



NW_Sage_Grouse, BLM_CO <blm_co_nw_sage_grouse@blm.gov>

Greater Sage Grouse Management

1 message

STEVE ANN WILLIAMS <sandawilliams@msn.com>

Wed, Aug 21, 2013 at 4:53 PM

To: "blm_co_nw_sage_grouse@blm.gov" <blm_co_nw_sage_grouse@blm.gov>

Please see my comments below;

1. The status of the Greater Sage Grouse is currently unclear on the Endangered Species list - the Greater Sage Grouse was declared "warranted but precluded" under the most recent listing decision but this is no longer a viable listing status. Alternatives should be developed or identified in the DRMP to address if the Greater Sage Grouse is listed or declined from the ESA list.
2. There are large amounts of land that is modeled as grouse habitat but has not been actively occupied by grouse since the 1960's. I question if this habitat remains viable and is properly classified as habitat.
3. No new roads may be constructed in Grouse habitat areas. This standard fails to address future multiple use, more specifically recreational use, on these areas and fails to address the time frame that closures will be compared against.
4. Previous versions of the Management plan proposed to limit soil disturbance to 3% of habitat areas. This proposal moves that standard to 5% but I believe this is too low and fails to provide flexibility for boundary areas with private property.
5. Private land owner support will be critical to management of the Greater Sage Grouse as 50% of the habitat areas are privately owned. Maintaining multiple use on public lands will generate significant support from private land owners in my opinion.

Sincerely
Steve Williams
Pueblo West, Co.