAs described in this ROD, Secretarial Order (SO) 3336 on Rangeland Fire made clear that “**protecting, conserving, and restoring the health of the sagebrush-steppe ecosystem and, in particular, priority GRSG habitat, while maintaining safe and efficient operations, is a critical fire management priority for the Department**” (emphasis added). ~~The strategy~~SO 3336 directed the development of the *Integrated Rangeland Fire Management Strategy (Strategy)* which places a Departmental priority on activities to prevent, suppress, and restore fire-impacted landscapes, ~~which are with a focus on priority GRSG habitat, including those~~ identified by the ~~Fire and Invasives Assessment Tool (FIAT)~~ for the Great Basin Region, using recent information derived from a report prepared by WAFWA to assist in addressing the threat of rangeland fire. The FIAT Assessments provide ~~a list of findings, recommendations, and considerations, critical guidance~~ to protect, maintain, and enhance GRSG habitat. ~~The Assessments also apply recent, consistent with best available~~ science and identify highly resistant and resilient landscapes to target fire management activities to these most important lands. ~~In addition~~A key element of the Strategy is a commitment to address the invasion and expansion of cheatgrass, medusahead rye, and other invasive grasses through expanded efforts to treat impacted acres. Efforts are underway to increase the acreages to be treated with chemical and biological agents to kill and stem the spread of invasive species and to accelerate the registration of other biologicals useful in addressing the threat of cheatgrass invasion. In addition, recently adopted Departmental guidance will allocate Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Rehabilitation (ES&BAR) funds on a risk-based approach using historic acres burned to accelerate and expand efforts to restore lands impacted by fire with native grasses and sagebrush seedlings. The BLM recently announced a Native Seed Strategy to accelerate and expand efforts to produce, store, and allocate native seed for native vegetation and sagebrush to restore and rehabilitate burned areas to accelerate efforts to improve the health of the sagebrush ecosystem and habitat for greater sage-grouse.

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Finally, through the issuance of a Leaders’ Intent letter, signed by the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior, rangeland fire was identified as an “additional priority” for the firefighting community in making strategic decisions with regard to the allocation of resources for firefighting in 2015. Additional resources have been allocated and will be targeted to fuel treatments (including invasive species control), suppression (through the repositioning of fire-fighting resources and the training of additional Rangeland Fire Protection Associations, local volunteer firefighters, and veteran fire fighters), and habitat restoration in these areas. Firefighting assets (aircraft, firefighters and related equipment) ~~will be located near areas of high priority for rangeland fire,~~ were repositioned in advance of the 2015 fire season to improve capacity to reduce acres of rangelands lost to fire by improving the success of initial attack. In future years, BLM firefighting assets will be located near PHMAs to limit habitat losses due to rangeland fire.

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1.6.4 Monitoring, Evaluation, and Adaptive Management

The COT Report noted that “a monitoring program is necessary to track the success of conservation plans and proactive conservation activities. Without this information, the actual benefit of conservation activities cannot be measured and there is no capacity to adapt if current management actions are determined to be ineffective.” The NTT further notes that “Monitoring is necessary to provide an objective appraisal of the effects of potentially positive conservation actions, and to assess the relative negative effects of management actions to sage-grouse populations and their habitats.”

A rangewide monitoring and evaluation framework will be established and implemented as described in the Monitoring Framework (Appendix D of each attached ARMPA). This monitoring strategy has two parts: (1) implementation monitoring (i.e., are decisions being implemented in a timely manner, are actions taken consistent with the plan decisions), and (2) effectiveness monitoring (i.e., are the decisions and implementation actions achieving the desired conservation goals). Through effectiveness monitoring, BLM can determine how management decisions and actions implemented through the ARMPAs affect GRSG habitat to determine if the desired management objectives (e.g. avoiding and minimizing additional surface disturbance in PHMAs) have been achieved. Understanding the effectiveness and validating results of ARMPA management decisions is an essential part of the GRSG conservation strategy and provides the means for determining if desired outcomes are being achieved.

Monitoring that is applicable for evaluating management effectiveness can also be used to address a number of other critical habitat variables (e.g., location, condition, habitat loss or gain, size of patches, etc.). Ideally, monitoring attributes of GRSG habitat, in coordination with population monitoring by state wildlife agencies and other partners, will allow linking real or potential habitat changes (from both natural events and management actions) to vital rates of GRSG populations. This analysis will enable managers to identify indicators associated with population change across large landscapes and to ameliorate negative effects with appropriate conservation actions. The WAFWA Zone GRSG Conservation Teams (as described in Section 1.6.2) will also be used to advise regional monitoring strategies and data analysis as described in the plans.

Each ARMPA includes an overarching adaptive management strategy that includes soft and hard triggers and responses. These triggers are habitat and population thresholds and are based on the two key metrics that are being monitored - habitat condition and/or population numbers. At a minimum, the BLM will assess annually whether hard and soft trigger thresholds have been met when the population or habitat information becomes available, beginning after the issuance or signature of this ROD.

Soft triggers represent an intermediate threshold indicating that management changes are needed at the implementation level to address habitat or population losses. If a soft trigger is tripped during the life of

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the ARMPAs, the BLM will implement more conservative or restrictive conservation measures on a project-by-project basis to mitigate for the specific causal factor in the decline of populations and/or habitats, with consideration of local knowledge and conditions. In each ARMPA, a soft trigger begins a dialogue between the state, FWS, and the BLM to see if the causal factor can be determined and what implementation-level activities can be used to reverse any trend. These adjustments will be made to preclude tripping a “hard” trigger (which signals more severe habitat loss or population declines).

Hard triggers represent a threshold indicating that immediate action is necessary to stop a severe deviation from GRSG conservation objectives set forth in the BLM ARMPAs. In the event that a hard trigger is tripped, the BLM will implement plan-level decisions, such as allocation changes, to immediately institute greater protection for GRSG and its habitat. If a hard trigger is tripped in a PAC that crosses state boundaries, the WAFWA Management Zone GRSG Conservation Team will convene to discuss causes and identify potential responses.

In the event that new scientific information becomes available demonstrating that the hard trigger response is insufficient to stop a severe deviation from GRSG conservation objectives set forth in the BLM ARMPAs, the BLM will immediately assess what further actions may be needed to protect GRSG and its habitat and ensure that conservation options are not foreclosed. This could include a formal directive such as an Instruction Memorandum (IM) or a plan amendment.

1.7 Unique Aspects of the Great Basin ARMPAs

The ~~ARMPs and~~ ARMPAs and their associated EISs were developed through four planning efforts across the Great Basin Region (as described in Section 1.1). To develop these plans, the BLM employed a landscape-scale approach to achieve a common set of management objectives across the range of GRSG recognizing, in particular, implementing measures to limit anthropogenic disturbance in important habitats. Within this framework, management actions were developed and incorporated into the plans that are tailored to achieve these objectives and accommodate differences in resource conditions, severity of threats, and state-specific management approaches.

This flexible landscape approach provided the opportunity to incorporate recommendations resulting from collaboration with the states and local cooperators as well as public comments in each planning area. The plans and their future implementation are strengthened by the contributions of local partners and their knowledge, expertise, and experience.

Measures incorporated into the plans remain consistent with the range-wide objective of conserving, enhancing, and restoring GRSG habitat by reducing, eliminating, or minimizing threats to GRSG habitat, such that the need for additional protections under the ESA may be avoided.

Below is a brief description of the unique aspects of each of the Great Basin Region’s ARMPAs.

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Idaho and Southwestern Montana

The Idaho and Southwestern Montana ARMPA adopted specific aspects of the State of Idaho’s Conservation Plan for GRSG. The most significant aspect adopted from the State’s plan is a third category of habitat referred to as Important Habitat Management Areas (IHMA). IHMA are BLM-administered and National Forest System lands that provide a management buffer for PHMA and connect patches of PHMA. IHMA encompasses areas of generally moderate to high conservation value habitat and/or populations. In a landscape that is most threatened by fire and invasive species, this three-tiered approach allows land managers to focus suppression and restoration resources on those areas of highest importance while providing an acceptable additional level of flexibility in IHMA and GHMA since surface disturbance due to development is not as great a threat to habitat in the sub-region. The three tiers also serve as the foundation for an adaptive management approaches that includes habitat and population hard and soft triggers. The adaptive management approach requires that when a hard trigger is reached, IHMA will be managed as PHMA to maintain sufficient PHMA to support GRSG populations.

The Idaho portion of the Idaho and Southwestern Montana GRSG ARMPA also includes a unique approach to calculating disturbance to account for effective habitat, as described in Appendix E of the attached Idaho and Southwestern Montana ARMPA, which was developed by the BLM in concert with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Forest Service, and FWS. The Idaho and Southwestern Montana ARMPA also includes additional Required Design Features (RDFs) based on lek avoidance distances, which were developed in coordination with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the local FWS office. Examples include avoiding building new wire fences within 2 km of occupied leks and placing new, taller structures out of line of sight or at least one kilometer from occupied leks. The BLM will also work with the ~~state~~State of Idaho in setting priorities for the review and processing of grazing permits/leases in SFAs consistent with the methodology recommended by the State of Idaho in its proposed plan for the management of BLM-administered lands in the state.

On August 7, 2015, the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and Jerry Peak Wilderness Act (H.R. 1138) was signed into law. In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 *et seq.*), certain Federal lands in the Challis National Forest and Challis District of the Bureau of Land Management in the State of Idaho, were designated as ~~wilderness~~Wilderness, as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, known as the Jim McClure-Jerry Peak Wilderness. Approximately 12,430 acres of this ~~wilderness area fall~~Wilderness Area is within BLM-administered PHMA, which is all SFA. This area will now also be managed as Wilderness consistent with the Wilderness Act. As specified in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and Jerry Peak Wilderness Act, a wilderness management plan will be developed within 5-years of the signing of the Act and it will outline specific management guidance for the new wilderness area.

This ~~bH~~Act also released the Jerry Peak West, Corral-Horse Basin, and Boulder Creek Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) and they are no longer subject to management pursuant to Section 603(c) of the FLPMA. The acres ~~of WSAs~~released as WSAs include approximately 71,194 acres of PHMA, 11,923 acres of IHMA, and 5,912 acres of GHMA. The ARMPA decisions for these areas will not change as a result of the release.

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Finally the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and Jerry Peak Wilderness Act also directed the BLM to convey certain public lands to Blaine County, Custer County, the City of Challis, the City of Clayton, and the City of Stanley. These conveyances include approximately 53 acres of PHMA, 10 acres of IHMA, and 828 acres of GHMA that are reflected in the ARMPA as being administered by the BLM. Once conveyed, ~~the BLM will adjust the maps and acres as they appear in the ARMPA through plan maintenance to depict that~~ these lands ~~are~~will not ~~be~~ subject to the ~~BLM~~ management decisions outlined in the Idaho and Southwestern Montana GRSG ARMPA.

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The decisions affecting Southwestern Montana in the ARMPA ~~are~~ consistent with the objectives of the Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program (Montana Office of the Governor Executive Order No. 10-2014) by establishing conservation measures and strategies to minimize disturbance and habitat loss, particularly as a result of surface disturbance from energy exploration and development. The BLM plan will permit the disturbance limit to go from a 3% to a 5% disturbance cap, consistent with the Montana Plan when the process for implementing their disturbance calculation methodology is instituted and effective. Additionally, if the BLM finds that the State of Montana is implementing an effective GRSG habitat conservation program, the BLM would review their management actions to determine if additional ~~sage grouse~~GRSG related management actions should be adjusted with coordination from the State of Montana and the FWS to achieve consistent and effective conservation across all lands, regardless of ownership.

Nevada and Northeastern California

The Nevada portion of the Nevada and Northeastern California ARMPA is unique from other Great Basin ARMPAs because of how the sub-regional habitat map was developed. The ARPMA uses the “2014 Coates Maps”, developed locally using the best available science, and included “Other Habitat Management Areas”, where ~~required design features~~Required Design Features will be applied at the project level. Decisions for BLM-administered lands in the State of California include allocations and management direction that is generally similar to other ARMPAs in the Great Basin, while carrying forward some decisions identified in the Sage Steppe Ecosystem Restoration FEIS (BLM 2008).

Decisions for BLM-administered lands in the State of Nevada incorporate key elements of the State of Nevada Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan (State of Nevada 2014) including consideration of the State of Nevada Conservation Credit System (Nevada Natural Heritage Program and Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team 2014) as the ARMPA is implemented and as projects are proposed within the planning area. This mitigation strategy focuses restoration efforts in the key areas most valuable to the GRSG. The ARMPA adopts a Disturbance Management Protocol (DMP) to provide for a 3% limitation on disturbance, except in situations where a biological analysis indicates a net conservation gain to the species, with concurrence from the BLM, State of Nevada, and FWS. The plan provides for this exception due to the development of mitigation tools in Nevada, including the Conservation Credit System, in collaboration with the FWS. Furthermore, given the concurrence of the Nevada Department of Wildlife and FWS in each exception, this approach is consistent with conservation objectives. ~~The Disturbance Management Protocol in BLM administered lands in Nevada was also deemed sufficient such that the~~The Nevada ARMPA does not utilize a disturbance density cap, ~~which is~~ required in the

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three other Great Basin Region ARMPAs-- in light of the Disturbance Management Protocol in BLM-administered lands in Nevada.

In coordination with the FWS, the Nevada ARMPA also allows for an exception to the geothermal NSO which is an energy development priority for the ~~state~~State and is projected to create very limited disturbance in predictable areas over the life of the plan. For those reasons, this exception is consistent with overall conservation objectives.

Utah

The Utah ARMPA incorporates a number of key strategies for GRSG conservation developed by the State of Utah (Conservation Plan for Greater Sage-Grouse in Utah) and the State of Wyoming (Executive Orders 2011-05 and 2013-3), which establishes conservation measures for protecting GRSG and also focuses conservation and restoration within key areas deemed most valuable to GRSG. The Utah ARMPA also integrates the state’s strategic focus on increasing areas available to GRSG through vegetation treatments and reducing threats from wildfire. The ARMPA provides additional flexibility for development in GHMA because 96% of the breeding GRSG in Utah are within PHMAs where conservation measures are applied in a more targeted manner at the project-implementation stage through the use of lek buffers and required design features as well as requiring that compensatory mitigation achieve a net conservation benefit outcome. As such, the Utah ARMPA designates GHMA as open to wind energy and high voltage transmission ROW development (consistent with the net-conservation-gain mitigation framework for the ARMPA). The Utah ARMPA also designates GHMA open to oil and gas development with standard constraints.

