



Draft

Greater Sage-Grouse Land Use Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement

*Great Basin Region
Nevada and Northeastern
California Subregion*

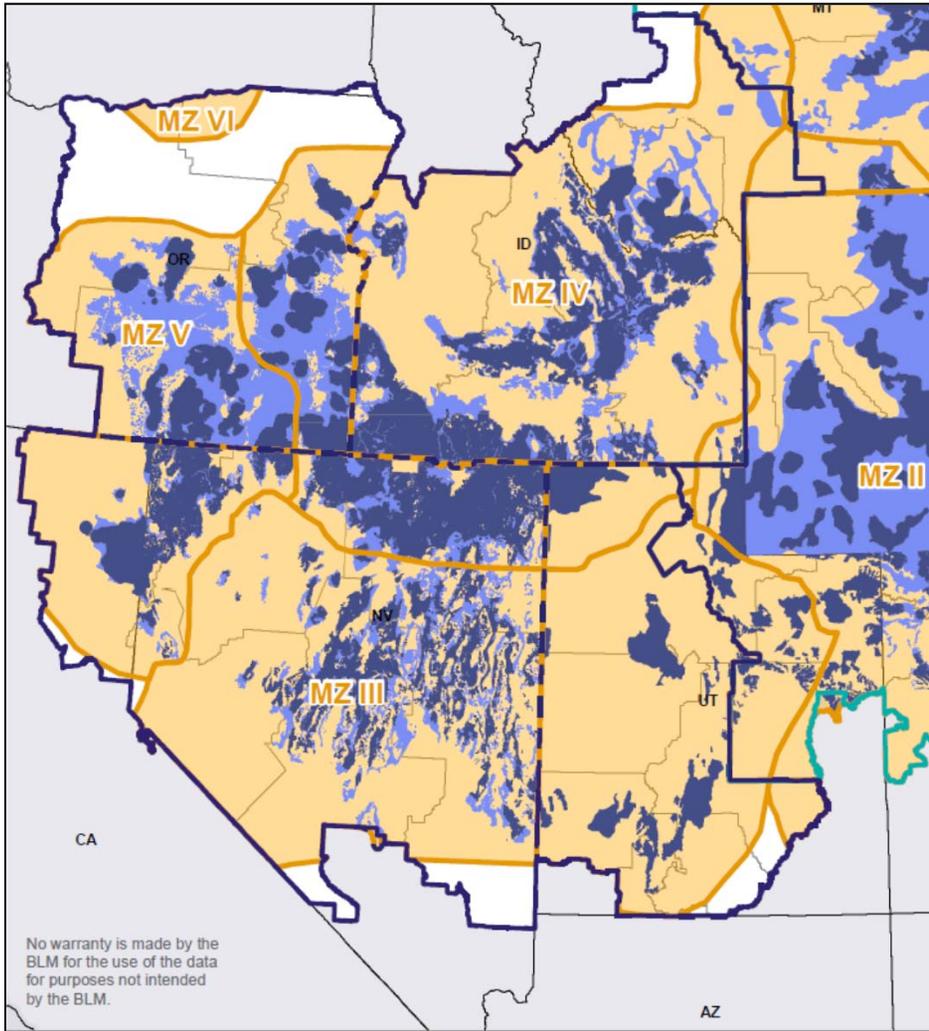




Greater Sage-Grouse Draft Land Use Plan Amendments and EIS

GREAT BASIN REGION – GREATER SAGE-GROUSE HABITAT OVERVIEW

Great Basin GRSG Habitat Overview



- Great Basin
- Rocky Mountain
- Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' (WAFWA) Management Zone
- Preliminary priority habitat
- Preliminary general habitat

Great Basin GRSB Habitat Overview

- **Total Great Basin Habitat Area:** 61 million acres
- **Subregions:**
 - Idaho and southwestern Montana
 - Nevada and northeastern California
 - Oregon
 - Utah
- **Land management:**
 - BLM: 50% of habitat
 - FS: 7% of habitat
- **Land Use Plan (LUP) Revisions:**
 - 41 BLM Resource Management Plans (RMPs)
 - 12 Forest Service Forest Plans

Purpose and Need

of all Great Basin Greater Sage-Grouse EISs

Purpose

Identify and incorporate appropriate conservation measures in LUPs to conserve, enhance, and restore Greater Sage-Grouse (GRSG) habitat by reducing, eliminating, or minimizing threats to that habitat.

Need

Respond to the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) March 2010 "warranted, but precluded" Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing petition decision, which identified inadequacy of regulatory mechanisms as a significant threat to GRSG.

The principal regulatory mechanism for BLM and FS is conservation measures in BLM's and FS's LUPs.

