

BLM National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy

WESTERN REGION

Scoping Meetings
January – February 2012



Greater Sage-Grouse ESA Listing Status

- January 2005 - FWS issued 12-month “not warranted” finding
- December 2007 – District Court remanded FWS decision
- March 2010 – FWS Issued “warranted but precluded” finding making the greater sage-grouse a “candidate” for listing
- FY 2015 – Greater Sage-Grouse final listing decision



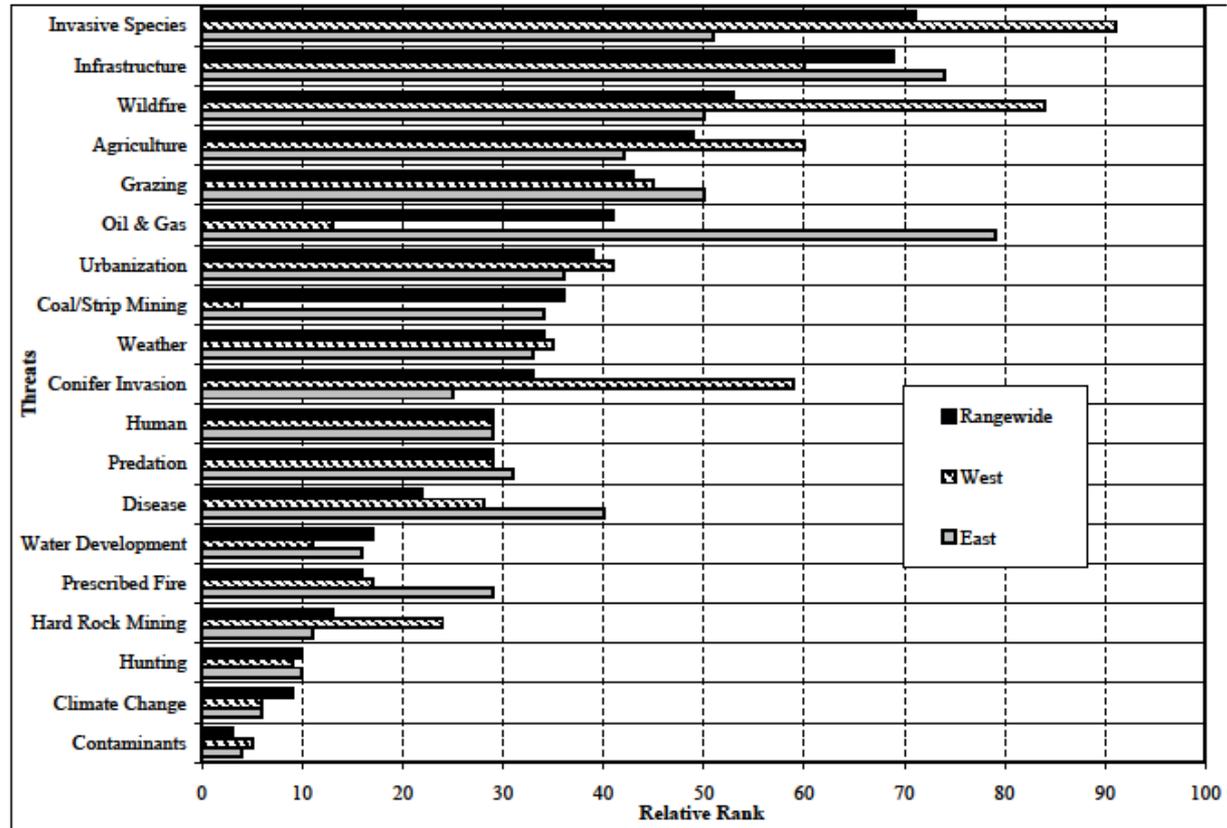
FWS Identified Factors BLM Could Address

- Inadequate regulatory mechanisms for BLM identified as a major factor in "warranted but precluded" finding. Similar concerns were identified for the FS as well.
- Principal regulatory mechanism is conservation measures in:
 - BLM Resource Management Plans (RMPs)
 - FS Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMPs)
 - Collectively we call these Land Use Plans (LUPs)
- Consistent application of conservation measures across the range