Because there is no potential for coal development in the Great Basin Region outside of Utah, only the Utah ARMPA addresses this threat.

Oregon

The Oregon ARMPA incorporates key elements of the Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy for Oregon: A Plan to Maintain and Enhance Populations and Habitat (Hagen 2011) which establishes unique conservation measures for protecting GRSG and also focuses restoration within key areas most valuable to GRSG. The BLM plan adopts the unique disturbance cap approach developed with the State of Oregon in which disturbance is capped at 1% per decade, in addition to the 3% cap in BSUs and project analysis areas.

The BLM Oregon plans provide additional flexibility for wind development in PHMA in Harney, Lake, and Malheur counties by allowing allocating them as avoidance areas (rather than exclusion areas) within PHMAs that are outside of the SFAs. In Harney, Lake and Malheur counties, priority would be placed on locating commercial scale wind and solar energy development in non-habitat areas first (i.e., outside of PHMA and GHMA) before approving development in PHMA. The BLM provided this flexibility after recognizing the extent of high and medium potential wind areas in these counties that is in PHMAs, the fact that wind energy is excluded in SFAs in these counties, and, after coordination with the ~~USEFWS~~FWS, determining that the more rigorous disturbance cap (in which disturbance is capped at 1%

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per decade) and adaptive management triggers adopted by the Oregon plan would compensate for the limited wind development likely to occur in these areas. ~~In addition, the plan encourages development of wind energy ROWs outside of PHMA first, or in non-habitat areas within PHMA, before development is permitted in higher value habitat areas.~~ Due to these factors, the BLM finds these limited areas of flexibility for wind development are ~~not inconsistent~~consistent with overall conservation objectives of the plan. In addition, the Oregon ARMPA identifies strategic areas where habitat enhancement and restoration activities are encouraged, as well as other strategic areas to address the impacts associated with climate change.

For additional information regarding the unique aspects of each plan, refer to Table 1-6 of the attached Idaho and Southwestern Montana, Nevada and Northeastern California, Oregon, and Utah ARMPAs, which provides a crosswalk regarding how the ARMPAs address specific threats to GRSG identified in the COT Report through these state-specific management prescriptions.

1.8 Decision Rationale

The ARMPAs provide a comprehensive, coordinated, and effective conservation strategy for addressing the threats identified by the FWS such that the need for additional protections under the ESA may be avoided. The ARMPAs contain objectives which strive to conserve the GRSG and its habitat on BLM-administered lands across the remaining range of the species consistent with measures identified or recommended in the NTT ~~or COT reports~~Report, COT Report, recent USGS studies, and other relevant research and analysis.

In combination with the sage-grouse GRSG conservation actions taken by the individual states within the remaining range of the species and ~~separate but connected~~ initiatives to address the threat of rangeland fire to curb the spread of non-native invasive grasses, and to promote conservation measures to benefit the Greater sage-grouse on private lands, the BLM and Forest Service proposed ARMPAs are an essential component of the effort to conserve the GRSG and its habitat. Combined, all of the ARMPAs associated with the BLM’s National GRSG Conservation Strategy would affect approximately 66 million acres of the remaining habitat for the species.

The BLM Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Strategy is built upon the following key concepts:

- **Landscape-level:** The planning effort encompasses the remaining habitat of the GRSG on BLM-administered public lands, covering 10 western states in the Great Basin and Rocky Mountain regions. As such, the strategy provides a coherent framework across the BLM RMPs to implement landscape-level conservation for GRSG while allowing for flexibility essential to effectively address threats to the GRSG in the context of the agency’s multiple use and sustained yield mandates under FLPMA. The conservation measures included as part of this landscape - level conservation effort address identified threats to the species, recognizing local ecological

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conditions, and incorporating existing conservation efforts where they are consistent with the overall objective of conserving GRSG across its remaining range.

- **Best Available Science** – The ARMPAs are grounded in the best available science, drawn from published literature and input from recognized experts, state agencies, the [US Geological Survey](#) [USGS](#), the FWS and other sources. The COT Report provided a “blueprint” for GRSG conservation by identifying specific threats to each remaining GRSG population and recommending measures to address each category of threat. The BLM National Technical Team (NTT) Report provided additional guidance for addressing the most significant threats to the GRSG. [A series of subsequent reports prepared by the USGS regarding specific threats to Greater sage-grouse, habitat connectivity, and related issues are reflected in the land allocation and resource management decisions. In addition, a series of reports on how to improve efforts to reduce the threats of rangeland fire and invasive species prepared in collaboration with the WAFWA, as well as a report to the Secretary of the Interior entitled “An Integrated Rangeland Fire Management Strategy” also informed the GRSG conservation.](#)
- **Targeted, Multi-Tiered Approach** – The ARMPAs were designed to incorporate a layered management approach to target habitat protection and restoration efforts to the most important habitat management areas as determined by state and federal sage grouse experts, largely consistent with the [Priority Areas for Conservation \(PACs\)](#) [PACs](#) identified in the COT Report, where land allocations and management direction avoid and minimize additional surface disturbance. These areas are designated as Priority Habitat Management Areas (PHMAs). Within PHMA, the ARMPAs/ARMPs provide an added level of protection to eliminate most surface disturbance through the delineation of Sagebrush Focal Areas (SFA), derived from areas identified by the FWS as “strongholds” essential for the species’ survival. General Habitat Management Areas (GHMAs), recognize the potential value of habitat areas outside of PACs -- as recommended by the COT [Report](#) -- where surface disturbance is minimized while providing greater flexibility for other land resource uses.
- **Coordinated:** The ARMPAs were developed through a joint planning process between the BLM and the Forest Service (as a cooperating agency). As a result, federally-administered lands essential to the conservation of the GRSG are managed in a coordinated manner. The FWS provided guidance and input throughout the process to aid land managers in understanding the threats to the GRSG and its habitat. The USGS and NRCS also provided key technical and scientific support.
- **Collaborative:** The ARMPAs reflected extensive input from the relevant states, collaborators, and stakeholders and the public from the outset. The ARMPAs were developed with the benefit of input from the individual states and cooperators who signed formal agreements with the BLM to provide input into the planning process. The Western Governors Association Sage Grouse Task Force (SGTF) was particularly useful in facilitating this kind of collaborative input. The ARMPAs incorporate state and local conservation measures where they are consistent with the

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overall objective of implementing land use plan conservation measures for the GRSG consistent with the multiple-use and sustained-yield mission of the BLM.

The conservation measures in the ARMPAs reflect over a decade of research, analysis and recommendations for GRSG conservation including those produced by the WAFWA, the NTT, and the COT. Each of these entities produced a strategy or report that was developed through a collaborative effort of state and federal biologists and scientists with extensive experience and expertise in GRSG management and research.

The COT Report –which identified threats to GRSG habitat as well as the most important habitat to protect–provided an important framework for development of the conservation strategy embodied in the sub-regional ARMPAs. The COT, consisting of state and federal scientists, wildlife biologists, resource managers, and policy advisors, was tasked by the Director of the FWS “with development of range-wide conservation objectives for the sage-grouse to define the degree to which threats need to be reduced or ameliorated to conserve sage-grouse so that it is no longer in danger of extinction or likely to become in danger of extinction in the foreseeable future.”

In addition, the **Fire and Invasives Assessment Team (FIAT) Report** and the USGS compilation and summary of published scientific studies that evaluate the influence of anthropogenic activities and infrastructure on GRSG populations -- *Conservation Buffer Distance Estimates for Greater Sage-Grouse—A Review* ([Manier et al. 2014](#)), and the *Integrated Rangeland Fire Management Strategy: Final report to the Secretary* ([Manier et al. 2014](#); DOI 2015b) provided important guidance in the development of critical aspects of the proposed ARMPAs/ARMPs and the overall GRSG landscape-level conservation strategy. Beyond these range-wide reports, each of the sub-regional plans used local science, where available, to tailor plan elements to reflect local ecological conditions, threats, and GRSG **management** experience where consistent with the overall GRSG **management conservation** objectives.

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The BLM ARMPAs are the product of extensive coordination, including the active engagement of the FWS in helping to inform land allocation and related management decisions by the land management agencies to ensure they limit or eliminate new surface disturbance as well as improve habitat condition in the most important habitat areas. The ARMPAs/ARMPs also benefit from strong collaboration with the states and reflect the unique landscapes, habitats, approaches, and priorities in each. While the effort to incorporate state-developed conservation measures in each of the sub-regional plans has added complexity in developing the overall conservation strategy, the body of local knowledge and expertise regarding conservation measures for the GRSG is extensive and, ultimately, strengthened the plans. Incorporating these measures in the plans is also likely to increase the commitment of all partners to the **difficult** task of implementing the plans upon completion.

In his transmittal letter accompanying the final COT report, **the** FWS Director **Dan Ashe** reaffirmed his charge, “I asked the team to produce a recommendation regarding the degree to which threats need to be reduced or ameliorated to conserve the greater sage-grouse so that it would no longer be in danger of extinction or likely to become in danger of extinction in the foreseeable future. . . . Conservation success will be achieved by removing or reducing threats to the species now, such that population trends will eventually be stable or increasing, even if numbers are not restored to historic levels.”

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The ARMPAs are designed to directly address the specific threats to the species identified by the FWS in its 2010 listing determination as more fully explained in the COT Report, and the ~~BLM~~NTT Report. As previously noted, the COT Report stated, “Maintenance of the integrity of PACs ... is the essential foundation for sage-grouse conservation.” Specifically, the COT ~~Report~~ recommended “targeted habitat management and restoration” to be achieved by “eliminating activities known to negatively impact sage-grouse and their habitats, or re-designing these activities to achieve the same goal”. The COT further recommended an “avoidance first strategy” and stressed that “threats in PACs must be minimized to the extent that population trends meet the objectives of the 2006 WAFWA Conservation Strategy.”

In order to address the identified threats and meet the recommendations of the COT ~~Report~~, the plans are based first on the identification of important habitat areas for GRSG in which the plans protect remaining habitat and target habitat restoration and improvement actions. Specifically, the plans identify PHMA which align closely with PACs identified in the COT Report (except for PACs in Nevada and Utah, as specified on page 13 of the COT Report). Within PHMA, the plans identify SFAs based on the FWS analysis of strongholds for the species based on population density, habitat integrity, and resilience to climate change among other factors. The SFAs serve as a landscape-level anchor for the conservation strategy and are closed or excluded from discretionary surface disturbances. SFAs are also used to prioritize fire protection, habitat restoration, and other habitat management actions (e.g., prioritizing reductions in wild horse and burro populations to achieve AML). This approach will allow the BLM to target limited resources to those areas identified by the FWS (~~and reinforced by recent USGS analysis~~) which are most important to long-term ~~sagebrush~~ ecosystem health and species persistence.

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PHMA and GHMA boundaries are based on ~~Preliminary Priority Habitat (PPH)~~ and ~~Preliminary General Habitat (PGH)~~ (except in Utah, where PPH was derived from occupied habitat). Consistent with BLM’s Instruction Memorandum 2012-044, PPH and PGH are based on data and maps developed through a collaborative effort between the BLM and the respective state wildlife agency. PPH and PGH (PHMA and GHMA in the Final EISs and now the ARMPAs) were developed using the best available data. Criteria for delineating PPH included breeding bird density (Doherty 2010), sage grouse proportionality, density of leks, and key seasonal habitats, such as known winter concentration areas. PGH (now GHMA) are areas of occupied seasonal, connectivity, or year-round habitat outside of PPH.

~~Allocations~~As discussed in Section 1.6, ~~allocations~~ and management actions are targeted to habitat management areas to limit or eliminate surface disturbance. All forms of new development in PHMA – from energy, to transmission lines, to recreation facilities and grazing structures are excluded, avoided, or allowed only if the resultant effect is neutral or beneficial to the GRSG. ~~In all instances, whether in PHMA or GHMA, any adverse impacts associated with development would have to be compensated with habitat protection or restoration activities that produce a net conservation benefit for the GRSG.~~The ARMPAs/ARMPs will also prioritize future oil and gas leasing and development outside of identified GRSG habitat management areas (i.e., SFAs, PHMAs, and GHMAs) to reduce the potential for future conflict with GRSG.

~~In addition, the~~The ARMPs and ARMPAs include ~~additional~~ measures to limit surface disturbance in PHMA through the establishment of disturbance limits or “caps” and density restrictions (~~except in Nevada~~) of on average 1 energy facility per 640 acres, as well as lek buffers. These requirements reflect recommendations contained in the NTT Report and are consistent with certain state strategies that were already in place before the initiation of the BLM’s National GRSG Conservation Strategy. As described

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in Section 1.6.1, BLM determined the appropriate lek buffers to analyze based on the USGS report *Conservation Buffer Distance Estimates for GRSG – A Review* (Manier et al, 2014) based on best available science.

The plans also include actions meant to improve habitat condition to the most important areas for conservation through additional, targeted efforts to protect and restore habitat first in SFAs, then in PHMAs, and finally in areas designated as GHMAs.

Mitigation for activities adversely impacting GRSG or GRSG habitat in PHMA or GHMA will be designed to a net conservation gain standard consistent with the recommendation included in the September 2013 FWS document, *Greater Sage-Grouse Range-Wide Mitigation Framework*. According to the authors, the Framework was prepared ...

“to communicate some of the factors the Service is likely to consider in evaluating the efficacy of mitigation practices and programs in reducing threats to GRSG. The recommendations provided here are consistent with the information and conservation objectives provided in the 2013 Conservation Objectives Team (COT) Report for sage-grouse”.

Grazing, which is the most widespread use of the sagebrush ecosystem, will continue in a manner consistent with the objective of conserving the GRSG. Land health standards will incorporate GRSG habitat objectives and vegetative management objectives consistent with the ecological potential of the landscape as recommended by the COT to ...

“Conduct grazing management for all ungulates in a manner consistent with local ecological conditions that maintains or restores healthy sagebrush shrub and native perennial grass and forb communities and conserves the essential habitat components for GRSG (e.g. shrub cover, nesting cover).”

