

WYOMING GREATER SAGE-GROUSE PROPOSED LAND USE PLAN AMENDMENTS AND FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Lead Agency: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

Type of Action: Administrative

Jurisdiction: Portions of Albany, Campbell, Carbon, Converse, Crook, Fremont, Goshen, Laramie, Lincoln, Natrona, Niobrara, Platte, Sublette, Sweetwater, Teton, Uinta, and Weston counties

Abstract: The Wyoming Greater Sage-Grouse Proposed Land Use Plan (LUP) Amendments and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been prepared by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (Forest Service) with input from 26 cooperating agencies. This document is considering amendments to six BLM and three Forest Service LUPs to address management of Greater Sage-Grouse habitat in Wyoming. The final EIS describes and analyzes five alternatives for managing Greater Sage-Grouse habitat on approximately 16 million acres of BLM-administered and National Forest System lands and approximately 23 million acres of BLM-administered subsurface federal mineral estate. Alternative A is a continuation of current management (No Action Alternative); use of public lands and resources would continue to be managed under the current BLM and Forest Service LUPs, as amended. Alternative B is based on management actions from the Sage-Grouse National Technical Team's (NTT) *A Report on National Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Measures*. Alternative C is based on management actions submitted by various groups during public scoping. Alternative D provides opportunities to use and develop the planning area while providing protection of Greater Sage-Grouse habitat using ideas provided by scoping comments and input from Cooperating Agencies involved in the alternatives development process. The Proposed LUP Amendments incorporates the guidance from the Washington Office Instruction Memorandum No. 2012-044 (12/27/2011) BLM National Greater Sage-Grouse Land Use Planning Strategy (WO IM No. 2012-044), the Wyoming Governor's Executive Order 2011-5 (WY EO 2011-5), and additional management based on the NTT recommendations. This alternative emphasizes management of Greater Sage-Grouse seasonal habitats and maintaining habitat connectivity to support population objectives set by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD). Major planning issues addressed include energy and minerals, lands and realty (including rights-of-way), wildfire, vegetation management (including invasive species and conifer encroachment), livestock grazing, recreation, travel management, and socioeconomics.

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