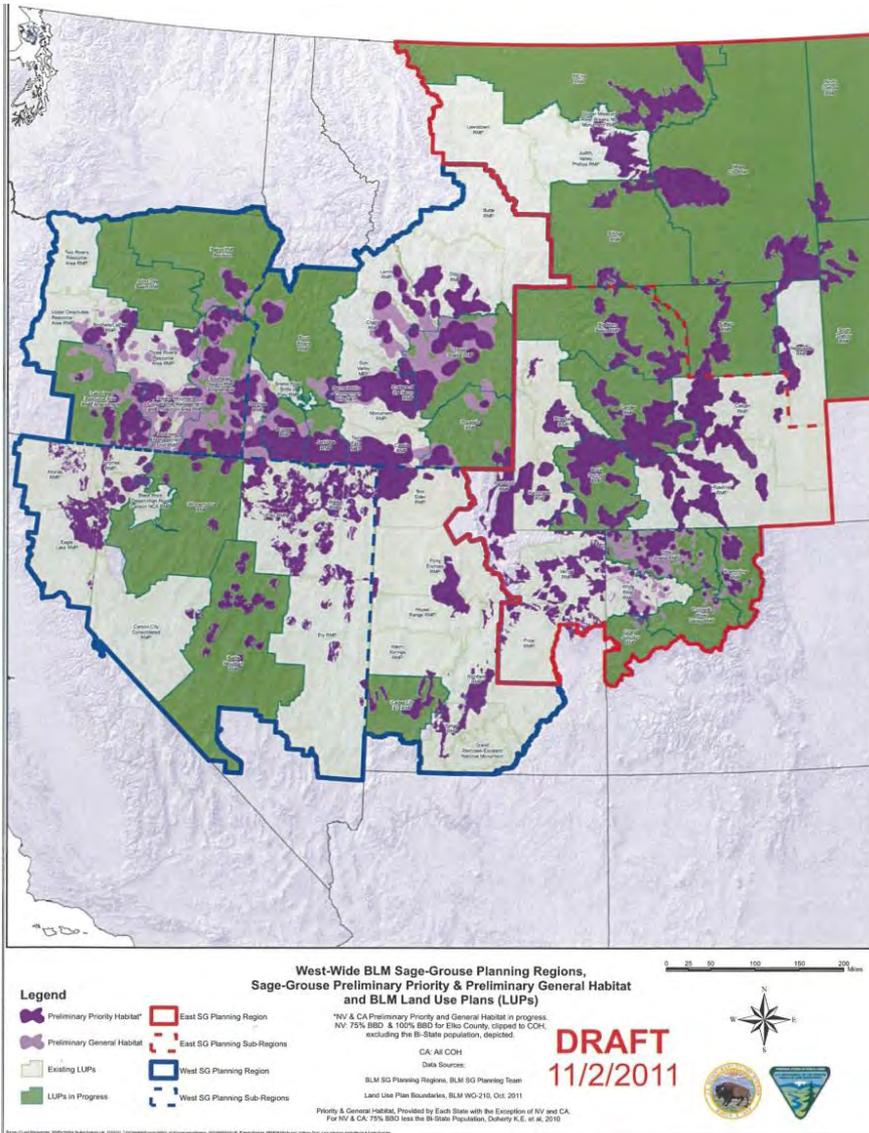
FWS Identified Threats to Greater Sage-Grouse

- FWS considers the main threat to be a tie between invasive species, infrastructure, wildfire, and energy development
- Oil and gas includes other types of energy - wind, uranium, and geothermal
- Threats vary across the range



Preliminary Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Map

- Being developed collaboratively with state wildlife agencies
- Still some areas where the maps are not complete



Extent of Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat

- There is a total of approximately 100 million acres of greater sage-grouse habitat.
- Located across 11 states (CA, CO, ID, MT, NV, ND, OR, SD, UT, WA, WY).
- Approximately 50% on BLM surface managed lands. Less than 8% on National Forest System lands.
- Affects 68 BLM planning units of which 28 plans are currently under revision, and 9 Forest Service LUPs.