The ARMPAs also address the adverse impacts of free-roaming equids (wild horses and burros) on GRSG habitat by prioritizing gathers and removal of wild horses and burros to achieve AMLs in SFAs, PHMAs, and GHMAs (in that order). The BLM has been working with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct new research of methods to reduce wild horse and burro reproduction rates. Through a combination of targeted gathers and the development of an effective agent for controlling future free-roaming equid reproductive rates, over time, this threat to GRSG may be effectively managed.

Since the interaction of fire and invasive species represents the greatestprimary threat to GRSG survival in the Great Basin region, the ARMPAs provide specific guidance for improving efforts to reduce the risk of GRSG habitat loss to wildfire, including fire prevention and the restoration of habitats impacted by fire. The Department took a series of actions over 2014 and 2015 to develop a more complete and

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comprehensive strategy for dealing with this threat that led to Secretarial Order (S.O.) 3336 and subsequent report, *An Integrated Rangeland Fire Management Strategy: Final Report to the Secretary of the Interior*.

http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/rangeland/documents/IntegratedRangelandFireManagementStrategy_FinalReportMay2015.pdf

In accordance with the S.O. and subsequent rangeland fire management strategy, substantial changes in policy and management direction affecting all aspects of the rangeland fire management program have been and will be made to enhance BLM’s ability to manage the threat of rangeland fire – from better coordination between resource managers and fire management officers; to the identification and prioritization of prevention, suppression, and restoration efforts in SFAs, PHMAs, and GHMAs; to the commitment of additional equipment and crews for rangeland firefighting; to additional funding and policy direction to improve post-fire restoration; to the completion of an initiative to collect, store, and better utilize native seed and sagebrush in post-fire restoration of sagebrush steppe ecosystems. This effort, and the initiative to fight the spread of non-native invasive species that contributes to higher rangeland fire risk (e.g., cheatgrass) discussed below, has fundamentally changed how rangeland fire is managed to benefit sagebrush ecosystems and GRSG habitat.

The COT report – and other more recent research and analysis – amplify concern for the contribution of cheatgrass and other invasive annual species to the loss of GRSG habitat associated with increased fire frequency and intensity. Work initiated by the WAFWA and based on recent research by Chambers (Chambers et al, 2014b) led to the development of the ~~Fire and Invasives Assessment Tool (FIAT)~~FIAT and a subsequent assessment that identified areas of resistance and resilience to fire within SFAs, PHMAs, and GHMAs. Through use of the FIAT Assessment/Tool, land managers can more efficiently allocate and use fire resources at initial attack, to stop fire early and prevent catastrophic habitat loss as well as target restoration to those areas important to the species where success is more likely. The BLM is also committed to and accelerating the registration and use of chemical and biological agents to stem the spread of cheatgrass and other invasive annual species.

Even prior to completion of the FIAT assessment, BLM shifted funding for fuels management to protect landscapes of importance to the GRSG. Under the FY2014 Omnibus Appropriation, BLM prioritized the funding of treatments and activities within each state that benefit GRSG (See **Figure 1-6**).

~~In addition, the Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI) launched by the Natural Resources Conservation Service in 2010 also contributes to the effort to protect and restore important GRSG habitat. In collaboration with the states and private landowners on private lands, as well as with the BLM and USFS on federally-administered public lands, NRCS has worked to reduce the encroachment of pinyon-juniper trees and restore rangeland habitat on private and BLM-administered lands.~~

~~[Insert Figure 1-6. FY 2015 FIAT Priority Project Planning Areas with Focus on Invasive Annual Grasses and Conifer Expansion Assessments.]~~

To further supplement these efforts, among other things, the Department has recently committed \$7.5 million to projects in GRSG habitat to create more resilient landscapes and BLM has allocated \$12 million to increase firefighting resources aimed at stopping fires while they are small in the Great Basin. ~~The~~In addition, the Department has ~~identified required approved~~ policy changes to increase the

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Comment [JRL40]: EMSI: Be sure to refer to the Secretarial Order as “S.O.” where referenced previously.

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commitment, flexibility and time frame for use of Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Restoration/Rehabilitation (ES & BAR) funding. Through adoption of a risk-based approach using a rolling average of the acres lost to fire during the previous five fire seasons, ES & BAR funding will be allocated to the BLM to permit and increased focus on the restoration of priority sagebrush-steppe habitats impacted by fire.

In addition, the Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI) launched by the NRCS in 2010 also contributes to the effort to protect and restore important GRSG habitat. In collaboration with the states and private landowners on private lands, as well as with the BLM and the Forest Service on federally-administered public lands, NRCS has worked to reduce the encroachment of pinyon-juniper trees and restore rangeland habitat on private and BLM-administered lands.

Consistent with recommendations contained in the 2006 WAFWA *Greater Sage-Grouse Range-wide Conservation Strategy*, the BLM and Forest Service conservation strategy places heavy reliance on monitoring and evaluation to assess the success and effectiveness of implementing the management decisions in the ARMPAs. Monitoring plans will be developed in coordination with relevant state and federal agencies and will incorporate evaluation of GRSG population trends by the states and changes in habitat condition by the federal land management agencies. As the WAFWA report states ...

Monitoring provides the “currency” necessary to evaluate management decisions and to assess progress or problems. Adequate monitoring should be considered an integral and inseparable component of all management actions, and ~~there~~therefore, not optional. Lack of proper monitoring will undoubtedly hinder this large-scale conservation effort.

In addition, the ARMPAs incorporate an adaptive management framework that provides an “early warning system” of “soft triggers” to alert resource managers to the need to evaluate the effectiveness of their management strategies should changes in population levels or habitat conditions occur. If the project-level management responses to soft triggers do not adequately address the causes for population or habitat declines and “hard triggers” are reached, the ARMPAs identify measures that will be put in place, including plan-level responses, in an effort to reverse the declines.

In summary, the ARMPAs emphasize an “avoidance first” strategy consistent with the recommendations in the COT Report by limiting new disturbance and maintaining current intact GRSG habitat. This avoidance first strategy is accomplished through identification of important GRSG habitat areas and then applying allocations that exclude or avoid surface disturbing activities, appropriately managing grazing, and aggressively suppressing fire that could degrade or fragment remaining GRSG habitat. The plans also include decisions to restore degraded habitat, which although more difficult and requiring a longer time frame, are important to the long-term conservation of GRSG. Restoration decisions include specific habitat objectives, and a priority on treating GRSG habitat for invasive species, particularly cheatgrass, and encroaching pinyon and juniper. These decisions are reinforced by ~~Secretarial Order~~S. O. 3336 and the *Integrated Rangeland Fire Management Strategy* as well as NRCS’ Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI) investments in private landowners’ conservation efforts. This strategy reflects a high level of commitment by federal partners to conserve the GRSG and its habitat. ~~These~~The actions on ~~over~~ half federal lands, which constitute nearly two-thirds of the most important lands for GRSG conservation.

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will ~~serve as an~~ anchor and complement the significant actions being taken by state and local governments as well as private landowners to conserve the species and its habitat.

The landscape-level strategy consisting of new conservation actions that will go into effect through the BLM ARMPAs as well as actions being implemented currently to conserve the species, reflect a significant change in management direction and philosophy for ~~both resource management agencies, the BLM~~ since 2010 and a long-term commitment to assure the conservation of the species consistent with the objectives set in the 2006 WAFWA conservation strategy and embraced by both the NTT and the COT.

This change represents a new paradigm in managing the sagebrush landscape for the BLM and amplifies the need for collaboration among federal, state, tribal, and private partners to conserve the GRSG consistent with direction articulated in the NTT report:

“Land uses, habitat treatments, and anthropogenic disturbances will need to be managed below ~~threshold~~thresholds necessary to conserve not only local sage-grouse populations, but sagebrush communities and landscapes as well. Management priorities will need to be shifted and balanced to maximize benefits to sage grouse habitats and populations in priority habitats. Adequacy of management adjustments will be measured by science-based effectiveness monitoring of the biological response of sagebrush landscapes and populations. Ultimately, success will be measured by the maintenance and enhancement of sage-grouse populations well into the future.”

The conservation benefits to the sagebrush ecosystem and GRSG habitats resulting from the BLM ARMPs and ARMPAs provide an essential foundation for conserving the GRSG which, in conjunction with the amended Forest Service ~~LRMPs, Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMPs)~~, affect nearly two-thirds of GRSG habitat across the remaining range of the species. In conjunction with similar conservation efforts by other federal and state agencies, private landowners, and local partners, the BLM National GRSG Conservation Strategy constitutes an historic conservation effort that will benefit more than 350 species and the sagebrush ecosystem upon which they depend. It is through these landscape-level, science-based collaborative efforts to conserve the imperiled sagebrush ecosystem that conservation of the GRSG and other sagebrush obligate species can best be achieved and the listing of the GRSG under the ESA may be avoided.

1.9 Implementation

Future management decisions made in conformance with the ARMPAs ~~serve to continuously and actively implement its provisions. Decisions presented as Management Decisions~~ can be characterized as *immediate* or *one-time future* decisions.

Immediate Decisions: These decisions are the lands use planning decisions that go into effect upon signature of the ROD. These include goals, objectives, allowable uses and management direction, such as the allocation of lands as open or closed for saleable mineral sales, lands open with stipulations for oil and gas leasing, and OHV area designations. These decisions require no additional analysis and guide future

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Comment [HMS42]: EMPSI, fyi for the footnote cite, this comes from p. 6-7 of the NTT Report

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land management actions and subsequent site specific implementation decisions in the planning area. Proposals for future actions such as oil and gas leasing, land adjustments, and other allocation-based actions will be reviewed against these land use plan decisions to determine if the proposal is in conformance with the plan.

One-Time Future Decisions: These types of decisions include those that are not implemented until additional decision-making and site-specific analysis is completed. Examples are implementation of the recommendations to withdraw lands from locatable mineral entry or development of travel management plans. Future one-time decisions require additional analysis and decision-making and are prioritized as part of the BLM budget process. Priorities for implementation of "one-time" RMP decisions will be based on several criteria, including:

- ~~Current and projected resource needs and demands,~~
- ~~Relative importance of the action to the efficacy of the GRSG conservation strategy,~~
- National BLM management direction ~~regarding plan implementation,~~ and
- Available resources.

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Comment [JRL43]: STRIKE this bullet. This will be read to mean that resource demands and needs come before conservation. Glad to discuss, but this sounds like business as usual despite all the effort and priority placed on GRSG conservation by these plans.!!!

General Implementation Schedule of "One-Time" Decisions: Future Decisions discussed in the attached ARMPAs will be implemented over a period of years depending on budget and staff availability.

~~After~~After issuing the ROD, BLM will prepare implementation plans that establish tentative timeframes for completion of "one-time" decisions identified in these ~~ARMPs and ARMPAs~~ ARMPAs. These actions require additional site specific decision-making and analysis.

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This schedule will assist BLM managers and staff in preparing budget requests and in scheduling work. However, the proposed schedule must be considered tentative and will be affected by future funding, ~~changing program priorities,~~ non-discretionary workloads, and cooperation by partners and external publics. Yearly review of the plan will provide consistent tracking of accomplishments and provide information that can be used to develop annual budget requests to continue implementation.

Comment [JRL45]: This will be misinterpreted to mean that a shift in priorities – e.g., by a future administration – will override the commitments made in these plans. Not a way to communicate "regulatory certainty".

1.9.1 Additional Implementation Guidance and Considerations

Instructional Memoranda – Additional instruction and management direction will be necessary to implement certain land allocation decisions and direction included in the ARMPAs. For example, additional guidance will be provided to clarify how the Bureau will implement the objective of prioritizing future oil and gas leasing and development outside of GRSG habitat. Instructional Memoranda (IM) and related guidance will be completed by the BLM-Washington office. The BLM ~~intends to~~shall complete IMs for the following management direction, ~~with the intent of completing these IMs~~ within 90 days of the RODs: oil and gas leasing and development prioritization and livestock grazing. Other IMs, including, monitoring, and mitigation, will be developed as necessary. Issuance of this national guidance will supersede any related national and field level guidance currently in effect. Additional national, state and field level guidance will be developed as necessary to implement the decisions in the plans.

Comment [HMS46]: Note that this is still under discussion, between saying:

"The BLM will complete IMs for..."

Vs

"The BLM intends to complete IMs for..."

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~~Map Adjustment~~ ~~and~~ ~~GRSG Seasonal Habitats~~ ~~and Connectivity~~ – PHMA was designed to include breeding bird density, sage-grouse proportionality, density of leks, and key seasonal habitats, such as known winter concentration areas, and GHMA was designed to include the areas of occupied seasonal, connectivity, or year-round habitat outside of PHMA. As additional important habitats are identified, ~~(e.g., winter habitat and key connectivity areas)~~, the BLM will map, and incorporate these habitats for GRSG, consistent with best available science, through subsequent plan ~~revisions~~ ~~maintenance~~ ~~revision~~ or ~~amendments~~ ~~amendment~~, as appropriate. Priority should be given to ensuring that wintering habitat is identified and captured in all changes in habitat maps subsequent to this decision. In the interim, the BLM will use the existing maps for all decisions.

Continued Commitment to Research and Use of Best Available Science: Through implementation of this strategy, new management issues and questions are likely to arise that may warrant additional guidance and/or study by technical experts, scientists, and researchers. The BLM is committed to continue to work with individuals and institutions with expertise in relevant fields in order to ensure that land and resource management affecting conservation of the GRSG and the sagebrush ecosystem continues to be guided by sound, peer-reviewed research and the best available science.

Training -- Given the nature and complexity of the management direction in these ARMPAs, the BLM, in collaboration with the Forest Service and the FWS, will develop and implement a schedule of trainings for key functions, actions, and decisions associated with these plans. In this manner, the BLM will seek to better inform its personnel, partners, cooperators, and stakeholders of the changes in management that will result from this new management paradigm.

2. DECISION

2.1 Summary of the Approved Management Decisions

The decision is hereby made to approve the Great Basin Region Greater Sage-Grouse ARMPAs for the Great Basin Region Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Idaho and Southwestern Montana, Nevada and Northeastern California, Oregon, and Utah (attachments 1 through 4). This ROD serves as the final decision establishing the land use plan amendment decisions outlined in the ARMPAs and is effective on the date it is signed.

