APPENDIX G: GREATER SAGE GROUSE PRIORITIZATION PROCESS

The Record of Decision for the Great Basin GRSG Sub-Regions includes a prioritization objective that aims to:

> *…Prioritize oil and gas leasing and development outside of identified PHMAs and GHMAs to further limit surface disturbance and to encourage new development in areas that would not conflict with GRSG. This objective is intended to guide development to lower conflict areas and, as such, protect important habitat and reduce the time and cost associated with oil and gas leasing development. It would do this by avoiding sensitive areas, reducing the complexity of environmental review and analysis of potential impacts on sensitive species, and decreasing the need for compensatory mitigation. (1-23)*

In September 2016, BLM issued Washington Office Instruction Memorandum (IM) No. 2016-143, Implementation of Greater Sage-Grouse Resource Management Plan Revisions or Amendments – Oil & Gas Leasing and Development Sequential Prioritization, to provide guidance on implementing the prioritization objective. The IM clarified:

> *This guidance is not intended to direct the Authorized Officer to wait for all lands outside GRSG habitat areas to be leased or developed before allowing leasing within GHMAs, and then to wait for all lands within GHMAs to be leased before allowing leasing or development within the next habitat area (PHMA, for example). Rather it is intended to ensure consideration of the lands outside of GHMAs and PHMAs for leasing and development before considering lands within GHMAs and, thereafter, to ensure consideration of lands within GHMAs for leasing and development before considering any lands within PHMAs for leasing and development in an effort to focus future surface disturbance outside of the most important areas for sage-grouse conservation consistent with the conservation objectives and provisions in the GRSG Plans. (2) … BLM state offices will use this Prioritization Sequence, these parcel-specific factors, and the BLM's workload capacity and other workload priorities as they determine work plans for the oil and gas leasing program. (5)*

In December 2017, BLM issued Washington Office Instruction Memorandum (IM) No. 2018-026, Implementation of Greater Sage-Grouse Resource Management Plan Revisions or Amendments – Oil & Gas Leasing and Development Prioritization Objective, to provide further, more streamlined, guidance on oil and gas leasing prioritization in relation to GRSG. The IM clarified:

> *This Instruction Memorandum (IM) replaces IM 2016-143. The purpose of this IM is to ensure consistency, certainty, and clarity when implementing an objective in the 2015 Greater Sage-Grouse (GRSG) Approved Resource Management Plan Revisions and Amendments (GRSG Plans) to prioritize oil and gas leasing outside of GRSG habitat, while continuing to move forward*

expeditiously with oil and gas leasing and development, yet providing protections for GRSG and GRSG habitat management areas.

In the process of preparing a lease sale, the Utah State Office sends a draft parcel list to each field office where the parcels are then evaluated. In keeping with the guidance in IM 2016-143 and IM-2018-026, this process ensured that no parcels, that contained or were affected by GRSG habitat, were excluded from consideration. Proposed parcels were then evaluated against several of the prioritization factors for workload consideration, as outlined in IM 2016-143 and IM-2018-026. Table J-1 summarizes some of these factors for each of the parcels.

Table J-1: Summarizes the relationship of the 94 parcels within GRSG habitat to oil and gas variables.

Parcel No.	Are parcels adjacent to or proximate to O&G leases (Exisiting)	Are parcels adjacent to or proximate to O&G Development (Existing)	Other Land Use Development (i.e. Disturbance within PHMA & GHMA)		Is the GRSG Habitat located within an existing Federal O&G Unit?	Does the GRSG Habitat have a high gas potential for development (Mean)	Is the GRSG habitat located in an area that was previously analyzed? (EIS or MLP)
	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Acres	Y/N	Mean	Y/N
066	Y	N	N	0.0	N	0.004341	N
086	Y	Y	N	0.0	N	0.004965	N
087	Y	Y	N	0.0	N	0.004653	N
097	Y	Y	Y	3.4	Y	0.002542	N
100	Y	Y	Y	9.1	N	0.002157	N
101	Y	Y	Y	120.3	N	0.002185	N
102	Y	Y	Y	1.0	N	0.002542	N
106	Y	Y	Y	3.8	N	0.002542	N
107	Y	Y	Y	11.8	N	0.002542	N
108	Y	Y	N	0.0	N	0.002542	N
109	Y	N	Y	4.7	N	0.001918	N
110	Y	Y	N	0.0	N	0.002241	N
111	Y	Y	Y	6.3	N	0.002576	MLP
112	Y	Y	Y	11.7	N	0.002148	MLP

Parcel No.	Are parcels adjacent to or proximate to O&G leases (Exisiting)	Are parcels adjacent to or proximate to O&G Development (Existing)	Other Land Use Development (i.e. Disturbance within PHMA & GHMA)		Is the GRSG Habitat located within an existing Federal O&G Unit?	Does the GRSG Habitat have a high gas potential for development (Mean)	Is the GRSG habitat located in an area that was previously analyzed? (EIS or MLP)
	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Acres	Y/N	Mean	Y/N
115	N	Y	Y	7.2	N	0.002173	MLP
117	Y	Y	Y	25.0	N	0.002610	N
122	Y	N	Y	0.3	N	0.001986	N
124	Y	Y	Y	4.8	N	0.002402	N
127	Y	Y	N	0.0	N	0.002542	N
129	Y	Y	Y	13.9	N	0.002542	N
130	Y	Y	Y	8.8	N	0.002542	MLP
131	Y	Y	Y	7.4	N	0.002140	MLP
132	Y	Y	Y	18.6	N	0.002195	MLP
133	Y	Y	Y	15.2	N	0.002360	MLP
134	Y	Y	Y	11.0	N	0.001986	MLP
135	Y	Y	Y	37.2	N	0.002402	MLP
136	Y	Y	N	0.0	N	0.002610	MLP
139	Y	Y	Y	10.0	N	0.001891	MLP
141	Y	Y	Y	20.0	N	0.001442	MLP
162	Y	Y	Y	0.8	N	0.002402	MLP
165	Y	Y	N	0.0	N	0.001442	MLP
167	Y	Y	Y	11.3	N	0.001234	MLP
169	Y	Y	Y	16.5	N	0.001442	MLP
170	Y	Y	Y	7.7	N	0.001374	N
171	Y	Y	Y	11.3	N	0.001228	N