BLM National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy

BLM comprehensive strategy to address greater sage-grouse conservation prior to the FY 2015 final listing decision

- BLM is lead federal agency; FS is cooperating agency
- The FWS, FS, and state wildlife agencies are members of every level of the strategy.
- Other state and federal agencies (e.g. NRCS) are members as appropriate.
- Strategy announced at Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies meeting in July 2011.



BLM National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy

Develop and implement new or revised regulatory mechanisms through land use planning and appropriate policy, in order to:

- Conserve and restore greater sage-grouse and their habitats on BLM administered lands on a range-wide basis over the long term, and
- Ensure conservation measures are carried forward into future planning efforts on BLM land



Planning Approach

- Issue national policy and direction to guide interim actions and future planning
- Establish highly coordinated, multi-level, interagency teams that respond to clear national direction
- Incorporate regulatory mechanisms into LUPs at the sub-regional (state/multi-state) level



Governance Structure (Teams) for National Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy

Charter established the following teams to accomplish the strategy:

- National Policy Team (NPT)
- National Technical Team (NTT)
- Regional Management Teams (RMTs), East and West Regions
- Regional Interdisciplinary Teams (RIDTs), East and West Regions *Note: FS will have a separate regional IDT*
- Sub-regional (State/multistate) Interdisciplinary Teams (SIDTs)