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The decisions included in this ROD and attached ARMPAs amend the land use plans described in ~~Sections 1.3~~ of attachments 1 through 4.

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The land use decisions conserve, enhance, and restore GRSG and their habitat by reducing, eliminating, or minimizing threats to GRSG habitat. Land use plan decisions are expressed as goals and objectives (desired outcomes), and allocations, allowable uses, and management decisions anticipated to achieve desired outcomes. Although decisions identified in the ARMPAs are final and effective upon signing of this ROD, ~~they generally require additional~~ implementation ~~decision of on-the-ground activities requires~~

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additional steps before any on-the-ground activities can begin. Subsequent NEPA analysis will be conducted, as necessary, for such implementation decisions.

2.2 What the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments Provide

The ARMPAs include GRSG and GRSG habitat land use plan level management decisions in the form of:

- Goals
- Objectives (Desired Future Conditions)
- Land Use Allocations and Allowable Uses
- Management Actions

Goals are the broad statements of desired outcomes, and are usually not quantifiable.

Objectives are specific desired conditions, usually quantifiable and measurable, and may have timeframes for achievement.

Land use allocations specify locations within the planning area that are available or not available for certain uses and are also used to prioritize conservation and restoration management actions. These include decisions such as what lands are available for livestock grazing, mineral material use, oil and gas leasing, and locatable mineral development, what lands may be available for disposal via exchange and/or sale, and what lands are open, closed, or limited to motorized travel (~~please note that all~~All acreages presented in the Approved Plan are estimations even when presented to the nearest acre).

Management decisions/actions include those provisions that help in meeting the established goals and objectives and include measures that will be applied to guide day-to-day activities on public lands, including but not limited to stipulations, guidelines, best management practices (BMPs), and required design features.

The ARMPAs' management decisions were crafted to incorporate conservation measures into LUPs to conserve, enhance, and restore GRSG habitat by reducing, eliminating, or minimizing identified threats to GRSG and their habitats (see **Section 1.3**).

The EISs conducted for the Idaho and Southwestern Montana, Nevada and Northeastern California, and Utah Amendments sufficiently disclose and analyze all environmental issues associated with mineral leasing –on USFS Forest Service administered lands, should consent be provided by or consultation be required with the USFS Forest Service prior to issuance of a lease, in compliance with applicable mineral leasing and NEPA regulations, and subject to further site-specific environmental analysis where applicable.

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2.3 What the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments Do Not Provide

The attached ARMPAs do not contain decisions for public lands outside of GRSG habitat management areas, except for land use plan level travel management area decisions in the Idaho and Southwestern Montana ARMPA.

The ARMPAs and ARMPs do not violate valid existing rights.

The ARMPAs do not contain decisions for the mineral estates that ~~is~~are not administered by the BLM. ARMPA decisions for surface estate only apply to BLM managed lands. In addition, many decisions are not appropriate at this level of planning and are not included in the ROD. Examples of these types of decisions include:

- *Statutory requirements.* The decision will not change the BLM's responsibility to comply with applicable laws, rules, and regulations.
- *National policy.* The decision will not change BLM's obligation to conform to current or future National policy.
- *Funding levels and budget allocations.* These are determined annually at the National level and are beyond the control of the State/District of Field offices.

Implementation decisions (or activity-level decisions) are management actions tied to a specific location. Implementation decisions generally constitute the BLM's final approval allowing on-the-ground actions to proceed and require appropriate site-specific planning and NEPA analysis. Such decisions may be incorporated into implementation plans (activity or project plans) or may exist as stand-alone decisions. These ARMPAs do not contain implementation decisions. Future activity-level plans will address the implementation of the ARMPAs. Implementation decisions and management actions that require additional site-specific project planning, as funding becomes available, will require further environmental analysis.

2.4 Modifications and Clarifications

The ARMPAs in the Great Basin Region include minor modifications and clarifications to the Proposed RMPs and RMP Amendments. These minor modifications and clarifications were made as a result of internal reviews, response to protests, and recommendations provided to the BLM during the Governors' consistency review. These modifications and clarifications are hereby adopted by this ROD.

The following modifications/clarifications were made to all of the ARMPAs in the Great Basin Region.

- ARMPA Formatting: The plans were reformatted between the Proposed RMPA and ARMPA planning stages for consistency across the Great Basin Region; the order of management actions

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and the prefixes for the goals, objectives, and management actions were changed in the ARMPAs to provide consistency among the amendments and revisions for GRSG goals and objectives.

- U.S. Forest Service References (applicable only to the Idaho and Southwestern Montana, Nevada and Northeastern California, and Utah ARMPAs): All references to National Forest System lands in both text and on maps have been removed from the ARMPAs. The U.S. Forest Service has completed at two separate ROD/RODs and Land and Resource Management Plan Amendment/Amendments under their planning authorities.
- Fire: Management actions/decisions were modified to stress that the protection of human life is the single, overriding priority for fire and fuels management activities.
- Livestock Grazing: The following statement, “This does not apply to or impact grazing preference transfers, which are addressed in 43 CFR 4110.2-3,” was added to the management action/decision which reads, “At the time a permittee or lessee voluntarily relinquishes a permit or lease, the BLM will consider whether the public lands where that permitted use was authorized should remain available for livestock grazing or be used for other resource management objectives, such as reserve common allotments or fire breaks.”
- Glossary: Numerous glossary definitions were deleted due to the fact that the terms were not used/referenced in the ARMPAs. If not already contained in the Proposed RMPAs’ glossary, the following terms and definitions were added to the glossary for clarification:
 - Grazing Relinquishment: the voluntary and permanent surrender by an existing permittee or lessee, (with concurrence of any base property lienholder(s)), of their priority (preference) to use a livestock forage allocation on public land as well as their permission to use this forage. Relinquishments do not require the consent or approval by BLM. The BLM’s receipt of a relinquishment is not a decision to close areas to livestock grazing.
 - Transfer of Grazing Preference: the BLM’s approval of an application to transfer grazing preference from one party to another or from one base property to another, or both. Grazing preference means a superior or priority position against others for the purposes of receiving a grazing permit or lease. This priority is attached to base property owned or controlled by the permittee or lessee.
 - Valid Existing Right: Documented, legal rights or interests in the land that allow a person or entity to use said land for a specific purpose and that are still in effect. Such rights include but are not limited to fee title ownership, mineral rights, ~~rights of way~~ ROWS, easements, permits, and licenses. Such rights may have been reserved, acquired, leased, granted, permitted, or otherwise authorized over time.
 - Mining Claim: A parcel of land that a miner takes and holds for mining purposes, having acquired the right of possession by complying with the 1872 Mining Law and local laws and rules. A mining claim may contain as many adjoining locations as the locator may make or buy. There are four categories of mining claims: lode, placer, millsite, and tunnel site.
 - Energy or Mining Facility: Human constructed assets designed and created to serve a particular function and to afford a particular convenience or service that is

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affixed to a specific locations, such as oil and gas well pads and associated infrastructure.

- GRSG Habitat Mapping: Information was added to the ARMPAs to specify that when new information becomes available about GRSG habitat, including seasonal habitats, in coordination with the state wildlife agency and FWS, and based on best available scientific information, the BLM may revise the GRSG habitat management area maps and associated management decisions through plan maintenance or plan amendment/revision, as appropriate.
- Adaptive Management: The Greater Sage-Grouse Adaptive Management Strategy was revised to include a commitment that the hard and soft trigger data will be evaluated as soon as it becomes available after the signing of the ROD and then at a minimum, analyzed annually thereafter.
- Vegetation: The desired condition for maintaining a minimum of 70% of lands capable of producing sagebrush with 10 to 30% sagebrush canopy cover in SFAs and PHMAs was modified to read as follows: “In all Sagebrush Focal Areas and Priority Habitat Management Areas, the desired condition is to maintain all lands ecologically capable of producing sagebrush (but no less than 70%) with a minimum of 15% sagebrush canopy cover or as consistent with specific ecological site conditions. The attributes necessary to sustain these habitats are described in Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health (BLM Tech Ref 1734-6).”
- GRSG Habitat Objectives: For clarification purposes, within each of the ARMPA GRSG Habitat Objectives Tables, native bunchgrasses was provided as an example of a perennial grass cover and the inclusion of residual grasses was added to the perennial grass cover and height objective.
- Sagebrush Focal Areas: Examples of the types of vegetation and conservation actions that will be prioritized within SFAs were provided for clarity in the management action/decision. These examples include land health assessments and wild horse and burro management and habitat restoration actions.
- Required Design Features: One of the criteria for demonstrating that a variation to an RDF is warranted was modified to include the following statement, “An alternative RDF, a state-implemented conservation measure or plan-level protection is determined to provide equal or better protection for GRSG or its habitat.”
- Lands and Realty: The following management actions/decisions and objectives were ~~clarified~~clarified:
 - Effects of infrastructure projects, including siting, will be minimized using the best available science, updated as monitoring information on current infrastructure projects becomes available.
 - Within existing designated utility corridors, the 3% disturbance cap may be exceeded at the project scale if the site specific NEPA analysis indicates that a net conservation gain to the species will be achieved. This exception is limited to projects which fulfill the use for which the corridors were designated (~~ex.g.~~, transmission lines, pipelines) and the designated width of a corridor will not be exceeded as a result of any project co-location.
- Land Tenure: Management action associated with land disposals was clarified to include land exchanges as a means of disposal.
- WAFWA GRSG Conservation Team. Additional clarification was added to ARMPAs related to the WAFWA GRSG Conservation Teams that were identified in the Proposed RMPAs:

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“WAFWA management zones will be used to facilitate cross-state issues, such as regional mitigation and adaptive management monitoring and response, through WAFWA GRSG Conservation Teams (Teams). These Teams will convene and respond to issues at the appropriate scale, and will utilize existing coordination and management structures to the extent possible.”

- **Cheatgrass:** The following management action was included consistent with the purpose and need and objectives of the ARMPAs: “Treat areas that contain cheatgrass and other invasive or noxious species to minimize competition and favor establishment of desired species.”
- **Valid Existing Rights:** The following management action was added to the ARMPAs and ARMPAs: “Consider the potential for the development of not-yet-constructed valid existing rights of surface disturbing activities as defined in Table 2 of the Monitoring Framework prior to authorizing new projects in PHMA.”

Additional modifications and clarifications specific to each sub-region ARMPA are summarized below.

2.4.1 Idaho and Southwestern Montana

General Changes

- All exception language that was in the FEIS in various places was grouped into a stipulation appendix and added ~~it~~ to the ARMPA as Appendix G Stipulations.
- Appendix G Anthropogenic Disturbance and Adaptive Management from the Proposed RMPA, which is now Appendix E in the ARMPA was modified to delete the reference to Tables 2 to 7. Tables 2 to 7 were deleted from the FEIS Appendix G before it was made available to the public for protest, but the reference was not deleted in text of the Appendix. This discrepancy was identified during protest resolution and by the Governor during the Governor’s Consistency Review. These values will be calculated after the signing of the ROD (see Adaptive Management below).
- Many editorial changes including, deleting repeated numbers, spelling errors, etc., were made when finalizing the ARMPA.
 - On August 7, 2015, President Barack Obama signed into law the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and Jerry Peak Wilderness Act (H.R. 1138). In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), certain Federal lands in the Challis National Forest and Challis District of the Bureau of Land Management in the State of Idaho, comprising approximately 116,898 acres, were designated as wilderness, as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, known as the Jim McClure-Jerry Peak Wilderness. This bill also released the Jerry Peak West, Corral-Horse Basin, and Boulder Creek Wilderness Study Areas and they are no longer subject to section 603(c) of the FLPMA. ~~In accordance with~~ Finally the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and Public Purposes Jerry Peak Wilderness Act, this law also conveyed directed the BLM to convey certain public lands to Blaine County, Custer County, the City of Challis, the City of Clayton, and the City of Stanley. ~~The new wilderness area, the release~~ These conveyances include approximately 53 acres of the WSAs PHMA, 10 acres of IHMA, and the lands 828 acres of GHMA that were conveyed

Comment [SJM48]: Change if going lower case for this term

Comment [mem49]: EMPSi – please address throughout.

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~~by this law were not within the decision area of~~ are reflected in the ARMPA as being administered by the BLM. Once conveyed, the BLM will adjust the maps and acres as they appear in the ARMPA through plan maintenance to depict that these lands are not subject to the BLM management decisions outlined in the Idaho and Southwestern Montana ARMPA, therefore, no changes to the ARMPA have been made as a result of the passage of this law.GRSG ARMPA

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Special Status Species

- Deleted the Seasonal Timing Restrictions from Appendix C FEIS to reduce redundancy because these restrictions were already in the Required Design Features Appendix.

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Renewable Energy

- ~~Managed Decision RE-2 was modified to include the statement, “In Harney, Lake and Malheur counties, priority would be placed on locating commercial scale wind and solar energy development in non-habitat areas first (i.e., outside of PHMA and GHMA) before approving development in PHMA.”~~

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Livestock Grazing

- Livestock Grazing RM-16 and RM 18, which are now MD LG 15 and MD LG 17 respectively in the ARMPA, had the following sentence added as an accepted recommendation made by the Governor during the Governor’s Consistency Review to clarify management and conservation action prioritization in SFAs and: “Management and conservation action prioritization will occur at the Conservation Area (CA) scale and be based on GRSG population and habitat trends: Focusing management and conservation actions first in SFAs followed by areas of PHMA outside SFAs.”

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Lands and Realty

- Lands and Realty LR-14 from the Proposed RMPA, which is now MD LR 13 in the ARMPA, was modified to remove the statement that lands in PHMA, IHMA, and GHMA would only be available for disposal through exchange. This was removed because it was not consistent with BLM policy and the net conservation gain clause in MD LR-13 will provide assurance that disposals through any method would be beneficial to GRSG.

2.4.2 Nevada and Northeastern California

General Changes

- Editorial changes such as changing ‘should’ to ‘shall’, and ‘would’ to ‘will’ to reflect the final decision language.

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- Re-categorizing some of the Management Decisions into other common resource programs. For example, all of the Fire and Fuels management decisions are all numbered under FIRE, and are not split into different sub-category names.
- Re-lettering of the critical Appendices, and deletion of those that are no longer applicable for the ARMPA.

