



# National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy



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## *Purpose and Need*

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the US Forest Service (Forest Service) in California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Montana (the affected states) propose to prepare Land Use Plan (LUP) amendments with associated environmental impact statements (EISs) for all resource management plans (RMPs) containing greater sage-grouse habitat. These LUPs provide land management direction for the BLM and Forest Service Districts within the affected states. The BLM is the lead agency on these EISs, and the Forest Service is participating as a cooperating agency.

The purpose of the LUP amendments is to address the management, restoration, and conservation of greater sage-grouse habitats to support sage-grouse population management objectives for the affected states. Amending the existing LUPs will provide long-term consistency and an adequate approach toward managing greater sage-grouse habitat on BLM- and Forest Service-administered lands in the affected states, as well as habitat administered by other agencies and privately owned habitat.

The need for the LUP amendments is to establish “regulatory mechanisms” in BLM and Forest Service LUPs to respond to the recent “warranted, but precluded” Endangered Species Act listing petition decision in March 2010 from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). 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 and Forest Service is conservation measures embedded in LUPs.