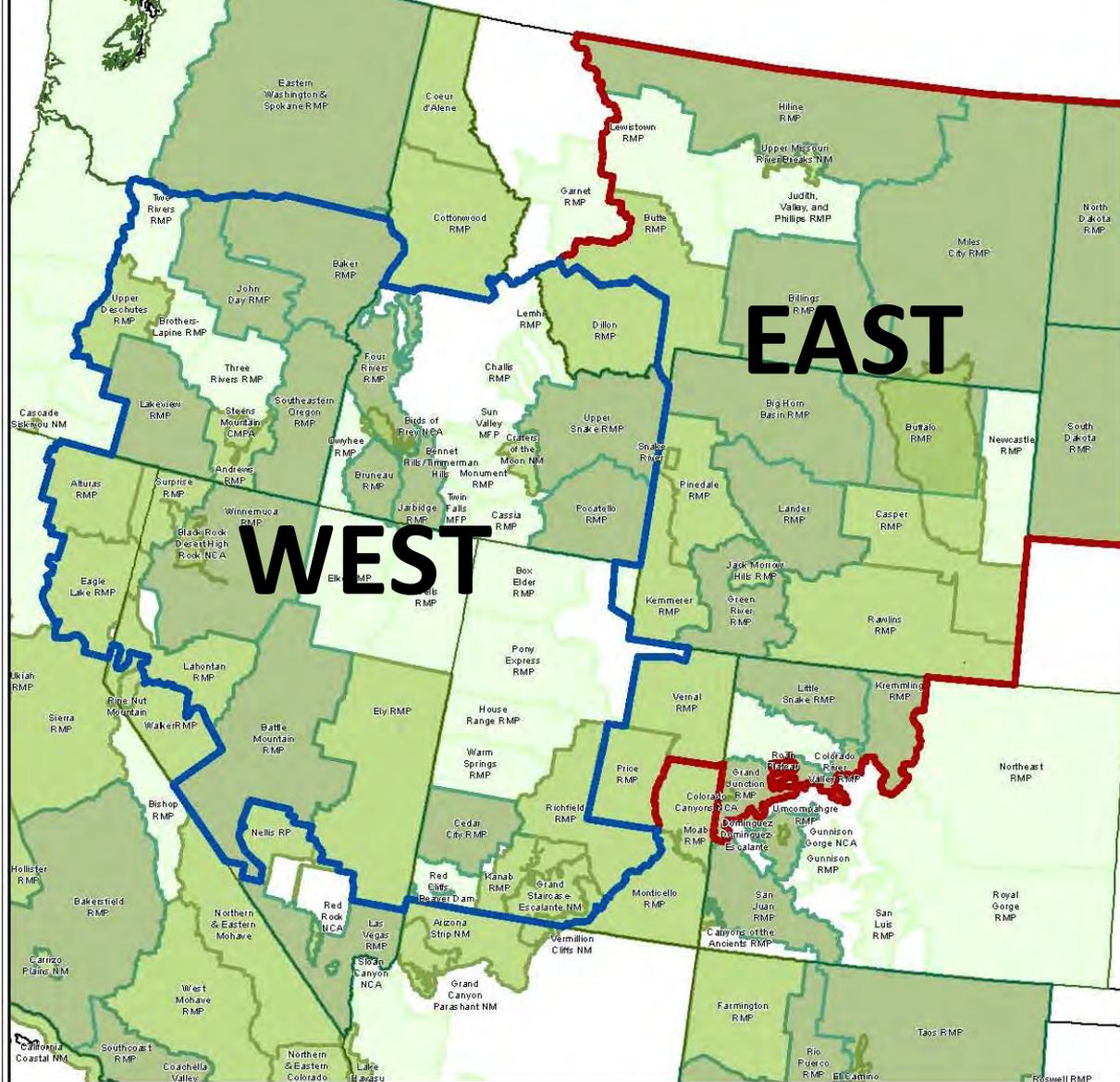


Regional Teams

- There are two Regional Teams:
 - East – Rocky Mountains/Great Plains (RMGP)
 - West – Great Basin/Columbia Plateau (GBCP)
- Each team will respond to clear national policy while looking at different ecological attributes and threats that are region-specific



Regional Teams



WEST

EAST

Proposed Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy East and West Regions

Legend

- Completed LUPs
- LUPs Currently Under Revision
- Existing LUPs
- West
- East



Data Sources:
Land Use Plan Boundaries, BLM WO-210



Sub-Regional EISs

- Sub-regions in the Western Region:
 - Utah
 - Oregon
 - Nevada and Northeastern California
 - Idaho and Southwestern Montana
- Each sub-region will have its own EIS
- Each EIS will amend the LUPs in that sub-region



Public Scoping Meetings

- A Notice of Intent (NOI) to revise or amend land use plans was published on 12/09/2011.
- Under this strategy with the BLM, the FS will address specific forests identified as high priority in the FWS findings. The affected forest plans were included in the NOI.
- Information for January, 2012 Public Scoping Meetings was also included.



Submit Comments

Submit comments by February 16th 2012

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Timeline of Critical Steps

Action	When
Establish all teams (NPT, NTT, RMTs, RIDTs, and SIDTs)	Complete
Issue national interim policy (Instruction Memorandum)	December 27, 2011
Publish Notice of Intent to amend land use plans	December 9, 2011
Public scoping complete	February 16, 2012
Draft EISs published	January 2013
Final EISs published	November 2013
Records of Decision signed	May 2014

* All dates are subject to change.



BLM Interim Management Guidance

- A national Instruction Memorandum (IM) was issued December 22, 2011.
- The intent of the guidance is to conserve greater sage-grouse until LUP decisions are made.



IM Coordination

- Sent to State wildlife agency, FWS, and BLM for review on 9/13/2011 and again on 11/23/2011 (included formal governor review).
- Secretary Salazar met with Western Governors on 12/09/2011 in Cheyenne, Wyoming.



Sage Grouse National Technical Team:

A Report on National Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Measures

(December 27, 2011)

- Team of scientist from federal and state agencies
- Identifies conservation measures necessary to promote sustainable sage-grouse populations
- Conservation measures focused on primary threats, including recreation, transportation systems, development (realty actions), range management, fluid and solid minerals extraction, fire, and habitat restoration
- Serves as a starting point for this planning process



Conclusion

- This is the first step in a complex strategy where state agency involvement is important, as well as involvement of Tribal and local governments. We look forward to collaborating throughout this process.



Get Involved

- **Get on the mailing list** by sending a request to SageWest@blm.gov
- **Ask questions** at SageQuery@blm.gov
- **Visit the National Strategy Web site**
www.blm.gov/sagegrouse
- **Visit the Western Region's strategy Web site**
www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/sagegrouse/western.html