Special Status Species

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- Added clarity to MD SSS 2 A 3, by describing what energy and mining facilities to which this decision would apply; taken directly from the Disturbance Appendix E.
- Added clarity to MD SSS 3A, by including references to valid existing rights and applicable law for the requirement of a ‘net conservation gain’.
- Specified in MD SSS 8 that this activity would be coordinated with NDOW Nevada Department of Wildlife or CDFW California Department Fish and Wildlife and that breeding activity surveys would be for actions involving mineral activities and ~~rights-of-ways~~ROWS.
- Deleted Action PR 4 from the Proposed LUPA-RMPA because BLM does not manage landfills and transfer stations.
- Under the Brood Rearing/Summer category, it was clarified that the objective of the 7 inch deep rooted perennial bunchgrass in upland habitats was only for a 522-foot (200 meter) area around riparian areas and meadows. The additional reference was added for Casazza et al. 2011.
- The footnote #7 was replaced. The original footnote stated that the “specific height requirements needed to meet the objective will be set at the time of HAF assessments”. This is incorrect, because the height requirements will need to be set well in advance of the HAF assessments.
- The footnote #7 ~~was~~ replaced with “Any one single habitat indicator does not define whether the habitat objective is or is not met. Instead, the preponderance of evidence from all indicators within that seasonal habitat period must be considered when assessing sage-grouse habitat objectives.” This addition was for the purpose of clarification.

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Comment [SJM50]: RPMA? LUPA v. RPMA clarity issue

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Comment [SJM51]: Both are FN #7? Pls confirm. The bullets seem to be addressing different topics.

Comment [mem52]: EMPSI – please verify in ARMPA.

Adaptive Management

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- ~~Moved the Adaptive Management Strategy section out of Chapter 2 and made it into Appendix J; moved the Adaptive Management decisions under MD SSS 17 – MD SSS 22.~~
- Clarified under MD SSS 21 that BLM will coordinate with NDOW, and that the decision was specific to mineral activities and rights-of-way actions.

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Fire and Fuels Management

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- Deleted ‘field offices and districts’ from MD FIRE 3, as there will be a multi-layer approach to coordination, including BLM State Offices.

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- In Objective FIRE 3, added ‘in SFAs first’ to provide more emphasis to the SFA over the rest of the PHMA for this action.
- Modified MD FIRE 26 to delete ‘Districts’, as there will be a multi-layer approach to identifying treatment needs for wildfire and invasive species management across the state.
- Added ‘FWS’ as a coordination entity to MD FIRE 31, when ensuring that proposed sagebrush treatments are coordinated with the BLM and State fish and wildlife agencies.

Livestock Grazing

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- Management Decision LG 1 was modified for clarity and to include the fact that BLM would conduct appropriate consultation, cooperation and coordination.
- Management Decision LG 5 was modified to add supplementary management actions and clarifies that the potential modifications include, “but are not limited to” to actions on the list.
- Management Decision LG 5 was modified to make it clear that the management strategies listed are not limited to just those listed under LG 5 by adding “but are not limited to”. This was added to clarify a misunderstanding in a protest letter.
- Management Decision LG 7 was clarified to state that “AUMs cannot be applied to another pasture that is already being used by livestock or is being purposefully rested.”
- Management Decision LG 15 was modified to state that removing or modifying water developments must be done “In accordance with state water law and...”

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Mineral Resources

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- Management Decision MR 18 was modified to provide the Barrick Enabling Agreement (March 2015) as an example of appropriate mitigation that can be considered in the future, and the last sentence was removed because it only repeated BLM regulations, and is unnecessary.

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Lands and Realty

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- In order to resolve a protest, MD LR 3 was modified to state that corridors will be 3,500 feet in width... “or a different width is specified for congressional designated corridors”. This is in response to the Lincoln County Conservation Recreation Development Act (2204) which included congressionally designated corridors that were not included in the plan amendment or the corridor map. The corridor map (Figure 2-10) was also modified to reflect the corridors tied to this Act.
- Action LR-LUA 21 from the Proposed Plan was deleted because the Federal Highway Administration and the Nevada Department of Transportation already have valid existing rights associated with their easements and ROWs, and this planning effort would not change the terms and conditions of their existing easements or ROWs. Making this a Management Action is repetitive and unnecessary.

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Travel and Transportation

- Due to confusion that was outlined in protest letters and in the Governor’s Consistency Review, MD TTM 2 was clarified that limiting off-highway travel to existing routes in PHMAs and GHMAs would be “subject to valid existing rights, such as for a mine under a plan of operations”.
- Additional language was added to MD TTM 3 to make it clear that the bulleted “guidelines will be considered when undertaking future implementation-level travel planning”. This was in response to protest misunderstandings. In addition, bullet three was amended by deleting “developed in this plan amendment”, as the criteria is not developed through the plan amendment.

Mitigation

- In order to provide consistency across the Great Basin Regional Planning area, the two Mitigation management decisions were removed from the Adaptive Management, Monitoring, and Mitigation section of Chapter 2 in the Proposed LUPA (which are now separate Appendices) and inserted as management decisions independently under the Mitigation section.

2.4.3 Oregon

Lands and Realty

- A typographical error in the socioeconomic analysis of the proposed RMPA was identified during the Protest period. Correction to this error in Section 4.20.3, page 4-345, is as follows: Paragraph beginning “Restrictions to ROW development under Alternatives B, C, D, E, F, and the Proposed Plan...” is replaced with: “Proposed management under Alternatives B, C, D, E, F, and the Proposed Plan could require investors to consider alternative power line ROW alignments or designs that could increase the costs of constructing new infrastructure. A 2012 WECC study, for example, provides information on transmission line construction costs per mile, which range from \$927,000 to \$2,967,000 depending on voltage and whether lines are single or double circuit lines. The same study provides cost multipliers for difficult terrains, reaching up to 2.25 in the case of forested lands (WECC 2012). Utilities and other infrastructure investors typically pass these costs on to consumers. Where the rate base is smaller, such as in rural areas, per-customer rate impacts associated with constructing a 10-mile, 230kV transmission line, for example, would be greater compared to the economic impacts on rate payers served by a larger metropolitan utility proposing the same line. Under Alternatives B, C, D, E, and the Proposed Plan, rate payers serviced by local utility providers with small rate bases would be impacted more by costs associated with added route lengths or infrastructure design requirements compared with rate payers serviced by larger, multi-state providers. Where technically and financially feasible, Alternatives B, D, and the

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Proposed Plan identify burial of power lines as a design option to mitigate impacts on GRSG. New construction costs of underground transmission lines can be between 4 and 14 times higher compared to new overhead construction (PSC 2011), depending on terrain. In rural areas, burial of new distribution lines would be more than double the cost of new overhead construction. Burying existing distribution lines would likely cost between \$400,000 and \$500,000 per mile in rural areas (EIA 2012). Under all alternatives, where burying new lines would be technically unfeasible or result in costs that could not be absorbed by the rate payers, infrastructure investors would explore other route or design options that avoid impacts to GRSG habitat.”

Renewable Energy

- Managed Decision RE-2 was modified to include the statement, “In Harney, Lake and Malheur counties, priority would be placed on locating commercial scale wind and solar energy development in non-habitat areas first (i.e., outside of PHMA and GHMA) before approving development in PHMA.”

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Special Status Species (Greater Sage-Grouse)

- Objective SSS 6 was modified to clarify that the BLM will coordinate with the State of Oregon regarding proposed management changes, the implementation of conservation measures, mitigation, and site-specific monitoring related to adaptive management and anthropogenic disturbances. This modification was recommended by the Governor during the Governor’s Consistency Review.

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Leasable Mineral Resources

- Based on internal review, MLS 7 from the proposed RMPA, which is now MD MR 7 in the ARMPA, was modified to include all fluid mineral lease development, including geothermal permits to drill.

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2.4.4 Utah

General Changes

- Throughout the Proposed RMP Amendment, the use of words like “would,” “could,” “should,” and “may” were generally removed or revised to reflect the active management direction of an ARMPA rather than potential management presented when the Proposed RMP Amendment was one of many alternatives the agency could select.
- Language was added to Objective SSS-3 (Objective GRSG-3 in the Proposed RMP Amendment), MA-SSS-4 (MA-GRSG-4 in the Proposed RMP Amendment), MA-SSS-6 (MA-GRSG-6 in the Proposed RMP Amendment), Objective VEG-1, MA-VEG-1, MA-FIRE-3 and MA-FIRE-4 to clarify that landscapes that include populations of both GRSG

Comment [SJM53]: Proposed RMP Amendment v. proposed RMPA (above) v. Proposed LUP. Again, recommend picking one and sticking to it.

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and Utah prairie dog (UPD), a federally listed species, be managed for the benefit of both species. This addition is included to ensure that this objective is applied to all applicable objectives and management actions, not just the five actions in the Proposed RMP Amendment where this concept and language was already present.

- Throughout the Proposed RMPA there were a number of references to coordinating with the State of Utah, Division of Wildlife Resources, or state biologists. These were all revised to note that such coordination would be with “the appropriate State of Utah agency.” This clarification was made at the request of the Governor during the Governor’s Consistency Review.
- The Proposed RMP Amendment introduced the term “biologically significant units” (BSU) for adaptive management and the disturbance cap to provide a consistent approach for managing and monitoring across the GRSG range. In the Utah Sub-Region, the ~~BSU concept is boundaries of the same as PHMA within BSUs follow the population areas area boundaries within PHMA~~. As part of resolving protests, the ARMP was revised to note that “BSUs” are PHMA within population areas. Whenever the term BSU was used, it was replaced with the more descriptive text, with a parenthetical reference to BSUs for the purposes of coordinating across state lines.

Special Status Species (formerly Greater Sage-Grouse)

- Objective GRSG-1 from the Proposed RMP Amendment, which is now Objective SSS-1 in the ARMPA, was changed to remove reference to WAFWA ~~management zones~~ Management Zones when addressing designation of PHMA. This change was made during the Governor’s Consistency Review to more closely reflect the management in the State of Utah’s Conservation Plan for Greater Sage-Grouse in Utah (2013).
- MA-GRSG-1 from the Proposed RMP Amendment, which is now MA-SSS-1 in the ARMPA, was revised to include the following text: “The BLM will apply these goals, objectives, and management actions where the agency has discretion to implement them; the actions do not apply in areas where the BLM does not administer the surface or mineral estate.” This is consistent with the planning criteria contained in the sixth bullet on page 1-20 of the Final EIS. This language was added based on an accepted recommendation made by the Governor during the Governor’s Consistency Review.
- The language of MA-GRSG-1 from the Proposed RMP Amendment, which is now MA-SSS-1 in the ARMPA, regarding non-habitat areas within PHMA and GHMA was revised to clarify the intent of the action. This revision was made as a result of internal reviews to ensure the text more accurately reflected the intent behind the management action.
- The introductory language of MA-GRSG-3 from the Proposed RMP Amendment, which is now MA-SSS-3 in the ARMPA, was revised to clarify the intent of the action. This revision was made as a result of internal reviews to ensure the text accurately reflects the intent behind the management action and to focus on land uses that have been identified as threats to GRSG.
- The language of MA-GRSG-3e from the Proposed RMP Amendment, which is now MA-SSS-3e in the ARMPA, was revised to clarify the intent of the noise restrictions. This

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revision was made as a result of internal reviews to ensure the text accurately reflects the intent behind the management action to focus on land uses that have been identified as threats to GRSG. Further, language was added to identify when “ambient” noise levels would be assessed to avoid managing for continual, incremental increases in noise levels.

- The language of MA-GRSG-6 from the Proposed RMP Amendment, which is now MA-SSS-6 in the ARMPA, was revised to clarify the intent of GRSG management outside PHMA/GHMA. This revision was made as a result of internal reviews to ensure the text accurately reflects the intent behind the management action. The purpose of this action is to provide direction regarding management of areas outside PHMA/GHMA that have been treated to improve GRSG habitat. The change was necessary to avoid implication of changing allocations or altering PHMA/GHMA boundaries outside a planning process while minimizing conflicting land uses in areas where an investment in increasing GRSG habitat have been made.

Livestock Grazing

- The language of MA-GRA-6 from the Proposed RMP Amendment, which is now MA-LG-6 in the ARMPA, was revised. The concepts and intent did not change, but the text was revised to align with similar concepts and intent that was present in the livestock grazing sections in GRSG amendments throughout the Great Basin.

2.5 Protest Resolution

~~BLM's~~**BLM's** planning regulations at 43 CFR 1610.5-2 allow any person who participated in the planning process and has an interest that may be adversely affected by BLM's planning decisions to protest proposed planning decisions within 30 days from the date the Notice of Availability of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS was published in the Federal Register (May 29, 2015). Below are descriptions of the protest resolution process for each of the four Great Basin Region PRMPAs/FEISs.

The Director concluded that the BLM followed all applicable laws, regulations, and policies and considered all relevant resource information and public input in developing the Proposed ~~Land Use Plan Amendments~~**RMPAs**/Final EISs. Each protesting party has been notified in writing of the Director's findings and the disposition of their protests. The BLM Director resolved the protests without making significant changes to the Proposed Land Use Plan Amendments/Final EISs, though minor clarifications were made and are summarized in Section 2.4.1. The BLM Director's decisions on the protests are summarized in each of the PRMPAs/FEISs Director's Protest Resolution Reports, which are available on the following BLM website:

http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/planning/planning_overview/protest_resolution/protestreports.html.

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2.5.1 Idaho and Southwestern Montana

For the Idaho and Southwestern Montana GRSG Proposed LUPA/Final EIS, the BLM Director received 20 timely protest submissions. All of the protesting parties had standing; however, one submission was

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dismissed as it did not contain any valid protest points pursuant to 43 CFR 1610.5-2. Valid protest issues addressed in the Director's Protest Resolution Report included:

- compliance with FLPMA,
- compliance with NEPA,
- compliance with ESA,
- density and disturbance,
- adaptive management,
- GRSG habitat objectives,
- livestock grazing,
- mitigation,
- compliance with APA,
- compliance with the Energy Policy Act of 2005,
- ACECs,
- fire and fuels management,
- fluid minerals,
- solid minerals,
- special status species,
- lands and realty, and
- travel and transportation management.

