

Resource Management Plan Maintenance – Fiscal Year 2016

Plan Name: Oregon Greater Sage-Grouse Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment (Sept. 2015)

Planning Areas: All BLM-administered lands in Greater Sage-grouse (GRSG) habitat management areas within the Lakeview Resource Area of the Lakeview District, Upper Deschutes and Brothers/LaPine Resource Areas of the Prineville District, and all of the Burns and Vale Districts, Oregon.

Location of Change/Clarification/Correction:

Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment, Figure 2-13 of Appendix A, depicts Oregon Trails and Travel Management (off highway vehicles-OHV) designations within the plan amendment area.

Change (*Describe exactly what is to be deleted, added, rewritten, updated, clarified, etc.*):

After publication of the approved plan amendment, errors were discovered in Figure 2-13. Figure 2-13 showed portions of many “key RNAs” as closed to motorized vehicle use. However, no supporting management objective or management direction was found anywhere in Chapter 2 of the approved plan which indicated a clear intent to close these areas to motorized vehicle use.

The following travel management direction from the approved plan makes it clear that any area that was not closed prior to approval of the plan amendment would become “limited” or retain its current designation:

MD TTM 1: Unless already designated limited or closed, all PHMA and GHMA shall be designated as limited to existing roads, primitive roads, and trails, including existing SRMAs. Where areas are currently designated “closed” under existing applicable RMPs the closed designations shall be maintained (p. 2-30).

Since only one key RNA (Spring Mountain) in the planning area was already closed to motorized use in the No Action Alternative (see Figure 2-18 of the Final EIS), the remaining key RNAs should have been designated as “limited” in Figure 2-13 and in the supporting OHV dataset, rather than “closed”.

Additional justification of this management intent can be found by reviewing the Final EIS. Section 4.16.10 of Chapter 4 describes the impacts of the proposed plan on special management areas (p. 4-280). While this section discusses the impacts of closing key RNAs to livestock grazing use, there is no related discussion of the potential impacts of closing the same key RNAs to motorized vehicle use. This further indicates that there is no management direction or intention within the proposed plan to close those areas to vehicle use or this section of the EIS would have discussed it.

Further examination of the OHV dataset found a couple of other minor errors in the vicinity of the Sand Dunes WSA and numerous “slivers” scattered across the entire dataset. The dataset has been corrected and Figure 2-13 has been updated to reflect these corrections (see attached Figure).

Reason:

Plan maintenance is the appropriate process used to make minor corrections to data, clarify, or refine management intent, such as the ones described above.

Forty-three CFR Part 1610.5-4 states that “resource management plans and supporting components shall be maintained as necessary to reflect minor changes in data. Such maintenance is limited to further refining or documenting a previously approved decision incorporated in the plan. Maintenance shall not

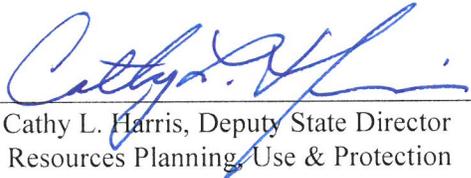
result in the expansion of the scope of resource uses or restrictions, or change the terms, conditions, and decisions of the approved plan. Maintenance is not considered a plan amendment and shall not require the formal public involvement and interagency coordination process described under Sections 1610.2 and 1610.3 of this title or the preparation of an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement. Maintenance shall be documented in plans and supporting records.”

In addition, the Greater Sage-Grouse Plan Draft Implementation Guide, Version 1.0, March 2016, provides the following direction regarding plan maintenance (p. 14):

As new information becomes available about GRSG habitat, including seasonal habitats, in coordination with the state wildlife agency and USFWS, and based on the best available scientific information, the BLM (at the state office level) may revise the GRSG habitat management area maps and associated management decisions through plan maintenance or plan amendment/revision, as appropriate. This is especially important if changes in those designations would substantially affect the appropriate application of additional or different conservation measures tied to that designation.

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Date: May 20, 2016

Concurring Official: 
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Resources Planning, Use & Protection

Date May 20, 2016

Note: This map depicts trails and travel management decisions for Greater Sage-Grouse protection as well as all other trails and travel management decisions existing for the management of all other resources. Please refer to the ARMPA for details regarding trails and travel management decisions.