Parcel No.	Are parcels adjacent to or proximate to O&G leases (Exisiting)	Are parcels adjacent to or proximate to O&G Development (Existing)	Other Land Use Development (i.e. Disturbance within PHMA & GHMA)		Is the GRSG Habitat located within an existing Federal O&G Unit?	Does the GRSG Habitat have a high gas potential for development (Mean)	Is the GRSG habitat located in an area that was previously analyzed? (EIS or MLP)
	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Acres	Y/N	Mean	Y/N
172	Y	Y	Y	32.0	N	0.001153	N
173	Y	Y	Y	66.3	N	0.002396	N
175	Y	Y	Y	62.7	N	0.001710	N
176	Y	Y	Y	41.1	N	0.002542	N
177	Y	Y	Y	30.3	N	0.001855	N
178	Y	Y	Y	0.1	N	0.000818	N
179	Y	Y	Y	4.5	N	0.002542	N
197	Y	Y	Y	2.4	N	0.000996	MLP
198	Y	Y	Y	6.8	N	0.001234	MLP
199	Y	Y	Y	36.7	N	0.001039	MLP
200	Y	Y	Y	44.1	N	0.001363	MLP
201	Y	Y	Y	33.6	N	0.001218	N
202	Y	Y	Y	19.8	N	0.001110	N
203	Y	Y	Y	30.5	N	0.001130	N
204	Y	Y	Y	34.1	N	0.001204	N
205	Y	Y	Y	6.9	N	0.001026	N
206	Y	Y	Y	17.1	N	0.000974	N
207	Y	Y	Y	15.6	N	0.000922	N
208	Y	Y	Y	12.0	N	0.000818	N
211	Y	Y	N	0.0	N	0.000818	N
212	Y	Y	Y	19.0	N	0.000818	N

Parcel No.	Are parcels adjacent to or proximate to O&G leases (Exisiting)	Are parcels adjacent to or proximate to O&G Development (Existing)	Other Land Use Development (i.e. Disturbance within PHMA & GHMA)		Is the GRSG Habitat located within an existing Federal O&G Unit?	Does the GRSG Habitat have a high gas potential for development (Mean)	Is the GRSG habitat located in an area that was previously analyzed? (EIS or MLP)
	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Acres	Y/N	Mean	Y/N
213	Y	Y	Y	21.1	N	0.000974	N
214	Y	Y	Y	4.2	N	0.001026	N
217	N	Y	N	0.0	N	0.001234	MLP
218	Y	Y	Y	0.4	N	0.001442	N
226	Y	N	Y	5.8	N	0.000215	N
227	Y	N	Y	17.5	N	0.000259	N
228	Y	N	Y	2.8	N	0.000079	N
229	Y	N	N	0.0	N	0.000834	N
260	Y	Y	Y	3.7	N	0.005054	N
261	Y	Y	Y	17.8	N	0.004867	N
262	Y	Y	Y	4.0	N	0.005054	N
264	Y	Y	Y	4.2	N	0.002230	N
266	Y	Y	Y	2.1	N	0.001918	N
268	Y	N	Y	2.9	N	0.001918	N
271	Y	Y	Y	21.2	N	0.002230	N
272	Y	N	N	0.0	N	0.001918	N
273	Y	Y	Y	26.3	N	0.002542	MLP
274	Y	Y	N	0.0	N	0.002542	N
276	Y	Y	Y	2.0	N	0.002095	N
278	Y	Y	Y	36.8	N	0.002542	N
279	Y	Y	Y	0.1	N	0.002542	N

Parcel No.	Are parcels adjacent to or proximate to O&G leases (Exisiting)	Are parcels adjacent to or proximate to O&G Development (Existing)	Other Land Use Development (i.e. Disturbance within PHMA & GHMA)		Is the GRSG Habitat located within an existing Federal O&G Unit?	Does the GRSG Habitat have a high gas potential for development (Mean)	Is the GRSG habitat located in an area that was previously analyzed? (EIS or MLP)
	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Acres	Y/N	Mean	Y/N
295	Y	Y	Y	8.3	N	0.001192	MLP
296	Y	Y	Y	0.2	N	0.001442	MLP
298	Y	Y	N	0.0	N	0.001442	MLP
305	Y	Y	Y	6.6	N	0.001374	N
309	Y	Y	Y	3.9	N	0.002153	N
318	Y	Y	Y	10.1	N	0.001234	N
319	Y	Y	Y	0.3	N	0.001442	N
320	Y	Y	Y	1.2	N	0.001442	N
321	Y	Y	Y	5.1	N	0.001408	N
337	Y	Y	Y	17.1	N	0.001263	N
356	Y	Y	Y	3.5	N	0.001011	N
358	Y	Y	Y	24.4	N	0.001046	N
359	Y	Y	Y	16.3	N	0.001396	N
381	Y	N	Y	1.8	N	0.002261	N
382	Y	N	Y	8.0	N	0.002526	N
383	Y	N	Y	1.9	N	0.001203	N
384	Y	N	Y	0.4	N	0.001241	N