2.5.2 Nevada and Northeastern California

For the Nevada and Northeastern California GRSG Proposed LUPA/Final EIS, the BLM Director received 40 timely protest submissions. All of the protesting parties had standing; however, two submissions were dismissed as they did not contain any valid protest points pursuant to 43 CFR 1610.5-2. Valid protest issues addressed in the Director's Protest Resolution Report included:

- compliance with FLPMA,
- compliance with NEPA,
- compliance with ESA,
- density and disturbance,
- adaptive management,
- GRSG habitat objectives,
- livestock grazing,
- mitigation,
- compliance with APA,
- compliance with the Energy Policy Act of 2005,
- Air Quality,
- Climate Change,
- Noise,
- ACECs,
- solid minerals,
- special status species,

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- lands with wilderness characteristics,
- lands and realty,
- tribal issues,
- wild horse and burros, and
- travel and transportation management.

2.5.3 Oregon

For the Oregon GRSG Proposed LUPA/Final EIS, the BLM Director received 30 timely protest submissions. All of the protesting parties had standing; however, three submissions were dismissed as they did not contain any valid protest points pursuant to 43 CFR 1610.5-2. Valid protest issues addressed in the Director's Protest Resolution Report included:

- compliance with FLPMA,
- compliance with NEPA,
- compliance with ESA,
- density and disturbance,
- monitoring,
- ACECs,
- fire and fuels management,
- solid minerals,
- special status species, and
- travel and transportation management.

2.5.4 Utah

For the Utah GRSG Proposed LUPA/Final EIS, the BLM Director received 43 timely protest submissions. All of the protesting parties had standing; however, three submissions were dismissed as they did not contain any valid protest points pursuant to 43 CFR 1610.5-2. Valid protest issues addressed in the Director's Protest Resolution Report included:

- compliance with FLPMA,
- compliance with NEPA,
- compliance with ESA,
- density and disturbance,
- adaptive management,
- land use allocations,
- GRSG habitat objectives,
- livestock grazing,
- mitigation,
- compliance with APA,
- compliance with the Energy Policy Act of 2005,
- air quality,
- climate change,

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- noise,
- ACECs,
- fire and fuels management,
- fluid minerals,
- solid minerals,
- special status species,
- lands and realty,
- travel and transportation management, and
- reasonable foreseeable development scenarios.

2.6 Governor’s Consistency Review

The BLM’s planning regulations require that RMPs be “consistent with officially approved or adopted resource-related plans, and the policies and procedures contained therein, of other federal agencies, state and local governments, and Indian tribes, so long as the guidance and resource management plans also are consistent with the purposes, policies, and programs of federal laws and regulations applicable to public lands” (43 CFR 1610.3-2(a)). The general requirement in FLPMA/planning regulations is to coordinate the land use planning process with plans of other agencies, states, and local governments to the extent consistent with law (see FLPMA ~~s-~~Section 202(c)(9) and 1610.3-1(a)); and the respective duties to be consistent with both officially approved or adopted plans (to the extent those plans are consistent with federal law, or to maximum extent practical) (see 1610.3-2(a)(b)). In accordance with FLPMA, the BLM was aware of and gave consideration to state, local, and tribal land use plans and provided meaningful public involvement throughout the development of the Proposed RMP Amendments/Final EISs.

The BLM is aware that there are specific state laws and local plans relevant to aspects of public land management that are discrete from, and independent of, federal law. However, the BLM is bound by federal law. As a consequence, there may be inconsistencies that cannot be reconciled. The FLPMA and its implementing regulations require that BLM’s land use plans be consistent with officially-approved state and local plans only if those plans are consistent with the purposes, policies, and programs of federal laws and regulations applicable to public lands. Where officially-approved state and local plans or policies and programs conflict with the purposes, policies, and programs of federal laws and regulations applicable to public lands, there will be an inconsistency that cannot be resolved. With respect to officially-approved state and local policies and programs (as opposed to plans), this consistency provision only applies to the maximum extent practical. While county and federal planning processes, under FLPMA, are required to be as integrated and consistent as practical, the federal agency planning process is not bound by or subject to state or county plans, planning processes, policies, or planning stipulations.

The 60-day Governor’s consistency review period ended on July 29, 2015. In the Great Basin Region, the Governors of Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Utah submitted letters to their respective BLM State Directors ~~identifying~~~~asserting~~ inconsistencies between the BLM’s proposed RMP amendments and their state’s or local governments’ ~~-~~resource-related plans, policies and/or procedures, as well as other concerns that they had with the proposed planning documents. The BLM State Directors notified the Governors as to whether their recommendations were accepted or rejected on August 6, 2015. These Governors were then

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provided with 30-days to appeal the BLM State Director’s decisions to the BLM Director. ~~By September 8, 2015, the BLM Director received appeals from.~~

~~On September 8, 2015, the BLM Director received appeals from the Governors of Idaho and Nevada. On September 11, 2015, the BLM Director received an appeal from the Governor of Utah. The BLM Director reviewed these appeals and rejected the recommendations of the Governors of Idaho, Nevada, and Utah by letters dated September 16, 2015, prior to the issuance of this ROD. The BLM Director’s response to these appeals will also be published in the Federal Register subsequent to the issuance of this ROD.~~ In some instances, modifications to the ARMPAs were addressed based on recommendations submitted to the BLM by the applicable Governors. These modifications to the ARMPAs were made and are summarized in Section 2.4.1.

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3. ALTERNATIVES

3.1 Alternatives Considered

Each of the Great Basin sub-regional planning efforts analyzed in detail a set of alternatives in the draft and final sub-regional EISs. The alternatives were developed to provide direction for resource programs in order to meet in the purpose and need of this effort to identify and incorporate appropriate management direction in ~~LUPs~~land use plans to conserve, enhance, and restore GRSG habitat by reducing, eliminating, or minimizing threats to GRSG habitat. All management considered under any of the alternatives complied with federal laws, rules, regulations, and policies.

Each alternative emphasized an altered combination of resource uses, allocations, and restoration measures to address issues and resolve conflicts among uses so that GRSG goals and objectives were met in varying degrees across the alternatives. The action alternatives offered a range of possible management approaches for responding to planning issues and concerns identified through public scoping, and to maintain or increase GRSG abundance and distribution in the planning area. While the land use plan goal was the same across alternatives for each sub-region, each alternative contained a discrete set of objectives and management actions constituting a separate RMP ~~amendment~~Amendment. The goal was met in varying degrees, with the potential for different long-range outcomes and conditions.

The relative emphasis given to particular resources and resource uses differed as well, including allowable uses, restoration measures, and specific direction pertaining to individual resource programs. When resources or resource uses are mandated by law there are typically few or no distinctions between alternatives.

3.1.1 Alternative A – No Action Alternative

Alternative A meets the CEQ requirement that a No Action Alternative be considered. This alternative continues current management direction derived from the existing field/district office RMPs, as amended.

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Goals and objectives for resources and resource uses are based on the most recent RMP decisions, along with associated amendments and other management decision documents. Laws, regulations, and BLM policies that supersede RMP decisions would apply.

Goals and objectives for BLM-administered lands and mineral estate would not change. Appropriate and allowable uses and restrictions pertaining to activities such as mineral leasing and development, recreation, construction of utility corridors, and livestock grazing would also remain the same. The BLM would not modify existing or establish additional criteria to guide the identification of site-specific use levels for implementation activities.

This alternative was not selected as the ARMPAs because it did not meet the purpose and need of this plan amendment. This alternative did not include changes that are needed to be made to the existing decisions based on the FWS 2010 listing petition decision that identified inadequacy of regulatory mechanisms as a significant threat to GRSG and its habitat. This alternative did not incorporate the best available science pertaining to GRSG or its habitat.

3.1.2 Alternative B: National Technical Team Report Alternative

Alternative B was based on the conservation measures contained within the National Technical Team (NTT) Report. The GRSG National Technical Team (NTT), comprised of BLM, Forest Service, FWS, USGS, NRCS, and State specialists, completed *A Report on National Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Measures* in December, 2011. The charge of the NTT was to identify science-based management considerations for the GRSG (i.e., conservation measures) necessary to promote sustainable sage-grouse populations, and which focused on the threats (75 FR 13910) in each of the regional WAFWA Sage-Grouse Management Zones. The NTT Report proposed conservation measures based on habitat requirements and other life history aspects of sage-grouse GRSG and described the scientific basis for the conservation measures proposed within each program area. The Report also provided a discussion and emphasized the importance of standardizing monitoring efforts across the WAFWA Sage-Grouse Management Zones. The Report can be accessed at: <http://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/co/programs/wildlife/Par.73607.File.dat/GrSG%20Tech%20Team%20Report.pdf>

Comment [SJM56]: Already defined

Comment [MME57]: EMPSi – please check through document.

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Field Code Changed

The BLM’s Washington Office Instructional Memorandum (IM) Number 2012-044 directed the sub-regional planning efforts to analyze the conservation measures developed by the NTT, as appropriate, through the land use planning process and NEPA.

Alternative B would exclude ROW development in PHMA and avoid development in GHMA, would close PHMA to fluid mineral leasing, mineral material sales, and nonenergy leasable minerals, and would recommend withdrawal from locatable mineral entry in all PHMA. These management actions would reduce surface disturbance in PHMA and would minimize disturbance in GHMA, thereby maintaining GRSG habitat. Management actions for wildfire would focus on suppression in PHMA and GHMA, while limiting certain types of fuels treatments. Vegetation management would emphasize sagebrush restoration. Collectively, vegetation and wildfire management would conserve GRSG habitat. Grazing would continue with similar impacts under Alternative B as under Alternative A. The best

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~~management practices (BMPs)~~ proposed in the NTT report would be included as ~~required design features~~Required Design Features as part of Alternative B and are listed in Appendix C, Required Design Features (RDFs), of each of the attached ARMPAs.

This alternative was not selected in its entirety as the ARMPAs because the majority of the conservation measures in the NTT Report, as appropriate and applicable, were applied primarily to PHMA, and few conservation measures in the Report were provided for in GHMA. As a result, this alternative did not provide adequate conservation in GHMA. .

3.1.3 Alternative C: Citizen ~~Groups~~Groups' Recommended Alternative One

Alternative C was based on a citizen ~~groups~~groups' recommended alternative. This alternative emphasizes improvement and protection of habitat for GRSG and was applied to all occupied GRSG habitat (PHMA and GHMA. Alternative C limited commodity development in areas of occupied GRSG habitat, and closed or excluded large portions of the planning area to many land uses. This included all PHMA and GHMA as being closed to livestock grazing, recommended for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry, closed to fluid mineral leasing, closed to salable mineral and non-energy leasable mineral development, and exclusion areas for ~~right-of-ways~~ROWS. The Utah LUPA/Draft EIS combined this alternative with Alternative F (discussed below) and included two sub-alternatives under Alternative C for a reduction in livestock grazing and wild horses and burros management.

This alternative was not selected in its entirety as the ARMPAs because it limited the use of public land in PHMA and GHMA to such an extent that it did not give adequate accommodation to local needs, customs, and culture. ~~... and included proposed actions that are not necessary for GRSG conservation.~~ For example, this alternative closed all allotments to livestock grazing, which, based on best available science, is not required to conserve GRSG and its habitats. Alternative C was also not selected in its entirety because it does not best achieve the mix of multiple uses necessary to fully implement the mandate of FLPMA.

3.1.4 Alternative D: Draft RMP Amendments' Preferred Alternative

Alternative D, which was identified as the Preferred Alternative in the Draft EISs, balanced opportunities to use and develop the planning area as well as conserving, maintaining, and enhancing GRSG and their habitat. Protective measures were applied to GRSG habitat, while still allowing for anthropogenic disturbances with stringent mitigation measures. This alternative represents the mix and variety of management actions based on BLM's analysis and judgment, which best resolve the resource issues and management concerns while meeting laws, regulations, and policies pertaining to BLM management. As a result of public scoping comments, internal review, and cooperating agency coordination on the Draft RMP Amendments/EISs, this alternative was modified to become the Proposed RMP Amendments and analyzed in the FEISs. The Preferred Alternatives, with slight variations, became the Proposed Plans in the FEISs.

In PHMA under Alternative D, there would be limitation on disturbance in GRSG habitat by excluding wind and solar energy development (except for certain counties in Southeastern Oregon where avoidance

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is applied), avoiding ~~all other~~most ROW development, ~~(subject to certain conditions)~~, applying ~~no surface occupancy~~NSO stipulations to fluid mineral development, and closing PHMA to nonenergy leasable mineral development and mineral material sales. These management actions would protect GRSG habitat, while allowing other activities, subject to conditions. In GHMA under Alternative D, allocations are less stringent, but still aim to protect GRSG habitat (for example, applying moderate constraints and stipulations to fluid minerals in GHMA).

Under Alternative D, the BLM management would support sagebrush/perennial grass ecosystem restoration, would increase fire suppression in PHMA and GHMA, and would manage livestock grazing to maintain or enhance sagebrush and perennial grass ecosystems.

3.1.5 Alternative E: State/Governor’s Alternative

Alternative E is the alternative based on information provided by the State or ~~Governor's~~Governor’s offices for inclusion and analysis in the EISs. In many instances, the BLM had to adjust what was provided by the States and Governors to fit BLM language, decision-making constructs, etc. This alternative incorporates guidance from specific state conservation strategies, if developed or recommendations from the ~~state~~State on management of Federal lands and emphasizes management of GRSG seasonal habitats and maintaining habitat connectivity to support population objectives. This alternative was identified as a co-Preferred Alternative in the Idaho and Southwestern Montana Draft EIS. California did not provide the BLM with a ~~state~~State GRSG conservation plan and under this alternative, reverted back to Alternative A, the ~~no-action~~No-Action alternative.

For Nevada, Alternative E would apply an ‘avoid, minimize, and ~~mitigate~~mitigate’ strategy to reduce direct and indirect impacts on GRSG from surface-disturbing activities on BLM-administered lands. Effects on GRSG habitat from certain resource programs, such as grazing, lands and realty, wildfire management, and minerals, would not be directly addressed because ~~allocation decisions were not part of the state’s plan.~~the State’s Plan does not contain land use plan land use plan level allocation decisions (such as ROW exclusion and avoidance areas) and relies largely on the avoid, minimize, and mitigate strategy at the project level. The FWS March 2010 “warranted, but precluded” ESA listing petition decision identified the inadequacy of regulatory mechanisms as a significant threat to GRSG. RMP conservation measures were identified as the BLM’s principal regulatory mechanism. The BLM believes this alternative did not incorporate adequate regulatory mechanisms into the existing plan to meet its purpose and need to conserve, enhance, and protect GRSG and its habitat, therefore, the BLM did not select alternative E as the ARMPA.