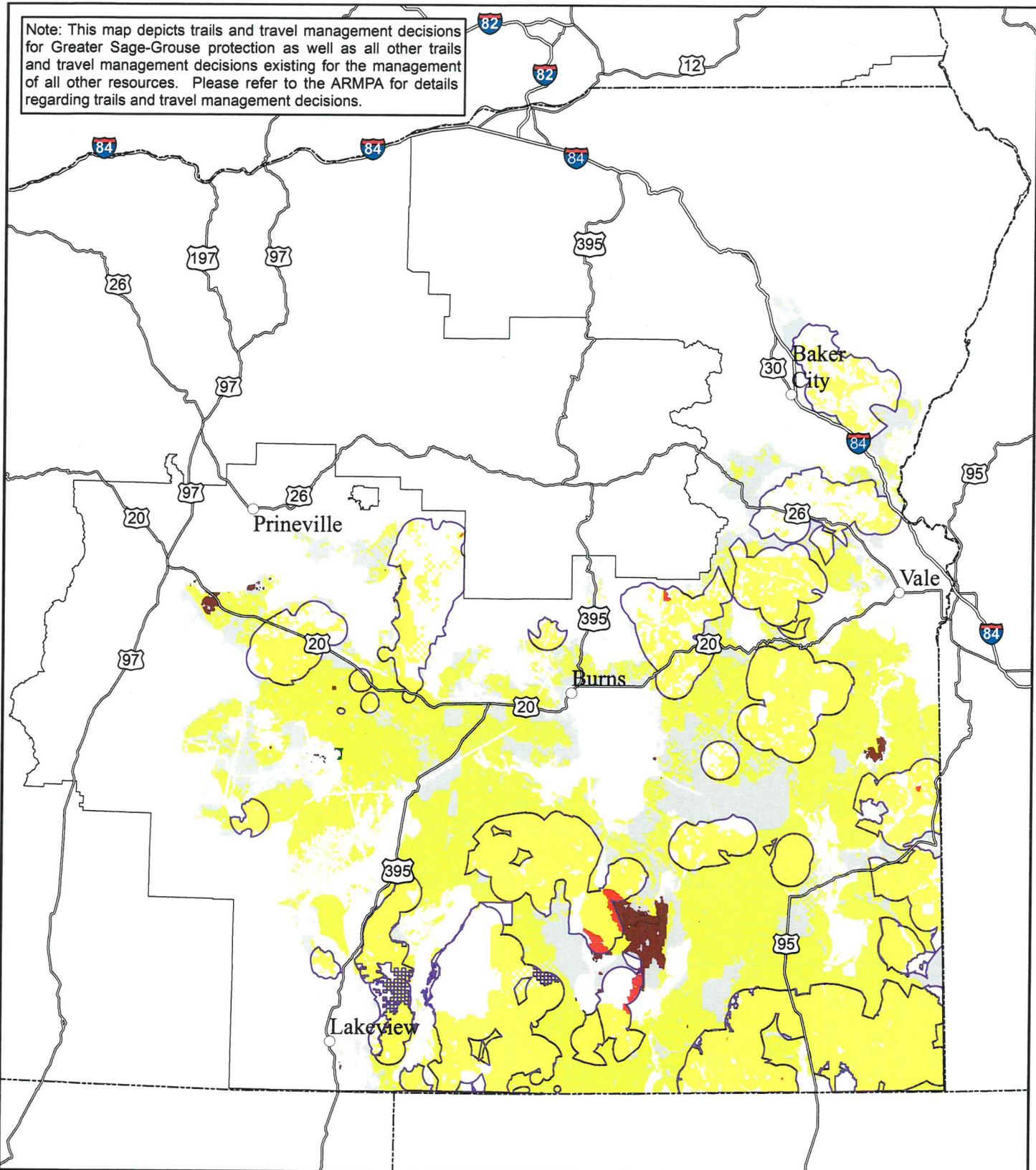


Figure 2-13: Oregon Trails and Travel Management (OHV)

- | | | | |
|--------|-------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| PHMA | GHMA | Outside of BLM Decision Area | Planning Area Boundary |
| Red | Brown | Closed | State Boundary |
| Yellow | | Limited | |
| Green | | Open | |

Miles
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March 2016



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