



Sievers, Colleen <csievers@blm.gov>

Fwd: Greater Sage Grouse Bi-State Distinct Population Segment Forest Plan Amendment

1 message

CCDOWebmail, BLM_NV <blm_nv_ccdowebmail@blm.gov>
To: Colleen Sievers <csievers@blm.gov>

Tue, Dec 22, 2015 at 7:53 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Brent Fridrich <bigtallbaja@yahoo.com>

Date: Mon, Dec 21, 2015 at 12:45 PM

Subject: Greater Sage Grouse Bi-State Distinct Population Segment Forest Plan Amendment

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

I have attached comments regarding changes to the **The NV & CA Greater Sage Grouse Bi-State Distinct Population Segment Land Use Plan Amendment**.
Thank you for considering them.

Best regards,

Brent Fridrich
1216 NE Cedar Ridge Loop
Vancouver, WA 98664

 **Greater Sage Grouse Bi.docx**
17K

Greater Sage Grouse Bi-State Distinct Population Segment Forest Plan Amendment

BLM Carson City District, 5665 Morgan Mill Rd.
Carson City, NV 89701,
Attn: Colleen Sievers, Project Manager.

To whom it may concern,

I would like to comment on the Bi-State Greater Sage Grouse project. I think it is extremely important that the OHV community continue to have access to recreation opportunities in the areas under consideration. I encourage you to adopt the recommendations made by the Blue Ribbon Coalition when making changes to management plans for these areas. I have listed those ideas below.

OHV Management Guideline One:

Limit Use to Existing and/or Designated Roads and Trails

Overview:

On Forest Service lands, no offroad driving is allowed; the BLM does allow some crosscountry travel. Existing travel routes on BLM have not been completely evaluated through a travel management planning process and have not been completely "designated". The current OHV designation for much of the BLM managed land in the amendment area is "open" to unrestricted crosscountry travel. Approximately 45,000 acres along the Pine Nut Crest are currently designated as limited to designated routes; however, the travel management process has never been completed for this area.

A small portion (25,000 to 30,000 acres) of the Pine Nut Range includes lands that limit motorized use to existing routes through the 2009 Omnibus Act. The rest of the public lands in the Pine Nuts are designated open to OHV.

Prescription:

Prohibit crosscountry travel in the unit. Limit OHV use to existing use where travel plans have not yet been completed and restrict OHV use to designated roads and trails where travel plans have been completed. Casual driving and use of existing or designated trails should be considered a diffuse disturbance with no longterm effects.

OHV Management Guideline Two

Limited Operating Period for OHV Permitted Events

Overview:

According to the Forest Service, there are many motorized special events on unit lands, mostly in June. These include competitive motorcycle races, OHV and other vehicle races, competitive horse endurance rides, organized camping events, and competitive mountain bike races. Leasing occurs between March 1 and May 15.

Prescription:

Between March 1 and May 15, prohibit OHV events from using routes that pass through an active lek. Impose a time of day restriction (after 10 a.m.) for routes that pass within ¼ mile of an active lek.

OHV Management Guideline Three

OHV Sound Restriction

Overview:

Although there are not studies specifically focused on the noise effects of OHV use on the Grouse, there are OHV noise studies related to the Northern Spotted Owl (specifically OHV events) and other wildlife. At least one project, shows that noise levels could affect the breeding success of the owl. BRC believes that noise impacts to wildlife must be when managing routes for OHV use.

Land managers in states including Nevada that do not have any statewide OHV sound laws should consider adopting sound laws for special management areas or units that have been designated as critical habitat.

(40 CFR, Chapter 1, Section 201.158)

Prescription:

Adopt the 2003 California State OHV Sound Law which states, "Sound emissions of competitive off highway vehicles manufactured on or after January 1, 1998, shall be limited to not more than 96 dBA, and if manufactured prior to January 1, 1998, to not more than 101 dBA, when measured from a distance of 20 inches using test procedures established by the Society of Automotive Engineers under Standard J1287, as applicable. Sound emissions of all other off highway vehicles shall be limited to not more than 96 dBA if manufactured on or after January 1, 1986, and not more than 101 dBA if manufactured prior to January 1, 1986, when measured from a distance of 20 inches using test procedures established by the Society of Automotive Engineers under Standard J1287, as applicable."

Link to CA Sound Law

http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=23037

OHV Management Guideline Four

Invasive Species

Overview:

Cheatgrass and medusahead have become the most problematic of the exotic annual grasses within the Sage grouse Conservation Area" (Miller et al. 2011) OHVs can inadvertently spread invasive/noxious weeds including cheatgrass and medusahead. It is important that vehicles be weed free before travelling off highway. Thoroughly washing the OHVs will ensure that the seeds are removed and will help mitigate the spread of noxious weeds.

Prescription:

Adopt and promote an invasive species related prevention/education program based on the tenets at

<http://playcleango.org/>

Thank you for your time.

Regards,

Brent Fridrich
1216 NE Cedar Ridge Loop
Vancouver, WA 98664