For Oregon, Alternative E contains GRSG conservation guidelines from Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy for Oregon: A Plan to Maintain and Enhance Populations and Habitat. This document describes the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife’s proposed management of GRSG on Federal lands. It also provides guidance for public land management agencies and land managers for GRSG conservation. GRSG conservation guidelines in the ~~state~~State plan are designed to maintain (at a minimum) or enhance the quality (the optimum) of current habitats. The guidelines would also assist resource managers in achieving the population and habitat objectives of the ~~state~~State plan.

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For Idaho, Alternative E incorporates proposed GRSG protection measures recommended by the State of Idaho. Management in Montana would remain unchanged from the current RMPs (Alternative A). Alternative E addresses the following primary threats: fire, invasive weeds, and infrastructure development. It also includes guidance for several secondary GRSG threats such as recreation, improper livestock grazing, and West Nile virus for BLM and Forest Service programs that affect GRSG or its habitat.

For Utah, Alternative E1 is based on the State of Utah’s Conservation Plan for Greater Sage-Grouse in Utah and would apply to all BLM-administered lands in Utah. In ~~alternative~~Alternative E1 conservation measures would be applied to 11 areas that the ~~state~~State identified, called Sage-Grouse Management Areas (SGMAs). Emphasis would be placed on expanding GRSG habitat by aggressively treating areas where there are encroaching conifers or invasive species. Alternative E1 includes a general limit on new permanent disturbance of 5 percent of habitat on ~~state~~ or federally ~~managed~~managed lands within any particular SGMAs. Occupied habitat outside of the state-identified SGMAs would not receive new management protection. They would continue to be managed according to the GRSG actions in existing RMPs and conservation measures associated with existing activity-level plans.

Comment [SJM58]: Capitalize state and federal throughout?

Comment [mem59]: EMPSi – please address throughout.

This alternative was not selected in its entirety as the ARMPAs because some components of the state’s plans were not consistent with the purposes, policies and programs of Federal laws and regulations applicable to public lands. However, many goals, objectives, and management actions in the alternative were carried forward.

3.1.6 – Alternative F: Citizen Groups' Recommended Alternative Two

Alternative F is also based on a citizen group recommended alternative. This alternative emphasizes improvement and protection of habitat for GRSG and defines different restrictions for PHMA and GHMA. Alternative F would limit commodity development in areas of occupied GRSG habitat, and would close or designate portions of the planning area to some land uses. This alternative does not apply to the Utah sub-regional planning effort, as it was combined with Alternative C. Under Alternative F, wildfire suppression would be prioritized in PHMA. Concurrent vegetation management would emphasize sagebrush restoration and enhancement. Alternative F would reduce livestock and wild horse and burro management utilization by 25 percent within PHMA and GHMA. While the Utah Draft EIS did not include an Alternative F, it did create two sub-alternatives under Alternative C for livestock grazing and wild horses and burros to consider and analyze a similar reduction.

This alternative was not selected in its entirety as the ARMPAs because it limited the use of public land in PHMA and GHMA to such an extent that it did not give adequate accommodation to local needs, customs, and culture.

3.1.7 – Proposed Plan Amendment

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As a result of public comments, best science, cooperating agency coordination, and internal review of the Draft RMP Amendments/EISs, the BLM developed the Proposed Amendments/Final EISs for managing BLM-administered lands. The Proposed Amendments/Final EISs focused on addressing public comments, while continuing to meet the BLM’s legal and regulatory mandates. The Proposed Amendments/Final EISs are a variation of the preferred alternatives (Alternative D) and are within the range of alternatives analyzed in the DEISs. The Proposed Plans, with slight variations (as outlined in Section 2.5 of this ROD), became ARMPAs. The BLM adopts the Proposed Amendments as the ARMPAs, as they also balance resource protections, with resource uses to protect resources while achieving sustainable resource development.

3.1.8 Environmentally Preferable Alternative

~~Council on Environmental Quality~~ (CEQ) regulations require that a ROD state which alternatives were considered to be “environmentally preferable” (40 CFR 1505.2(b)). Question 6A of CEQ’s 40 ~~most-asked-questions~~Most-Asked Questions regarding CEQ’s NEPA regulations (46 FR 18026) defines that term to ordinarily mean the alternative which best protects, preserves, and enhances historic, cultural, and natural resources.

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Under that definition, Alternative ~~BC~~BC, as presented in each of the sub-regional Proposed RMP Amendments/Final EISs is the most environmentally preferable. However, NEPA expresses a continuing policy of the federal government to “use all practicable means and measures... to foster and promote the general welfare, to create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony, and fulfill the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations of Americans” (~~Section 101 of NEPA~~). (Section 101 of NEPA). FLPMA requires the BLM to manage the public lands for multiple use and sustained yield. (see FLPMA § 302.) And Section 102(12) of FLPMA declares a policy of the United States that “the public lands be managed in a manner which recognizes the Nation’s need for domestic sources of minerals, food, timber, and fiber from the public lands including implementation of the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970 (84 Stat. 1876, 30 U.S.C. 21a) as it pertains to the public lands.” For these reasons, Alternative B was not selected as the sub-regional ARMPAs.

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3.2 Alternatives Considered But Not Analyzed in Detail

The alternatives listed below by sub-region were considered but were not carried forward for detailed analysis because of one or more of the following reasons:

- They would not meet the requirements of FLPMA or other existing laws and regulations;
- They did not meet the purpose and need;
- The alternative was already captured within the range of alternative analyzed in the EIS;
- They were already part of an existing plan, policy, or administrative function; or
- They did not fall within the limits of the planning criteria.

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For additional rationale as to why each of the alternatives listed below by sub-region were not carried forward for detailed analysis, refer to Section 2.11 of each of the sub-regional Proposed Amendments/Final EISs.

Idaho and Southwestern Montana

- FWS-Listing Alternative
- Elimination of Recreational Hunting Alternative
- Predation Alternative
- Close All or Portions of PHMA or GHMA to OHV Use Alternative
- Consideration of Coal Mining Alternative

Nevada and Northeastern California

- Close All or Portions of PHMA or GHMA to OHV Use Alternative
- Elko County Sage-Grouse Plan Alternative
- Increase Grazing Alternative

Oregon

- FWS-Listing Alternative
- Elimination of Livestock Grazing from all BLM Lands Alternative
- Increase Livestock Grazing Alternative
- Close All or Portions of PHMA or GHMA to OHV Use Alternative

Utah

- FWS-Listing Alternative
- Increase Livestock Grazing Alternative
- Make GRSG Habitat Available for Oil Shale and Tar Sands Alternative
- Citizen Proposed Alternatives (in their entirety)
- Adoption of the State of Utah’s Sage-Grouse Management Areas as PHMA for all Alternatives
- Use of Other Habitat Maps Alternatives
- County Sage-Grouse Management Plans Alternative
- Conservation Objectives Team (COT) Report Alternative
- BLM Policies and Regulations Alternative

4. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

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BLM land use planning is conducted in accordance with NEPA requirements, CEQ regulations, and U.S. Department of the Interior policies and procedures implementing NEPA, as well as specific BLM planning and NEPA policies. The NEPA and associated laws, regulations, and policies require the BLM to seek public involvement early in and throughout the planning process, to develop a range of reasonable alternatives to proposed actions, and to prepare environmental documents that disclose the potential impacts of proposed management.

Public involvement and agency consultation and coordination have been at the heart of the planning process leading to these Great Basin Region ARMPAs. These efforts were achieved through Federal Register notices, public formal and informal meetings, individual contacts, media releases, planning bulletins, and a series of GRSG planning-related Web sites. This section documents the outreach efforts that have occurred to date. For more plan specific information related to the public involvement, consultation, and coordination processes that the BLM conducted, please refer to Chapter 3 of the attached ARMPAs.

4.1 Public Involvement

The scoping period for the National GRSG Planning Strategy, including the four sub-regional planning areas in the Great Basin Region, began with the publication of the NOI in the Federal Register on December 9, 2011, and ended on March 23, 2012. Beginning in December and ending in February of 2012, the BLM hosted a series of public open house scoping meetings across Northeastern California, Idaho, Southwestern Montana, Nevada, Oregon and Utah. A final National GRSG Planning Strategy Scoping Report was released in May 2012.

A Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Idaho and Southwestern Montana, Nevada and Northeastern California, and Utah Draft RMP Amendments/EISs were published in the Federal Register on November 1, 2013. The Oregon Draft RMP Amendment/EIS was released to the public on November 26, 2013.

For the Great Basin Region GRSG Draft RMPAs/DEIS, Idaho and Southwestern Montana conducted seven public meetings, Nevada and Northeastern California conducted seven public meetings, Oregon conducted seven public meetings, and Utah conducted eight public meetings between November 2013 and January 2014.

Comments on the Draft RMPAs/Draft EISs received from the public and internal BLM review were considered and incorporated, as appropriate, into the Proposed Plan Amendments. The Great Basin Region received approximately 4,990 substantive comments, contained in 74,240 submissions during the four Draft RMPAs/Draft EISs' comment periods. Comments on the Draft RMPAs/Draft EISs received from the public and internal BLM review were carefully considered and incorporated as appropriate into the Proposed Plan Amendments. Public comments resulted in the addition of clarifying text, but did not significantly change Proposed RMPAs.

A Notice of Availability (NOA) for all of the Great Basin Region GRSG Proposed RMPAs and Final EISs for the Idaho and Southwestern Montana, Nevada and Northeastern California, Oregon, and Utah Sub-Regions were released on May 29, 2015. The release of the EPA's NOA initiated a 30 day public

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protest period and a 60 day ~~governor~~²~~governor's~~ consistency review. Refer to **Section 2.5 and 2.6** for a full description of the protest period and governor's consistency review outcomes.

4.2 Cooperating Agencies

A cooperating agency is any federal, state, or local government agency or Native American tribe that enters into a formal agreement with the lead federal agency to help develop an environmental analysis. Cooperating Agencies and tribes “work with the BLM, sharing knowledge and resources, to achieve desired outcomes for public lands and communities within statutory and regulatory frameworks” (BLM 2005). The benefits of enhanced collaboration among agencies in preparing NEPA analyses are:

- Disclosing relevant information early in the analytical process
- Applying available technical expertise and staff support
- Avoiding duplication with other federal, state, tribal, and local procedures
- Establishing a mechanism for addressing intergovernmental issues

The BLM entered into a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the National GRSG Planning Strategy with the FWS and the ~~U.S.~~-Forest Service. In addition, the Great Basin sub-regions also invited local, state, other federal, and tribal representatives to participate as Cooperating Agencies for these RMP Amendments/EISs. In total, there were 13 MOUs signed with Federal agencies, 10 MOUs signed with state agencies, 55 MOUs signed with counties, and 5 MOUs signed with tribal entities. The MOUs outline the interests, expertise, and jurisdictional responsibilities of both the BLM and its cooperating agency partners and also outlines their respective roles and responsibilities in the planning and NEPA processes. Additional information can also be found in Chapter 6 of each of the Proposed Amendments/FEISs. These cooperating agencies divided by sub-region are provided below:

Great Basin Region-Wide

US Fish and Wildlife Service
US Forest Service

Idaho and Southwestern Montana

Beaverhead County Commissioners
Bingham County Commissioners
Blaine County Commissioners
Cassia County Commissioners
Clark County Commissioners
Craters of the Moon National Monument
Custer County Commissioners
Fremont County Commissioners
Idaho Association of Counties
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Idaho Governor's Office of Species
Conservation

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Idaho National Guard
Jefferson County Commissioners
Lemhi County Commissioners
Madison County Commissioners
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Owyhee County Commissioners
Power County Commissioners
Twin Falls County Commissioners
US Department of Defense
US Department of Energy (INL)

Nevada and Northeastern California

Churchill County
Elko County
Eureka County
Humboldt County
Lander County
Lassen County
Lincoln County
Mineral County
Modoc County
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Nevada Department of Transportation
Nevada Department of Wildlife
Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural
Resources
Nye County
Pershing County
Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
Storey County
Summit Lake Paiute Tribe
Susanville Indian Rancheria
US Department of Defense
US Federal Highway Planning Administration
Washoe County
Washoe Tribe
White Pine County

Oregon

Crook County
Deschutes County
Harney County
Harney Soil and Water Conservation District ~~US~~
Lake County

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Malheur County
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Oregon State University
US Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Utah

Beaver County
Box Elder County
Carbon County
Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Indian
Reservation
Duchesne County
Emery County
Garfield County
Grand County
Iron County
Kane County
Lincoln County (WY)
Millard County
Rich County

~~Sanete~~Sanpete County

Sevier County
State of Utah (PLPCO)
State of Wyoming
Sweetwater County (WY)
Sweetwater County Conservation District (WY)
Tooele County
Uinta County (WY)
Utah County (UT)
Utah County
US Department of Defense
Wayne County
Natural Resources Conservation Service

4.3 FWS Section 7 Consultation

~~Consultation with FWS is required under~~Under Section 7(e) of the ESA ~~before.~~ Federal agencies must consult with the start of FWS when any BLM project that action the agency carries out, funds, or authorizes may affect any federally a listed or endangered or threatened species or its designated critical habitat. These planning processes are considered a major project, and the The four Great Basin sub-

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regional Final EISs defined potential impacts on threatened and endangered species as a result of management actions proposed in the alternatives analyzed in the FEISs. The FWS is a cooperating agency in this planning process. FWS staff participated in interdisciplinary team meetings and has been provided drafts of alternative decisions and analyses for discussion and input.

The BLM formally initiated Section 7 consultation with a letter to the FWS prior to the release of the Draft RMP Amendments/EISs, and requested concurrence on which species would require consideration during consultation. Over the ensuing months, regular meetings were held to identify the species that would be analyzed in the biological assessment, to address which actions could affect those species, and to determine whether the implementation of the Proposed Plan Amendments “may affect” the species for which this consultation occurred.

