

Appendix M

GRSG Implementation and Coordination



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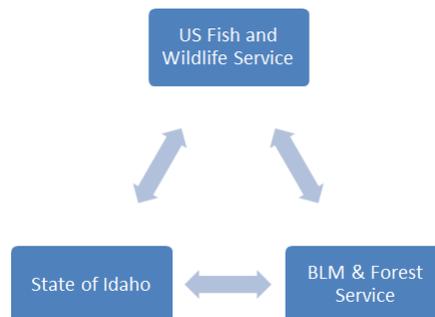
M. GRSG Implementation and Coordination

The BLM, Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Idaho have coordinated on GRSG monitoring and management for numerous years as part of the 2006 Idaho Sage Grouse Conservation Plan. Much of this ongoing work provides a firm foundation from which to build future coordination efforts, especially in regard to implementation of the GRSG RMP Amendment. With some specific adjustments and additional inclusions in those efforts the effective implementation of the GRSG RMP Amendment can be achieved.

There are several decisions, or components of decisions that would benefit from close coordination between the State of Idaho, BLM, Forest Service and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. These include: application and assessment of the adaptive management strategy; application of the right-of-way screening process; and development and implementation of any potential project mitigation efforts.

Figure M-1 describes a conceptual relationship between the agencies for coordination and project evaluation/implementation.

Figure M-1
Conceptual Relationship Between Agencies



For description an example project proposal will be tracked through the consideration and evaluation process.

I. Project Proposal is Initially Screened by BLM or Forest Service

This initial screened would evaluate whether the proposal conforms to the land use plan allocation decisions (Open, Open with Limitations, Closed). The BLM/Forest Service Field Office or Ranger District would work in coordination with the State or Supervisor's Office to evaluate this conformance.

For BLM if the proposal is not in conformance then a non-conformance letter from the State Director would be sent to the project proponent and the project would not be considered further.

If the project were found to conform to the land use plan allocations then consideration would continue.

II. Project Proposal would be Coordinated with State and USFWS

The State Implementation Task Force (set up through Idaho Executive Order) would convene to apply the right-of-way screening process to the proposal, informed by GRSG population monitoring accomplished by IDF&G. This evaluation would be vetted through the Governor's Office and a recommendation from the Governor would be provided to the BLM/Forest Service.

The BLM and/or Forest Service would work with local offices to apply the right-of-way screening process to the proposal, informed by the disturbance level (cap), and habitat conditions (amount).

The BLM/Forest Service decision maker would utilize the information from internal review and State recommendations to determine whether the project conforms to all land use plan guidance and whether to consider the project further.

For BLM if the proposal is not in conformance then a non-conformance letter from the State Director would be sent to the project proponent and the project would not be considered further.

If the project were found to conform to the land use plan guidance then consideration would continue.

III. BLM and/or Forest Service would Initiate Project NEPA

The NEPA analysis would be developed by the local unit office in full consideration of local habitat conditions. This process would describe alternatives to the proposal that would reduce or eliminate impacts and full identify residual impacts to GRSG.

IV. Share Residual Impacts with the State of Idaho and USFWS

The State Implementation Task Force would consider the residual impacts and work to develop an appropriate mitigation package to be included within analysis of the project proposal. This Governor would recommend to BLM the inclusion of the mitigation package within the project proposal.

V. BLM Incorporates and Analyzes Mitigation in NEPA Evaluation

VI. State of Idaho would Administer Mitigation Consistent with the Mitigation Strategy

As part of the implementation of the GRSG RMP Amendment the BLM and Forest Service will work cooperatively with the State to develop a Mitigation Strategy. Part of this strategy will define the operating procedures such as credits, banking, funding process, etc. This component is likely to strongly involve State oversight, with the specifics remaining to be determined.

VII. Mitigation is Implemented