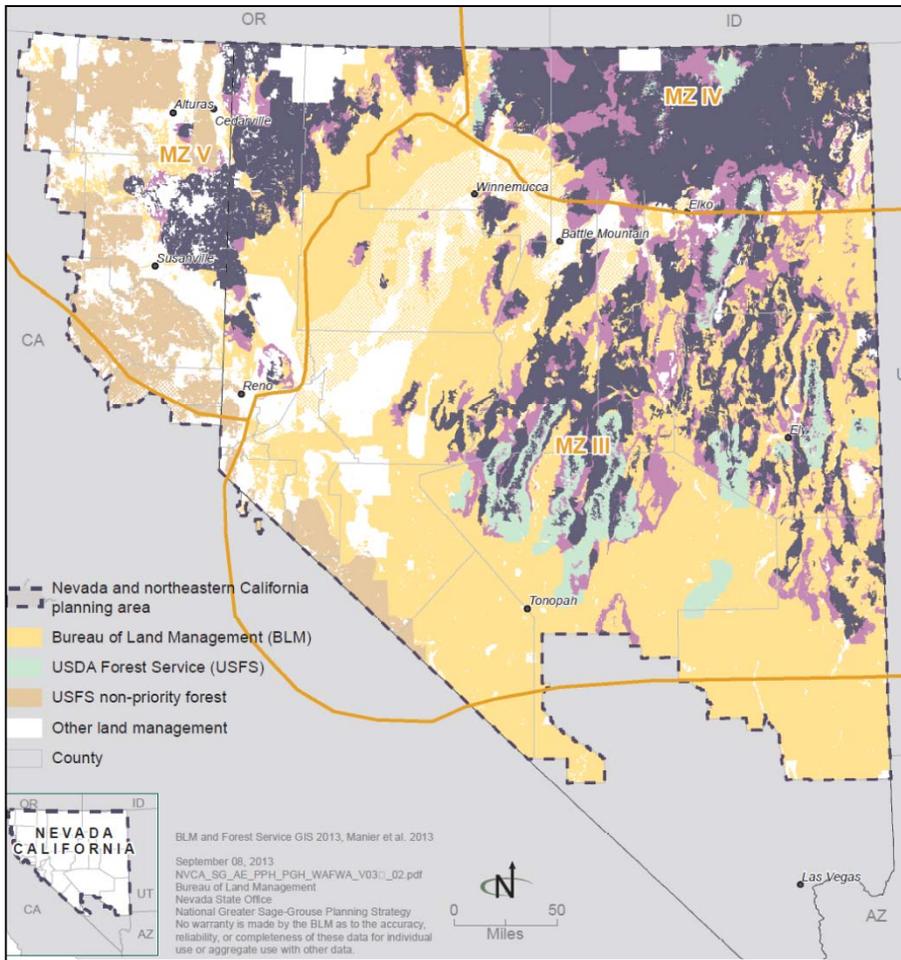




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NEVADA AND NORTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA SUBREGION

Subregional GRSG Habitat Overview



Land Management by Habitat (In Millions of Acres)			
	BLM	FS	Total
Planning Area	45.36	4.508	49.94
Priority (PPH)¹	11.5	1.17	12.67
General (PGH)²	4.5	0.54	5.04

¹PPH: Preliminary Priority Habitat

²PGH: Preliminary General Habitat

Nevada/ Northeast California GRSG Habitat Overview

- **Total Habitat Area:** 21 million acres
- **Land management:**
 - BLM: 76% of habitat (16 million acres)
 - FS: 8% of habitat (1.7 million acres)
- **Land Use Plan (LUP) Revisions:**
 - 12 BLM Resource Management Plans
 - 2 Forest Service Forest Plans

Identified Threats to GRSG Habitat

Threat	Effect on GRSG Habitat in the NV & NE CA Subregion
Invasive Species	conversion of GRSG habitat (e.g. to cheatgrass)
Wildfire	loss of GRSG habitat due to wildfire
Conifer Invasion	encroachment of pinyon and/or juniper
Infrastructure	Habitat fragmentation from right-of-ways and renewable energy development
Climate Change	habitat fragmentation due to climate stress
Grazing	loss of habitat components due to livestock and wild horse and burro use
Hard Rock Mining	habitat fragmentation due to mineral exploration and development
Oil and Gas Development	habitat fragmentation due to mineral exploration and development
Human Uses	habitat fragmentation and/or modification of GRSG behavior due to human presence and activities (e.g. recreation and OHV use)

DEIS Proposed Alternatives

Alternative*	Description
Alternative A	No Action
Alternative B	Based on conservation measures in the National Technical Team (NTT) Report
Alternative C	Based on recommendations from individuals and conservation groups
Alternative D	BLM and FS subregional alternative; DEIS preferred alternative
Alternative E	Nevada State alternative
Alternative F	Based on recommendations from individuals and conservation groups

*Alternative A identifies PPH and PGH, but does not apply new management to those areas. Alternatives B - F propose new management to protect GRSG habitat. Depending on the alternative, proposed management actions apply to Preliminary Priority Management Areas (PPMAs), Preliminary General Management Areas (PGMAs), or Sage Grouse Management Areas (SGMAs).