Prior to the release of the Proposed Amendments/FEISs, the BLM formally submitted the biological assessments to the FWS for review. ~~The USFWS on whether the plans would affect a federally listed, proposed, or candidate species.~~ The FWS evaluated the biological assessments and concurred with the either a “no affect” or “may effect, but will not adversely affect” determination via memorandum for Oregon, Nevada and Northeastern California, and Idaho and Southwestern Montana, which are appendices to each of these ARMPAs. For Utah, formal consultation was required with the FWS due to a “likely to adversely affect” determination associated with the Utah Prairie Dog, a threatened species under the ESA. The biological opinion from the FWS is attached to the Utah ARMPA (Appendix K).

4.4 Native American and State Historic Preservation Office Consultation

In recognition of the government-to-government relationship between individual tribes and the federal government, the BLM initiated Native American consultation in preparation of the four Great Basin sub-regional RMP Amendments/EISs. Coordination with Native American tribes occurred throughout the planning process. In December 2011, the BLM sent 65 individual letters to tribal governments providing initial notification of the RMP Amendments/EISs and background information on the project, an invitation to be a cooperating agency, and notification of subsequent consultation efforts related to the planning process. Tribes have been participating in the RMP Amendments/EISs processes through numerous meetings and through personal BLM contacts, and in some cases, as Cooperating Agencies.

As part of the NEPA scoping and consultation process, the BLM notified the Idaho, Montana, Nevada, California, and Oregon State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs) of the opportunities to comment on the planning and NEPA documents prepared for these efforts, as they relate to historic properties in the planning areas and the land use plan decisions included in the ARMPAs. The BLM sought information about historic properties in consideration of land use planning decisions in accordance with the National Programmatic Agreement (PA) between the BLM, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, and the Idaho, Montana, and Oregon State Protocol Agreement between the BLM and these SHPOs. If the BLM received comments and information from SHPOs and Tribes, that information was considered and incorporated into the Proposed RMPAs/Final

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EISs and the ARMPAs. The BLM has met its obligations under Section 106 of the NHPA, 54 U.S.C. § 306108, as outlined in the National PA and the State Protocols. -The BLM will satisfy the requirements of NHPA Section 106 for future implementation-level decisions, such as project proposals, including adequate consultation with SHPOs, ~~THPOs,~~ Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs), Native American Tribes, and other interested parties, consistent with the alternative procedures set forth in the National PA and relevant State Protocol or where applicable the Section 106 regulations.

For the Utah ARMPA, the BLM completed consultation with the Utah SHPO in accordance with the 36 CFR Part 800. In July 2015, the BLM submitted a formal letter, concluding that the land use plan amendments would not adversely affect cultural properties and seeking input and concurrence on those findings ~~and~~. BLM received a concurrence letter from the Utah SHPO on July 30, 2015. The BLM will satisfy the requirements of NHPA Section 106 -for future implementation-level decisions, such as project proposals, including adequate consultation with SHPOs, ~~Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs),~~ Native American Tribes, and other interested parties, consistent with the alternative procedures set forth in the National PA and relevant State Protocol, programmatic agreements, or where applicable the Section 106 regulations.

5. REFERENCES

~~6.~~

Comment [60]: EMPSi will develop.

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7. ATTACHMENTS

~~Attachment~~**Attachment 1. Idaho and Southwestern Montana Greater Sage-Grouse Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment**

~~Attachment~~**Attachment 2. Nevada and Northeastern California Greater Sage Grouse Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment**

~~Attachment~~**Attachment 3. Oregon Greater Sage-Grouse Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment**

~~Attachment~~**Attachment 4. Utah Greater Sage-Grouse Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment**

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PLANNING AMENDMENTS

The BLM (ID, NV, OR, UT) State Office proposes to prepare Resource Management Plan (RMP) amendments with an associated EIS for the (list of state specific by name) RMPs. These RMPs provide land management direction for the (identify the specific ones by name) BLM Districts.

The purpose of the RMP amendments is to address the management, restoration, and conservation of Greater sage-grouse habitats to support sage-grouse population management objectives for the State of (ID, NV, OR, UT). Amending the existing RMPs will provide long-term consistency in managing sage-grouse habitat on BLM-administered lands in (ID, NV, OR, UT) and habitat in adjacent states.

The need for the RMP amendments is to establish “regulatory mechanisms” in BLM resource management plans to respond to the recent “warranted, but precluded” Endangered Species Act listing decision from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) (*April 2010 Federal Register Notice*). Inadequacy of regulatory mechanisms was identified as a major threat in the FWS finding on the petition to list the greater sage-grouse. The FWS identifies that the principal regulatory mechanism for the BLM is conservation measures embedded in Resource Management Plans (RMP).

The listing decision by the FWS has identified the major threats in the Northern and Central Basin and Range Ecoregions as wildfire, loss of native habitat to invasive species, and habitat fragmentation due to development. Together, these factors have contributed cumulatively to continued range-wide decline in Greater sage-grouse populations. In accordance with BLM Sensitive Species Manual 6840 and responsibilities under Section 7(a) (1) of the Endangered Species Act, the BLM is mandated to utilize their authority in furtherance of the purposes of the Endangered Species Act to prevent listing of species within the agency’s jurisdiction.

Decisions To Be Made: The decisions to be made are to identify the range of management actions, restrictions, and constraints that will be placed on allowable uses on public lands to conserve, restore, and enhance sage grouse habitat.

Approximately XX% of the range-wide greater sage-grouse populations within the (specific area to be covered - ecoregions) occur within the State of (ID, NV, OR, UT). Changes in management of sage-grouse habitats are necessary to avoid the continued decline of populations that are anticipated across the species’ range. Rangeland, adaptive management strategies will focus on areas affected by threats to sage-grouse habitat, such as wildfire, energy development, urbanization, agricultural conversion, increases in predator populations, disease, and infrastructure development. Because BLM Nevada administers a large portion of sage-grouse habitat in the State, changes in BLM management of sage-grouse habitats are anticipated to have a considerable beneficial impact on existing sage-grouse populations and could prevent the species from being listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

MANAGEMENT GOAL

Conserve, restore, and enhance sage-grouse habitat on a landscape scale consistent with local, state, and federal management plans and policies while providing for multiple use of BLM-administered lands.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

1. Design and execute the necessary regulatory mechanisms to conserve the greater sage-grouse on BLM-administered lands and potentially avoid a listing under ESA.
2. In cooperation with local sage-grouse working groups, partners and stakeholders, develop site-specific conservation strategies to maintain or enhance sage-grouse habitats and habitat connectivity.
3. Enhance quality/suitable habitat to support the expansion of sage-grouse populations on BLM-administered lands within the planning area.
4. Manage sage-grouse seasonal habitats and maintain habitat connectivity to support population objectives set by the [\(appropriate State Wildlife Agency\)](#)
5. Identify and prioritize opportunities for habitat enhancement and conservation within sage-grouse key habitat areas based on threats and the ability to manage sage-grouse habitat.

From: Herren, Vicki
Sent: Monday, November 10, 2014 11:21 AM
To: Edwin Roberson
Subject: Fwd: buffers and effects areas
Attachments: BLM Great Basin GRSG ADPP Buffer Distances from Leks.docx

Another table. Sorry for sending all of these without screening.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Herren, Vicki** <vherren@blm.gov>
Date: Wed, Aug 27, 2014 at 5:37 PM
Subject: Re: buffers and effects areas
To: "Toevs, Gordon" <gtoevs@blm.gov>, Zachary Bowen <bowenz@usgs.gov>

Gordon and Zack

Attached is the table of lek buffers and scientific references used in the draft land use plan amendments. This information is very pre-decisional and not to distributed!

Vicki

On Wed, Aug 27, 2014 at 3:00 PM, Toevs, Gordon <gtoevs@blm.gov> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bowen, Zachary** <bowenz@usgs.gov>
Date: Wed, Aug 27, 2014 at 3:56 PM
Subject: Fwd: buffers and effects areas
To: Gordon Toevs <gtoevs@blm.gov>

Here is a good start for us....

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Manier, Daniel** <manierd@usgs.gov>
Date: Wed, Aug 27, 2014 at 9:25 AM
Subject: buffers and effects areas
To: Zachary Bowen <bowenz@usgs.gov>

Zack -

Take a quick look at these tables - as potentially being useful for Gordon - these were included as appendices to the BER.

I'll also share with Cam, Steve and Steve to see if they have any comments or

Dan

--

Daniel J. Manier, Ecologist
U.S. Geological Survey, Fort Collins Science Center | Ecosystem Dynamics Branch
Affiliate Faculty, Colorado State University | Ecosystem Science and Sustainability
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Vicki Herren
BLM National Sage-Grouse Coordinator (Acting)
BLM Washington Office, Division of Fish and Wildlife Conservation
202.912.7235 Desk
202.374.4597 Cell

BLM Great Basin GRSG ADPP Buffer Distances from Leaks (in miles)

Note: Many buffers are not applied due to the fact that the entire GRSG management area/habitat may already protected by a land use plan allocation.

	Prohibit all surface disturbing activities	Prohibit or minimize sage brush removal or cutting	Fluids (Closed)	Fluids (NSO)	Fluids (CSU/TL)	Fluids – Geospatial exploration (TL)	Exclude Renewable Development	Avoid Renewable Development	Disruptive recreational events	Upgrading/new roads/trails	Fence Removal /Marking	Rangeland Structures	Vegetation Treatments	Above ground structures	Mineral Development	Repeated or sustained behavioral disturbance
Oregon ADPP	PPMA: 1 ₁ PGMA: 1 ₁	PPMA: 4 PGMA: 4	None	PPMA: - PGMA: 1 ₄	None	None	None	None	PPMA: 3-4 ₇ PGMA: 3-4 ₇	PPMA: 4 ₈ PGMA: 4 ₈	PPMA: 1.2 PGMA: 1.2	PPMA: 1 PGMA: 1	PPMA: 4 ₁₂ PGMA: 4 ₁₂	None	None	None
Nevada/NE CA ADPP	PPMA: 1/4 ₂ PGMA: 1/4 ₂	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	PPMA: 4 ₉ PGMA: 4 ₉	PPMA: 1.25 _c PGMA: 1.25 _c	PPMA: 2 ₁₁ PGMA: 2 ₁₁	PPMA: .6/3.2 ₁₃ PGMA: 6/3.2 ₁₃	None	None	None
Utah ADPP	PPMA: 1 ₁₅ PGMA: -	None	None	PPMA: 4 ₃ PGMA: -	None	None	None	None	None	None	PPMA: 1.2 _d PGMA: 1.2 _d		PPMA: .6 ₁₄ PGMA: .6 ₁₄		PPMA: 1 PGMA: -	None
Idaho/SW MT ADPP (Idaho portion)	Core: 2 _b Important: 2 _b General: 2 _b	Core: .6 _a Important: .6 _a General: .6 _a	None	None	None	None	Core: - Important: 2 ₅ General: -	Core: - Important: 2 ₅ General: -	Core: - 2 ₆ Important: 2 ₆ General: -	Core: - .8 ₁₀ Important: .8 ₁₀ General: -	None	Core: .6e Important: .6e General: .6e	None	Core: 2 _f Important: 2 _f General: - <i>See table below for ID for details.</i>	Core: .8 _g Important: .8 _g General: -	Core: .2 _{h/16} Important: .2 _{h/16} General: .2 _{h/16}
Idaho/SW MT ADPP (MT portion)	None	None	None	Core : General: .6 Restore:	Core : - General: 2 Restore: -	Core : - General: 4 Restore: -	Core : - General: 1 Restore: -	None	None	None	None	None	None	None		None

Footnotes

- 1- (OR) Only applies to new anthropogenic disturbances
- 2- (NV) 4 mile buffer for all surface disturbing activities (during life cycle periods, except within existing designated corridors) & 1 mile buffer from seeps, springs and wet meadows within brood-rearing habitat (year round)
- 3- (UT) Only applies to development associated with existing fluid mineral leases.
- 4- (OR) For fluid mineral development
- 5- (ID) Exclude/Avoid solar energy development only.
- 6- (ID) Do not schedule disruptive recreational events (e.g., motorized races) during the lekking season.
- 7- (OR) 3 mile buffer only applies to the issuance of future special recreation permits., while the 4 mile buffer only applies to the issuance of motorized and /or race SRPs
- 8- (OR) Only applies to upgrading primitive roads.
- 9- (NV) Only applies to the to concentrated turn-out locations for livestock
- 10- (ID) Do not construct new paved or high volume traffic gravel roads.
- 11- (NV) 2 mile buffer only applies to domestic sheep use and bedding areas, and herder camps
- 12- (OR) Includes juniper cutting and vegetation management activities that are timing-sensitive for maximum effectiveness
- 13- (NV) .62 buffer for Lek Security-Tree cover/Proximity of trees: Less than 4 percent landscape canopy cover and 3.2 for nesting security-Tree cover/Proximity of trees: No tall structures
- 14- (UT) Reduce conifer, where technically feasible, to less than 5 percent canopy cover, with preference for complete removal
- 15- (UT) Applies only to ROWs, mineral materials permits, non-energy leaseables, appurtenant sub-surface coal mine facilities, surface coal mines (or facilities), or locatable mineral (where claimant agrees) developments
- 16- (ID) No repeated or sustained behavioral disturbance (e.g., visual, noise, etc.) to lekking birds from 6:00 pm to 9:00 am in Core/Important and avoid in General.

Best Available Science Reference

- a. State of Colorado GRSG Conservation Plan
- b. Connelly et al. 2000
- c. Christiansen 2009; Stevens 2011; NRCS 2012
- d. Stevens 2012
- e. IDswMT biology team
- f. Connelly et al. 2000
- g. Patricelli et al. 2012
- h. 2011 MS Thesis

Idaho ADPP – Additional Above Ground Structure Buffers

	Core/Imp	General	
Do not allow new facilities or associated above ground infrastructure *Important only	2*	-	Connelly et al. 2000
Do not allow communication tower construction, unless needed to address public safety needs	3	-	Johnson et al. (2011)
Avoid communication tower construction, unless needed to address public safety needs. * Important and General Only	3*	-	Johnson et al. (2011)
Do not allow transmission line construction	.37	.37	Gillan et al. (2013)

Avoid transmission line construction	2	2	Connelly et al. 2000
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