DEIS Proposed Alternatives

Alternatives Comparison by Resource Area						
Resource Area	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E	Alternative F
Vegetation	Maintain current management.	Improve and restore sagebrush communities.	Passive restoration and limited vegetation treatments.	Maintain and enhance sagebrush ecosystems.	Landscape-scale sagebrush enhancement.	Similar to B.
Fire	Maintain current management.	Focus fire suppression and increase fuels reduction in GRSG habitat.	Limited fuels reduction and suppression in GRSG habitat.	Similar to B with site specific applications as appropriate.	Focus on reducing threats from large wildfire while increasing suppression, and rehabilitation.	Similar to B, but only for PPMAs and not PGMAs.
ACECs¹	Maintain current management.	Same as A.	Designate GRSG habitat as new ACECs.	Same as A.	Same as A.	Designate portions of GRSG habitat as new ACECs.

¹ACECs: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern



DEIS Proposed Alternatives

Alternatives Comparison by Resource Uses

Resource Use Area	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E	Alternative F
Grazing	Maintain current management.	Same as A.	Close all allotments containing GRSG habitat to grazing.	Manage to GRSG habitat objectives.	Similar to A.	25% reduction in occupied habitat.
Lands and Realty	Maintain current management.	Exclude new ROWs in PPMAs; avoid in PGMAs	Exclude all new ROWs in GRSG habitat.	Exclude wind and solar ROWs and avoid other ROWs in GRSG habitat.	Avoid all new ROWs in GRSG habitat.	Same as C.
Locatable Minerals	Maintain current management.	Petition for withdrawal in PPMAs.	Petition for withdrawal in GRSG habitat.	Same as A.	Implement mitigation banking system.	Same as B.
Fluid Minerals	Maintain current management.	Close PPMAs to leasing.	Close all GRSG habitat to leasing.	Apply no surface occupancy stipulations in GRSG habitat.	Avoid, minimize, and mitigate features over 32 acres.	Same as C.
Travel Mngmt.	Maintain current management.	Manage PPMAs as limited to existing routes.	Manage all GRSG habitat as limited to existing routes.	Same as C.	Same as C.	Same as B, plus no new routes within 4 miles of leks.





Selecting a Preferred Alternative

- The agencies selected a preferred alternative based on:
 - meeting the purpose and need
 - the agencies' multiple use and sustained yield missions
 - interdisciplinary team recommendations
 - environmental consequences analysis of the alternative
 - comments on the Administrative Draft EIS
- The BLM and Forest Service will develop the proposed plan as part of the Final EIS, which could include elements of any of the alternatives.

Preferred Alternative

Alternative D

GRSG Habitat Protection Measures

- Maintain or enhance sagebrush and perennial grass ecosystems
- Increase fire suppression and restoration
- Adjust livestock grazing standards to achieve GRSG habitat objectives
- Decrease surface disturbance from new ROWs and cross-country OHV use
- Eliminate future surface disturbance from wind and solar energy development

Summary of Effects

from GRSG habitat protection measures by action alternative

Effects Comparison by Program Area

Program Area	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D (preferred)	Alternative E	Alternative F
Vegetation	Enhanced conditions	Potential impacts from fire	Enhanced conditions	Enhanced conditions	Enhanced conditions
Fire	Reduced threat	Increased threat	Reduced threat	Reduced threat	Reduced threat
Grazing	Maintained opportunities	Eliminated opportunities	Potential reduction in opportunities	Maintained opportunities	Decreased opportunities
Lands and Realty	Decreased development opportunities	No new development opportunities	Decreased development opportunities	Decreased development opportunities	Little to no development opportunities
Locatable Minerals	Decreased new development opportunities	Decreased new opportunities	Maintained development opportunities	Maintained development opportunities	Decreased new opportunities
Fluid Minerals	Decreased new development opportunities	No new opportunities	Decreased new development opportunities	Decreased new development opportunities	No new opportunities
Travel Mngt.	Decreased travel opportunities	Decreased travel opportunities	Decreased travel opportunities	Decreased travel opportunities	Decreased travel opportunities



View the Document

Online:

http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/prog/wildlife/greater_sage-grouse.html

In Person:

BLM Nevada State Office
1340 Financial Blvd.
Reno, NV 89502

Submitting Comments

Electronically:

Website: <http://on.doi.gov/14ZD3Rb> (case sensitive)

E-mail: blm_nv_ca_sagegrouse_eis_comments@blm.gov

US Mail:

BLM-Greater Sage-Grouse EIS

Attn: Joe Tague

1340 Financial Blvd.

Reno, NV 89502

Deadline to submit comments on the DEIS:

January 29, 2014.

Timeline of Critical Steps

Action	When
Draft EIS Released	November 1, 2013
90-day Public Comment Period Ends	January 29, 2014
Final EIS/LUPA Released	June 2014*
Record of Decision Signed	September 2014*

* Dates are subject to change.

